

Volunteers create 'green' artwork for local community to enjoy

Sprout, an environmental project for 16 to 25 year olds run by the Nottingham-based Partnership Council charity, has given young people the chance to produce their very own piece of 'green' artwork - which will be on permanent display outside the charity's offices at Tennyson on Forest Road West.

Young volunteers worked with Nottingham mosaic artist Julie Vernon to produce the large mosaic, which was made from recycled materials including broken china plates and ceramic tiles.

Two volunteers, Crystal Nunn and Giselle Kennedy, designed the mosaic, which features dragonflies set against a backdrop of twisted vines and a glowing sun to symbolise new life and growth.

Joanna Beck from Sprout explains:

"The idea behind the mosaic project was to give our volunteers something different and creative to get involved with. It's been a very fun and inspirational project to work on and I hope the mosaic will get people thinking about creative ways to recycle objects that would normally get thrown away."

Mosaic artist Julie Vernon agrees:

"Creative projects like this one are a great way to bring people from all walks of life together. The mosaic process is an easy technique to learn and the volunteers quickly became absorbed with the project. It gave everyone involved a real sense of achievement and people are always surprised at how visually impressive the results are."

Sprout offers young people a range of volunteering opportunities and also helps 16 to 25 year olds to set up their own environmental projects.

For example, Sprout provides small start-up grants of £500 plus practical help, advice and support to get projects off the ground.

Sprout-supported projects include the annual green festival at the University of Nottingham, a peace garden in Lenton and a citywide project to protect Nottingham's declining bee population.

Mosaic artist Julie Vernon works with schools and communities across the county, if you would like to have a go at producing your own mosaic or would like to find out more about Julie's work visit www.julievernonmosaics.com

To find out more about Sprout or to view the mosaic call Joanna Beck on 0115 970 8200 or email sproutnottingham@googlemail.com You can follow Sprout on Facebook by searching Sprout Nottingham.

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