

# Click Create Connect

**A collaborative creative writing and photography project for members of the Kirk Hallam Community.**

## The brief

With funding from Big Kirk Hallam, creative writer Chrissie Hall and photographer Linda Young were commissioned by Erewash Borough Council Arts Development team to facilitate a series of creative workshops in Big Kirk Hallam Community Centre, with visits to inspirational locations, ending with an exhibition of work in the Lally Gallery at Erewash Museum.

## Challenges

- To promote the project and recruit participants who may not own a camera.
- To research locations appealing to a diverse group of abilities, ages and interests and enable participants to choose preferences.
- To work to a strict budget for materials trips and transport
- To ensure participants were willing to be photographed and were happy to share their images and work on line and in public displays.
- To support participants in creating work suitable for exhibition, encourage them to help framing, installing work, promoting the exhibition, and inviting guests VIPs and family to a Private Viewing.

## Solutions

- Flyers made it clear that owning a camera was not essential "No camera? No problem!"
- We made provisional arrangements to visit various locations and participants were given a brief presentation about each option and used 'smiley face' voting slips to make choices.
- We regularly updated our budget, liaised closely with venues and providers and 'shopped around' for materials.
- Participants completed consent slips regarding contact information, images and creative work.
- Peer to peer support was encouraged. Participants took an active role in designing the final work, assisting with the installation, promoting the exhibition and private viewing.

## QUOTES

- " This is a dream come true for me.
- " I keep thinking... my photo is in an exhibition!"
- " I've never done anything like this in my life ever before."



## Life Story Writing

*your story begins here*



# Outcomes

**Participants gained experience using a variety of cameras, including those belonging to Linda Young, disposable cameras, their own cameras, ipads and mobile phones.**

We had great trips out:- Weleda gardens in Shipley; an exhibition of photographs by Mark Neville at Quad in Derby; an open farm and garden centre in Risley, and we explored photographic opportunities around Big Kirk Hallam Community Centre.

Participants surprised themselves with their achievements. They read their poetry to each other on the bus and in the community centre, and responded creatively to visual, written and oral prompts.

Participants were enthusiastic about the exhibition. They distributed posters and flyers, suggested promotional opportunities, VIP and friends and family invitees to the Private Viewing. They helped install the exhibition, a participant volunteered to give a speech of thanks, and referred to the benefits she and others had gained from the project. Participants met socially before uninstalling the exhibition.



Weleda have asked for permission to use participants' work in their staff newsletter. Mark Neville asked to see examples of work inspired by visiting his exhibition. The comments book was complementary. Fourteen images <https://issuu.com/lindyoung/docs/ccc> will be on permanent display in Big Kirk Hallam Community Centre. Participants continue to apply the knowledge gained to their photography, and to their creative writing.



**Life Story Writing**  
*your story begins here*

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[www.erewash.gov.uk](http://www.erewash.gov.uk)

**EREWASH**

 **LINDA YOUNG**  
photography & digital art

 **LOTTERY FUNDED**

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**Local Trust Big Local**

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