

## Windsor Castle Workshops with The Royal Collection Trust



Back at the start of 2020 during Covid-19, the restrictions meant that YPWD had to find a way to offer workshops online, and one of our series of workshops that took place during this time was in partnership with the Royal Collection Trust (RCT). This workshop explored the history of Windsor Castle and our Royal Family, and the six sessions were presented to us by the RCT's engaging Amy & Sophie who work in the Trust's Access & Inclusion Department. The project came about from a Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) meeting in Windsor and Maidenhead attended by Jane Breen, our Client Assessment & Transition Officer. YPWD Berkshire's Harmony Choir also performed for visitors at Windsor Castle in 2018.

With the joint planning of the *Zoom* programme between the RCT's Amy and Sophie and YPWD Project workers, Gill and Debbie, participants were offered an engaging 'virtual tour' of the castle and its inhabitants over the centuries in lieu of visiting the castle, which had been the original plan.

During the sessions, Gill took copious notes of Amy and Sophie's engaging presentations! Meanwhile, Debbie ensured that *Zoom* went smoothly and the sessions ran to time while she helped all the attendees to participate in the discussions. We also thank YPWD Trustee David Fisher for his invaluable support and input in the sessions by providing screenshots, contributing to the stimulating conversations ... and for gamefully agreeing to proof-read Gill's summaries!



Changing the Guard Ceremony in the Lower Ward



The Queen's Gallery

The weekly summaries of Amy and Sophie's illuminating presentations with some embedded RCT images were emailed to participants following each *Zoom* session, and this offered the group the opportunity to reminisce and enjoy reading about each of the sessions they took part in. Feedback from those we support has shown that there is much value in providing participants with written summaries following workshops. The summaries enable them to have something tangible which helps them to recall each of the workshops - and hopefully the positive feelings they evoked too. Participants can also share them with their loved ones as an ongoing resource - and there are activities to share too, for example, the chance to create their own Coat of Arms in the '*Windsor Castle*' workshop. There were some quirky and amusing facts each week and we tried to include these to reflect the fun that was injected into Amy's and Sophies' vividly brought to life presentations!



We discovered that there wasn't a similar resource available for people with dementia at the RCT and so Gill suggested the possibility of creating a booklet from the summaries in order to benefit other families living with dementia. Amy and Sophie responded with enthusiasm to this suggestion and, in consultation with the RCT's Communications Department, the summaries have all recently been published as a Royal Collection Trust website resource!



Amy reflects on the project and working with YPWD: *"It's been a real pleasure to take the content from our workshops and turn them into a lasting resource for people living with dementia. It means we can share the stories of Windsor Castle with more people and hopefully spark some memories of royal visits or encounters. We've also benefitted from the expertise working with YPWD and their service users to make sure these resources are the best format they can be to be."*

Part of the editing process involved consulting with our participants and their families who helped us with reviewing the series of workshops by proof-reading, and of advising on the layout, language and text of the summaries. This was key to guiding us towards the final versions that were submitted to the RCT and we are grateful for their helpful advice in producing the six booklets.

You will find the dementia-friendly booklets on the RCT website. They focus on different aspects of the history of Windsor Castle, including the monarchs who lived there, Christmas at Windsor Castle, and the Great Fire. The result - a unique resource for people living with dementia (link below) and a credit to both the Royal Collection Trust and to Younger People with Dementia (Berkshire) CIO

<https://www.rct.uk/resources/pdf-pack-remembrance-resources-stimulating-conversations>



The Five Eldest Children of Charles I



Pantomime pictures in the Waterloo Chamber



The Quire in St George's Hall

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