

# Neighbourhoods for All Ages

## E-Newsletter

**8th Edition**

**March 2011**

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

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## MUSIC FOR ALL AGES – LEEDS’ HIDDEN GEM

Father, daughter and grand-daughters all singing together in a “Sing for Fun” group ...whole families spending the morning together at different music classes....young people learning instruments and going on to teach others as adults...

These are all examples of what goes on in Leeds Music Centres, funded by Leeds City Council and run by Education Leeds Artforms. They are a real hidden gem that deserves to be better known.

While many cities have music centres for young people, Leeds is unique in having centres where people of all ages can play in groups and learn instruments together.

There are eight centres - east Leeds, north Leeds, south Leeds, west Leeds, Boston Spa, Guiseley, Horsforth and Rothwell. They are open on Saturday mornings and some evenings.

They offer a huge variety of groups to play in, including orchestras, jazz bands, rock groups, drum groups, blues bands and more. These are for players from beginner upwards.

There are 'music maker' groups where children under five have fun shaking and rattling things as well as moving and singing. They learn about pitch, rhythm, harmony and melody...without even realising it.

Thanks to the support of Leeds City Council, there is also expert instrument tuition at all levels at a price far below private lessons. In a recent student survey, 100% of students were satisfied with the standard of teaching with 83% very satisfied.

The emphasis is on enjoyment – there is a lovely buzz in all the centres. A highlight for most is the coffee bar where people can socialise as well as sample the buns and sweets.

Moreover, everyone takes part in regular concerts, from 6 year olds who have just started to learn to play the keyboard or 80 year olds who might have played in the jazz band for years.

Music is a fantastic activity to bring people across generations together. Music is also a great activity for sharing learning and enjoyment – try it!

Find out more about Leeds Music Centres by contacting:

Frances Bernstein, Music Centre Coordinator

Artforms, Education Leeds

[frances.bernstein@educationleeds.co.uk](mailto:frances.bernstein@educationleeds.co.uk)

[www.artformsleeds.co.uk](http://www.artformsleeds.co.uk)

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## Intergenerational Day at South Leeds Academy



About six people from the Belle Isle over 55s club attended plus the same number of young people. These were a mixture of pupils and the children of colleagues were part of participants .

For lunch on the first day, we made vegetable soup, pizza and bread rolls. This was followed by Victoria sponge, which people took home for tea.

Everyone had a great time. However, there was some disappointment in learning that the ladies from Belle Isle were unable to attend because they were scheduled to go on a trip the following day. However, not all was lost when someone from the club arranged for the bus to pick them up from the South Leeds Academy in the afternoon of the second day so that they could spend the morning with us!

Day 2 was successful and we made a veggie curry, cheese and onion pasties and fruit scones followed by pear sponge for tea. Once again, goody bags were given out before the women set off on their afternoon out. (I needed a lie down!) We will be arranging another visit soon and everyone is looking forward to it.

The pupils and the over 55s enjoyed the day tremendously. We learnt such a lot from the women regarding their work experiences when they were younger. Some of them brought recipes and one woman brought a cake, which her husband had made. The young people were very helpful and made biscuits for everyone to take home.

More follow up sessions organised during the half term in October to have more fun and creative times. For further information, please contact:

Julie Gledhill, [gledhij05@leedslearning.net](mailto:gledhij05@leedslearning.net)  
Food technology, Hospitality and Catering.

## Bramley For All Ages

Bramley For All Ages is an offshoot of Neighbourhoods For All Ages Network. We are an alliance of local organisations with a vision of attaching a group of older people to each school in Bramley.

Bramley For All Ages first met in April 2009, to coincide with first European Day of Solidarity Between Generations. Since then we have done a number of intergenerational events including poetry, circle time and singing. Our most recent event (March 2011) was a Bramley For All Ages singing event, where the 5 in 1 primary school choir and Bramley Elderly Action's Singing Group, performed and led a sing song at Bramley Primary School (pictured below).



In January 2011, we met at Valley View Primary School to discuss how we could further develop the work of Bramley For All Ages. At the meeting we identified mutually beneficial activities and outcomes. We also discussed how we could deliver a developed Bramley For All Ages. We plan to recruit an Intergenerational Development Worker to help deliver our vision. If you have suggestions as to how we could do this then please contact Lee Ingham on 2361644 or by email to [info@bramleyea.org.uk](mailto:info@bramleyea.org.uk).

# What Next

This is a difficult period as everyone is aware. Though the Steering Group for Neighbourhoods for all Ages (NfAA) Network is committed to the work it has been decided to suspend this newsletter for the next six months, whilst we look at possible future direction for the group.

In the meantime Leeds Older Peoples Forum have kindly agreed to circulate any information you want to share with the Network. Please send to [info@opforum.org.uk](mailto:info@opforum.org.uk)

# Network News

*An audit or 'mapping' exercise of all the intergenerational projects or activities in Leeds is completed. Mapping what is going on in Leeds is important to us, as it begins to show what impact intergenerational approaches are having across our city. Apart from showing how much we have going on in Leeds it also allows you to see where there are gaps and potentially unmet needs, this proves us to argue for ongoing support to these types of programmes*

A final report has already been emailed to you all together with a map where projects are geographically based directly on to a map of our city!!!! On request we can send you one or alternatively you can download from the Council's website: [www.leeds.gov.uk](http://www.leeds.gov.uk) 'Recommended Links' and click on Community and living, Community advice and scroll down to Neighbourhoods for All Ages Network, the relevant page will then be shown.

