AWARDS FOR ALL AGES 2011

The Winners
Creating a Britain for all ages
Awards for All Ages 2011
The winners

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Champion for all ages
- Baroness Sally Greengross OBE
Congratulations to all the winners of the first Awards for All Ages. This booklet provides background and links about the thirteen winners and why they have won an award. They are all great examples of what can be done by and for all ages.

The winners demonstrate the richness and diversity of projects and people working to bring different generations together. Some of the projects are long-standing - forty years not out - while others are new in the last couple of years. Some have had national and international profile while others are very local in their impact. Almost all have come about because of an inspiring and pioneering individual. Never doubt that small groups of people can change the world.

And there’s a lot that needs to change. Whether it’s helping young people develop skills and get into work to prevent a ‘lost generation’; sharing resources and sites in a way that builds stronger communities and makes economic sense in these ‘tough times’; or changing attitudes and perceptions towards each other so that we aren’t isolated, lonely and ‘generations apart’.

There are also some interesting lessons from the winners. It’s not easy bringing different ages together in a truly meaningful and integrated way, with some substantial barriers to overcome from multi-agency working to cultural norms. Most of the projects talk about the struggle to maintain funding and develop their activities. Clearly effective evaluation will help win funding and there are some examples where this is starting to happen. It is this need to show the benefits - real, tangible outcomes - together with raising the profile of intergenerational work that are key challenges for the future.

United for All Ages will be launching the 2012 Awards for All Ages in spring next year. There will be new categories and a few surprises.

Thank you to everyone who entered and supported the 2011 awards. Your efforts and inspiration are creating a Britain for all ages.

Stephen Burke and Denise Burke
Directors, United for All Ages

15 November 2011
The Factory Community Project
and Children’s Centre

The Factory is a community centre based in Islington on the border with Hackney. They cater for babies from six months old to old age pensioners, their oldest member died last year aged 103. The centre has a full-time children’s centre and nursery, childminders and families groups, and a toy and equipment library. Their after-school project includes homework, breakfast clubs and holiday schemes. They offer women’s activities, ethnic minority groups and three elderly luncheon clubs. The Factory has an energetic Time Bank and an adult education project to give local residents skills and experience which assist their employment opportunities.

The community centre must be one of the most diverse, with the number of different ethnic groups and the age range. They have outings to the seaside, shopping, theatres and fundraising events together. Every religious and cultural festival is seen as ‘an opportunity for us ALL to celebrate’. When the International Elderly Club took up knitting, they immediately thought of the nursery’s babies and made them beautiful patchwork quilts. The under fives recently spent an afternoon discussing different exotic fruits; later they made fruit salads to share with the big children in the after-school project. They describe themselves as ‘one BIG happy family’ and are going strong some forty years after being founded.

http://www.thefactorycommunityproject.co.uk/pages/2/The_Factory_Community_Project/Home
Thames Ditton Centre for the Community

The Thames Ditton Centre for the Community has united all ages under one roof, providing a children’s centre, centre for retired people and supporting over twenty regular hirers providing local services and activities from watching your weight to training your dog. It provides a base for the Multi-Faith Forum and is developing services for children with disabilities through gaining Aiming High capital funding. The centre has been made possible by Elmbridge borough council, Surrey county council, local organisations and volunteers working together to develop a buzzing building.

Through excellent partnership opportunities, throughout the week local people can experience a variety of health and fitness programmes from Tai Chi and yoga to children’s dance and ballet, enjoy a three course lunch, take part in outings, special events and computer classes, drop in and play with their new born children, have a baby massage and therapy for parents, or simply drop in for a wealth of information on local services. The Thames Ditton Centre is truly intergenerational and is regularly attended by members of the community who are approaching their 100th birthday and new born babies as young as five days old.

http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/css/centres/thamesdittoncentre.htm
The Castlehaven Community Association was established in 1985 as a community charity that provides activities, classes and facilities across the age ranges. It is set in four acres of public open space which includes three buildings, two community gardens, with an enclosed children’s play area, flood-lit sports facilities for local people and the wider Camden communities. CCA aims to inspire and empower people of all ages, cultures and abilities to strive both mentally and physically to achieve their full potential. CCA also leads the way in intergenerational practice and organises up to twelve projects a year involving all ages and abilities.

CCA strives to be inclusive, creative and innovative when working with the local community, especially through its intergenerational projects. They have had many successful projects over the last six years with people of all ages from the local community meeting each other at the centre which is seen as a safe and neutral environment. These projects include portrait painting, making clothes, fruit picking, Come Dine with Me cooking, poetry sessions, festivals, radio, boat and museum trips, and their annual All Ages quiz night. CCA was one of the first community centres in London to have an intergenerational forum, where a team of twelve participants of ages from two to 87 from the local area have the chance to say what they would like to do together in future projects. CCA also has an intergenerational choir that performs at local events and festivals.

http://www.castlehaven.org.uk/
Prospex

Prospex has just celebrated ten years helping young people achieve their potential. The charity works with young people in Islington who are socially deprived, not in education or employment, involved in crime, alcohol and drug abuse. They suffer low self-esteem and lack long-term stable relationships. Prospex works with those who have fallen through the family and community net and desperately need help in their lives. They provide outreach work connecting with young people; personal development work to build core life and relationship skills; work experience helping young people become self-supporting, contributing members of the community; and practical support for parents to help build a cohesive and supportive community environment.

In 2010 Prospex moved into a run-down, under-used community centre scheduled for closure. With Prospex’s daily presence and focal point, the centre has gone from strength to strength. Numbers attending the centre rose dramatically, which meant that the centre was fully refurbished and not closed. The centre is used for Prospex’s office and youth clubs, bingo afternoons with some 40 older people, evangelical church meetings, M&S retired workers monthly tea, council conferences, Muslim celebrations, children’s parties, weddings and other hirings. The centre with Prospex at its heart is now an active, multi-cultural place for all ages.

http://www.prospex.org.uk/
Neighbors Growing Together, Virginia Tech

Virginia Tech’s Neighbors Growing Together’s (NGT) mission is to improve the lives of people across the lifespan through intergenerational collaboration. By facilitating and studying the processes and outcomes of intergenerational relationships at NGT and other programmes, its director, Shannon Jarrott, has been able to share her experiences with international practitioners and researchers. Informed by theory, Dr Jarrott has used her evaluation findings to develop training materials, activity guides, assessment tools and scholarly papers for practice and research audiences. She has trained university students and community practitioners to implement and assess intergenerational programmes to enhance their achievements and sustainability.

Dr Jarrott’s intergenerational evaluation work illustrates a feedback loop whereby theory, research and practice inform each other. Her work supports intergenerational community development in diverse contexts, specialising in shared site care programmes involving pre-schoolers and frail elders, including those with dementia. Relying on different sources of individual and programme-level data and varied methods of data collection, she has developed intergenerational staff training and material and practice and evaluation methods. Her evaluation results are the source of her extensive dissemination activities to practitioners and researchers around the world. Shannon believes the goals intergenerational programmes can achieve are ‘limited only by imagination’.

http://www.intergenerational.clahs.vt.edu/neighbors/index.html

‘The mother of most intergenerational programmes is need and dedication. These drivers bring urgency and energy to a project. However, resulting programmes often lack science-based practices to ensure achievement of programme objectives and sustainability. Evaluation can be used by practitioners, administrators, and researchers alike to determine programme need, effectiveness over the short and long term, and longevity’

Dr Shannon Jarrott
YMCA Derbyshire in partnership with Housing 21

YMCA Derbyshire worked with Housing 21 to enable and sustain intergenerational links for their respective beneficiaries - disadvantaged young people and older people - through training in catering and care. It aimed to foster a greater sense of community, generate sustainable partnerships between different generations at a very local level, shift perceptions and promote the active engagement of older people in the local community. The activities showed that direct action by locally based organisations working together with groups and individuals who are currently marginalised but who are willing and able to participate can bring about a better understanding and change of attitude. By working in partnership, YMCA Derbyshire aimed to demonstrate consistent and sustainable support for intergenerational working and proactively limiting inequalities.

All involved have learned to work in partnership with those receiving services, to value and respect them and to help them do more for themselves and each other. They have also learned to facilitate action by other people and to broker relationships between them by working intergenerationally. In a time of rising unemployment those engaged with gaining appropriate training and valuable qualifications have improved their opportunities to move from a disadvantaged start in life to worthwhile and long-term employment. In gaining this experience young people will move forward with an increased awareness of intergenerational needs having experienced first hand the day to day needs of an older age group and the consequential shift in values.

http://www.ymcaderbyshire.org.uk/
Peaks & Plains Housing Trust

Peaks & Plains Housing Trust worked with Macclesfield College and Hurdsfield Community Primary School to bridge the generation gap. The project began with several interactive workshops involving opposite generations. One workshop explored the past through images and resulted in a series of collages which incorporated historical photos and experimental art methods. Another explored stereotypes, and these perceptions were challenged and broken down - reinforcing a new and more accurate perception. Following the workshops, the college students developed pieces for two highly successful art exhibitions, which encouraged all the generations to see the world through the eyes of others.

The project involved people of all ages and engaged them in a non-threatening creative way. The use of art, graphics and media broke down the barriers between the generations and encouraged open and honest dialogue, both in the workshops and during the exhibitions. This was a pioneering project, as intergenerational work had not taken place in these schools before. Many of those involved had never explored their perceptions of other age groups. Peaks & Plains has developed a case study based on this project which has proved very useful in supporting other agencies to develop their own intergenerational work.

www.peaksplains.org/what-community-means.asp
IntergenerationALL is a transnational programme with 18 pilot projects - eleven in the UK and seven in Portugal - designed to help projects plan, test and implement innovative ideas for intergenerational practice. The programme aims to create a user-based assessment of the value of a range of intergenerational schemes, such as mentoring, befriending, arts and community-led activities, while creating a clearer picture of which types of initiatives lead to sustainable, engaging, cross-generational relationships that will strengthen communities and foster social cohesion. The programme employs an innovative and involving design process which places beneficiaries at the heart of project activities.

The IntergenerationALL programme is the first to apply design techniques to a range of intergenerational models with a view to ensuring activities produce maximum impact. Tailored support has been delivered by service design agency thinkpublic, with one-to-one mentoring focusing on how project leaders can co-design, prototype and implement activities with their beneficiaries, thereby combating some of the common challenges experienced by those planning intergenerational work. With guidance delivered in the final phase by the Beth Johnson Foundation and thinkpublic on how to sustain and scale up good practice, the programme aims to break new ground in intergenerational practice and share its models with others.

http://gulbenkian.org.uk/
London Bubble Theatre Company

Grandchildren of the Blitz was an intergenerational history and performance project that started in May 2010. Over 30 local young people in South-East London interviewed 20 elders who were children themselves during the Blitz and the conversations became the basis of a full-scale production. Blackbirds was performed by a cast of 40, ranging from 7-78 years to an audience of over 750 people and further performances are scheduled in 2011-12.

‘I loved working with so many people of different backgrounds and age. The rehearsals and intensive work made us come together, like a big family.’
(Chris, 19, participant and performer)

This project started with conversations between young people and elders (supported by adult volunteers) and moved through skill-based workshops and rehearsals, ending with an intergenerational performance. Workshops in schools, an educational resource and an interactive website (www.grandchildrenoftheblitz.com), were also created.

The project connected the local community in setting out to explore the local history of the area, and promoted better intergenerational relationships using stories and theatre. It attracted diverse funding - from small, local partners to the Heritage Lottery Fund and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from audiences and participants.

http://www.londonbubble.org.uk/
Launched in 2001, the Beth Johnson Foundation’s Centre for Intergenerational Practice (CIP) supports the development of intergenerational practice as a catalyst for social change by providing national infrastructure support to:

- Promote intergenerational practice as an effective mechanism to improve understanding and relationships between generations and cultures
- Provide opportunities for cross-fertilisation of ideas across organisations
- Influence policy and its implementation
- Work with individuals, organisations and communities so that they are more effective
- Develop the evidence base and understanding of intergenerational practice at national, regional and local levels
- Develop practice, training and resources and promote evidence based practice.

Alan Hatton-Yeo has been chief executive of the Beth Johnson Foundation since 1998 and has been tireless in his efforts to develop and extend the Foundation’s programme of intergenerational work. As well as the Centre for Intergenerational Practice, this has included being UK founding member of the International Consortium for Intergenerational Programmes; strategic intergenerational lead for the Welsh Assembly government; lead on intergenerational work in Scotland and Northern Ireland; and the development of various European projects. Alan has led the development of intergenerational practice in the UK with over 2,000 organisations engaged with CIP’s work. His drive and vision have led the Foundation to become a nationally and internationally recognised beacon for its intergenerational work.

http://www.bjf.org.uk/
Steven Pettican, Peterborough Intergenerational Projects

Peterborough Intergenerational Projects is working to enhance knowledge, interest and participation between people over 55 and under 25 in events and projects throughout the city. By identifying and supporting 40 current and ongoing intergenerational projects, creating the PIP (Peterborough Intergenerational Projects) branding and logo and enhancing awareness and communication through a monthly newsletter, PIP is working to bring people together in purposeful, mutually beneficial activities. Annual conferences, hosting ‘train the trainer’ courses and working closely with the Beth Johnson Foundation all promote a greater understanding and respect between generations and contribute to building a more cohesive community.

The project was initiated in 2009 when Steven Pettican supported a group of vulnerable young people in sharing their homemade intergenerational video with the Director of Children’s Services. Since then, Steven’s leadership of the project has achieved two city-wide conferences with support from 80 cross-sector organisations such as health, voluntary, police and councillors. Through Steven’s hardwork, dedication and passion for the project, he secured two intergenerational coordinator roles to push the work to the next level. He is in contact with 150 professionals providing regular updates and opportunities, holds bi-monthly development meetings, alongside maintaining an in-depth intergenerational page on the Peterborough City Council website. Such faith in not only the residents of Peterborough, but their ability to achieve great things together is what sets Steven apart.

Baroness Sally Greengross OBE

Baroness Sally Greengross has been a Crossbench member of the House of Lords since 2000. She has been a real advocate in raising intergenerational issues in Parliament, campaigning for better of provision of support for all ages with caring responsibilities; supporting work on lifetime neighbourhoods; and ensuring ageism in the NHS is eradicated. Sally chairs four All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) on Dementia, Corporate Responsibility, Continence Care and Intergenerational Futures.

The APPG on Intergenerational Futures was set up in 2008 to promote understanding of the impact of policy on intergenerational relationships and the way in which policy affects people at different life stages. The Group meets quarterly and recent discussions have included intergenerational approaches to community cohesion and financial capability and attitudes towards saving. In 2009 the Group published findings from its inquiry into “achieving intergenerational fairness in employment policies and practice”.

Sally is Chief Executive of the International Longevity Centre UK (ILC-UK) where she ensures that the organisation's work takes an intergenerational approach wherever possible. Sally is also a Commissioner on the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC).

Fi Glover, Generations Apart

Fi Glover is an award winning broadcaster whose accolades include presenting BBC Radio 4's Broadcasting House and Saturday Live. Fi has been ranked amongst the top ten British voices in a poll conducted by Radio Times. She currently presents Radio 4's Generations Apart, a three year long series on the contrasting experiences of those born in 1946 and 1990. The series has already raised important issues with a large audience.

Fi made her name with Radio 4 listeners with Broadcasting House. She has worked across the spectrum of network output, with presenting credits from How to Survive in the 21st Century to BBC2's The Travel Show. It was this that sparked her first book: I am an Oil Tanker - travels with my radio. Described by The Guardian as 'velvet-voiced', Fi combines a deliciously quick wit with an ability to communicate on the same level as her audience - be they enjoying breakfast or a post-conference dinner.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0131y3j
imagine

a Britain for all ages

imagine a country where...

we invest in the future...

where children get a good start in life...

where older people and young people are valued and respect each other...

where extended families are supported to care for each other...

where communities are designed for everyone to live, work and play together...

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