



◦ BEAUTY & UTILITY ARTS ◦
ARTS IN HEALTH PROJECT MANAGEMENT

MD
EM **MUSEUM**
DEVELOPMENT
EAST MIDLANDS

Who are we?

Beauty and Utility Arts is a Leicestershire based Creativity, Heritage and Wellbeing social enterprise. We work with older community members and primary aged children, independently and together.

In June 2018 we are changing our name to Crafting Relationships as it says so much more about our work.



What are Local History Cafés?

Monthly heritage and wellbeing get togethers for older community members aged 50 and over at risk of, or experiencing, social isolation and loneliness.

What is Local History Café?

Each month consists of tea and cake, listening to a booked speaker (based on group interests) and a creative activity linked to that month's topic.

Transport from local community services if required

Evaluated by De Montfort University's Centre for Ageing

What is Local History Café?

- Each year has two sets of Local History Cafes, Feb – June and Sept – Jan.
- We close in July and August each year.
- Participants can each attend for up to five months and 10 – 15 people is about the best number.

What is Local History Café?

- Charge of £3 per person, per month, payable on the day.
- Cafes are always looking at ways to keep participants engaged after their time with us through additional projects, signposting and creating spaces for people to continue meeting.

What is Local History Café?

- The first Local History Cafe started in March 2016 while I was Project Director at Cotesbach Educational Trust looking to bring wellbeing in to a heritage and education environment

Current members

MDEM funded first half roll out, active since November 2017:

- Charnwood Museum
- Erewash Museum
- Sir John Moore Foundation

Other funding:

- Lutterworth (self funded)
- Coventry Priory (Awards for All)



Successes

- Over 200 visits between March 2016 and April 2018
- Interest from the Jo Cox Loneliness Commission
- Interest from Heritage Open Days
- Measham Medical Unit are developing a Local History Café on Prescription template to be tested out at the Sir John Moore Foundation and rolled out elsewhere
- People! From our Volunteer Project Co-ordinators, to staff and volunteers at venues, to participants to followers on Twitter – Local History Cafes have been embraced
- Links with universities – we've had some incredible speakers, looking to share their work

Challenges

- ‘I don’t think heritage venues are the right place for this.’
- ‘You’re taking advantage of volunteers’
- ‘What if people come and smash the place up?’

Learning to date

Bucket loads

We're doing this together.

Social isolation and loneliness haven't appeared overnight and we're not going to solve anything on our own.

No single one of us has the answers, but by listening, reflecting, having inclusive conversations and acting in an iterative manner, we can bring about sustainable change.

What's coming up?

- Roll out to three more Leics venues thanks to MDEM – if you're interested, we have one more space free for a September or February start.
- Summer get together for current members
- More around social action and agency – really looking at prevention work

Why...the need?

From the campaign to end loneliness:

- Over half of people aged 75 and over live alone
- Two fifths of older people say the TV is their main company
- When you sit these national statistics with regional/local statistics and then sit that with the conversations we have with people who come to cafes – that's the need

Why...be a member?

This isn't a sales pitch. This is an invitation to become a member of a growing movement looking at heritage and wellbeing for our older community members. The more of us there are, talking, doing, sharing, the better we'll get.

If you'd like to talk about funding possibilities, please get in touch.











Ladybird Books: bold move?

Wills and Hepworth equipment:
"the largest printing machine in
Loughborough for printing a sheet
50" x 40"" (1914)
Stereo press (1919)
Quad Crown Furnival Litho
machine (1920)
Rotary press (1924)











Interested?

If you are interested in starting a Local History Café, please email Katherine

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Twitter @LocalHistoryCaf

Facebook group Local History Café

www.localhistorycafe.tumblr.com

