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Mental Health:

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VOYAGER

VOYAGER

Editorial Team	Cover
Carol Green	▼ D Hawthorne
◄ John Saunders	
✓ Jordon Fennell	Back Cover
Linda Gruber	■ Big Grin Media
▼ V:)	

Mental Health: Creative Perspectives.

What do you think?

If you would like to contribute or provide any feedback on the Voyager, please contact:

Voyager

Sutton Mental Health Foundation 63 Downs Road, Belmont, SM2 5NR

020 8770 0172 voyager@smhf.org.uk smhf.org.uk/voyager Published by Sutton Mental Health Foundation, 2025.
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Support

Age UK Sutton 020 8078 0002

CASS Women's Self-Injury Helpline 0808 800 8088

Citizens Advice Bureau 020 8405 3552

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Cranstoun Drug and Alcohol Service 020 8773 9393

Mental Health Crisis Support Line 0800 028 8000

Mind

0300 123 3393

National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247

NHS Helpline

111

No Panic (Sutton and Merton) 07562 520 954

OCD Action 0300 636 5478

Off The Record (Youth Counselling) 0800 980 7475

Police (Non-Emergency)
101

Rethink (Advice Service) 080 801 0525

SANE Line (4 pm-10 pm) 0300 304 7000

Samaritans 116 123 Springfield Advocacy Service 0300 7900 559

Springfield Hospital 0203 513 5000

Stop Hate UK Crime Helpline 0800 138 1625

Sutton Carer's Centre 020 8296 5611

Sutton Crisis Cafe 0800 012 9082

Sutton Mental Health Foundation 020 8770 0172

Sutton Night Watch (Homeless support) 020 8669 9920

Sutton Council 020 8770 5000

Sutton Talking Therapies 020 3513 4044

Sutton Women's Centre 020 8661 1991

Transform Sutton (Domestic Violence) 020 8092 7569

Victim Support 0808 1689 111

Volunteer Centre Sutton 020 8661 5900

THAT MONSTER, DOCTOR HIDE.

POTIONS

INVISIBLE

IN THE NIGHT

UNSEEN

THAT LOVE,

SO FULL.

A BLOODIED

INVISIBLE

HEART



VOYAGER

"Life has a way of getting hold of all of us at times."

Does it? Mental health is often overlooked, something silent that can't be seen but is very visible when you're the one struggling. The Voyager aims to connect people to highlight the importance of feeling connected.

Life doesn't have to feel shackled by our circumstances. We can bless our world by looking at and perceiving things in a different sense of light.

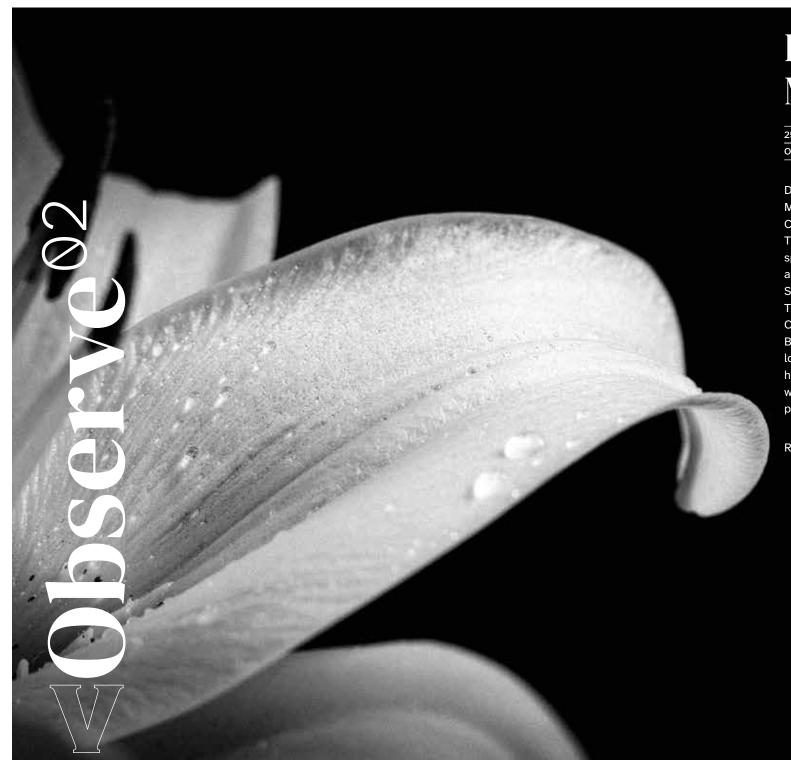
Let's imagine that you are exactly where you want to be. Does this place look loud, bustling with life, or does it look quiet, a place where you focus on your own peace?

Now, let's try to imagine if you were unable to have any of this. Let's take it back to the start. Would you feel invisible?

Sadly, we walk past people every day who are struggling. The person who is asking for a bit of spare change. The friend who always has their head down. The partner that doesn't seem as exciting as they once were. Life has a way of getting hold of all of us at times. But if we spoke and made our thoughts more visible, then in time the pressure slowly lifts. The flower begins to blossom, and the dark turns to light. Let's speak, as staying quiet often makes us feel invisible.

⊗Observe⁰²

VOYAGER



Danny McCann

25th April 1955-31st May 2024

Obituary

Danny McCann sadly passed away in May 2024. He enjoyed going to the Café, at the Circle with friends from The Drop In and liked reading about sport and used to get very enthusiastic about it. He also organised regular Sweep Stakes for the World Cup. The Grand National, The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race plus regular Bingo Sessions. Danny wrote some lovely poetry and before Lockdown he regularly attended The Drop In and was very well liked and a very nice person to know.

RIP



Anna Virabyan

Artist Spotlight

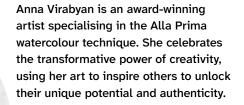


Contact

intuit.art@outlook.com

@intuit.art





She collaborates with various local organisations, including Sutton Mental Health Foundation, using creative expression as a tool for healing and growth.

Through the curation of exhibitions, Anna has highlighted critical causes such as mental health and domestic violence.

Her journey as a lived experience artist reflects her unwavering belief that art can foster personal transformation and drive meaningful change within the community.

Anna runs therapeutic art sessions at Sutton Mental Health Foundation on Friday mornings, 10 am-12 pm. See smhf.org.uk/events for details.





Charlie **Jenkins**

Artist Spotlight



Contact

jenksygraphics@gmail.com @monocle_sloth



"My fatigue was DIABOLOCAL. It feels like you are just melting into wherever you are."



It started 8 years ago, in 2017, I would consistently feel knackered. I assumed everyone felt the same, as I worked on a building site and saw how hard people worked. My eyesight went completely blurry in one eye during college back in 2017, which scared me SO much. It only lasted 10 minutes, so I brushed it off. Again in 2019, both eyes went COMPLETELY white, but I was skiing at the time, so I put it down to snow blindness, so I didn't think much of it.

Fast forward a couple of years, drugs, breakups, sad times, and happy, and we get to January 2021. I had had enough of being on a building site (I was having a relapse), so, by some coincidence, I started a new job in a hospital, as a porter. Stars aligning right? During my time of starting this new job, I started to feel VERY strange. I somehow managed to drive all the way to work at 5 am, even though my legs could barely keep me upright. Ego? maybe. Imagine trying to walk but unable to pick your legs up. That is how it was for me, BUT, as I say, luckily, I was working in a hospital. I went to fix a door, and my manager saw me. SIT DOWN NOW, CHARLIE, is what came



out of their mouth. I was given a Mars bar, and my parents called to pick me up, as I couldn't even walk. We went to a hospital in Epsom and... I was told I should go home and rest?!? Ay, I can't even walk!?!

I stayed in bed for a couple of days as I couldn't walk, let alone get up and down the stairs. My fatique was DIABOLOCAL. It feels like you are just melting into wherever you are. My vision also started to go very blurry in my right eye, with my vision also going crosseyed.

I then went to my local GP and saw an excellent man named Dr Murray, who sent me straight to St George's, shout out St George's. I was sent straight to A&E. Imagine sitting in a room surrounded by people screaming, unable to see straight; it is pretty horrendous. I was then sent to Atkinson Morley ward. Where I was filled up with steroids, it was a pretty good time ahaha. I made some art, a rose, actually, and gave it to one of the nurses. They are very fortunate to get it for free. A neurologist came into my room one night and told me I might have Multiple Sclerosis, and I just started laughing!

After that, I went home, and it took a couple of months, a lot of walks, and one

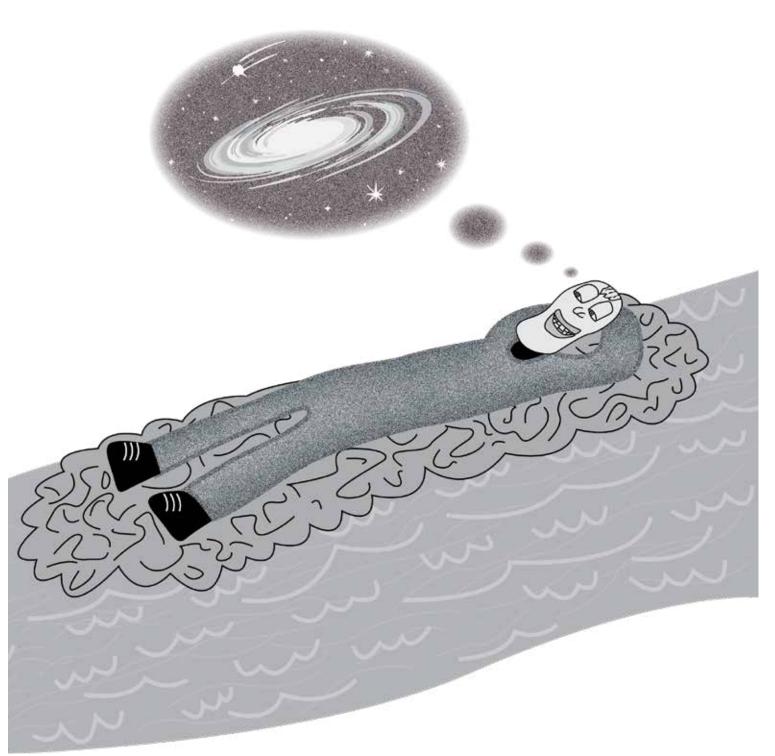


mum to get "better" or normal-ish again. Two years of ABSOLUTE shite, looking like I had Parkinsons, legs felt as if they were on FIRE 24/7, brainfog like I am in a misty forest, unable to understand the easiest things, mixed with some of the greatest times of my life. I was having relapses after relapses, SOMETHING told me I was just continuously having one for a VERY long time... dunno what that could be... When I found out this was the case. I was actually happy. As it meant I could be subject to quite a newish and dangerous procedure, called HSCT or a Stemcell transplant for laymen.

Doing this was SIMULTANEOUSLY the BEST and WORST thing to ever happen to me. It basically kills you and brings you back to life. I am eternally grateful, as it gave me a second chance at life.

I now stand/sit here before you as a normal(ish) human being, and ALL I want to do now is help people. I will start by helping myself first, though.

This is where my characters come in. At first, I didn't know how to articulate how I felt, so I decided to draw faces on what I was going through for 40 days! Please feel free to colour them in.



Hopes and Dreams

⋖ Jennifer Humphreys

◀ Illustration: Charlie Jenkins

Poetry

Dreaming, dreaming, dreaming,

When will I wake up?

Reality,

Achievements,

Insight and awareness,

Beautiful pictures immerse my mind,

Inspiration forms,

Abundance of dreams,

Positivity opens like a flower,

In flows the workings,

The magic of life,

Intelligent clouds,

Float softly and gently,

A vision of nature,

Grounds me,

Dream,

Strong and bold,

The sun is the reason,

In light of me,

Realise your dreams,

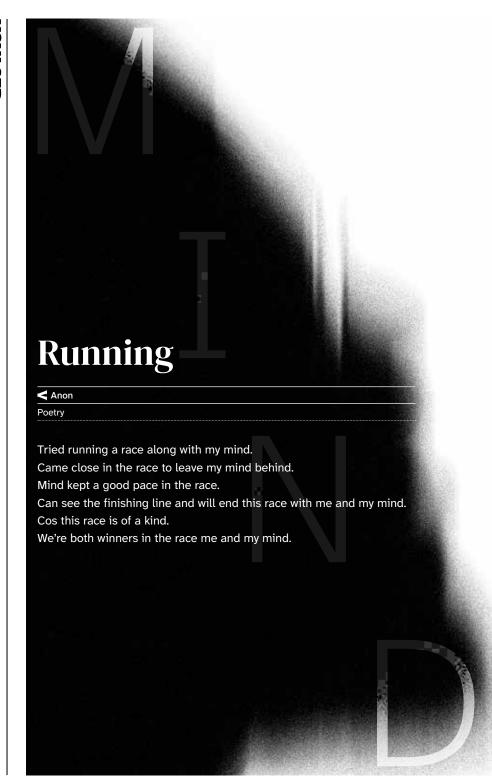
With eyes full of fire,

Accomplish your goals,

Define the steps,

The journey is your destination,

Enjoy the ride







Anxiety

Tina Gillam

Creative writing

Where does it come from? The hidden beast that stalks in the shadows, lying dormant and elusive until it is time to strike. It reminds you of its infinite power to derail and control your every thought, feeling, and action. It feeds on all your insecurities, ravenously devouring any last scrap of confidence.

Nerves fray and tear like rags, the mind lost in a labyrinth of collapsing tunnels. You want to scream to release the tension, but the scratch in your throat forbids any relief. Then comes a flush of heat, spreading so quickly over your skin that it leaves you gasping for air. A disorderly twitch of muscles and sinews makes you stiff and rigid; your ever-increasing pulse feels like a pipe about to burst, spewing its contents everywhere.

From within this sensory overload, you detect the acrid smell of burning plastic and a taste so bitter that you gag. All the while the ringing in your ears is getting louder, a deafening siren approaching at speed. The blackness blurs your vision, and you cannot move. Frozen in time like a tombstone, you don't even remember your name.

Overcome with exhaustion, you close your eyes as the beast slips back into the shadows without a ripple. The emotional wreckage in your head and fragility of your body feels like a ship caught up in a violent storm with no protection. Smashed up and broken, but just about afloat.

Peace finally, returns – a long-lost friend bathing light into the darkest corners of your soul. It will take time, but the road ahead is now as clear as a mountain stream. A space to heal.

Until the next time...

The dress

Tina Gillam

Poetry

I've lived in the darkness for such a long time Surrounded by mothball and well past my prime My silken fabric is the deepest of blue Cloaked in plastic and hidden from view

I long for the days of music and dance Forever hopeful of just one more chance To swish and sway while out on a date And feel the excitement of staying out late

Caressing your skin as you move to the beat Memories that lately feel so bittersweet Deep in my fibres there lingers a scent Of wild abandon and lovers content

Echoes of laughter still cling to my seams
A life that was full of desires and dreams
Please let me return to those heady nights
When my sequins did sparkle under the lights

I may be vintage and hang by a thread But let it be known, I am not yet dead Set me free from these chains of despair I'll show you a good time with style and flare



A poem in response to Hokusai

Alice Chadwick

Inspired by Kelvin and Marion's Introduction to Spirituality Course

Poetry

Alice says there's beauty in unexpected places And more to a soul than the faces they show you. Relentlessly work on healing;

Trauma and pain leave you feeling you're done But you're gutsy

Wait and see...

The sun's always rising round the corner And the gift is who you'll be.

From the torture life has put you through; Starless nights and sunless days you've seen. Finally you'll breathe with ease, And willingly, relaxed and effortlessly You'll lean.

You may not have wanted such commotion,
Picking through the wreckage after the harm,
But if you keep going you'll get razor sharp perspective,
Strength and insight like the ocean calm
Your wounds dressed lovingly as you imbibe it's breathtaking balm.

It may feel like a time-warp,
Days passing, mind perturbed;
Try to find joy in the small things;
New interests, watch the birds.

Reach out for human contact; Places you can be heard. Even just a smile or surface natter, Healing building blocks; They all matter. Like a child holding onto their mothers dress, Especially when fear rears up

And paralyses you in your step.

It might regularly keep you hostage,

A waste to live your life in bondage,

Ghosts from the past

Hold onto belief

Or worries about taking the next step; Strip dead the anxieties that consume you

Like striking a spider's web.

Outdoors or at home

You pray you are no longer alone.

All life is precious.

Respect resources, nature, creatures, yourself.

You're health is your wealth for the future;

There is NO wound that cannot be sutured.

No limits on starting anew,

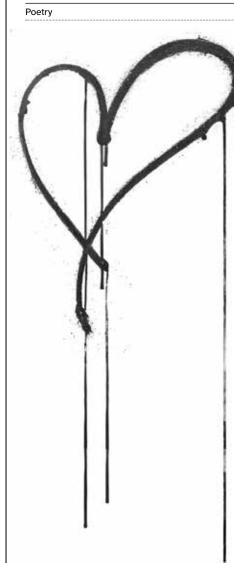
You CAN find peace and contentment

Though a long and arduous road,

But try not to pick up resentments,

Your peace will come as you deserve, well earned.

Blissful ease, basking in the glow.



Bless our creatures Lord Bless our beautiful land Bless our plants bless us all Reach out and touch a hand Our gentlemen be kind Our ladies be of worth We all have a voice you know Let signing for deaf be heard! Braille on a notebook be seen Mute or dumb believe Those that save our lives at hospitals Those that save our lives at sea We are all busy talking... We are all busy walking... Why? Because we were given life Don't you see Create space to give thanks Because with those that cared And those that shared Through previous generations Lessons can be taught Battles can be fought Families reunited again A football team, a friend in need The future generations Happy as tough it's been Can we go back to Simplicity Can we go back at all! Natures way the present It's calmer n peaceful A closing prayer request or plea Yes I pray it starts It starts with me... Forgiveness is the answer Forgiveness is the key To melt a heart of stone That once lived in me...



What's the point of nothings?
Or a smile that barely shows?
What's the use in pleasantries
When you can't tell friend from foe?

I wish into the wind, Feel it rush across my face. All I want is to vanish, To drift, To another place.

Maybe in the years ahead, these heavy thoughts depart. I'll rise beyond the shadows, And make a fresh new start.

I see the sky awash with wings, But butterflies won't stay Each day, I try to catch just one But each day slips away.

The wallpaper is peeling;
I press it back in place.
The voices on the evening news
Wear that same blank, rubber face.

Everywhere I turn,
A secret waits in shade.
Quiet, heavy,
Tight-lipped truths
That never quite evade.

Is it too much to ask
For rose-tinted glass?
A room where joy feels plentiful
And all the bad things pass.

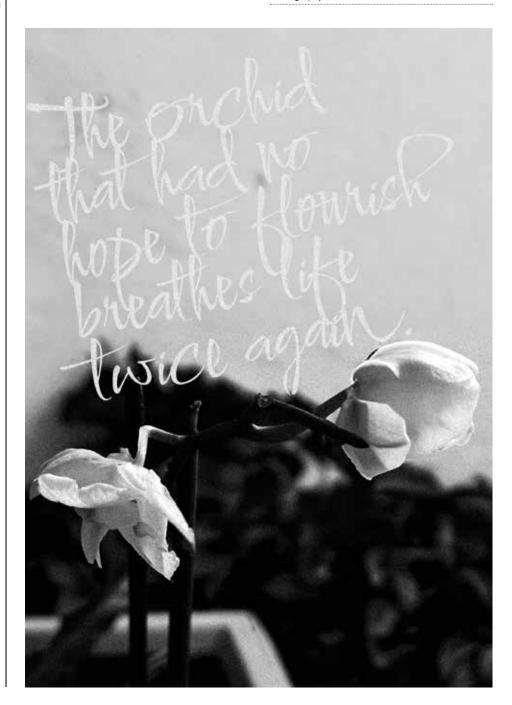
But I look down at the pavement cracks
There's nothing but a penny
Still, I shake the Monday off
And drop it with the many.

And maybe one day,
I'll open that box
To find something sweet or soft,
A quiet place to carry away,
Leaving behind the heavy cost.

Against all odds

◀ John Saunders & Heather Voegt

Photography





Ingrediants

150 ml Single Cream

2 Meringue Nests

150g Raspberries

Kitchen Utensils

2 small dishes

Tablespoon

Sieve

Large bowl

To make

- 1. Rinse and drain the raspberries in cold water.
- 2. When the raspberries have been drained, place them in two small pudding dishes.
- 3. Crush the meringues in a large bowl and place them on top of the raspberries.
- 4. Then pour the single cream over the top.

 You may not need all the pot of the 150ml single cream it's up to you.

Serve cooled.

Invisible Society

◀ A Friend

Photography

I have taken these photographs to reflect the current state of homelessness. With my lived experience of navigating the system, I feel it is pointless to write about this subject, as much has already been written on the topic. No one cares, and nothing changes. All I can say is read "I Dwell in Possibility" by Emily Dickinson.







Active8 trip to Your Space



Trip Information

Your Space Seears Park Nursery Seears Park St Dunstan's Hill Sutton SM1 2LR

yourspacesutton.org

Free Entry



Linda Gruber

Photography: A Friend

Trips

In early February 2025 some of us from the Active8 Group visited Your Space in Cheam.

It was quite a wintry day though we were all looking forward to visit it as it sounded good from people who had been there. Also a couple of Peer Support Workers from SMHF were Volunteers there at one stage and they enjoyed their time there. The Your Space cafe was only 10 minutes from the bus stop in Cheam and it was easy to find.

In the café area there were some tasty cakes to choose from and a good choice of drinks and a wide range books to read. It was very nice to be inside away from the cold day outside. The Café Assistant was pleasant and welcoming. There are lots of gardening projects at Your Space which we did not see in full and perhaps in the future we may visit the gardening area at a warmer time of the year.

After visiting Your Space a few of us decided to go to Piggies in Cheam Village to have some lunch and another drink. We relaxed in the café and we then decided to make our way to our homes.

It had been a good day and I am looking forward to visiting there again in the future.



Project Information

VOYAGER

Sutton Tennis & Squash Club 19 Devonshire Rd Sutton SM2 5HH

stscsport.co.uk

Free Entry



Tennis training at Belmont **Connect and Sutton Tennis** & Squash Club

Linda Gruber

Projects

Last Year Ovie from Belmont Connect kindly set up free tennis training for **Belmont Connect Members at Belmont** Connect and Sutton Tennis and Squash Club. The tennis training has proved to be very successful for members and it has really helped them with their mental health issues.

Liam trains us very well us at Belmont Connect and Sammy trains also trains us very well at the Sutton Tennis and Squash Club and Liam is always around there too. Members tennis has improved greatly and I have learnt more than I knew before I took part in the training - thank you Liam and Sammy.

On Tuesday mornings the walk in tennis training takes place at Belmont Connect,

between 11.15 am-12.00 pm - training does not take place in school holidays. On Wednesday mornings tennis training takes place at Sutton Tennis and Squash Club from 11.30 am-12.30 pm, in school holidays the training takes place 12.30 pm-1.30 pm.

Even if you have never touched a tennis racket it does not matter as everyone at all levels are very much encouraged by Liam and Sammy.

Tasty food, teas and coffees at reasonable prices are available at the Sutton Tennis and Squash Club and there is a bar.

There is a nice atmosphere there and all the staff are friendly and welcoming.

We are very lucky that Ovie has managed to set up the training for us.

≪What's on⁰⁵

The Scar **Transformation Project**



Contact

meglouisetattoo@gmail.com @meglouisetattoo

◀ Meg Louise

Proiects

My name is Meg and I'm a local tattoo artist based in Sutton, and the Scar Transformation Project (STP) is rooted in my own experience with mental wellbeing, self harm and suicide loss. All of this lived experience has become the desire to support others through art and healing. After losing someone incredibly close to me last year, I knew I wanted to do more than just tattoo -I want to use my craft to help people reclaim their bodies and stories.

The STP offers bespoke, trauma-informed tattoo cover ups for people with selfharm scars, surgical scars, or any marks that hold pain or memory. Each tattoo is designed to be meaningful and empowering, not just decorative. I've researched in depth into symbolism, just to be able to add elements into each tattoo that represent and encourage my clients. The initial response to the STP has been emotional, humbling and overwhelmingly positive.

For some people, it's about reclaiming a body they feel disconnected from. For others, it's about turning something painful into something beautiful. Tattoos can be a way of taking control, expressing identity and beginning a new chapter -

and for survivors, that sense of agency is everything.

I'm not a therapist - and I would never claim to be - but I work in a deeply trauma-informed and body-safe way. I always prioritise client readiness, consent and storytelling - and I am constantly learning from professionals and clients to improve the process.

If your interested in transforming your scars into a meaningful piece of art for you to wear. Please contact me through email. You can find more of work on Instgram. To start the process I'll ask you to fill out my booking form first so you can answer some questions to help me understand your story and what you'd like to come from this collaboration.







Project Information

Sutton Mental **Health Foundation** 63 Downs Rd Belmont SM2 5NR

020 8770 0172

smhf.org.uk/inyourcorner

Free Entry



What's on your mind? **In Your Corner** returns

Lisa Lancefield

Projects

Sutton Mental Health Foundation will be open every Sunday from October 26th, 2025, to March 29th, 2026, from 11.30 am-4.30 pm, for people over 18 in Sutton struggling with their mental health during the winter months.

We offer an affordable warm meal, a chat, and help to get further support if needed. You will need to book your place for lunch by contacting Sutton Mental Health Foundation.





The power and resonance of peer support"

Community Dye Bed



Project Information

Oru Sutton 7 Throwley Way Sutton SM1 4AF

oruspace.co/sutton

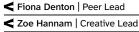
Free Entry



Contact

Fiona Denton Fiona.denton@smhf.org.uk

Zoe Hannam 07725 048 331



◄ Photography: Monique Challis

Projects

ORU kindly donated us a piece of land on their rooftop terrace to manage, design, cultivate, and maintain a 'community dye garden'. This is a space to grow flowers, herbs, and plants that we can use to dye thread and cloth. The process of dying cloth and thread is an integral part of our Mindfulness-based slow stitch workshops at Whitehall Historic House Cheam.

We wanted a project that could truly be a peer-run enterprise, and a project that engenders confidence and self-agency. Peer-run workshops are central to our understanding of creating a healthy community/communities.

We started this project in January of 2025. Obviously, in January, we couldn't grow any plants or flowers. But we used the avocado skins and onion skins from the kitchen at ORU to dye cloth. Dye plants have been used traditionally





as medicinal and culinary herbs for centuries, and many cultures believed that wearing certain robes dyed with specific plants could cure ailments. In Sanskrit, the process of natural fabric dyeing is called "ayurvastra." The word "ayur" means health, "veda" means wisdom, and "vastra" means cloth or clothing. This roughly translates to "healthy clothing that strives to restore the body's natural equilibrium."

Although the focus is on dye and stitch, conversations around mental health organically generate as work together. The group thrives with our two skilled facilitators and there is always someone with whom to have a 'breakout conversation'. We aim to stigmasmash mental health issues. We focus on building relationships that are mutual, explorative, and conscious of power.

Every Friday 12–2.30 pm at ORU except for the last Friday of Month, which is Mindful Stitching at Whitehall in Cheam.







Project Information

Sutton Sports Village Rose Hill Sutton SM1 3HH

020 8770 0172

Free Entry



Pace

Keyan

Projects

Sutton Mental Health Foundation is excited to introduce Pace with Keyan, with kind support from Sutton Sports Village and Sutton Plumbase.

We're Pace, a boxing based exercise project. We welcome anyone - regardless of skill, size, age or ability.

We get it, traditional gyms and their muscle-centric branding can feel overwhelming. We understand that mental health challenges don't always show on the outside, and everyone deserves a safe space to move without pressure or judgment.

Our mission is to create a calm, supportive environment where fitness feels approachable. Be it your first time trying exercise or you already have experience, you can go at your own pace and rediscover the comfort of movement.

Most importantly, Pace exists to help people move from feeling stuck to feeling capable again. Every session is a gentle step toward confidence, peace of mind, and the simple joy of feeling at home in your own body.

Sessions will run from From 9th Sept-2nd Dec on Tuesdays 10.30 am-11.30 am at Sutton Sports Village Booking essential at smhf.org.uk/events or 020 8770 0172.

