



River of Art 2025 Case Study

- ⇒ River of Art is a community co-created art trail running alongside the River Holme as a part of the Holmfirth Arts Festival
- ⇒ The trail ran as a fringe event over the weekend of Friday 13th June to Monday 16th June 2025
- ⇒ We engaged with 15 participants over the course of our sessions

Background:

We had several aims in mind when taking part in this project. Firstly, we wanted to spend some time outdoors and engage people with nature which we did by offering participants the opportunity to go on a trip to the River Colne. This helped us to connect people and to bring together creative people from some of our other groups along with some new faces. By helping our participants to learn new skills like a new art style, or to try something like a new medium to create a piece of art, we offered them a new or different experience. They were all excited to be a part of a collaborative art piece that would be exhibited in the community. This project also helped us to promote The Great Outdoors Project and spread the word about what we do here at S2R during the popular and busy Holmfirth Arts Festival.



What We Did:

In total, we planned three sessions to design and create our art piece. The first session took place with our young people's Social Creatives group where we started developing ideas, themes and working out how the final piece might look. The group decided it would take the shape of a collectively collaged textile tapestry, working with the theme of flow.

In the second session, we went for a gentle 15-minute walk to the River Colne on the Kilner Bank Greenway to do some sketching and drawing. Some of the group simply enjoyed sitting down and listening to the birds and the gentle sounds of the river.

In the third session, we created the final art piece, learning how to thread a needle and then sew, embroider and appliqué decorations onto fabric. Each participant made at least one item to be attached to the final piece. We were also helped by artist Natalie Jane, who very kindly volunteered their time to help us with these sessions and with the design and creation of the tapestry. Thank you Natalie!



What Our Participants Said

"I'd like to get better at art so thought I'd come and join you!"

I've not been here before, it's a lovely spot!"

"I wouldn't of come here on my own..."

