

24 June 2005

Giant mosaic gets its finishing touches at garden party

Twenty-three metre work of art to be unveiled at the Linkes Open Day Garden Party, 200 Lincoln Avenue 12:00 – 1700, Saturday 25th June 2005

A 23 metre long mosaic is being completed during the Linkes Community Garden Party on Saturday. The giant work of art was created by Kosovan artist Shahin Memishi, working with local children. An accomplished artist in his native Kosovo, Shahin, his wife and children fled to Scotland, because they were being persecuted there as members of the minority Gorni community. Bad weather has delayed completion of the mosaic and everyone is invited to come along and help with the finishing touches.

Shahin got the idea for the mural while running art classes for local children. He then spent several months developing the project with a thirty-strong team of youngsters. The mosaic is made up of tens of thousands of tesseri; tiny coloured tiles, painstakingly placed in patterns to create a landscape effect.

Shahin said:

“The mosaic is really the creation of the children. We discussed what they wanted to do and I helped them to make it happen. We spent several months on it and the kids also made their own mini mosaics, which you can also see at an exhibition today. As I am not yet allowed to work I wanted to create something that would benefit the whole community. Anything from ten to thirty kids have been helping me at a time. We have been a bit unlucky with the weather, so we still need to put the finishing touches”.

The completion of the mosaic forms the centrepiece of the Linkes Open Day Garden Party, which also features music, dancing, refreshments, and a bouncy castle for children.

Scottish Refugee Council’s Head of Policy & Communications, Simon Hodgson said:

“Refugees and asylum seekers don’t come to Scotland empty handed. They bring their skills and talents with them. Shahin’s mosaic is a true community project that everyone has had a chance to contribute to. He has made something beautiful for everyone to enjoy”.

Shahin is already planning several other art projects with local communities and hopes to work with Glasgow schools in the future.

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