

Case Study: Eastwood Senior Citizens Arts Project Enterprise

The Escape group is made up of 10 to 15 elderly women aged between 60 and 90, all suffering isolation due to various reasons, including disability, old age or being a carer. They are supported by 2 workshop leaders who are stained glass artists, who teach the skills of stained glass to the group, up to 3 volunteer helpers who aid the running of the day, being an extra pair of legs, eyes and ears for the group and a voluntary transport scheme, run by the Eastwood Volunteer Bureau. The group takes place in Eastwood, 8 miles North East of Nottingham. The group has been running since 1992, whenever funding or commissions are available.

Project venue: Parish rooms St Mary's Church, Eastwood

Art forms: Stained Glass

Participant Group Size: 12

Ratio of Participants to Workers: 6:1

Frequency: Weekly, every Wednesday

Duration: 20 weeks

Project Outcomes:

To allow the opportunity for the group to come together, socialise and keep active, learn new skills that they have not known before and forge connections with other community groups across the county and beyond.

Comments:

'They are amazed to see the results they can achieve as part of a group. They can tackle what they would never have expected to and they can see some of their own worth reflected back at them in the beauty of what they achieve together.

This leads to the phenomenon we call the ESCAPE EFFECT, where women gain a lease of life and enthusiasm through being part of a group who have time for them and value them all as individuals.'

Project Partners: We form partnerships on an informal basis by inviting members of other community groups/ schools etc to join us on specific projects. Also with social workers, the Eastwood Volunteer Bureau and Clare Janes, Arts Development Manager, Broxtowe Borough Council

Cost of project (approx): £12,000

Funding: Nottinghamshire County Council funded this particular commission (see image) through the architect Robert Parry who had worked with ESCAPE before. The project was to produce 13 stained glass panels to go round the ceremony room door or the new registry office in the new Worksop Community Hub.

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<http://www.eastwoodescape.co.uk/index.html>