

VALLEY OF LIGHT FESTIVAL - SALTBURN VALLEY GARDENS

Stellar Projects (stellarprojects.co.uk/product/valley-of-light/) has created community projects, carnivals, and parades to light trails and festivals in Teesside since 2016. On 8th-9th March 2024, they transformed Saltburn Valley Gardens into an oasis of light for the local community to enjoy.

Grateful thanks to the committee members who organised more than twenty Saltburn u3a volunteers to create willow and tissue lantern models of iconic buildings in Saltburn. Our host, local artist Adam Bligh, led us through joining willow, pasting, gluing, and painting wet-strength tissue walls and roofs. Fortunately, Adam had cut the willow for each building and provided plans, so that made things easier. Willow was bonded with masking tape and once Adam had taken us through painting the tissue with washable UPVA glue, we set about completing our creations with the distinct features and colours of the buildings. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided by the committee were a bonus and kept us going.

In four hours we completed the Emmanuel Church, the Bandstand, the Ship Inn, and the Vernacular Cliff Lift. There were roofs, windows, and decorations, including a cockerel weather vane for the bandstand.

The photographs below show the workshop stages we went through to create the lanterns, the finished pieces, and the event itself, which sold out in days and completely transformed Saltburn Valley Gardens with some fascinating light installations: painting the trees with colour, creating an infinity pool and a beautiful light tunnel. There was storytelling, shanty sea songs and oohs and aahs from excited children and adults alike. It proved to be a real learning experience for all of us. Well done Stellar Productions, Saltburn District u3a members, and the local community. Check out Saltburn u3a's Facebook page for further posted photographs.



Sarah Telfer