

Case Study: Alan - The Rotherhithe Shed

Alan has been coming to the Rotherhithe Shed since 2019, where he discovered his skill for painting portraits.

What began as portrait sketches evolved into refined artworks, capturing people with emotion and depth. Others took notice, asking to be drawn, which led to his work being exhibited publicly, something he never imagined possible in his late seventies. Including a published book of all his work.

“It was great to show my daughters and family my work at this stage of life - it spurs you on!...”

At the heart of the Rotherhithe Shed is community, creativity and quiet encouragement each over individuals skills in the shared workspace. Alan found that beyond his art:

“It was a way of getting know people while they were there and to discover the really impressive skills they bring with themselves! Electricians, physics things I wouldn't have expected. I've enjoyed people's company, while my wife works full time still and I don't anymore.”

The Shed also provides place for making and creating, it's a space for reflection and self discovery

“I've developed my skills in getting things finished! Getting things framed and ready. I had never done that in my life before. When I was a teacher I always thought it was very important to get children to make something and to frame and display it. It helps build self-esteem. Now I do this for myself!”

The Rotherhithe Shed has not just helped Alan grow as an artist, it has given him something deeper, a renewed sense of self, a place to belong, and a reason to keep creating alongside others.

“The Shed has given me a great deal. It's a stimulating supportive community”



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