

Home

A Quilting Journey

There have been number of highly successful courses that have been funded and run in Burngreave that are not focused only on academic achievement or building language and maths skills. The 'Bag and Cushion' and 'Islamic Textile Art' courses highlighted a growing demand for practical skills with an opportunity to explore and develop creative passion and expression within our community. In response Nikky Wilson, Burngreave Voices Project and Rashida Hassanali organised courses taught by local artists.



The Quilting Course Ladies



Louise Patchworking

Courses based at Firshill and St. Catherine's schools have been oversubscribed (up to 30+ persons per course) and consistently well attended throughout. These numbers prove that people want such courses. A 12-week Quilting course,

on the subject of 'Home' created a large quilted wall hanging that has documented the broad range of women with different skill levels, language, backgrounds and ethnicities sharing, laughing, teaching and learning from and with each other. For some participants it was a first in sewing and quilting. The quilt was on display at the end of the Burngreave Voices Project. It is a celebration of essential life skills, not just centred on positive social interaction or feel good factors, though these were an enjoyable and integral part of the course. A booklet, 'Home – A Quilting Journey' has been produced with personal

contributions from each participant with images of individual panels and the quilt. (View on-line at www.burngreavemessenger.org). The 'Home' quilt is, ironically, awaiting a permanent home in the community. Maybe the Vestry Hall would be a good place since it celebrates 16 multicultural women's individual learning and views on the importance of home?

"Every thought had my children in them, so I decided to use my children in the quilt"
Asma Khursid

"I grew up in Yorkshire next to a park, so I was surrounded by green. Burngreave is such a green place. I chose the changing seasons my quilt" Joan Williams.

Following the Quilting course there have been workshops during family learning and adult learners weeks, including Amulet Purse Making, Making Gifts from your Children's Art, recycled Card Making and recently a ten week Hand Embroidery course that is to finish with an exhibition which documents 'Burngreave – Past, Present and Future'. Each session has encouraged written and oral skills, research, self-sufficiency, technical progress and confidence, in addition to forging deep friendships and community links.

Learners from these creative courses have continued working on their own. Louise Haine has gone on to make log cabin patchwork cushions for wedding gifts, and a cross stitched anniversary gift. Others are making their own celebration cards and built on confidences and skills with quilted items like Saphina Ahmed, or embellished clothing, or crochet. Another learner, Angie Cordell, enrolled on a two year textiles course at Hillsborough College following the Quilting course.



Shabana & Abida's Piece

This is success to be celebrated. Funding such creative-based non-academic courses should continue with investment in local people who are thirsty to learn and have much to contribute. The participants have proved, they thrive on good, solid teaching and encouragement and proper access to tools and materials.

On-going drop in creative sessions run at St James' Community Hall, Scott Road on each Monday morning. Contact Sarah Fowler on 07905 128396.



Rashda Planning

Anne Smithies (Course Tutor & Artist)