

## Fife Network Meeting

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 Venue: New City House, Dunfermline



**In attendance:** Michaela Lumley (Fife Voluntary Action), Charles Trzeciak (Scottish Fisheries Museum), Jodi Kean (Physical Activity Coordinator), Michael Fong & Stephen McCabe (Smart Living), Callum Farquhar (Fife Council), Marysia Lachowicz ((Freelance Artist), Sylwia Nadolny & Elaine Meakin (Link Living), Aiveen Ryan (GWT Network Coordinator), June Bouason (Woodmill High School) & Alison Clyde (GWT).

**Apologies:** Wayne Matheson (Fife Elderly Forum), Vivien Moffat (IRSS), Jo Hobbett (The Ecology Centre), Fiona Dale (Fife Council), Elric Honore (Fife Centre for Equalities) & Lesley Carcary (Action on Elder Abuse)

### 1. GWT National Update:

GWT secured new funding in March 2015 from the Scottish Governments, Equality Fund.

GWT's programme outcomes for 2015-16 include:

- Older people are acknowledged as assets to their communities increasing their participation and contribution
- Member organisations, including those working with protected characteristics, develop projects that use intergenerational approaches to challenge ageism
- More local authorities, national public agencies & organisations adopt intergenerational approaches to address the challenges of our ageing society and promote positive images of older people

**SCIO Status** - We are delighted to announce that on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015, GWT were awarded charity status and are now a fully-fledged Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

**GWT Constitution** – copies available on request from [alison@generationsworkingtogether.org](mailto:alison@generationsworkingtogether.org)

Our charity purposes include:

- *The promotion of intergenerational relationships to further the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability or other disadvantage.*
- *The promotion of equality and diversity*
- *The advancement of citizenship and community development*

These are our three primary purposes however we also intend to work to deliver the advancement of education and health and wellbeing.

### The structure of GWT consists of:-

- GENERAL members - who are anyone who applies to join Generations Working Together. These individuals elect their local network representatives as voting members as described below in clause 16;
- VOTING MEMBERS - who have the right to attend voting members' meetings (including any annual general meeting) and have important powers under the constitution; in particular, the voting members can appoint general members to serve on the board and take decisions on changes to the constitution itself;
- BOARD - who hold regular meetings, and generally control the activities of the organisation; for example, the board is responsible for monitoring and controlling the financial position of the organisation.

**Register of voting members** - Alison explained that the general members of each Local Network can elect 2 representatives to be voting members (normally this would include the volunteer Local Network Coordinator but this is subject to the Local Network general members decision).

The normal term of office for a voting member will be 2 yrs however people may stand for re-election at the end of each term of office. This is not an onerous role however it is important and gives each local network a say and voting rights at the annual AGM which will be held during the conference on 2nd March 2016.

**As no one came forward at the meeting Alison is requesting that any member who would like to put themselves forward as the voting members to contact Alison ASAP.**

**Scotland's Urban Past (SUP)** is a five-year nationwide project with the communities of Scotland's towns and cities. Anyone can get involved and start investigating urban environments and how they have changed over time. SUP encourages groups and individuals of all ages to discover and share the fascinating stories of Scotland's towns and cities through community-led projects. As every project idea stems from a local community, the scale and subject of projects varies, ranging from a building, street or neighbourhood, to an entire town or city. To help you to develop your project ideas and bring them to fruition, SUP provides bespoke training, access to essential resources and continued project support.

Does your community group or society have a project idea, or do you need inspiration? Let us know by contacting the SUP team at [sup@rcahms.gov.uk](mailto:sup@rcahms.gov.uk) or on +44 (0) 131 651 6870.

**National Adult Achievement Award** – were launched by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning back in May at Newbattle Abbey College and are now being piloted. These new awards, modelled on the Youth Achievement Awards, will accredit learning for adults in a wide range of contexts, including community settings, colleges, workplaces and volunteering. Newbattle Abbey College is the owner of the awards which were developed by a national steering group.

The Adult Achievement Awards have been credit-rated at SCQF levels 3, 4 and 6 by Napier University and will be piloted by adult groups from different sectors across Scotland in the coming months.

GWT will keep you informed of any updates.

<http://scqf.org.uk/adult-achievement-awards-launched/>

**2. Intergenerational Training courses** – The following training courses are now online and can be booked at <http://generationsworkingtogether.org/events-training/training/>

West Lothian (Livingston) 2<sup>nd</sup> October, Angus (Arbroath) 23<sup>rd</sup> November & Aberdeenshire (Inverurie) 24<sup>th</sup> November. Alison to look at organising training for Forth Valley in March /April 2016 – Aileen able to provide a free training venue with teas/coffees.

**3. GWT Conference 2016** - Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 – University of Strathclyde, Technology & Innovation Centre, 99 George St, Glasgow G1 1RD

<http://www.strath.ac.uk/research/technologyandinnovationcentre/>

Any ideas/suggestions for workshops, speakers and information village. GWT would like to showcase local intergenerational projects, so please get in touch.

#### **4. Round the table/presentations**

This was an extremely well attended meeting with everyone around the table either involved in intergenerational work or about to dip their toes in the water.

- **Callum Farquhar** gave an overview of the Fife Council infrastructure and the move to empower the 7 'local areas', which have distinct budgets. There is a Fife Community Plan and SOA. Local community plans exist in each area. There is a fair bit of intergenerational work within. The challenges are to get more community activity and support from the bottom up.

Intergenerationally – older folks are planting and younger folks are maintaining the plantings. Two big parks – 'friends of the parks groups' – run events that involve all generations throughout the year bringing schools and older folks together

'Living Streets' is a project which audits signage across the area involving elderly people and other folk who may encounter challenges such as the visually impaired. This project has brought old and young together improving the area and environment through small adjustments.

Anti-poverty work is big in Fife with preventative work going on with clients. They are being asked to do intergenerational work. For example churches providing lunches with older vulnerable people and young homeless folks. The council are providing the food so the cost is minimal to them.

There are many challenges to becoming an age friendly city, which Dunfermline is striving towards. Alison mentioned the work of the UK Network for Age Friendly Cities and that she was attending an European Symposium for intergenerational work in Amsterdam in November and asked if anyone has any all age friendly projects that could be showcased to get in touch.

Aiveen noted that it sounded as though the council had potentially a number of exciting intergenerational projects in the making and encouraged Callum to engage with GWT to see some brilliant examples and case studies that could help the councils work toward identifying how some of its projects could be developed into powerful intergenerational work too.

- **June from Woodmill High School** provided an overview about her role in school and with the Place Work Folk project (PAS). June works in the English department and the transitions area. June is interested in the two-way benefits of intergenerational projects

Family ties are different these days and not all young people are in contact with their families, so it was thought that the PAS project would enable young folk to feel more connection to their communities and identify their own values etc. PAS supported the school providing guidance and filming assistance. There were four older men who visited the school (some needing support) talking to the children about their experiences. There were various challenges however the added value were the interviews themselves. The young folk were thrilled with the project and with the older people who brought along artefacts with them.

‘Place Work Folk Woodmill High’ – the film can be viewed on you tube.

June hopes other projects could happen in partnership with other groups and schools. S6 have ‘wider achievement awards’ that might be beneficial, however years S4 and 5 are challenged due to exams.

Alison spoke about work at Perth and Kinross and how they are succeeding in getting all their schools (Primary & Secondary) to run intergenerational projects. In support to the education department Alison provided presentations at their head teacher’s conference and has provided additional training for primary teachers. June was saying that teachers need help with this as it will be seen, as another thing and having it ingrained in policy would help. Alison mentioned that GWT has a four-hour course available specifically for schools on intergenerational working. Schools in Perth & Kinross are now seeing intergenerational work embedded within their whole school improvement plans.

- GWT mentioned that Youth Scotland would in the near future be publishing a new (fourth) edition of Amazing Things, A Guide to Youth Awards in Scotland. You can view the third version below.  
<http://www.youthscotland.org.uk/resources.htm>
- **Michaela** joined Fife Voluntary Action (FVA) in 2013 to develop befriending services for older people and as part of this visited schools throughout Fife to recruit young befrienders. The project involved working within care homes. The young people recruited got to know the older person and developed canvas life maps. These maps were then left with the older person in their room and could be used to develop conversations with care home staff. The project is now going to be split between all Volunteer Development Officers at FVA so will be energized again. They are now looking to engage with new schools and care homes. There is a year of funding to support this and we hope to develop further. FVA will be promoting the project at the careers fairs at schools. Michaela will invite the co-ordinator Liz to the next meeting.
- **Scottish Fisheries Museum (SFM)** has many volunteers who have lots of life experience and are close to a number of schools. There will be a new building built at WADE High School. SFM are thinking

about a project commemorating the schools past and present and might engage with the school about this involving some fishing elements. SFM has contacts from S6 pupils interested in history. There was some discussion about how SFM could engage differently, for example using competitions.

- **Active Schools** – There is talk amongst active schools co-ordinators across Fife of perhaps summer camps / holiday camps which could be intergenerational. There is an appetite to do more. Alison mentioned the Go For Gold network. There is a network that has meetings 2 or 3 times per year for practitioners to share and network together.
- **Homeshare Pilot** - This new project involves matching older people living in large homes with a student who can come and live with them. There is a very careful matching process to connect the different generations however it is an exciting new development-taking place in St Andrews.
- **Vivien Moffat** is keen to keep in touch and explore ideas with their St Monans group. The work in St Monans is part of a project called Plan P. Here is the link to the project blog <http://blogs.iriss.org.uk/planp/>

The focus is on preventing loneliness and social isolation for older people. They have had some discussions about how they could involve people of all ages within the local community. Vivien is interested in links with the Scottish Fisheries Museum as they are located at Anstruther, so close to St Monans and share that fishing heritage.

- **The Ecology Centre (Jo Hobbett):**  
The Men's Shed project is still going really well despite being 'off grid' for the last 9 months, the new Shed made from recycled shipping containers is now fully wired in and functional. We are piloting a Shed session for people living with dementia, so far going well, will be looking for more funding to continue this work if the pilot is successful.

It is likely that we will close our workshop at Brag Enterprise at the end of December, if anyone is interested in taking over the workshop or setting up a project in that area, we are looking for a group to whom we can donate many of the machine tools that we purchased for the project.

On a personal note, I am also doing some work with Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) who co-ordinate the International Citizen Service for young people age 18-25. If anyone is working with people who might be interested in spending 10 weeks volunteering overseas, then I would be more than happy to give them more information and help them through the selection process. This is not a 'voluntourism' where people raise loads of money to take part, participants are asked to raise £800 through fundraising (which is easier than you think) and then training costs, airfares, insurance, visas, vaccinations, living costs and a personal allowance are all taken care of by VSO. I can highly recommend the organisations involved and the experiences offered.

## 5. AOB

- Young Start funding opportunity - <https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/youngstartfund>
- New Website - The Beth Johnson Foundation is a national charity dedicated to making a future for all ages. <https://www.bjf.org.uk/> Check out the link from our colleagues Linking Generations Northern Ireland and see what they are doing across the water.
- The Scottish Government, working with Democratic Society in Scotland, has designed a number of Planning Events across Scotland to prioritise ideas and policies that the Scottish Government can implement to create a fairer Scotland. <http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/latest/>

## 6. Next meeting

Tuesday 26th January 2016, 1:00pm - 3:15pm, The Ecology Centre, Kinghorn Loch, Kinghorn, Burntisland, Fife, KY3 9YG

Aiveen is looking to organise an Intergenerational Education Seminar at the end of November 2015.