

Shetland Isles Network Meeting

Date: Thursday 26th May 2022



In attendance: Denise Nicholson (Shetland Council & GWT Network Coordinator), Alison Clyde (GWT), Lavinia Schmidt (VAS), Elaine Hodge, Rita Rendall, (Shetland Islands Council), Stephanie Bain (Ability Shetland), Sonia Inkster (Scalloway Youth & Community Centre), Neil Bryce & Lynsey Rendall (NHS), Kerry Geddes and Steven Edwin Laidlaw (Shetland Recreational Trust)

Apologies: Anne Marie Smith (Shetlands Council), Laura Cheyne, Karen Malone (Shetland Library), Penny Armstrong, Emma Perring, Brenda Wilcox, Daniel Lafferty, Catherine Jeromson & Chole Tallack

GWT welcome: Alison (GWT) provided an update which included information around Global Intergenerational Week and 2022's [Excellence Award Winners](#) detailed below.

Global Intergenerational Week took place between the 25th of 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 Taga 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)

Other GWT info:

GWT have welcomed two new staff members: Lorraine George (Learning and Development Officer) and Ross Crawford (Funding Bid Writer) - Kate Samuels our Policy and Communications Officer has also recently left for a promoted post.

It is hoped that on Wednesday 8th March 2023 GWT will host their first face to face Conference in Glasgow since before the pandemic.

Lorraine George started with GWT back in October 2021 and has been busy developing our **learning and training programme** which includes the following:

- [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, Orkney and in Shetland on the 1st November 2022.
- A **6-weeks Scouting project** is being piloted by the scouts during the summer months
- A **primary school training module** and teacher publication has been written and is being piloted later this year. The course will cover topics including dementia, sight and hearing loss. It will be for teachers and will be free for the first year then there will be a cost. It is hoped that teachers will deliver this as part of their curriculum. It could also be available for e.g. community centres.
- Over the next year Lorraine plans to develop a module for secondary pupils. The focus here will be on preparing pupils for intergenerational work and for leading intergenerational activities themselves.

Alison encouraged everyone to look at the range of free online courses on the GWT website. Stephanie has completed the course on Ageism and found it useful.

Newly published toolkit - [Play and Storytelling](#): connecting generations the intergenerational way

Update and discussion

Elaine Hodge, Wastview Care Centre

- The care centre has enjoyed Bookbug sessions in the past – participants were able to enjoy a snack and a chat afterwards.
- A polytunnel is in situ, so potential intergenerational sessions can take place in a sheltered outdoor space. They still need to be careful, as the residents are frail.
- They held an open day for the community outside and now have a 10 bed unit.

Rita Rendall, Living Well Hub

- A Care Home review last year recorded the impact of Covid and investigated what residents wanted going forward.
- Wastview and Taing residents reported that they were missing children and pets.
- Taing is planning a central space with swings and a play area so residents can look out and watch children playing.

Sonia Inkster, Scalloway Youth and Community Centre

- A reminiscence projects ran prior to lockdown looking at Scalloway in the 1950's. Young people from the Youth Café interviewed older community members, collecting stories. This stopped with lockdown; however, Sonia completed the project by phone. 600 copies of the book were sold within 6 weeks. It has now been reprinted.
- The youth club children painted poppy rocks for the WW1 centenary. Poppies were painted on one side and the names of local people lost during the war were written on the back. The children were piped along to the Shetland Bus memorial where they laid the stones, looking at the roll of honour to find the person they had dedicated their stone to.
- Sonia took part in the Intergenerational project, Inspiring Purpose between the Generations, with her grandson. They researched a family member and won third place in the project visting Edinburgh for the Awards Ceremony. Afterwards Sonia and James presented their research to various local audiences, including the local school.
- The next project will be an environmental project.

Stephenie Bain, Ability Shetland

- Ability Shetland has a club in Unst, Live Active, which originally was a Saturday Club for children with additional support needs and their siblings. The numbers were quite low, and as there were older people in the community who were isolated they extended the membership and now have an all age group which is inclusive and intergenerational.
- They offer activities such as sports, card games and cooking. Younger children with additional support needs can see what adults with disabilities can achieve and it opens the eyes of others in the community as to what people with disabilities can do.
- They meet fortnightly and have approx. 20 people attending.

- Ability Shetland also has a monthly adapted bike event for people with mobility problems. They have a variety of bikes e.g. recumbent bikes, wheelchair bikes, mostly electric bikes. It has naturally become intergenerational.

Steven Laidlaw, Recreational Trust

- The Recreational Trust is starting to look at ways to support people who don't do sports. They want to change the way they work to get more people engaged and get the facilities better used by the community.
- They would like to do more partnership working and have more of a Community Centre feel.
- They are starting to use spaces that weren't utilised before and have e.g. created two sensory rooms which are suitable for all ages.
- Going forward, they will be looking at engaging volunteers.
- They hope to develop links with Care homes with staff from the Rec Trust going in to do gentle activities.

Kerry Geddes, Recreational Trust

- The previous focus for the Rec Trust was to get fit people fitter. Now active ageing is also a priority.
- They are getting involved in health walks and will look at all types of walking, including power walking.
- They deliver some intergenerational sessions – senior classes with young instructors, and are seeking funding to get a buddy system in place.
- Kerry is looking to develop other opportunities and is reaching out to other partners to see how they can work together.

Lynsey Rendall, NHS

- Health Improvement is working to get a Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy back in place.
- Lynsey is looking at leadership around mental health and is getting a steering group together as a first step.
- She is keen to get intergenerational aspects going.

Neil Brice, NHS

- Neil came along to the meeting to find out more about intergenerational work and see how the work he does fits in/can fit in.

Denise Nicolson, Adult Learning

- Denise is the Shetland Intergenerational Network Co-ordinator, who facilitates intergenerational projects and has run projects in the past.
- She is keen to bring groups together to build on existing work or develop new projects.

Future dates:

Network meeting – Wednesday 5th October 1-3pm, Drama Room, Isleburgh Complex, Lerwick, Shetland– to register [click here](#).

Intergenerational Training for Trainers and Practitioners, Thursday 3rd November 10am – 4pm, Lerwick (venue TBC)– For more details and to register [click here](#).