



Sew busy!

Welcome to The Sewing Rooms' Autumn 2018 update

It feels as if this has been a transformational year for the social enterprise agenda, with transformation a common thread in much of our work. From transforming leftover fabrics from our fabulous partner Panaz to transforming our approach to ageing and the prospects of local young people, we are embracing change. Supported by Well Skelmersdale, we're currently in the process of applying for Skelmersdale to become a Social Enterprise Town. #BuySocial is gaining traction as a campaign, and we continue to look for new ways to increase our reuse, recycling and upcycling. We hope you enjoy hearing about our latest projects and, as always, we'd love to hear from you! Have a lovely Autumn!

Sewing Torbay Together



Led by the multi-talented Laura Scott, our Transform Ageing programme Sewing Torbay Together is putting the finishing touches on its community banners, which will be showcased at the fourth annual [Ageing Well Torbay](#) festival on Saturday 20 October. Supported by UnLtd, the Design Council, the Big Lottery Fund and Torbay Community Development Trust, we held sessions in Brixham, Torbay and Paignton.

#BuySocial



This has been an important component of our social business since the very start. We sell a variety of upcycled and bespoke products created by our manufacturing department, including reupholstered chairs and sofas, made-to-order curtains, soft furnishings and accessories such as scarves and bags. We use the beautiful fabric donated to us by Panaz for many of these projects and were shocked and dismayed when news broke of the wastefulness of some of the fashion industry's giants. We have saved thousands of kilograms of fabric from landfill and when possible, we hire local craftspeople who have completed one or more of our sewing and upholstery courses. As ever, if you're looking for a gift, we'd love to help. We have myriad upcycled products available and even more ideas, and if we can't provide you with what you're looking for, we can put you in touch with other social businesses who may be able to help!

Sharing our expertise



With the support of [Well Skelmersdale](#), The Sewing Rooms is applying to Social Enterprise UK for Social Enterprise Place status for Skelmersdale. Social Enterprise Places are “areas where social enterprise activity is thriving. The programme aims to promote, raise awareness, and build the markets for social enterprise at a local and national level.” More information about the programme is available [here from Social Enterprise UK](#). And our work with the Talent Match programme for young people has recently been filmed as part of a showcase of the social impact of community-run projects.

Crafting with kids (and adults)



Our IKEA creative sessions are held at several local stores, including Ashton-under-Lyne in Manchester. The sessions are designed for both children and adults. Our summer programme included plant pot garden mobiles, pencil cases and PE bags. Check our website for the latest locations and times.

Awards



We are so grateful to our teams and community for the Excellence in Training or Mentoring award that we won from [Selnet](#) earlier this year. And shortly afterwards, we learned that co-founder Paula is a finalist in the [2018 Enterprise](#)

[Vision Awards](#) (EVA) in the Inspirational Women category! The EVAs recognise women in business from across the North West, and public votes can help decide the outcome should the judges end up with tied scores. Visit www.enterprisevisionawards.co.uk to vote! Winners will be announced at the end of this month.



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