

Western Isles Intergenerational Network Meetings North Uist Meeting Report



Venue: An Caladh, East Camp, Balivanich, Isle of Benbecula
Date & time: 21st March 10.30 – 12.30

In Attendance: Sheena Stewart UCVO / TSIWI, Tom Penman Church of Scotland, Graham Manchester The Caladh Trust, Vicki Manchester Volunteer Co-ordinator GWT, Olivia MacLellan, Sarah Banks Clachan COS, Vanessa Langley, Deborah MacVicar.

Apologies

Catherine Muir.

Welcome and introductions: A round of introductions and a special thanks to Vicki Manchester for organising the venue and food and asking new people along.

A conversation in general about Intergenerational work on the island: A natural general discussion took place around what we had planned for the day namely:

- * Share some ideas and resources
- * Enjoy a light lunch together
- * Think about intergenerational skill share between younger and older people.

We had thought from last meeting that we would be looking at the skills that people on the island have and sharing ideas of how we can connect generations and look at what we can learn from each other as well as forming lasting friendships.

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The conversation led us to talk about care homes, the value of older people, and loneliness on the island. People felt that there was a good dynamic in general between younger and older people on the island with many observing respect for older people. In the past people knew everyone in villages and informal volunteering was just being neighbourly.

One person recalled collection tins around villages and whilst doing so having big conversations with older people. Though it is a different landscape today.

It is felt that a lot of intergenerational work is accidental not intentional or deliberate. Such as people meeting in church with a common purpose, and it is multi and intergenerational. There is one older lady in church who is 92 in May 23. Doing / mixing together is not planned out but a natural coming together.

Though is other intergenerational work such as armchair athletics that was intentional and hosted in a care home with students and older people.

TAGSA group are doing crafts once a fortnight, also Ceilidh open to all ages.

Bella pointed out that it is not intergenerational if one group is doing something at another groups that it has to be a reciprocal relationship with both groups doing something together.

Junior members – There is IG work carried out together with Kildannan YP volunteers with older people in their 60s and 70s.

Vicki Manchester posed the question: Where could we do intentional IG work? For example the Ceilidhs that are held locally could have both generations deciding what to do?

Challenges

It was agreed that transport is a common challenge.

When school projects are organised, the school do this. Discussion around contacting schools to talk about IG work next time Bella visits. This is something that Bella will explore with Vicki.

Use of social media to get messages out to the community for next network meeting was an idea. Vanessa had found the invite on Uist Notice Board. People felt that there was disconnect with the middle generations 25 – 40 year olds and that the connection could perhaps be found through their mod of contact on social media such as Instagram or twitter.

Social media communication is problematic and during lockdown / post lockdown isolation is still an issue – though social media does offer social interaction of some sort for many and can also be seen as a good thing. It was noted that you can tell by generation what social media people will tend to use so even the social media use is separated by generational differences.

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Brain Drain – with young people having no alternative but to leave island due to lack of available housing.

Housing Shortages either through rent to buy or just bought so no social housing is a real issue.

Employment – there are lots of job opportunities but it is exacerbated by the geography and lack of accommodation.

Environment

We started to talk about the environment with people being concerned about young people's voices not being listened to. Also a conversation on climate change and people again felt strongly about this. It is worth considering if this may be something that the group would like to look at with their local community and get young and older people involved in some way?

Local issues

This was something that happened organically during the meeting people started to talk about the environment and housing and transport and it led to talking more about the islands e.g. Eriskay, Faroe, and how everything is interconnected.

Discussion to continue

Group discussions to continue at next Network session around Intergenerational ideas. Maybe a large mind map to look at the small intergenerational aspects of areas that can add to the community.

It's an open discussion and people can make the agenda for the next meeting in September (date to be confirmed).

Information about Uist Network Meetings: We know through the GWT membership that The Western Isles consist of 155 member organisations, with 39 from the Uist.

Updates from Generations Working Together

Thematic Network Meetings : We continue to host the thematic network meetings online via zoom, here are the links, you can read more about them and choose which one would suit you most; **Thematic Network Meetings** : We continue to host the thematic network meetings online via zoom, here are the links, you can read more about them and choose which one would suit you most;

[Ageism Network](#) Together with our membership GWT will host conversations around how intergenerational approaches can be used to address ageism.

[Housing, Places and Spaces](#) Network Join GWT's new network which will meet 3-4 times per year to share the latest information and resources from the field, facilitate peer learning, and grow the community of intergenerational housing, places and spaces.

[Research](#) Network Our aim is to connect practitioners, policy makers, academics and researchers who are actively or interested in investigating the impact of intergenerational work/relationships on both younger and older aged participants to come together to discuss research around intergenerational practice.

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[Care Home](#) Network To build on the connections made with care homes across Scotland during the pandemic GWT would like to further develop these links by developing a thematic Care Home Network.

Celebratory Events

[Global intergenerational Week](#) takes place this year 24 – 30th April #GIW23. Have a look and see some of the fun activities that you can use to take part, such as Host a mix and mingle, a photo diary challenge, and watch the new promotional video.

[The Month of Community](#) is a time when we come together to celebrate everything that makes our communities great. Join in this June - whether you want to say cheers to volunteers, connect with your neighbours, support a cause you care about, or simply to say thank you, it's all part of the Month of Community!

[The Intergenerational Excellence Awards Winners](#) is something that takes place each year in recognition of the excellent intergenerational work in communities across Scotland and Internationally. Have a watch at the videos and see some of the winning work that has taken place across Scotland and Internationally. Our Excellence Awards provide an opportunity for individuals and groups to celebrate their learning and success in building relationships between younger and older generations. The awards for 2024 will be open for nominations later this year.

Intergenerational Training

1. [Intergenerational Training One Day Course](#) Intergenerational work is a proven approach which addresses a range of challenges facing people living across Scotland and the UK. The approach is gaining higher profile within the voluntary, public and private sectors and supports the delivery of the Scottish Government's policies and strategies including A Connected Scotland and A Fairer Scotland for Older people. **Cost** £70 – Concession: GWT Member / Third Sector Under 250K / GWT Member Public £100 – Full: Non member/Private/Public

2. [International Certificate in Intergenerational Practice](#) - Edition 3 2:00pm Tuesday 2nd May - 11:00pm Monday 26th June 2023 Online

This course is aimed at anyone who wants to gain a deeper understanding of intergenerational work, its purpose, impact and practical application to enable them to apply this within their own work.

"I am so glad I came across this course! It has been so helpful and motivated me even more to persist and strive to bring the generations together."

(Student, IDIL 2, 2021)

Cost Member: £230 Non-Member £275

3. [Workplace \(2.5 hours\) Age Awareness Training for Intergenerational Teams](#)
(Workplace)

With five generations in the workplace for the first time, the need for employers to understand and capitalise on their intergenerational workforce is greater than ever. Generations Working Together have developed a two and a half hour training course aimed at employers and employees to identify and address how intergenerational practice can increase collaboration in the workplace. Up to 16 participants per session (face to face) or up to 30 participants per session online.

Cost £400.00

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Testimonial from [YUGO](#): *Thank you to Lorraine George and the team at Generations Working Together (GWT) for their insight on age awareness and helping our Yugoers grow by understanding what motivates different generations in the workplace. We are thankful for the knowledge of the benefits of an intergenerational workforce, and we learnt to feel more comfortable with problem-solving during situations. We highly recommend GWT's program for any organisation with intergenerational teams. (March 2023)*

Next meeting date to be confirmed but it will be in September. Bring your ideas and let's continue the journey.



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