

“A Stitch in Time”

Millmount Museum, Drogheda, Co Louth

Saturday 12th June, 2010



A workshop to celebrate our ‘Arts of the Hearth’ was held in the Millmount Museum on Saturday last to redress the balance in terms of our disposable society - we are in danger of losing many of the simple arts of repairing clothing and household articles, so the workshop focussed on learning practical skills that (almost) everyone used to know, such as sewing on a button, turning up a hem and darning a hole, as well as the more decorative crafts of crochet and making fabric flowers.

The event was designed to be suitable for people with no previous sewing experience, although as we sat about with our needles and thread, it was clear that older members of our group had done a little stitch work in their day. The participants ranged in age from 6 years through teenagers to let’s say, mature ladies, from Newry, Carlingford, Drogheda and Dundalk via Lagos and Brisbane, so it was great to meet people with different experiences to share.



Amy O’Hara, expert seamstress and designer at ‘DuMore Embroidery’ in Sligo, with ‘Shared Heritage’ team member **Ruth Daly**, led this enjoyable hands-on workshop, and ably demonstrated how to restyle and revamp pre-loved clothes to make them wearable again!

Amy displayed, for example, a wonderful outfit, fit for a wedding or the races, which entailed a beautiful purple linen coat, with green appliqué floral designs near the hemline, with a matching green broad-brimmed hat with purple appliqué colours. The coat cost €1 in a second hand shop, which she dyed purple and applied the flowers, while the hat from her mother was remodelled to suit the outfit. Great savings and style in the current economic times!



In between the work, there was a lot of fun and laughter with ‘remember when we used to’ story-swapping going on. The younger participants amply demonstrated their imaginations in developing their own particular styles, while learning about old and new techniques and stitches.

A home-baked light lunch was enjoyed in the sunshine in the Museum’s sheltered courtyard, with more sharing of tales of the needle! A really enjoyable day was had by all, which we hope went some way towards appreciating the lost arts and heritage of home-based resourcefulness, which our grandmothers knew so well.

For more information, contact Deirdre Lewis or Ruth Daly
(+353) 087 653 6405 / info@tainways.com / www.tainways.com



The “Shared Heritage & Myths” project is supported by the European Union’s PEACE III Programme, as awarded by Louth Peace and Reconciliation Partnership