

Our Stories

The 'Our Stories' event took place in Slough on Thursday 30th October 2008 at Saint Mary's Church in the Centre of Slough



above: The Deputy Mayor of Slough, Councillor Joginder Singh Bal with Fiona Harris from the Representation of the European Commission in the United Kingdom, at the introduction to the 'Our Stories' event in Slough

The programme included an exhibition throughout the afternoon, with an introduction from our guests at 6pm, with food provided, followed by workshops from 6.30pm to 9pm.

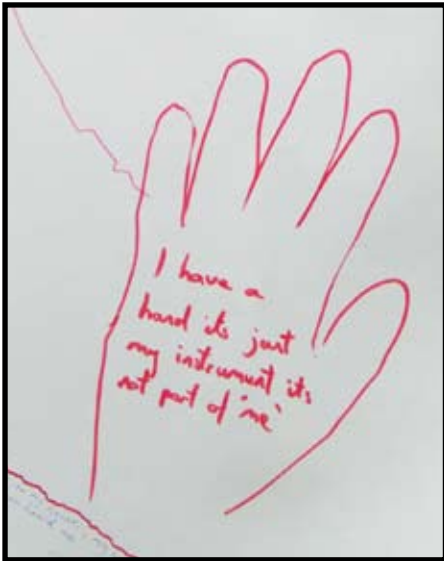
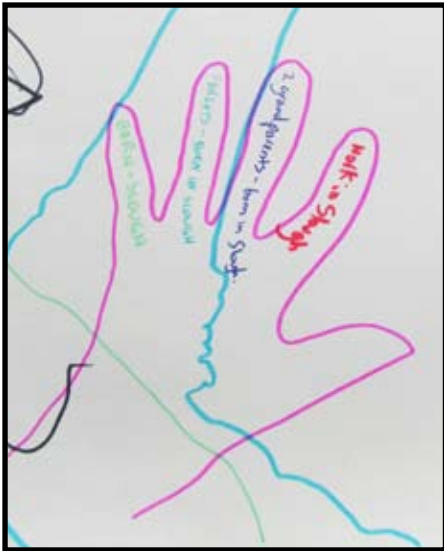
The event was publicised through the local press, through mailings by post and email to community and faith contacts, through local community newsletters, through personal contact, visits and presentations, and on local radio - including an hour-long interview on local Asian Star radio.

We were pleased to welcome the Deputy Mayor of Slough, Councillor Joginder Singh Bal, Fiona Harris from the Representation of the European Commission in the United Kingdom, which funded the event, the exhibitors, artists, and all those who attended the afternoon and evening sessions.



Our thanks to The European Commission in the UK for funding and supporting the day





Above and top right: Sections of the hand print frieze - some people put their hand flat on the paper and drew around it, others cast their hand's shadow onto the paper and drew the shape.

Right and below: Sarah Percival encourages her group to share the thoughts and experiences behind the card they have chosen

The Workshops

Following the introductions and food, there were two workshops.

Professional storyteller and trainer Sarah Percival gave the group an introduction to story making and story telling. Sarah invited participants to pick post-cards that particularly appealed to or resonated with them from a large selection of cards. She then demonstrated how a story can be built up from the memories and emotions that the cards evoke. She talked through the similarities and differences between the selections that people had made, and highlighted the interactions between people who had picked the same, or similar cards.

Artist Shehnoor Ahmed invited participants to draw around their hands or feet (excusing the adults from getting down on the floor to draw around their whole

bodies!). She then encouraged participants to write bullet stories or single words to sum up themselves and their relationship with the Slough that they know.





above: Ajay Gill from United Voices with Christine Hill from Berkshire East PCT Sexual Health Unit on her stand

The Exhibition

The exhibition started at 3pm, and was open to until the end of the day. We had a steady stream of visitors coming in and out throughout the afternoon.

Our stand exhibitors were:

- Slough Refugee Support
- Thames Valley Police Community Support Team
- Berkshire East PCT Sexual Health Unit at Upton Hospital
- Slough Religious Studies Resource Centre
- Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University
- Scout Enterprises
- Saint Mary’s Church
- Art Beyond Belief



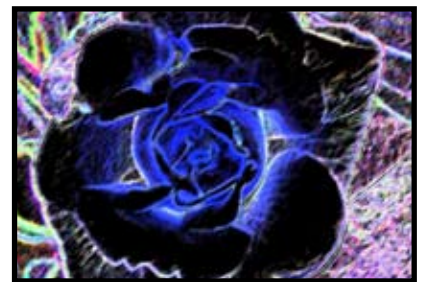
above: Deputy Mayor of Slough Cllr Bal at the exhibition.

below: the European Commission provided Year of Intercultural Dialogue merchandise which was given away on the day



Photographic Exhibition

Throughout the day we also had an exhibition of photographic prints produced by patients from Wexham Park Hospital’s Therapeutic Day Unit as part of a project to increase self confidence and integration through art. Below are four of the twenty-four prints produced by the group during the project that took place over the summer months.



Art Beyond Belief

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