

Joya

AGE OF CREATIVITY FESTIVAL 2023

CELEBRATING
OUR STORIES



Joya Bannerjee is a passionate advocate of the arts and her Bengali cultural heritage. She spoke with us about igniting the creative spark within you.

After retirement in 2006 I thought I would relax, but somehow I feel I have become busier!

I'd describe myself as a person with varied interests, for example art, music and literature. But above all, I like meeting people from all walks of life, and like to do something worthwhile which I think is good for humanity.

Life was not a bed of roses for me. I hardly had time to nurture my passions or interests. I had to struggle hard to raise my children and support my family single-handed for many years. Now they have their own families and are well settled. In retrospect, I learned a lot through hardship, and it gave me a sense of achievement.

The joy of creativity

I believe everyone has creative talent and pursuing those artistic skills can bring you immense joy. However, to achieve this you have to be disciplined and get organised, which I find difficult.

You do not have to be Shakespeare or Picasso, but you can have your own dream. It can be a source of enjoyment or inspiration, especially if you discover yourself at the ripe old age!

Giving creativity a go

Believe me, if you take out a pencil and scribble something in your diary it can be the first chapter of your memoir, novel or a short story, or perhaps the first lines of a sonnet or a poem that you have ever composed? Who knows? What a joyous moment when you see the clear blue sky, the first spring blossoms, the purple sunset painted on your canvas with your own brush strokes!

For me writing is personal. It is a medicine for healing in moments of weakness, illness, pain or despair. It is for my soul and perhaps for posterity. Mainly I write in Bengali, my mother tongue.

But if you are bold enough, share your artwork or writings with others, you would be surprised at how it helps build your confidence and people do appreciate it.



Watercolour
by Joya

Joya is proud of her rich Bengali cultural heritage and wants to share it with the wider community and future generations. Along with some likeminded friends she helped to found Udayan, Oxfordshire's Bengali Cultural Society, in 2005.

<http://www.udayan-oxford.org.uk/>

The society's recent event "Joy and Rhythm" celebrated the creative genius of Bengali Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore with songs, poems and dance.

***The artistic spark is within you.
It is up to you whether you care to charge or not.
It's like watering plants. If you water, it will bloom.***