

# Neighbourhoods for All Ages

## E-Newsletter

**5th Edition**

**February 2010**

This newsletter is produced by the **Neighbourhoods for All Ages** Intergenerational Network

For more information about the Network, please contact  
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# Moor Allerton Elderly Care (MAE Care)

## Building Bridges pilot project (Autumn 2009)

Through the local Extended Schools officer, the MAECare Project Manager and the Head of Alwoodley Primary School were brought together and a pilot intergenerational circle time project was planned. MAECare appealed for “Golden Friends” in the summer newsletter and about a dozen people expressed an interest in getting involved. These people were invited for tea and scones at the MAECare office in mid August to learn more about the scheme, hear about the experiences of some of the Silver Friends from Woodhouse who had been doing circle time at Quarry Mount School for a couple of years, and to express their hopes for themselves in engaging with younger people. Illustrated letters from the children saying how much they were looking forward to meeting the Golden Friends were distributed to the older people who committed to doing the project.

The aims of the project that were agreed at the outset were: -

- Improved respect and understanding between generations
- A more cohesive community
- Gaining confidence in listening and speaking – for both young and old
- Learning, interest and enjoyment
- Emotional intelligence
- A successful partnership between MAECare and the Schools

Two visits to the school for orientation and to see a circle time session in practice occurred on 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September, and the first intergenerational circle time session with 9 and 10 year olds took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The five full intergenerational circle time sessions on Tuesday afternoons were prepared and led by teachers or classroom assistants, with a session on arrival at 1.15, a time for refreshments and then a second session to finish at 3 pm. The scheme was evaluated using a “before and after” chart and through discussion.

The project was regarded by everyone as very successful and the older Golden Friends had clearly gained in their confidence with young people. Before the end of the pilot, “Golden Friends” were invited by the Head to become involved with further activities such as “Golden Time” on Friday afternoons, reading help on Wednesdays and other projects. Several older people helped with these for a short period. Further discussions are planned on how to take forward the lessons learned from the pilot project.

## Other Intergenerational activities

A more recent intergenerational event was the Christmas Party at Allerton High School, with which MAECare has been developing a relationship over a number of years. This took place on 9<sup>th</sup> December when over 80 members attended to enjoy a seasonal quiz, afternoon tea and musical entertainment.

The school also provided hampers for MAECare staff and volunteers to deliver to 24 older people who had been ill or bereaved during the year. A letter from one of the recipients shows the benefits of this partnership scheme:

*“It is difficult to put into words, but I would like you all to know that it wasn’t just receiving the hamper, but that I had been remembered, at this time, to say nothing of exploring the contents...”*

For further details, please contact:

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# Computer Buddies

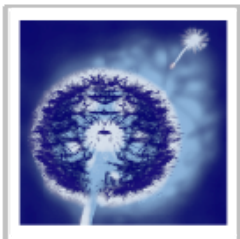
Bramley Elderly Action (BEA) is working in partnership with Leeds Library Services to support older people to learn to use computers, thanks to a grant from Older Better, Leeds City Council (Adult Social Care). We liaised with St Peter's Primary School Bramley and West Leeds Academy who selected pupils aged 10-13 to support the learners.

Two 7 week courses are running, one for beginners with year six children and one for improvers with High School pupils – each adult paired with a pupil to offer one to one help. BEA recruited and CRB checked 13 older people, and the library provides the facilities and the tutors.

The children said before they started: "I might find it difficult to explain things or be patient". This was echoed by older people's anxieties that the youngsters would be too fast for them.

Yet after just two sessions older people have been enormously positive about their experience saying about their *Buddies*: "**They can see things we can't see**", "**She is a good little teacher, very helpful**". The children's response: "**It was cool!**"

For further details please contact: Zoe Ricketts, Bramley Elderly Action  
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**Beth Johnson Foundation**

**Centre for Intergenerational Practice**

*building better communities for all ages*

## Regional Network

As some of you will know, the Beth Johnson Foundation, facilitate a Yorkshire and Humber Regional Network for intergenerational practitioners. We held the first Regional Network meeting in Leeds last year and the second meeting is in Bradford, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March. These meetings are a great opportunity to find out what is going on regionally and nationally, share good practice and network. If you would like more information about the Regional Network, or about the Bradford meeting, please contact April Lewis via the Centre for Intergenerational Practice website – [www.centreforip.org.uk](http://www.centreforip.org.uk) (under the Networks section).



### ***Older Active People Attend Student Party***

Members of Older Active People in Leeds were treated to an all-inclusive New Year Party earlier this week, hosted by CALM (Community Action at Leeds Met) student volunteers. The event took place at Kirkstall Brewery Student Residences and provided the older people with a bright start to 2010. Over 70 members of Leeds organisation Older Active People attended, to enjoy a complimentary three-course meal of soup, a roast turkey dinner and gateaux. Other highlights of the event included a karaoke-style sing along with classics such as 'Sweet Caroline,' and a raffle.

The student population in the Headingley and Hyde Park areas has risen dramatically over recent years and many families have left the area, leaving some older people feeling isolated in the community. The New Year Party creates cohesion between generations and encourages students to appreciate and get to know their older neighbours. Older Active People, based at the Cardigan Centre in Hyde Park, is one of Leeds' Neighbourhood Network Schemes, bringing together the older members of the community in the Burley, Hyde Park, Little Woodhouse, Headingley and Kirkstall areas.

Guest Joan Foley commented, 'I think the party has been lovely and I've thoroughly enjoyed it. The students work so hard to make sure we enjoy ourselves. I hope we can come next year!' Nadira Siddique, Older Active People's Coordinator concluded, 'Our members enjoyed the New Year Party very much. The food was wonderful and the company was brilliant. Thank you to CALM for organising such a fantastic day.' Funding for the event was kindly provided by CALM and security group UPP.

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# Green Generations Festival

Leeds will be hosting a week-long Intergenerational Festival from 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010! The aim of the festival is to bring people of different generations together across our city, to promote environmental and community sustainability and to celebrate the Intergenerational Volunteering Month of the Leeds Year of Volunteering 2010. The event also celebrates the 2nd **European Day of Solidarity Between Generations**, which is on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

Plans for the Festival are well underway and there will be 12 events, run by community groups and schools across Leeds, that include planting trees and herb boxes, dance and drama events, cooking sessions and lots of sharing food! We are also running a 6 week project from March, with 6 older people and 6 younger people at Armley Mills Museum, to develop a piece of art from recycled materials, which will be displayed in the City Museum in 2010. We will hold a festival launch event, where we will open the festival week and also launch our Intergenerational strategic document for Leeds (see below).

For more information about Green Generations, please contact Caroline Starkey: [caroline.starkey@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.starkey@leeds.gov.uk)

## Launching the Festival

**On the 26<sup>th</sup> April, we will be officially launching the Green Generations Festival, and the strategic document for Leeds, at the Central Library. We would like to showcase the excellent intergenerational work that takes place in Leeds. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHOWCASE YOUR PROJECT, HAVE A DISPLAY, OR SHOW SOME PICTURES/ART WORK? If you do, please let Caroline Starkey know ([caroline.starkey@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.starkey@leeds.gov.uk)) and we will try to accommodate your project!**

# Strategic Work

As part of Leeds City Council's commitment to supporting intergenerational practice in Leeds, we currently working on developing a strategic document that highlights the benefits of intergenerational approaches, the national and local policy drivers and a series of 'principles' that underpin intergenerational practice in Leeds.

The aim is to raise the profile of intergenerational approaches across Leeds. The aim is to launch the document at our Green Generations Festival on the 26<sup>th</sup> April at the Central Library.

Much of the work underpinning the strategic document is based on two studies that took place in Leeds at the end of last year, by the Beth Johnson Foundation and Learning and Development Options Ltd. The former used case studies and interviews with key people in Leeds, to identify how intergenerational work has developed and the future opportunities. The latter was based on 6 focus groups, with people of all ages, to explore what can be gained by generations coming together. Both these reports are available from the Neighbourhoods for All Ages Network – please e-mail us for copies.

Further information on the launch event and celebration of Green festival will follow through Email Network. Meanwhile, if you would like more information, please contact either Caroline Starkey – [caroline.starkey@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.starkey@leeds.gov.uk) or Sufia Khan – [Sufia.khan@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Sufia.khan@leeds.gov.uk)



2010 is the Year of the Volunteer in Leeds, and April is Intergenerational volunteering month! There are a wide range of activities taking place to promote volunteering throughout 2010, and also several grant funds running. Please visit the Year of the Volunteer website – [www.leedsyearofvolunteering.co.uk](http://www.leedsyearofvolunteering.co.uk) for more information.

# Network News

We are extremely pleased to announce that the Neighbourhoods for All Ages Network now has **over 190 members!** The Network, which offers information, training, conferences (and this newsletter!) started off with less than 30 members and continues to grow and grow! We are thrilled with your support and hope you continue to find the network useful and supportive.

We held an **extremely successful Network meeting** at Seacroft Library in January – where the topic was volunteering. This was a great opportunity for people to come together, share best practice and support each other. We hope to be running another network event in the summer – watch this space for more details!

We are in the process of developing the **annual Action Plan** for the Neighbourhoods for All Ages Network steering group (the group that manages Network activity). If you would like to be involved, or find out more, please let us know. Our focus for 2010 will be raising the profile of intergenerational work across Leeds and collecting evidence on its impact.

For more information about the Leeds Neighbourhoods for All Ages Network (or to join), please contact Sufia Khan ([sufia.khan@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:sufia.khan@leeds.gov.uk)) or Caroline Starkey ([caroline.starkey@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.starkey@leeds.gov.uk))

