

NEWSLETTER



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WELCOME to our second newsletter, a chance for us to share our work to date and an opportunity for you to feedback and help make this Educafe a great place for all!

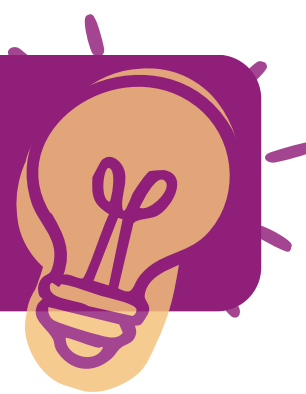
April has been an exciting and rewarding month for community-focused initiatives at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre. One of the highlights was the successful and warmly received Moonrakers' Educafe launch which took place on Monday 27 April.

Who we are

Generously funded by the Chippenham Borough Lands Charity, Moonrakers' Educafe is a new community initiative designed to bring people together through a shared interest in heritage, creativity and conversation. Wiltshire's rich history has long served as a powerful connection between people and place. Moonraker's Educafe seeks to continue this tradition by offering a warm and welcoming space where visitors feel empowered to build confidence and connection.



MOONRAKERS' EDUCAFE LAUNCH



The first session

The first tester day on Monday 13 April welcomed eight newly recruited volunteers alongside local community support providers. Our visitors were encouraged to explore a variety of activity tables set up throughout the space, helping them understand what Educafe is. One of the key activities introduced on the day was Migration Stories, a community stories project. This project offers participants the opportunity to share their experiences and reflect on the lives lived in and beyond Wiltshire, helping to preserve these valuable personal histories.

Alongside this, attendees were invited to take part in several creative and social activities, listed on the next page. A big thank you to all who attended.

Moonrakers' Educafe launch:

Then came the day we'd all been waiting for, the launch day of the Moonrakers' Educafe! Our new volunteers had put so much work into planning and preparing the space for the session, and they were absolutely amazing on the day. We opened our Educafe doors on Monday 27 April from 10.30am – 2pm, welcoming some lovely new Educafe clients. The NHS' Living Well Team from Chippenham & Corsham joined us, on hand to offer help and advice to those who might find it useful. We were also joined by our fantastic mentors, Educafe CIC based in Newbury who have been inspirational and have guided us along the way. Our newly formed Migration Stories project group had a wonderful time drawing self-portraits and listening to each other's stories.





GOING FORWARD

Available free activities:

- **Creators Corner:** a chance for visitors to get creative, with the aim of decorating the History Centre for the upcoming Chippenham Carnival
- **Games Corner for adults:** with traditional board games, as well as the chance to take part in a Dungeons & Dragons game
- **Reading Corner:** featuring a range of historical and local material in a quiet and calm setting. Or, you can bring your own book!
- **Crafter's Corner:** where we look at traditional crafts such as crocheting with opportunities to learn new skills including jewellery making.
- **Moonrakers' Café:** When visitors felt like taking a break, they were invited to step out of the History Centre's searchroom area and into the newly transformed community cafe space. Hosted in our education room, this area has been reimagined into a vibrant community space, providing a relaxed setting for conversation and the enjoyment of homemade cakes and refreshments.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY:

Our volunteers:



The success of Moonrakers' Educafe is in-part [remove in-part] due to the hard work and passion of our diverse range of dedicated volunteers who together span the ages 19-81! Their helpfulness, openness, and excellent communication throughout the session was noted and celebrated in participant feedback:

- "A warm welcome, relaxed vibe and Welsh cakes."
- "The visit was lovely, I enjoyed the chats and refreshments."

We need your help

Moonrakers' Educafe now needs your help. If you know of anyone who would benefit, please let them know and/or get in touch. We are also happy to provide posters and flyers.

Help us spread the word - we have the Educafe, now we need your help to build a valued community within it.

How to get in touch

Julie Davis - Moonraker's Educafe organiser

📍 Moonrakers' Educafe at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, Chippenham, SN15 3QN

✉ MoonrakersEducafe@wiltshire.gov.uk

🌐 www.wshc.org.uk

☎ 01249 705500