



ANIMAL MAGIC: Sculptor Paula Haughney with some of her work

Christmas shoppers snap up art as gifts

ARTISTS working out of the Bromley-by-Bow Centre opened their doors to the public for their biggest-selling day of the year.

The centre in St Leonards Street, which was founded in 1984, welcomed visitors from experienced buyers to the mildly curious to look at and buy works by sculptors, painters and clothes designers.

People were able to walk in and out of studio spaces, which sit alongside a church, a health centre and other community groups, at the open day on Friday.

Stained glass artist Paul Shaw, 52, of Bancroft Road, first came to the centre when he was placed on secondment as a civil service worker. He was soon working there full-time.

He also runs a group called Young@Art, which provides weekly art lessons for older people, ranging in age from mid-60s to 100.

One member, Ann Lloyd, 86, who lives in Deptford, proudly showed off a quilt made by the group and her section of it, which she made from her 1948 wed-



LABOUR OF LOVE: Ann Lloyd with the quilt

ding dress.

Paul said: "For some of them, they won't have done art since they were at school, so that could be 60 years ago."

Another artist grabbing the opportunity to talk visitors through her work, in particular the geology of it, was sculptor Paula Haughney.

Her sculptures include a sleek, elegant-looking swan made from limestone, sunbathing figures and the 300-kilo rabbit she was working on, which had taken her three weeks.

Her Ram and Magpie sculpture, commissioned in 1996, sits in Allen Gardens in Buxton Street, Bethnal Green and another piece, called Dock Hands, has its home at the junction of Freemasons Road and Coolfin Road in Docklands.

The centre, which is a registered charity, also hosted the launch of the Artychoke range, garden-related craft products made by Working Wonders, a social enterprise group for vulnerable adults and people with learning disabilities.