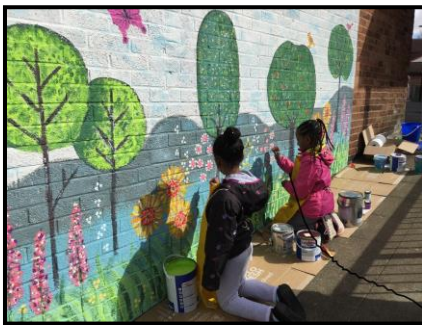


The Furnival Newsletter 2021



Painting our first mural 'We all live under the same sun'

After a winter of adapting to changing restrictions and maintaining contact with our learners and families over Zoom we embarked on our Easter Healthy Holidays Activities. These were held outside to reduce risk, so what better time to paint a mural!



This year we have enjoyed working with Ali Bird, a local and very talented artist who came up with this stunning image and supervised children from age 3 to 13 as they painted it over two days. It has certainly brightened up the space around us and the community loves it.

We liked the first, so we painted another – The Garden Mural

Warda has been part of The Furnival community for a couple of years. She enjoys art but had never painted a mural before. After seeing the children doing such a great job, she set to and, alongside Ali, painted this beautiful mural on the rear of the building. The mural painting was funded by the Sheffield City Council's Community Fund who were so pleased with the result that they chose to feature Warda and the mural on the front page of their Annual Housing Report.



Community Garden

We were keen to complete our community garden this year and as Spring arrived, we built a raised bed and began planting. The women and families enjoyed sowing seeds and seeing the plants grow over the summer as they learned the language of growing.



The bees enjoying the fennel



An abundance of sweet peas



The language of flowers

Creative English



Our flagship Creative English programme continued through the winter lockdown with a book club and weekly cook-along classes on Zoom. As the weather improved and restrictions lifted, we started



to meet in person outside, under a gazebo when needed. One of our key aims is to tackle isolation and build community and this need was intensified over the last year. It was such a relief for many of our learners to be involved in learning together and sharing experiences. We enjoyed cooking our favourite recipes including some very special macarons.



Rachel leading our Craft Club

Having run the craft club on Zoom over winter, delivering craft packs to homes, we started to run these sessions outside in the summer term.

Through this work we build creative and English language skills; the creative process can positively impact self-esteem and wellbeing. It's also a lovely, relaxed way to learn English and a great opportunity to make friends.

Some of our learners did some crafting with us and were inspired to do the same activity with their children at home.

Peaced Together

We were delighted to be able to run two Peaced Together courses this year, in two separate venues. This creative arts programme complements our Creative English work, supporting women to reflect on their lives and set out on a personal journey from brokenness to hope.



Autumn Term

This Autumn we resumed in-person groups indoors and have continued to serve our existing learners and welcome new women from Somalia, Kurdistan, Libya, Ethiopia and Yemen.

We have been privileged to work with Sheffield Theatres to create opportunities for our community to access the broad range of Arts that are around us, but can be hard to access. We held dance groups, created welcoming music and painted welcome banners as part of the Walk with Amal project. Little Amal, whose name means Hope in Arabic, arrived in Sheffield in late October to the warm welcome of many, including over 100 of our learners and families. Our banners flew high in Tudor Square and the music we had created was played as part of Little Amal's welcome. It was heart-warming to be part of a crowd, all welcoming the symbol of a refugee child to our City.



As we come to the end of this challenging year, we are hopeful for the future and grateful of your ongoing support, which is very much needed and appreciated.

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and for the New Year from the staff and trustees of The Furnival.