

Creative Communities in Tandridge



Making Surrey connected craft makers with 8 disadvantaged communities across the county during 2011-2012. The project was community-led, acting as a catalyst in each neighbourhood. All the craft produced during Making Surrey was co-created with the communities.



Hannah Padgett & Simeon Featherstone from Parasite Ceramics, work with the community of Hurst Green.

Hurst Green Ceramics

Making Surrey in Tandridge took place in Hurst Green and makers Hannah and Simeon were keen for the project to engender a sense of community. By the end of the project the local church hall, affectionately known as 'Aggies on the Green' had become the unofficial home of the project and there was scarcely a member of the community who had not encountered Making Surrey in some form or other.

Makeshift pottery studios were soon popping up on the village green, at summer fairs, in schools and even in fields. Participants responded well to Hannah and Simeon's knowledge and generosity and soon the project had gathered two apprentices – Christine and Jane as well as a gang of enthusiastic volunteers who helped set up and clear up wherever the project went.

The makers gain a reputation as 'walking, talking You Tube tutorials' facilitating and inspiring local residents to develop their skills. After becoming proficient at various decorative techniques, the participants demonstrate patience and understanding as they get to grips with Handbuilding and Slipcasting.

On the tiles

After all their hard work, the community wanted to mark the end of the project with a celebration and a showcase of their work. A key theme that emerged was a desire to illustrate their work with stories of Hurst Green - from the Canadian soldiers based there in the war to the Greenwich meridian line which runs through the village. Work soon begins on a series of illustrated wall tiles. These are exhibited at a celebratory event at Aggies on the Green where the project had begun in the spring. With over 50 people turning up and many more expressing an interest in staying involved, it feels as though ceramics in Hurst Green has only just begun...



Monica Baker donates a kiln to the community and is awarded the (unofficial) title of Grand Dame of Ceramics in Hurst Green.

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Legacy

- Tandridge Trust supports the continuing professional development of the project apprentices.
- The apprentices arrange a touring exhibition of the Hurst Green tiles to local venues. They settle on the railway station as a permanent home for the tiles.
- A kiln is donated to the community and the apprentices plan to put this into action by running their own pottery classes in Hurst Green.
- One of the project participants coyly announces that she has been accepted onto a full time ceramics course.



Hurst Green is mapped in clay and comes to life as the community adds landmarks and memories.

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The project is represented at the Hurst Green Fair

Key Figures

- 436 members of the community took part in the project
- 1,103 people saw the project at shows, exhibitions and festivals
- For each pound invested by local authorities in Making Surrey, a further three pounds was levered in from external funding sources.

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LIVES WITH EXPERIMENTATION
AND DELIGHT.”**

**JOHN (43) & YOUNGEST
DAUGHTER, ISABEL (8)**