



CREATIVE ENDEAVOURS

Supported by:
The Tom Carey Fund
and
*Community First Abbey
Neighbourhood Fund*

CREATIVE ENDEAVOURS

an arts project

The project aims to engage different generations in the Abbey area by working together through creative arts. It is designed to attract diverse ethnicities, share values and convey culture.

PROCESS:

The project has been delivered in 3 phases, from February 2013. The different mediums included collage, pottery, mosaic, jewellery making, fabric painting and sandcasting.

- Phase 1 - Youth Activity: 6 workshops in 6 mediums
- Phase 2 - 50+ Activity: 6 workshops in 6 mediums
- Phase 3 - Family Activity: 6 workshops in 6 mediums

Participants attending the workshops learnt new skills, building new relationships, and enhancing their life skills. They explored new mediums and techniques. Every participant created their own artwork in different mediums that they took back home with them.

Get involved in the following FREE family sessions at Artcore:

- 15th June 11am-1pm - Paper Sculptures
- 22nd June 11am-1pm - Creative Family Trees

All are welcome for the final **CELEBRATION EVENT** at Artcore on 13th July 12pm-1pm to celebrate the participant's learning and achievements.

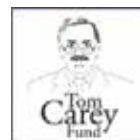
To book and for more information please contact Artcore.

The project is funded by the Tom Carey Fund and Community First Abbey Neighbourhood Fund



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Artcore is a charity arts organisation with professional artists working within the local community of Derby to enhance lives by sharing knowledge and skills through the medium of art.

With the experience of delivering international projects and exhibitions Artcore is committed to reaching arts and crafts activities into the lives of people of all ages/abilities and cultural-ethnic backgrounds.

The aim of the 'Creative Endeavours' project was to deliver beneficial arts and crafts activities to the community members of the Abbey ward. The project used visual arts as a vehicle to community cohesion.

It was open to people of all ages and abilities, and engaged people in each of these community categories:

- Children**
- Families**
- 50+**

CHALLENGES

- **Getting groups interested**
- **Fairly new to area**
- **Varying support depending on needs of groups**

OVERCOMING THESE

- **Community Relations Officer working at grassroots level to engage with community groups.**
- **More staff and volunteers in place.**
- **Tailored sessions according to each specific group and their needs. For example depending on physical mental capabilities or age, or delivered compliment the school curriculum and learning plans.**

Art mediums made available for exploration during the creative sessions include:

Jewellery Making, Clay, Painting, Drawing, Collage, Card making, Mosaic, Mix Media, Sculpture, Traditional world crafts: Sandcasting, Lipan (plaster), Plaster carving, Block Printing, Wood carving, and many more.

Sessions were between 1 and 2 hours, and tailored according to each specific group and their needs. For example depending on physical mental capabilities or age such as those with high dependency special needs or advanced dementia, or delivered to compliment the school curriculum and learning plans.

Participants created individual artworks to take home with them and in some cases group artworks displayed in a public space. As well as encouraged to contribute to a collaborative 'Expression Board' which were showcased in a celebration event at the end of the project. All participants and project partners were invited to join together to celebrate achievements, as well as another opportunity for community members from the same area in Derby to come together and share their experiences.

YOUTH CLUB, SOUTHGATE YOUTH CENTRE, BRIGHTON ROAD

Youth Club, Southgate Youth Centre, Brighton Road

When: Saturday 9th Feb 2013. 1-1.30pm

Who: Southgate Youth Club, Group of 16 young people (with physical, mental, learning difficulties), 10 were from Abbey Ward.

Medium: Lipan

Staff/ Volunteers: 4

Observations and quotes:

They really enjoyed it. Parents were really happy to see what the children brought home with them at end of session. Dolly, the care worker, said she's interested in doing a parents and kids session in the future. There were some at first who didn't want to get messy and join in but when they got started they couldn't stop.

"I really liked sticking the glittery bits and sequins"



MANORFIELDS NURSING HOME

Manorfields Nursing Home

When: Thursday 14th February 2013. 2-4pm

Who: 12 residents with mental health issues such as Dementia.

Medium: Card and collage making. As it was valentine's day we gave that as a theme.

Staff/Volunteers: 4

Observations and quotes:

"I would like to thank you and your team for the great craft session you did yesterday, our residents really enjoyed their time with you. It was really refreshing to have some outside interest and time given to our residents, it is only a shame that you can only do the one session. Many thanks" - Sheila Fosbrook (Activity co-ordinator) Manorfields residential home.

Residents were delightful and put a smile on everyone's faces. We found that working with the elderly within this setting such as with dementia, needed one-to-one support. There were 4 staff and volunteers from Artcore who worked with around 12 residents.

Each person had very different needs. Challenges overcome: residents who spoke very very quietly, shaky hands, self-doubt/low confidence. Staff were extremely busy with their daily tasks and therefore found it difficult to engage in the activity with their residents. Residents enjoyed spending their time being creative, as well as building a rapport with staff and spending some time in meaningful activity/engagement. Many enjoyed gentle conversation and reminiscing and retelling events in their lives to our staff. They enjoyed the variety of materials and the freedom to use them expressively.



HOLLY TREE LODGE NURSING HOME

Holly Tree Lodge Nursing Home

When: Tuesday 5th March 2-4pm

Who: 15 residents with mental health issues such as Dementia.

Medium: Card and collage making.

Staff/Volunteers: 3

Observations and quotes:

Some participants entered the room stating they only wanted to spectate, but after a short while they got involved voluntarily.

One participant's daughter came to visit while we were there delivering the session. I invited her to sit with her mother and engage in the creative activities. She really enjoyed working with her mother, as she said *"normally when I visit we just sit looking at each other because I run out of things to say to her"* and she explains because of her mothers communication difficulties due to dementia they struggle to relate. Participants were very proud of their artworks and couldn't wait to give them as gifts to their loved ones. Some didn't want to leave, they wanted to carry-on. With one gentleman who initially didn't want to make anything, we sat with him and discussed his interests, and after we found he liked rugby, we helped him to make a picture of a rugby scene, and he was really pleased. He asked if we were coming back next week and was hoping it would be a regular thing.

One lady was frustrated that she couldn't write her name, and was quite worried about everything. We worked with her to feel at ease and gently reminded her how to spell her name. Staff at the Residential home also stated how much they enjoy having time to be creative with the residents as normally they don't get much time to do this outside of their normal tasks.

"I am delighted to report that our clients had an enjoyable experience and I would highly recommend the workshops to other health care professionals" - Bev Collins (Deputy Manager)



BECKET CHILDREN CENTRE (FRIDAY 8TH MARCH)

Becket Children Centre 'Stay and Play' session (Parents and Children 2-4years)

When: Friday 8th March 9.30-10.30

Who: 7 mums with their children

Medium: Sandcasting

Staff/Volunteers: 3

Observations and quotes:

They really enjoyed it. The Children Centre have a nursery setting and are keen to join in the future with any opportunities that may arise. Parents loved it, and liked trying something new and different. Using the sandcasting technique we helped the parents and children to make hand prints and foot prints.

They enjoyed working inter-generationally, taking part in an activity that both they (the parents) and their children could take part in, take something from create memories.

"Parents spent a lot of time supporting their children to make the marks, where appropriate, in particular parent A spent her own time making a mould for her child as he chose not to take part in the session. This was the parents third session at the group and she is particularly shy, throughout the session I noted an increase in her confidence as she began to interact with the Play worker and other parents. Parents enjoyed the special time that they had to spend with their child. Parents were able to take this home and discuss with their partners. Parents expressed how happy they were after the session, following the session the parents also shared where they had placed the blocks at home. Parents also asked if we are doing any session in the future?" - Lauren Bounds, Becket Children Centre



BECKET CHILDREN CENTRE (MONDAY 11TH MARCH)

Becket Children Centre 'Stay and Play' session (Parents and Children 2-4years)

When: Monday 11th March 1.15- 2.15pm

Who: 10 mums and children

Medium: Lipan

Staff/Volunteers: 3

Observations and quotes:

"I have triplets (2 boys and 1 girl), the boys don't have a very good attention span and don't normally sit for very long at one activity, but they did really well today, and even if they did wander off they soon came back to carry on."

One child was initially worried about getting his hands dirty, but once he'd joined in he didn't want to stop, and even cried when it was time to go. They enjoyed doing an activity that was completely different to anything they had done before. Children enjoyed everything, even washing their hands in water! Parents were so proud of the artwork created and couldn't wait to take it home and put it on the walls.

The children also really enjoyed having the opportunity for mark-making on the expression board and having the freedom to do what they wanted on the paper. Boosted motor skills and control. Children enjoyed seeing their favourite things (dinosaurs, rabbits, etc.) made into a picture.



BECKET CHILDREN CENTRE (FRIDAY 22ND MARCH)

Becket Children Centre 'Stay and Play' session (Parents and Children 2-4years)

When: 22nd March 2013 9.30- 10.30

Who: 10 Mums and toddlers

Medium: Block Printing

Staff/Volunteers: 3

Observations and quotes:

"Its great to have the freedom to get creative, not worry about the mess."

"How lovely to have an activity that adults and young children can both get a great deal of pleasure out of"

The parents enjoyed the activity. Some said they weren't 'arty' so block printing was an excellent activity that all can enjoy regardless of artistic ability.

They took their finished piece home with pride. The mums were interested in the history and information of the traditional Indian crafts.



FIRS COMMUNITY CENTRE – YOUTH CLUB

Firs Community Centre – Youth Club

When: Wednesday 27th February 2013 6.30-8pm

Who: 17

Medium: Mosaic

Staff/Volunteers: 2

Observations and quotes:

“Are you coming again? I’d like to do this again”

“Can we come to the celebration event? And bring my family?”

Children were keen to help setup. The young people wanted to make a collaborative piece for the expression board that reflected their group and something to be proud of. One child wrote something offensive on the expression board, and the other children were upset with her and worked hard to correct it.

Youth worker: *“The children really enjoyed the workshop; you did so well maintaining their attention and getting them to sit still, because it’s practically impossible to get them to sit down for as long as you have.”* - Annette Robinson, Youth Worker

Artcore provided a workshop for young people, which included participation of disabled children or those with learning difficulties. Young people who attended came from various different backgrounds, as well as some young people with challenging behaviour and from vulnerable situations. They found the session to be very positive especially being able to make new friends from different areas. The workshops enabled each individual to build their confidence, a platform to express themselves creatively, partake in activities that they could not have access to elsewhere or which normally they would not do at home. They all learnt some new skills and inspired new ideas which can be shared with friends and family members etc.



DEAN STREET METHODIST CHURCH - FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Dean Street Methodist Church - friendship group

When: 26th February 2013

Who: 20 Elderly 60+

Medium: Block Printing

Staff/Volunteers: 4

Observations and quotes:

They thoroughly enjoyed it

Great atmosphere in the room

Even those who were initially hesitant joined in

They were proud of their final pieces

A few were interested in other activities at Artcore and took flyers

"Thank you so much for coming"

It was someone's birthday and we made them a block printing gift from us.

They were keen for us to stay after the session and join them for tea and cake.

They were taking photos of us (staff) throughout

Conversations flowed whilst making the artwork

"I love to try new and different things, thank you for coming, what a wonderful project"

"I only ever do sewing crafts, and if asked I would never think to try painting like this because I wouldn't like it, its not my thing, but I joined in today and was pleasantly surprised. I definitely do it again"

"I did art as a child, a long long time ago, and enjoyed it then. This is the first time since I was in school that I have done it. Lovely"



STONE HILL NURSERY

Stone Hill Nursery

When: 18th March 2013 9.30am

Who: 20 3-5 year olds

Medium: Mosaic.

Staff/Volunteers: 3

Observations and quotes:

Teachers lead separate sessions to generate individual designs for a group mural. They then dropped these off at Artcore. Where the artists chose one design and scaled it up to a large drawing, which was then made into individual tiles/pieces for the children to work on. After the mosaic session with the children the pieces were put back together to make the final artwork. This was then presented back to the school, children, and teachers who are going to put it on the front of their building.

"I really liked doing the sticking"

"Thank you"



BEMROSE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Bemrose Secondary School – Gifted and Talented Students

When: 21st May 2013 1.20pm

Who: 15 Students

Medium: Mosaic

Staff/Volunteers: 2

Observations and quotes:

The teacher worked with the students prior to the session to draw individual designs on the theme of community cohesion. When we came into the school they then transferred these onto wooden boards, which were then put into mosaic.

Fantastic designs had been created. Children had really thought about the theme of community cohesion and how they could portray this in aesthetic way.

“Our students found their Artcore workshop a highly rewarding experience. They explored the theme of community cohesion and were able to use new materials, tools and techniques, in order to communicate their ideas. The Artcore staff were a pleasure to work with, who motivated and inspired our students. I hope there will be many more opportunities to work with Artcore in the future” - Martin Roney Learning Director, Creative Arts



ABBEY COMMUNITY HEALTH DAY

Abbey Community Health Day

When: 1st June 2013

Who: 40

Medium: Clay press mould

Staff/Volunteers: 6

Observations and quotes:

We delivered this on Stockbrook Park as part of a larger community event.

“My kids have loved doing this. And they’ve all made something to take home”



ARTCORE

Artcore

When: 15th June 2013

Who: 19

Medium: Paper sculptures

Staff/Volunteers: 5

Observations and quotes:

Presentation was given first to provide inspiration, show the diversity of the craft and encourage imagination

"We made a gift for fathers day"

Fantastic to see families working together and getting creative

"We take paper for granted, we have paper at home but just used it for colouring in with the kids, now we will think out of the box a bit more, and challenge ourselves to what we can make from it"



FIRS ESTATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Firs Estate Primary School

When: 19th June 2013 1.15pm

Who: 15 Children from each year group, including some where English was not the first language at a basic level

Medium: Lipan

Staff/Volunteers: 3

Observations and quotes:

The children very clearly enjoyed themselves:

"Please don't go"

"We love art"

"Can you come again"

We offered the children a break time, but many begged to stay and carry on.

They made excellent artworks, really listened to the instructions and thought thoroughly about their designs and envisaging what they wanted to create.



ARTCORE

Artcore

When: 22nd June 2013

Who: 21

Medium: Creative family trees

Staff/Volunteers: 5

Observations and quotes:

Presentation was given first to provide inspiration, show the diversity of the craft and encourage imagination. It was nice to see families working so well together to create a tree that reflected them and their lives. It also encouraged discussion about what we mean by 'family' and who is your 'family'. Artworks were made in 2nd and 3rd



BURTON LODGE NURSING HOME

Burton Lodge Nursing Home

When: 3rd July 2013 10am

Who: 8 elderly residents with dementia

Medium: Card and collage making

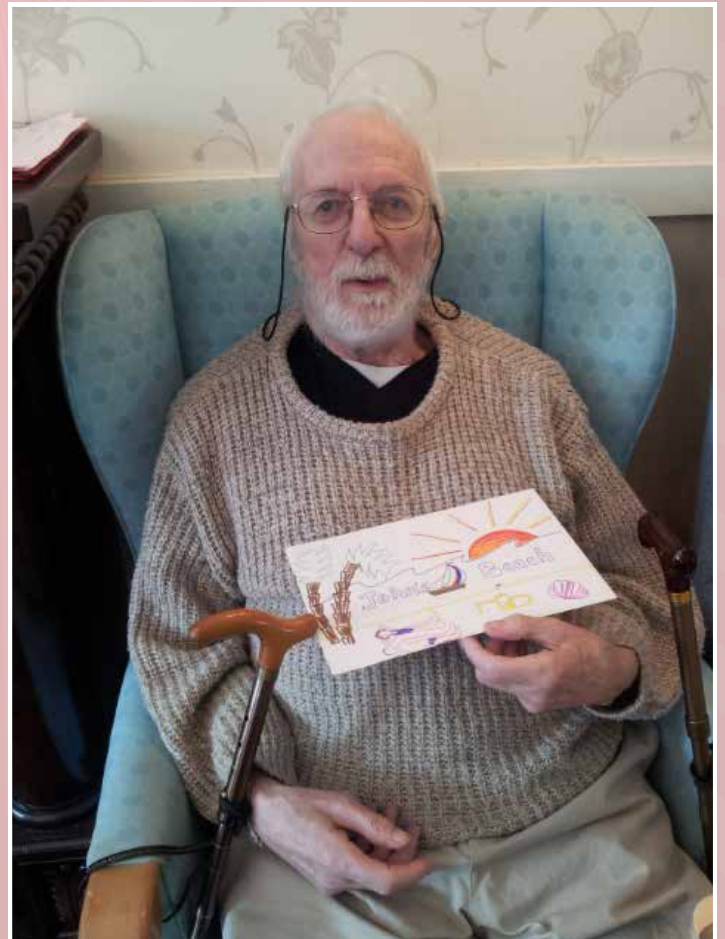
Staff/Volunteers: 2

Observations and quotes

Some weren't sure what to make a picture of. We discussed any hobbies or interest they had, what job they used to have etc. Magazines were a useful tool to encourage conversation

"It was also nice to talk to the activities coordinator at the home, exchange ideas with her and discuss about our jobs" - Amanda Harker, Session leader

"It was really good and the residents responded well to new people coming in and doing activities with them. They enjoyed doing a new activity that they've not done before. And it was great that the materials were brightly coloured as this really helps the elderly and those with dementia" - Jasmine, Activities Coordinator



MANOR HOUSE RESIDENTIAL HOME FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

Manor House Residential Home For Special Needs

When: 3rd July 2013 2pm

Who: 8 residents with a range of high level special needs

Medium: Collage and paper crafts

Staff/Volunteers: 2

Observations and quotes:

They enjoyed having new people in their home to deliver meaningful activity

One man in a wheelchair said I'm partially blind so I can't join in. I worked with him on a one-to-one basis, using tactile activity such as sequins and embellishments. He made a card as a present for his sister, and he was very pleased with himself. He then stayed at the table until we left making more. They were teaching me sign-language.

One lady said 'I can't draw' once we had helped her draw one flower she felt confident to continue and filled her whole page with images and mark-making, and independently sticking decorations on.



ARTCORE – CELEBRATION EVENT

Artcore – Celebration Event

When: 13th July 2013

Who: Everyone involved in the project

This was a chance for everyone to be recognised for their participation, network and strengthen relationships with community neighbours, as well as sharing the learning and experiences. Expression boards created at some of the sessions were also on display.



OUTCOMES

- Boost confidence
- Strengthen friendships and relationships with peers
- Community Cohesion. Cross-cultural and inter-generational working aids the building of knowledge and understanding of each other, thus building mutual respect.
- Develop artistic/ specialised skills.
- Develop transferable skills such as time keeping, organisation, planning, communication, following instruction, etc.
- Use time constructively engaged in meaningful activities
- Promote positive attitudes, increased motivation and to be active
- Beautiful artworks were created to either take home or displayed in a public space with pride. Artworks and experiences shared with the participants friends and families at home and during sessions, transcends the benefits and learning onto other generations and an even wider audience.
- Creative activities have therapeutic value, enabling participants to express emotions, thoughts and feelings.
- We worked alongside various organisations/ professionals e.g youth workers, school and activity coordinators, and built strong relationships with them.
- Participants became aware of services/ opportunities available to them locally
- Participants were encouraged to explore the creative technique, and where applicable, consider its cultural roots e.g for Lipan (plaster art) as an Indian art form.
- It was a platform for participants to explore an art form in a pressure free and supportive environment without barriers or prejudice.
- Participants had fun and enjoyed themselves and share experiences with others around them.
- Learnt about their community and take pride in it
- It gave volunteers (who may not be NEET) experience and opportunity to increase their skills and enhance their career prospects

BENEFICIARIES OVERALL:

243 participants and new relationships made with more than 15 organisations/groups

Derby

ABBHEY WARD

