



Forth Valley Network Meeting

Date: Wednesday 27th April 2022. **Venue:** Raploch Community Partnership, Stirling

In attendance: Ross Crawford & Alison Clyde (GWT), Marie Urqhart, Jamie Butcher, Susan Currie & Amanda Connal (Raploch Community Partnership), John Ritchie & Richard Haynes (University of Stirling), Kerry Deegan (Dates n Mates), Laura Taylor (Active Stirling), Anne Brown & Stephani Faichney (HC One)

Apologies: Maddie Walls (Thorntree Mews Care Home), Liz Rowlett (CTSI), Victoria McRae & Eve Winters (CVS Falkirk), Anne Knox (SVE), Mairi Wright (NHS Forth Valley) & Claire Russell (Alva Play Pals)

GWT welcome: Alison (GWT) provided an update on the progress of Global Intergenerational Week, [Excellence Award Winners](#), as well as sharing how the charity during Covid had grown. The provisional date for the next year's [GWT Conference](#) was also shared: Wednesday 8th March in Glasgow.

Global Intergenerational Week took place between the 25th April – 1st May 2022

- Members were encouraged to sign up as supporters and take part.
- Live events were held, toolkits and photo competition launched, research shared, live conversations and debates took place, and there was a social media campaign on [Twitter](#), Facebook, You Tube, Tik Tok, Instagram and [LinkedIn](#)
- Involving 11 countries, Australia, Canada, America, Mexico, UK, Ireland, Sweden and Spain
- National and local organisations taking part 177 have already signed up our target is for 200+

Themes included:

- Monday 25th April - Let's reconnect - funding forum
- Tuesday 26th April - Let's combat Loneliness and Isolation - Training and Excellence Award presentation
- Wednesday 27th April – Let's celebrate IG spaces - Forth Valley network meeting and Canadian and UK forum,
- Thursday 28th April - Let's inform our futures - training, award presentation and Scottish Parliament debate 12.45pm – 1.30
- Friday 29th April - Let's celebrate intergenerational solidarity Launch of our new play and story toolkit and Building an intergenerational board conversation.
- Saturday 30th April - Let's break down age barriers – online
- Sunday 1st May – Recap and thank you

Excellence Awards 2022

1. Creative use of space and place

This award recognises projects that make creative use of spaces and places to connect generations in mutually beneficial relationships.

Winner – Poetic Pathways (Paisley, Renfrewshire)

Highly recommended: Stroll in the Park with Springfield Primary (Dumfries)

2. Creative use of technologies

This award recognises projects that have embraced diverse technologies and used them creatively to connect all ages together in mutually beneficial activities and intergenerational relationships.

Winner – Community Chorus Online – Raploch Partnership

Highly Commended: Well walkers Wednesday singalong (Moray)

3. Enabling inclusive communities

This award recognises projects and initiatives that have made particular efforts to challenge ageism and promote age-friendly diversity and inclusion in communities.

Winner – Young people at the heart of Intergenerational work (Black Isle, Highlands)

Highly Commended: Menzieshill House and Tagsa Uibhis Community Gardens

4. Social Justice and dignity

This award recognises projects that tackle adversity and promote fairness and human rights through intergenerational practice and relationships.

Winner – Citadel Love Stories (Edinburgh) LGBT plus younger and older people love and relationships and what it means to them

5. Tackling Climate Change

This is a new award created during COP26 in order to encourage intergenerational solidarity to tackle climate change. The award is open for projects and initiatives that connect generations through green activities such as community gardening, green initiatives in local communities and campaigning.

Winner – Edinburgh Garden Partners

Highly Commended – Sewing2tgether all nations (Renfrewshire)

GWT Team – new staff members joining the team including Lorraine George and Ross Crawford - losing Kate Samuels.

Learning and training programme – new officer - Lorraine George

- [International Certificate in Intergenerational Practice edition 2](#) starts 3rd October till end of November 2022, Cost: Member £210 non-member £250
- [Five free short online courses](#) – register through **GWT website**
- [One day courses](#) – face to face and online £70-member, £100-non-member – Courses planned for after summer in Renfrewshire, Edinburgh, Dumfries and planning others in Shetland, Orkney and online.

A 6 weeks Scouting project is being piloted by the scouts and a primary school training module and teacher publication being created and launched later this spring.

Update and discussion

- Discussion of new Billy Bremner project: Richard (University of Stirling) and Marie (Raploch Community Partnership) discussed a possible opportunity to bring together the Raploch Community Chorus with Leeds Sporting Heritage for an online session, centring on the shared link with Billy Bremner (born in Raploch, played for Leeds United).
- Discussion around GWT school training: Laura from Active Stirling enquired whether secondary school pupils could be involved in IG training for schools and receive certificates upon completion. She is in touch with Bella at GWT about this.
- Discussion around volunteering in care homes: Alison (GWT) noted some quarters have argued volunteering is challenging in care homes. Ann from HC-One made clear that volunteering in care homes is established and easy to implement, with people over the age of

14. **Action:** Ann offered to contribute to an article/blog highlighting this issue, in liaison with Ross at GWT.

- Discussion around student involvement in IG projects: Richard from University of Stirling noted the huge resource of the university in terms of student capacity and opportunity to share their skills. Alison (GWT) noted the value of having media students involved in IG projects, to take photographs or make films. Key challenges are in working around the academic year and planning sufficiently ahead of time, but there are good opportunities with journalism students in particular. **Action:** Richard offered to speak to module coordinator about exploring these opportunities locally.
- Update from GOALD project: John and Richard from University of Stirling updated on progress of GOALD project, which began in March 2021 and runs for three years. They are establishing intergenerational co-production groups to explore the best way to involve technologies in care homes, including smart speakers, laptops, and VR headsets. John noted challenges around maintaining engagement with younger people (school and University) during the summer. The project was originally planned as wholly digital, but they have noted the opportunity of shifting towards face-to-face delivery where possible.
- Update from Dates-n-Mates: Carolyn updated on the organisations shift into Stirling and Clackmannanshire, having already established groups in Glasgow, Aberdeen, Renfrewshire, and Falkirk. A recent launch event was held on 14th February.
- Discussion on future of network: agreement around the table that this network provides huge value for making new connections, sharing stories, and finding opportunities to work in partnership.

Future meetings:

Tuesday 27th September 9.30 – 11.30am Falkirk (venue TBC)

Thursday 26th January 9.30 – 11.30 – winter online or Clacks (Covid and weather dependant)