

Keeping Connected Through Creative Arts

Laura Neill, Creative Arts Facilitator, Strathcarron Hospice

Wendy McCormick, Creative Arts Facilitator, Strathcarron Hospice

Dr Sally Boa, Head of Education and Research, Strathcarron Hospice



During Covid-19, it has not been possible for Hospice Day services to run as they normally do, and patients have been unable to visit the creative arts room to work on projects. We started the Dove Community Project to try to maintain connections and to support and promote well-being. Day Care patients were sent an art pack which included an MDF dove and a butterfly. They were encouraged to decorate both items and to keep the butterfly but to fly the doves back to the hospice. The project has been extended to local care homes who are starting their own initiatives, and a local Scout group are adopting the idea to help families across generations to connect.



laura.neill2@nhs.scot
wendy.mccormick@nhs.scot



Background

Covid-19 brought a halt to face to face day services at Strathcarron Hospice. This meant that there was a risk that those who would normally attend day care would become isolated and disconnected. In order to help people re-connect and become involved in a community art project, we launched the Dove Community project with the aim of promoting connection and well-being.



Dove Community Project

laura.neill2@nhs.scot
wendy.mccormick@nhs.scot



This poster is part of the
SPPC poster
exhibition
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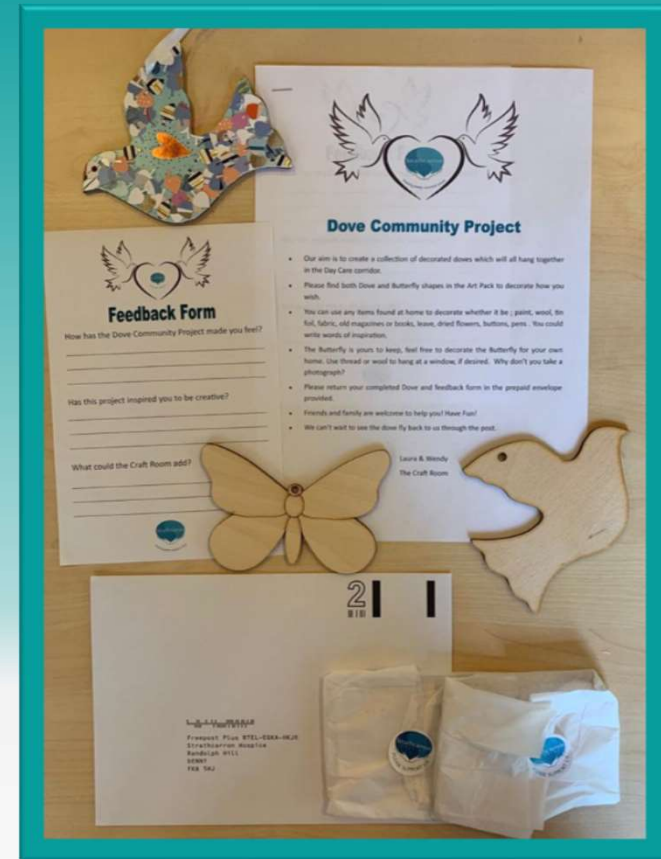


What we did.....

Current day care patients were contacted by telephone to find out if they would be interested in participating in a community art project. 68 out of 77 original day care patients agreed to participate. We sent out art packs which included: an MDF dove, a butterfly and art materials. We also sent a YouTube link to help inspire and encourage participants:

<https://vimeo.com/441977801/13b5e5f896>

Participants were asked to fly their doves back, along with an evaluation form.



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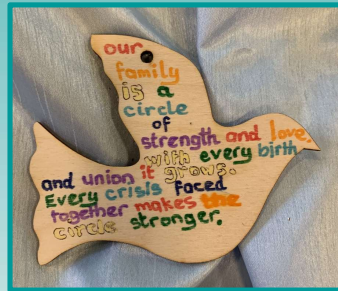
Results and Conclusions

To date 21 doves have flown back to the Hospice. Feedback from participants suggests the project promotes a sense of belonging and inclusion:

“A sense of belonging”



“I have totally loved doing this and it made me feel part of something really good”



“It challenged me in a good way”



Since it started, this project has been shared with local care homes who have adapted the project to support residents and families to stay connected. A local Scout group is also using the idea to link children with their extended families. Further art projects are planned including ‘a view from your window’ which will encourage people at home to draw their view and share it with each other.