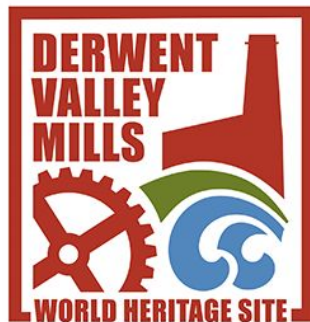


# SPIN A TALE



Constella OperaBallet  
reimagining the arts

## Darley Abbey Day 2021 Bunting Making Activity

**#SpinATale**  
**#DecorateDarley**  
**#ArtsDerwentValleyMills**



Constella OperaBallet  
reimagining the arts

beam



Darley Abbey  
Community Association

## Constella OperaBallet

Constella are the world's only company dedicated to opera-ballet, and create cutting-edge, interdisciplinary performances for modern audiences. Founded in 2011, we perform in theatres, at site-specific locations, and broadcast to the world by embracing the possibilities of virtual performance. Described by The Times as 'imaginative and beautifully shaped', Constella's work has been seen across the UK and has been featured at the Royal Chelsea Flower Show and broadcast on BBC Radio 3. Gramophone Magazine highlighted Constella as one of the 'inspirational creative initiatives keeping music alive in 2020' for Connecting Stars, a virtual performance programme for care homes, providing support for the elderly and paid opportunities for performers during the Covid pandemic. [www.constella.org.uk](http://www.constella.org.uk)

## Spin a Tale

Spin a Tale is Constella OperaBallet's virtual and participatory programme celebrating the heritage of Darley Abbey, commissioned by the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Great Place Scheme, funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England.

From March – April there will be a series of online and interactive opportunities involving song, dance, theatre and design and we are inviting the community to take part! These activities will culminate in a vibrant collection of short films made by Constella's internationally renowned artists, in collaboration with the local community. On the 8th May 2021, in partnership with Darley Abbey Day 2021, the videos will be released to the public alongside a trail of oversized bobbins and bunting made by local residents, threaded throughout the village.



Constella OperaBallet  
reimagining the arts

beam



Darley Abbey  
Community Association

# 'SPIN A TALE' Bunting Activity

**Constella is inviting you to take part in a project aimed at creating the longest strand of bunting possible inspired by the history of Darley Abbey.** This is part of their 'Spin A Tale' project, and will be installed throughout Darley Abbey from 8th May 2021, to celebrate Darley Abbey Day, and the rich heritage of the village.

The following worksheets will guide you through a range of simple creative techniques that you can use to decorate your bunting flag(s). They invite you to make as many as you can!

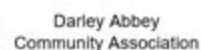
When they're ready, take a photo of you bunting flag(s) and post them to Twitter, Facebook or Instagram with the hashtags **#SpinATale**, **#DecorateDarley**, **#artsderwentvalleymills** **#greatplacescheme**, and don't forget to tag us! Find us at **@DerwentValleyMillsWHS** and **@ConstellaOperaBallet** on Facebook, **@DerwentValleyMillsWHS** and **@constella\_uk** on Instagram, **@DVMillsWHS** and **@ConstellaOpBal** on Twitter. Your bunting flag(s) can then be dropped off or posted to

Sarah Brentnall  
Darley Abbey Village Stores  
7 Abbey Lane  
Darley Abbey  
Derby  
DE22 1DG

by **12th April 2021**, where they will be attached together and then displayed around the village as one long thread.

**Please note: for health and safety purposes, all bunting crafts must be done under adult supervision.**

**Have you got craft experience? Show us your interpretation of these themes on your bunting, using your own creative skills!**



## INTRODUCTORY WORKSHEET: 'SPIN A TALE' BUNTING ACTIVITY

### Introduction & Bunting Template

This short introductory worksheet gives you a template for each flag of bunting, which you will then be invited to work onto over four creative worksheets. You can also focus on creating plain bunting if you wish, in which case we'd encourage you to use lots of bright colours and interesting patterns.

Please recycle fabrics where possible and, most importantly, have fun.

#### HISTORY

The history of Darley Abbey begins in 1146 when Robert de Ferre, Earl of Derby, made a donation for the construction of a new religious house.

It took a number of years, but eventually a suitable location was identified when the Dean Derby donated his land at "Little Darley".

Augustinian Abbey of St Mary's grew to become one of England's largest and most affluent Augustinian monasteries.

**TIME:** 10-30mins

#### CHILDREN SHOULD BE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT

##### WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Scissors (fabric and paper if you have them)
- Pen, pencil and/or tailors' chalk
- A4 sheet of paper/card
- Fabric (recycled would be best, and some workshops require 100% cotton)
- Fabric pins (optional)

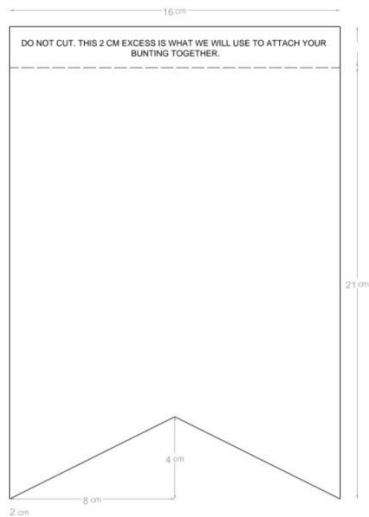
##### METHOD

1. Download the template at <https://tinyurl.com/5ystfz94>, and cut it out.
2. Place your template along the length or width on your piece of fabric - avoid placing it diagonally across the fabric, as it will be likely to distort. Feel free to double, triple, or even quadruple up your fabric.
3. Either pin your template to the fabric and cut around it, or draw around your template and cut it out.
4. Now you have your bunting flag(s) ready for the four worksheets.

If you fancy getting more technical, and have access to a sewing machine, here is a link explaining how to neaten up your bunting by bagging it out:

<https://hellosewing.com/how-to-make-bunting-template/>

## **INTRODUCTION: WHAT YOU'LL NEED - TICK THEM WHEN YOU HAVE THEM!**



**Bunting template**



**Pen, pencil, chalk,  
scissors**

**Recycled Paper**



**Fabric - preferably recycled!**

## WORKSHEET 1: BRICK ROW

### Block Printing Activity

This first worksheet is suitable for children, and encourages families to explore the architecture of Darley Abbey, or wherever they may live.

Working onto your bunting flag(s), have fun playing with block printing and exploring shape and colour.

You can apply what you learn in this worksheet to create printed fabrics for the appliqueé workshop and/or to add another layer on top of your compositions.

### HISTORY

The Abbey was dissolved in 1558. It wasn't until the late 18th that a man called Thomas Evans arrived to take advantage of the power of the River Derwent and build what would become the Boar's Head Cotton Mill.

The Evans family built cottages in Darley Abbey to house their workers, and sought to create a new kind of community to service the new factory system of working.

Thomas Evans's son, Walter, paid for the construction of St Matthew's Church, and the school on Brick Row, completed in 1819 and 1826 respectively.

**TIME:** 1-2 HOURS

**CHILDREN SHOULD BE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT**

### WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Fabric/Acrylic Paint

Button

Cork

Glue (PVA or craft glue)

Q-tip

Disposable chop-stick

Bottle cap

Potato

Whatever else you think might make an interesting print

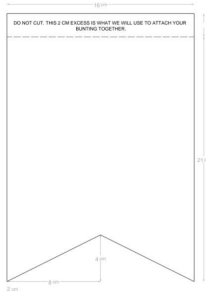
### METHOD

1. Have a walk round where you live and take a look at the houses and buildings. Take photographs, or make quick drawings of anything interesting you see. Take note of surprising shapes, interesting colours, and different textures. Even something very every day and ordinary, if you look hard enough, you'll find something you hadn't seen before or that you didn't expect.
2. Return home and, using your photos and sketches as inspiration, follow this tutorial to create printing blocks:

<https://spoonfulofpretty.com/2015/06/28/diy-block-printing-with-stuff-you-probably-have-around-the-house/>

3. Use your printing blocks to create a picture of your home, of a building near where you live, or even of an interesting wall or brick you saw on your walk. Have fun with colour and shape, and enjoy being creative.

## **WORKSHEET 1: WHAT YOU'LL NEED - TICK THEM WHEN YOU HAVE THEM!**



**Your bunting**



**Fabric or acrylic  
Paint**



**Buttons**



**Cork**



**Glue**

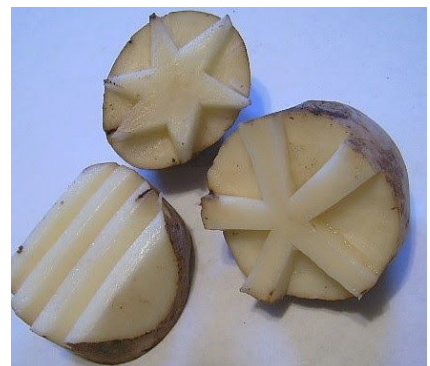


**Q-tip cotton buds  
Chopsticks**



**Bottle Caps**

**Potatoes**



## WORKSHEET 2: HYMN FOR WATER

### Natural Dye Activity

There are a whole host of everyday foods that can be used to create beautiful, natural dyes. This worksheet will lead you through a basic version of the dyeing process, using discarded onion skins. If you haven't been able to collect enough skins, feel free to swap in beetroot or red cabbage.

Once you've dyed your bunting flags, you can use them as the base for the other worksheets or submit them as they are. You can also dye other bits of fabric to cut up and use in the appliqueé workshop.

#### HISTORY

Mill workers were provided with a small allotment to grow vegetables, along with a pig and a milking cow. The locations of these allotments can still be seen today.

The cotton mill was powered by a water wheel, which was turned and spun by the Derwent River's current.

The same basic principle of a water mill is still used around the world in harnessing water to create hydroelectricity, a renewable and sustainable source of electricity.

**TIME:** 2 HOURS

**CHILDREN MUST BE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT - THIS ACTIVITY CONTAINS HIGH TEMPERATURES**

#### WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Your bunting flags, which should be washed beforehand  
A good pile of discarded onion skins  
Rubber gloves  
Large metal pot  
Tongs  
Hob

#### METHOD.

1. Fill one pot  $\frac{1}{4}$  full with your onion skins, and cover with water until  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
2. Bring your pot to boil, and then leave to simmer for 1 hour.
3. Dampen your fabric, put on your gloves and then use your tongs to add your fabric to the pot.
4. After another 45 minutes, remove your fabric with your tongs (take care it will be very hot) and leave it somewhere to dry.
5. Once your fabric has completely dried, rinse it thoroughly, and then leave it to dry.
6. Now your fabric is ready.



As well as exploring other food produce to create different colours (red cabbage=purple; beetroot=pink; spinach=green) you can try experimenting with different dye resist methods to create interesting patterns, such a tie dye and batik.

Follow these links for ideas and inspiration:

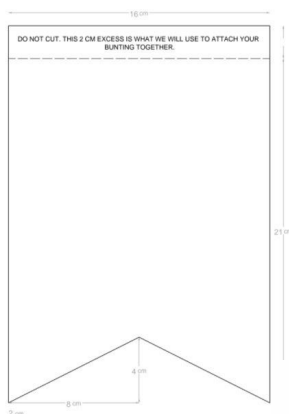
<https://abeautifulmess.com/wax-resist-technique-scarf-diy/>

<http://www.bystephanielynn.com/2015/06/tie-dye-folding-techniques-16-vibrant-tie-dye-patterns-tiedyoursummer.html>

The dyeing steps outlined here are very basic. If you decide to get more technical, this article from Architectural Digest is a good place to start:

<https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/how-to-naturally-dye-using-foods>

## **WORKSHEET 2: WHAT YOU'LL NEED - TICK THEM WHEN YOU HAVE THEM!**



**Your bunting**



**Lots of onion skins**



**Rubber gloves**

**Saucepan**



**Tongs**



**Kitchen hob**

## WORKSHEET 3: TANGLED

### Appliquée Activity

This worksheet is an opportunity to brush up on your hand sewing skills, from a basic running stitch through to a complicated blanket stitch. But don't let technicalities get in the way of being creative - just enjoy working with a needle and thread, no matter how neat or messy. You'll need your bunting flag(s), but also off-cuts of fabric in different patterns and colours. You can use fabric from the dye workshop, or print your own fabrics using what you learnt in the printing worksheet.

### HISTORY

Powered by the cotton mill, throughout the 1700s and 1800s, Darley Abbey grew and grew. In just 50 years, Darley Abbey went from just 16 houses to having a population of over 1000.

**TIME:** 1-2 HOURS

**CHILDREN SHOULD BE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT**

### WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Different coloured/patterned fabrics  
Needle and thread  
Pins  
Scissors

### METHOD.

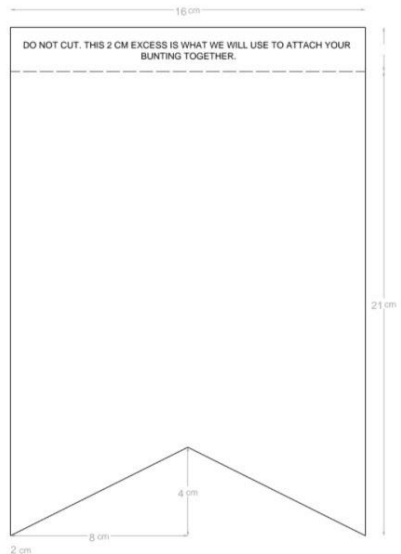
1. Cut out three shapes: a circle, a triangle, and a square.
2. Lay your bunting flag flat and arrange the shapes however you wish. When you're happy with your composition, secure them in place with pins.
3. Choose a shape, and sew it to the bunting using a running stitch.  
<https://sewguide.com/running-stitch/>
4. Choose another shape, and sew it to the bunting using a zig zag stitch.  
<https://www.wikihow.com/Do-a-Zigzag-Stitch-by-Hand>
5. Sew the final final shape using a blanket stitch.  
<https://www.wikihow.com/Sew-Blanket-Stitch>
6. Remove your pins

Now you've got the basics, you can get creative. You could create a piece of bunting featuring your favourite fruits, make a string of bunting spelling out your family name, whatever you feel like. Why not try expanding beyond fabrics? Think about what else you could attach: try cutting sequins out of old plastic bottles; sew on beads or shells; use wool and string to stitch interesting patterns; use what you

learned in the printing workshop to print on top of your appliqueéd design.

### **WORKSHEET 3: WHAT YOU'LL NEED: TICK THEM WHEN YOU HAVE THEM!**

#### **Your bunting**



#### **Different colours of fabric**



#### **Needle and thread**



#### **Pins**

## WORKSHEET 4: REQUIEM, and DARLEY ABBEY AND ME

### Self-Portrait Activity

Now you've explored a few different techniques and bits of history, we'd like to bring them all together to celebrate the present and the future.

Using everything you've learnt, create a colourful piece of bunting, and then draw a self-portrait over the top.

It'd be great to represent as many people from Darley Abbey as possible, so also get drawing your friends and your family.

### HISTORY

Upon Walter Evans' death in 1903, the Evan's family sold the mill to John Peacock, who ran the business until 1943. As the twentieth century continued, the UK cotton industry was in decline, and in 1969 the sale of the mills for other purposes began.

Today the mills are still thriving, but in a very different way. They are offices, studios, showrooms, workshops, and galleries, hosting a range of independent businesses and keeping the economy of Darley Abbey alive.

**TIME:** 1-2 HOURS

**CHILDREN SHOULD BE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT**

### WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Permanent markers

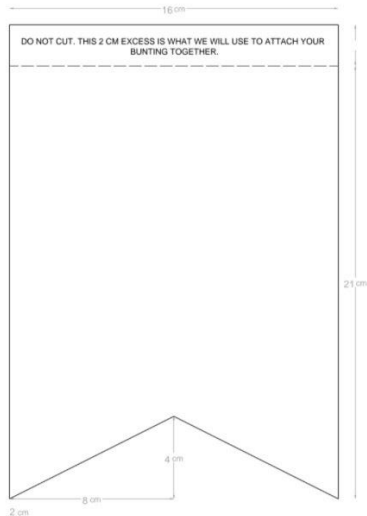
Everything you've learnt from the other worksheets

### METHOD.

1. We're going to be applying the same basic principle as this project, but on fabric:  
<http://thetalkingwallsmurals.blogspot.com/2013/01/paul-keee-inspired-self-portrait-lesson.html>
2. Applying everything you've learnt from the other worksheets (block printing, fabric dyeing, applique), compose a background on top of which you'll create a self-portrait. Leave any paint to dry before continuing.
3. Now, look at yourself carefully in a mirror, and use a permanent marker to create a self-portrait. You can use just black, or introduce other colours too.

If you enjoy this, you could ask a friend or family member to sit for you, and draw them too. You could also work from old family photos. We'd like to include as many drawings of local people as possible, so have fun and get creative!

## **WORKSHEET 4: WHAT YOU'LL NEED - TICK THEM WHEN YOU HAVE THEM!**



**Your bunting**

**Markers**



**Everything you learned from the other worksheets**



# HAVE FUN!



Constella OperaBallet  
reimagining the arts

beam



Darley Abbey  
Community Association