

Holme Hall Explorer Spring Activity 2025



Part 1. An overview of the Spring Activity

Part 2. Stories of impact from Holme Hall Explorer project so far

Part 3. Next Steps

Spring 2025 saw Clare Gage deliver workshops with 6 partner organisations in the Holme Hall neighbourhood. The workshops created artworks made by the community. On the Arts Trail day, Saturday 22nd March, participants began by visiting a venue to collect a worksheet and map showing a guided route around Holme Hall. Each venue displayed one of the 6 artworks and offered free activities and treats for the visitors. A sticker was given at each stop which together completed an artwork on the worksheet. On the day we were challenged by the prospect of a thunderstorm so made some quick adjustments to keep all the volunteers under cover when the rain came. This worked well and all the partners received plenty of visitors during the Art Trail and reported many happy participants.

'It's nice to be able to do something as a community.'

'It's been a wonderful day'

'We loved last years, but this year the extra community collaboration is great. I've visited places that I haven't been to before and will now visit again.'

'It's been good to get out into the community and explore the area.'

Be responsive and engage target groups

The spring Holme Hall Explorer activity was developed in collaboration with each of the key partners in the area and became a success due to their enthusiasm for being involved. After the first Arts Trail at Holme Hall primary school last spring this year's trail was able to benefit from the additional relationships which have been developed during the Summer and Christmas delivery; Holme Hall Inn, Eden Holme Care Home, Holme Hall Community Garden group, Holme Hall Edge Centre and Friends of Holmebrook Valley Park. Each of these partners engage with different target groups within the community so this opportunity to collaborate with them has greatly strengthen the reach of the project.

Due to a longer lead time in preparing for this activity there was the opportunity to work closely with each partner and to be responsive to their suggestions for which activities would be best for their audience. E.g. Holme Hall Inn were interested in mindful painting which echoes the popularity of Paint and Sip activities. Holme Hall Primary worked closely with Clare to develop a project which integrated into their curriculum, the Community Garden group hoped to develop artwork which celebrated spring flowers and raised awareness of the role of pollinating insects.

With these objectives in mind the artwork created was suitable to become a permanent artwork for each partner, after its role in the Arts Trail day.

Be ambitious and build connections

To build on the previous Arts Trail this activity was designed to explore a wider area of the neighbourhood to promote more walking routes around the area. It was also intended to build connections between the community and the partners involved, as well as between the partners in the hope of creating future collaborative activity. An important factor of the Arts Trail day was that the artwork created at each venue was rotated to be displayed in a different space. E.g. The paintings from the pub were at the school, the school's ceramic

tiles were at the Edge Centre etc. This decision was praised by the partners as they saw new people come into their space and it has allowed them to engage with new people from the community.

This was an ambitious project due to the number of workshops, number of people involved and the key aspect of each partner supporting the Arts Trail day with their own volunteers.

We would like to thank everyone involved in the Arts Trail day!

This activity has fostered pride in the community. Children and adults were all keen to identify their own artwork and to celebrate the creativity of the other people involved.

'This shows that Holme Hall is a great place to live!'

Be visible and build relationships

The visibility of this project has grown on each occasion. This time it was supported by each of the partners who chose to promote both the workshops and the Arts Trail on the social media and in newsletters. We are seeing the importance of the Holme Hall Explorer name and logo in gaining visibility with the community. We are also seeing repeat participation from many people. The stories included in this report demonstrate the journey for some of participation who engaged with the Holme Hall Explorer project.

Numbers

68 subscribers to the Holme Hall Explorer mailing list

1000+ people reached online with many more reached via our partners's social media

1500+ flyers delivered to households, at events and through the school

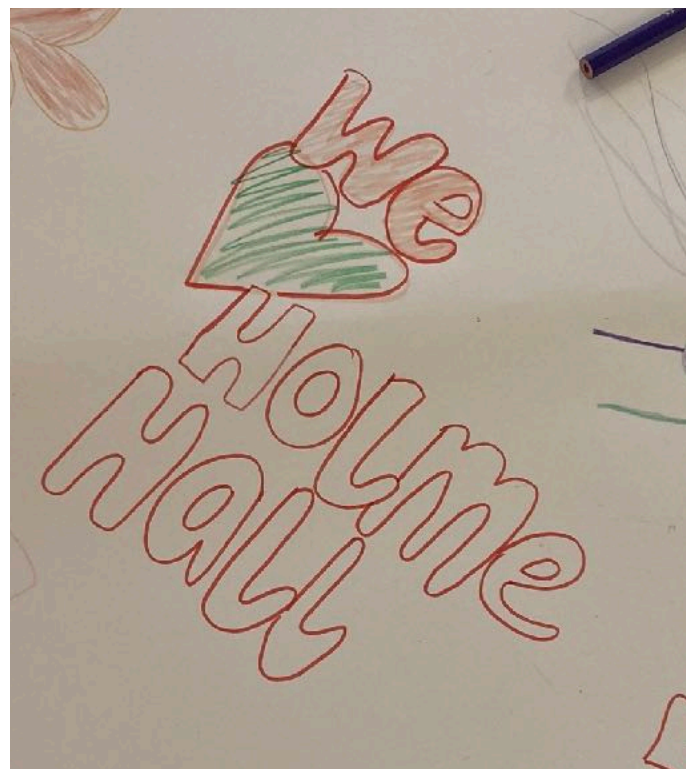
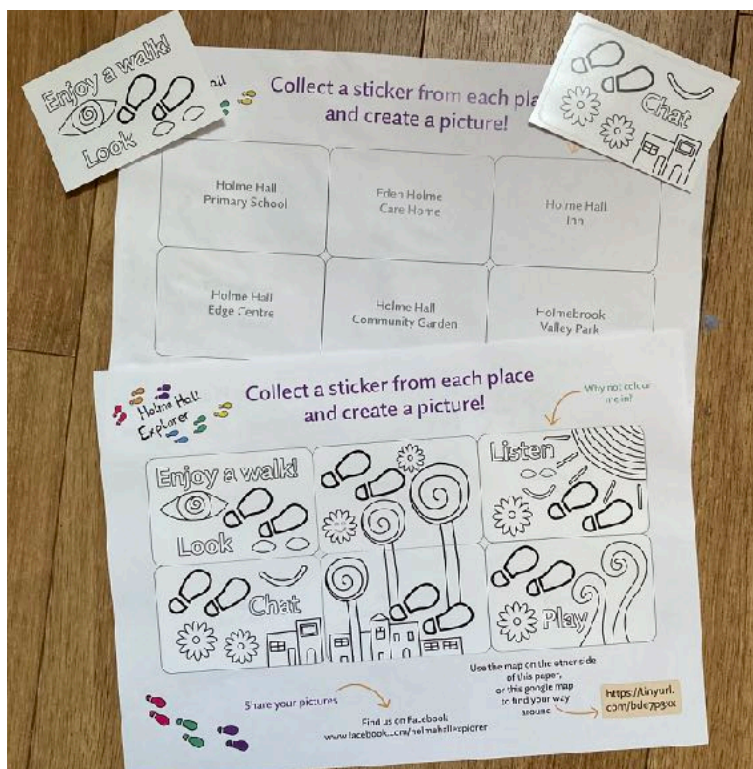
16+ posters displayed in local shops and partner venues

6 partner organisations involved

6 collaborative Artworks created, made up of over 150 individual creations

100+ participants in the workshops

80 people participating in the Arts Trail (before the thunderstorm arrived!)





Stories Of Impact

Rachel from Holme Hall Inn

Holme Hall Inn are a community focussed pub who are keen to work with other partners in the area and bring positive experiences to their customer base and the wider community. When asked about her experience with the Holme Hall Explorer project Rachel shared this story.

'The paint in the pub was very good, as was the pottery, the drumming workshop was a great idea and afterwards so many people were interested in doing it again.

But for me, the most moving memory was the games workshop where one of our locals, a vulnerable young man, who at the time was homeless (sofa surfing) took part, he was reluctant because he is very shy but he is passionate about gaming, an hour later I asked him what he thought about it and quite confidently he said I really enjoyed it, most of all showing the younger lad what to do! He said he would be interested in joining in more activities as that might help him make friends, that for me was very much the breakthrough I think the project was intended to create.'



Holme Hall Primary School

Holme Hall Primary School were extremely pleased to be involved in this project. They are a very community minded school. The art sessions with the school children have been



praised and an after school painting sessions for staff and PTFA members has encouraged the PTFA to research funding opportunities to support more mindful creative experiences for the staff and parents to improve wellbeing and build connections. 'We really appreciate being involved in this activity. It's important to us as a school that we collaborate with our community and this has been a wonderful way to do that.'

The children love the creative sessions. It gives them confidence and improves their wellbeing. They were proud to see their work as part of an exhibition.

The feedback from the art Trail was overwhelmingly positive and the coverage on social media has brought new families to our door - we've had two new applications in the past week!' Jackie Littlechilds. Headteacher at Holme Hall Primary School

Holme Hall Edge Centre

We began our relationship with Holme Hall Edge Centre with them generously letting us host our events in their building (or outside it when we popped up the tent in their garden!) During the Christmas and Spring activities we became integrated more closely with their work by bringing our activities to their Coffee Afternoons and they kindly opened their doors and welcomed visitors on the Arts Trail day. This development in our way of working has helped us to reach more people and brought additional appeal to their coffee afternoons.

'It was great to see the children so excited to find their own



artwork on the arts trail day, and the big draw activity was great.' Rachel, Holme Hall Edge Centre

Expanding to include Holmebrook Valley Park

On this arts trail we were able to expand the activity to include Holmebrook Valley Park. This gave us the opportunity to promote the walking routes which can be picked up behind the pub and leads through to Holmebrook Valley Park. Families have been offered copies of our walking guide booklet which includes multiple walks around the neighbourhood.

'Thank you for including the park in this activity.

On the arts trail day we had a few families from the park activities and a few adults from the Hub. They all enjoyed looking at the stick men and the pebbles. Having activities to do, not just 'walk the trail, seemed popular.' Cathy Whittaker. Friends of Holmebrook Valley Park



Care home connections...

So far we've facilitated connections between partners including between Holme Hall Primary School and Eden Holme Care Home and Eden Holme Care Home and Holme Hall Community Garden.

The care home are particularly keen to continue to integrate with the community more. They would like to enhance the inside and outside of their building and would welcome arranged visits from other groups in the community.

'I appreciate your time and the wonderful activities that you held in the care home. It makes the service users very happy. We would like to do more activities like this with the community' Leanne. Activities Co-ordinator Eden Holme Care Home

Tracy's story

Tracy was encouraged to attend the summer programme because her friend Anna wanted to try pottery. She thought she would be too nervous to take part but the setting and Clare's approach made her feel at ease and allowed her to get involved. She came along to more than one activity in the summer which incorporated a trip to the community garden. On discussions with Clare and Gina whilst she made her artwork she found out about the gardening group which she and Anna then became involved in. She has helped repeatedly at Holme Hall Explorer activities and has begun to lead participants in the activities (eg. a gardening activity during the Arts Trail day) and she is now very involved in the new group supporting the Holme Hall Hub.

'My confidence has grown so much since being involved in this project. It has been transformative. I can't thank you enough.' Tracy- Home Hall Resident



Next Steps

From conversations with partners and participants these are the 3 areas that were highlighted as directions to explore moving forwards

1. **Cross-community collaborations.** There is enthusiasm for a continuation of activity which supports connections to be made across the key partners in the area, and between the community and these partners. The partners are interested in exploring ways to work together (e.g. the care home and the school etc), and are also keen to explore ways for the community to be better informed of all of the opportunities throughout the neighbourhood. E.g. It is useful for people to visit each of the partners to discover more about what they do, this would encourage participation outside of Holme Hall explorer activity.
2. **Pride in area.** There is enthusiasm for activity which allows the community to celebrate and generate pride in their neighbourhood. The Holme Hall Explorer activities have generated pride in this neighbourhood as being a place where interesting things happen. The focus on creating visibly pleasing spaces was also something that participants would like to continue. E.g. decorating the community garden, gardening for year round improvements, litter picking around the shops.
3. **Activities to support wellbeing.** The creative activities were celebrated as an experience which provided relaxation, connection and pleasure to the participants. At Holme Hall Primary School there is interest in looking for opportunities to support the children's, the staffs and the parents wellbeing through experiences like this. This is also something that Rachel at Holme Hall Inn is also interested in exploring more. Eden Holme Care Home are very focussed on bringing enrichment experiences as well as looking for opportunities to enhance the living space for the residents. Activities could be considered which embed the New Economics Foundation's 5 Ways to Wellbeing to further improve the experience of the community in the Holme Hall neighbourhood.