

ARTefacts

Patchwork Histories at Buckinghamshire County Museum



Storytelling in front of the soldier's patchwork rug in '100 Treasures' exhibition



Different generations work together creating 'patches'



A few completed 'patches'



A soldier's patchwork rug made in 1857 inspired stories and artwork



A feather cape from Madagascar made around 1750 was also a starting point for inspiration

During October half term, Buckinghamshire County Museum ran storytelling and textile workshops with professional storyteller, Adele Moss and visual textile artist, Emma Reynard.

Each workshop began with Adele telling an original story inspired by two particular objects in the *100 Treasures from the Museum's collections* exhibition (23 July – 29 October 2011). One was a soldier's patchwork rug created by Pte. David Hill whilst convalescing after the Siege of Lucknow, India, in 1857. This was the starting point for stories about war, sewing and family memories. The other was a feather cape from Madagascar that inspired stories about birds, collections and conservation. Participants then explored other objects in the

exhibition, making notes and sketches. Emma then led the creation of individual fabric 'patches', inspired by the storytelling, exhibition objects and personal memories. A variety of mixed-media techniques were used including textiles, embroidery, painting and collage. At the end of the workshops the resulting 'patches' were stitched together to create two collaborative art works which reflected the shape of the soldier's patchwork rug and the feather cape.

The participants were intergenerational and included younger children with parents, teenagers, adults and older adults. Aylesbury residents from the local Almshouses and Old Town Residents Association were among the groups invited to take part.