

Coventry 4 Good and Coventry University Grant

Final Report

PIF/Godiva Trusts Imagination Café's Storytelling Workshop Programme ran from August to October 2016. The workshops were led by Imagination Café storytellers - Kusumika Chatterjee and Pru Porretta accompanied by musicians Jah-man Aggrey and Chris Cook.

The first of two Imagination Café workshops was held on the 13th August 2016 at the Muslim Resource Centre in Foleshill. Here the storytellers and musicians worked with children and families from the area. In all there were 15 children and six adults. The workshop featured stories from around the world and accompanying drum and sitar music used to illustrate stories drawn from the United Kingdom and the Asian subcontinent. The session ended with the children and families joining in with musical instruments and dance opportunities. The storytellers also illustrated stories with hand movements and these were taught to the adults attending.

The second of the two Imagination Café workshops was again held at the Muslim Resource Centre in Hillfields on the 3rd September 2016. This time the number of attendees increased to 25 children and 12 adults. Again the storytellers worked with both children and adults and taught the adults methods of reading stories with their children using hand and other movements to illustrate the stories. Some stories were also illustrated using specially designed puppets to bring some of the Asian stories to life.

The final storytelling session took place at the St Peters Community Centre on the 1st October 2016. This time the session was significantly better supported at a venue where the Imagination Café has previously held storytelling events. As with the previous Cafes held in Foleshill the audiences and participants were very representative of the community with children and families representing the Asian community, the African Caribbean and African communities, the white community and refugee communities in Hillfields. In total, 40 children and 22 adults attended the Café.

As well as stories and music the Café's featured books, quizzes and crafts. All the children were able to take away a free book from the event as part of the Imagination Café ethos of getting books into homes in areas of social disadvantage as well as promoting the love of books and reading.

Overall the three workshops in the Foleshill and Hillfields areas managed to support 120 local residents (80 children and 40 adults) by introducing them to books through the creative and interactive sessions that were held across the 3 month period.