

# Working with communities

We are developing a wide variety of projects to get as many people as possible involved with our museums and galleries. New outreach projects are doing fantastic work developing links with local community groups.

In Bolton the Education Outreach Officer, Jacqui Wallace, is bringing groups together through creative and reminiscence work. She devised Local Treasures to unite older members of the community and teenagers. In one project they have made a short film, drawing on memories of the past. She used reminiscence boxes from 1930s onwards to stimulate memories of the older community members about their life and times in the area, and encouraged the younger participants to share their knowledge of new technology. This inter-generational work enabled the participants to reflect the stories in new ways and brought the groups closer together.

The Harris Museum & Art Gallery is working with socially excluded groups including travellers, disaffected teenagers and homeless families. Projects such as Shelta: A Traveller's Tale brought travellers together with professional artists to express a voice through painting, drawing and sculpture.

The Whitworth Art Gallery is currently working to re-display their textile gallery after consultation with visitors. They are choosing objects based on the interests of those who visit the gallery and the local community. The new display will also offer more to children, with high-quality interactive and tactile elements.

"I didn't realise what community meant until I did the Local Treasures project. It gave me a chance to learn about my local area by talking to older people. I have a new respect for them now." Male access and inclusion participant, aged 15, Bolton Museum & Art Gallery.

"I'm really proud of my picture. I wasn't sure at first if I could make anything good, but I'm pleased. I have a photo of me with my picture that I'm really pleased with. It makes you feel good." Participant in Access and Inclusion project with traveller communities, Harris Museum & Art Gallery.

