www.createbolton.org.uk



CREATIONSHIPS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

2026



ABOUT CREATEBOLTON



We are a creative Christian Charity using the arts in their widest sense to develop what we call 'creationships' that help to make a difference. Bringing people together creatively is our way of helping to break into the cycle of loneliness and isolation that so many of us are feeling in 2026.

What follows is a range of quotes or comments that all tell a story reflecting the difference that Create is making. As a Christian charity you would expect there to be a real mix of experiences. Every day more stories are shared and retold.

CREATE REDUCES ISOLATION



"I have suffered from anxiety and depression for many years now and have been widowed twice in just over 20 years. The support I have received from Create has been immeasurable in reducing my feelings of isolation and loneliness and in greatly helping me to boost my self-confidence and self-esteem.

At a time when community services, like mental health support are so severely stretched, Create provides that support in a creative way, giving people a way of 'finding themselves' again in developing Creative skills."

CREATE BUILDS CONFIDENCE



"The Boltones has made a huge difference to her life. Her sense of achievement is palpable in her huge smile and glow of confidence. "

Susan has been part of The Boltones for three years. She has a profound learning disability which makes learning new skills and social interaction difficult, massively affecting her confidence. During her time with us, Susan has gained the confidence to move out of her family home and into supported accommodation and is even using public transport on her own. Susan says that much of her progress is down to the confidence she has gained from being a part of a supportive community.

"At Studio Create, I've made friends and I'm proud that people want to buy what we've made."

"I've grown so much I even stopped coming for a while so I could attend a 5-week song writing course"

Studio Create now run their own stall at our annual Christmas Fayre.

CREATE PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES

A collection of paintings by
Christine Evans and Helen Livesey
who became friends through their art





"I was first introduced to Create in 2023 entering the Open Exhibition. From the moment I stepped through the door I felt completely at home. Recently my dear friend and I were over the moon to have a joint exhibition of our artwork at Create. The way Create give people with life challenges an opportunity to work and interact in the café and workshops warms my heart. I feel so lucky to have Create in my life. My creative side has been completely sparked into action."

"Recently Create offered me the opportunity to exhibit my paintings alongside two other artists. The Create team used their creativity to put together two magnificent exhibitions that I was so proud to be part of.
Thank you for all the wonderful opportunities you provide to our community."

CREATE IS A SAFE HAVEN



Proof positive of the difference Create is making in peoples' lives, when people give personal testimony of the positive effect Create has had on their lives. I don't know where I would be without Create in my life. It is my 'safe haven' in a troubled sea where I can be myself and among friends. God is most definitely in that place, I feel his embrace every time I walk through the door. Long may Create be making a difference in our lives!

One lady opened up and said she wouldn't come into Bolton on her own to go anywhere else, that it feels safe at Create. She said there's no other cafe you could sit in and feel safe like this. She said she felt it the first time she came in, and that the volunteers are so friendly and welcoming. She said a lot of people who are paid aren't like that, they don't want to be there. She said that when she met someone else in the group, she felt completely alone. She had lost several family members and was really struggling. She was introduced to the group, went for coffee afterwards and invited to Create. They now go on workshops together at Create, meet up in the cafe, and also in the holidays outside of Create. She says she no longer feels alone.

BLIND FAITH



Andy held a taster session on a Potters Wheel for an 89 year old man who was now fully blind after 20 years of deteriorating eyesight. His son had arranged it with no expectation of a finished item, he just wanted him to experience through touch what clay is like. He was reluctant to agree to the session initially as he wasn't sure how he could describe where the man should put his hands, how he would find the water tub, how much pressure to apply etc. Thankfully on the day, the man's son helped describe to his father where to put his hands etc as he himself had done a bit of pottery many years ago. The bit he wants to share is that not only was he was able to centre the clay more easily than most of his sighted customers but he was able to keep the clay in the centre through 'feeling' not 'seeing'. It just made me wonder in our working weeks and our challenged faith - we cannot see God but if we are still and feel his presence and guidance. He will keep us centred...

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV)
7 For we live by faith, not by sight.



A SHINING GEM IN THE CHAOS OF LIFE!I

I visit Cafe Create in Bolton on average about once a month. I wish I lived closer because quite honestly I'd be there every day. It is the most beautiful calming space. It is a place that embodies community and warmth.

If you haven't been then go and visit them - they truly are a **shining gem in the chaos of life!**

Tripadvisor

CAFE CREATE

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



"As a former chef of Michelin star restaurants, the simplest compliment I can pay Create is that the food is amazing and very inexpensive when considering the quality. Breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, cakes are all brilliantly prepared and delicious. Being autistic I don't enjoy going out but I feel so relaxed and comfortable at Create it's a safe place away from home. Andrew and Joy are amazing and even offered me a safe space when I was stressed with work. Carol and the team are always friendly. I'm what may be called different in dress, but there is no judgement whatsoever. Great food, splendid environment, superb courses too, we've done a few including making Xmas decorations. The arts and crafts on sale are tremendous too"



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

A lady's car had broken down near Cafe Create and she was waiting for the recovery truck so came in for a coffee. Clearly stressed, she ordered her coffee as a takeaway. However, Carol brought it in a mug and gave her a takeaway cup as well. She encouraged the lady to stay and chat and if she needed to go, she could pour what was left of her coffee into the paper cup. The lady said what do I owe you and Carol was able to say NOTHING as the lady was having a rubbish day, it's been paid forward by another customer.



WHAT PEOPLE SAY

Quote

"After I retired from work, I became more insular and as time went on, I was meeting fewer people. Create has given me a new zest for life, new interests, and new friends that I would probably never have known"

Quote

"Create found something in me, a way however small to allow me to contribute. I felt valued for the first time in years."

Quote

"Do you remember the programme CHEERS in the 80's and the theme tune had a line in it 'Sometimes you wanna go where everybody knows your name and they're always glad you came'

Cafe Create is like that..."

Quote

"I feel so blessed that Create came into my life when it did, I was so lonely and bereft. I hope my story encourages others to visit or donate to Create's work - they helped me to live longer and brought me peace and happiness at the end of my life."



WHAT PEOPLE SAY

Quote

I have never felt such genuine kindness and warmth, you are literally welcomed with open arms. Despite my illness and disabilities I felt connected and part of something again. Create gave me back my identity, nobody knew I was ill."

Quote

"I have some problems with MS, spinal spasms and brain damage (caused by MS scar tissue on the brain) so getting any kind of volunteer work is tough, with unreliable health. CreateBolton welcomed me and what I could give and were wonderfully understanding about my limitations. I once again feel like I have something to offer and thoroughly enjoy being a part of the Create Bolton family."

Quote

"I was born with Cerebral Palsy, and much of my life I struggled to find a community where I felt accepted. Anxiety and loneliness followed me everywhere until I discovered CreateBolton. From my first visit in 2024, the cafe, workshop and studio welcomed me with warmth and kindness. I began making friends and sharing conversations, through arts and craft I discovered a new language of love. CreateBolton didn't just welcome me, it awakened hope, belonging and the light of purpose within me"



WHAT PEOPLE SAY

Quote

"Being around others who have also been 'damaged' by life experiences really helped me not to feel so isolated"

Quote

"I have more confidence, I'm more outgoing, it has helped me communicate with others, I learned to listen and to have empathy"

Quote

"From being really introverted and overwhelmed when I first came, Create has really helped to discover the real me in a very active listening and compassionate way"

Quote

"I had a lovely feeling all day – realised later it was 'light heartedness', very special!! I had let go of the anxiety"

Quote

"During difficult times with my terminally ill partner and poorly family members, it has helped to know that Create exists as a safe, welcoming environment even though it is not always possible to visit in person. It has helped me deal with problems having a 'good' place at the back of my mind, while the actual situation can be very challenging"



THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF STORYTELLING

In every culture, in every corner of the world, storytelling has been an intrinsic part of human communication since the beginning of time. From ancient myths etched on cave walls to modern-day novels and podcasts, stories have served as the lifeblood of human connection, understanding and growth. Beyond mere entertainment, storytelling offers a myriad of benefits for both the teller and the listener, weaving a tapestry of shared experiences and profound insights.

Anne McKeown



FIND OUT MORE

ABOUT US

AND CONSIDER

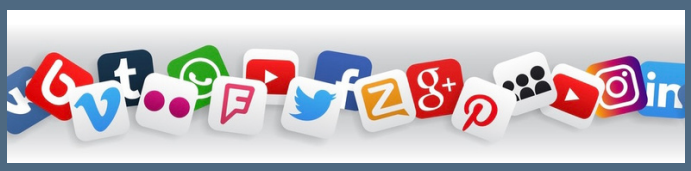
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