

## Western Isles Intergenerational Network Meetings Harris Meeting Report



Venue: Harris Hotel Tarbert Isle of Harris Outer Hebrides Scotland HS3 3DL  
Date & time: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 @ 11.30am – 1.30pm

**In Attendance:** Mairi Robertson Carrey People Engagement Officer, Iain Maciver CLD Officer, Bellann O'Brien Volunteer Officer, Kathleen Duce Volunteer Officer, Marion Nichols, Donna Macleod.

**Apologies:** Sharon Reid Western Isles Council, Fiona McKenzie Comunn Na Gaidhlig.

**Welcome and introductions:** Everyone was welcomed and special thanks to Bellann for driving Bella from Stornoway and to Kathleen and Bellann for encouraging new people to come along.

### **A conversation in general about Intergenerational work on the island**

It was a general relaxed conversation to explore intergenerational work on the islands and look at what the group could think would be a way forward this year. We had planned to share ideas and resources and Bella shared some booklets out. Thanks to Marion and Donna for bringing Effie and Mary along it really brought things back about being a parent bringing up a young baby and the room was brightened up with babies there too. Another aspect of IG work that we often forget about. Both mums are involved in softy play opposite school and parent council and other groups. We talked about ideas and shared some thoughts on moving forward. The two new people were keen to learn more and it is hoped that small steps will see more work done over the coming years.

### **Challenges**

People spoke about how COVID had affected all of the IG work that used to take place and how projects used to run naturally. Kathleen explained that she is trying to boost IG work through the primary school.

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## **IG work on the islands**

The IG work and Arts at Barra Big Bunting and a crochet group were mentioned with people across generations making things together. There is also other work that maybe is not so obvious, and we can discuss this at the next meeting.

## **Environment**

Mairi Robertson spoke about species on the edge bumble bee conservation trust project that she is involved in and hopes that this work may cross generations in its making. Explaining that it is a 4 year project working in communities with volunteer opportunities. They will identify priorities. She hopes to make connection in the area. The project will look at bio diversity, wildlife and nature and be community led and driven. Outer Hebrides Wildlife Festival 24<sup>th</sup> June 1<sup>st</sup> July are looking for suggestions.

## **Future Ideas going forward**

It was agreed after some conversation that Bellann, Kathleen and Bella would work on some planning to set up some meetings at local schools where Bella can visit in September to raise more awareness of IG possibilities that they may explore. Also, perhaps some youth groups. Bella is keen to meet with the young mums at the soft play area too.

## **Information about Harris Network Meetings**

We know through the GWT membership that The Western Isles consist of 155 member organisations, with 116 from the Lewis and Harris.

## **Updates from Generations Working Together**

### **News on new Projects**

### **GWT and partners celebrate after receiving £499,600 for a multi-year project**

Generations Working Together is delighted to announce that we have been awarded funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, the largest funder of community activity in the UK, for an exciting new partnership project launching in early 2023. Over the next 2.5 years, the Creating Intergenerational Communities project will see Generations Working Together partnering with [Apples and Honey Nightingale in London](#) and [Linking Generations Northern Ireland](#) to develop a model for embedding intergenerational approaches within our communities. This will involve grassroots activities with the training and upskilling of communities across Scotland, England, and Northern Ireland. The programme will introduce and promote new quality standards for intergenerational activities, providing confidence and ensuring sustainability. These new quality standards will be embedded through the recognition of Intergenerational Hubs, promoting cohesion within and across our communities. This project has been made possible thanks to a £499,600 award from The National Lottery Community Fund, as part of the [Bringing People Together funding programme](#) which aims to build stronger connections across communities in the UK. The National Lottery Community Fund distributes money raised by National Lottery players, who raise £30 million each week for good causes across the UK.

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## **Participatory Research**

We are preparing work on new groundbreaking research, in Phase 1 of the grant process we will be working over the next 6 months to explore participatory research and develop an Intergenerational Framework testing intergenerational relationships. We are looking forward to meeting with our networks and working with them to make a difference with community led research. This intergenerational approach is aiming to allow all voices to be heard so that we can work together to explore community safety and intergenerational interventions. Funded by UK Research and Innovation and delivered by The Young Foundation, the Community Knowledge Fund supports grassroots community groups and organisations across the UK to find new solutions to local and national challenges by uncovering knowledge and turning great ideas into action.

**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.

[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 – 30<sup>th</sup> 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**

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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

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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