



‘Linking Generations Northern Ireland’  
Work Report January 2010 – June 2010

## **Introduction**

The period from January to June 2010 has been a busy one with the last financial year’s small grants schemes coming to an end, numerous events and the introduction of two new members of staff. The LGNI initiative has gone from strength to strength and as a result the concept of intergenerational practice is becoming more widely recognised across the sectors in NI. This report will give a good indication of the work LGNI staff have been involved with in the last six months.

## **Intergenerational Small Grants Schemes**

(Running March 2009-March 2010)

### **Belfast Area**

Funding from Belfast Community Safety Partnership enabled a grants scheme for ten intergenerational projects with the maximum amount provided to each successful application being £750. The groups were awarded their grants in October 2009 to be financially accounted for by the end of March 2010. Eight of the projects were successfully completed with problems arising with two who were unable to continue due to staff change and events not concurrent with the funding criteria. Below is a brief description of each completed project

### **Star Neighbourhood Centre (Newlodge)** - ‘Senior Citizens Cross Community Intergenerational Cultural Project’

The project brought together the Star senior citizens with young people from the New Lodge, Carrickhill, Mountvernon and Shore road areas aiming to be intergenerational and cross community. Focusing on the theme of St Patrick’s the project had three main components spread

over a period of approx eight weeks. The first element was to design an intergenerational float for the St Patrick's Day parade in Belfast involving six cross community/generation sessions with an art facilitator. A history day was also arranged touring Downpatrick by bus with commentary and a visit to St Patrick's grave followed by a meal at the Slieve Donard. The finale of the project was then the participation in the St Patrick's Day Parade in Belfast with the group even being featured as part of the UTV news programmes coverage of the event. The LGNI Belfast Grants scheme part funded this project with other funders making up the shortfall.

### **Some Comments**

**Older** – *“The project was great fun, designing costumes and working on dance routines with the children was very rewarding. Seeing the children's faces on the day of the parade was well worth all the work.”*

**Leader Statement** – *“Watching the group working together you could see they were all enjoying it. The children loved being with the grownups that listened to them and took on board their ideas for designing the tee shirts.”*

**Newhill Youth and Community Association** – ‘Witchcraft Halloween Fair and Christmas Cracker Concert’

The Newhill Youth group came together with the older ladies group the Ladybirds to participate in this fun and innovative intergenerational project. The project involved activities themed around Halloween and Christmas with a Witchcraft Fair and Christmas Cracker Concert. For the Halloween activities the group designed and made their own craft pieces such as trick or treat bags to sell to the local community at the Witchcraft Fair. The group then had a Halloween party with everyone mucking in to make all props and costumes involving fun games and an IG quiz with the old and apprentice witches competing for prizes. The Christmas Cracker concert was also a real success with all ages being involved in costume and prop design, scripting and also in the final performance. The Concert was a magical night held in the local community hall welcoming the whole community.

## **Some Comments**

**Older** – *“I look forward to all our meetings, listening to the young people and planning our project is great fun, acting it out is even better! It gives me something to look forward to.”*

**Younger** – *“As a young person I thought this was a fantastic project and the community worked well together to put on a great show. Such great talent!”*

**Leader Statement** – *“I want to thank you for the funding we received from you, as our whole community was welcome to both these events. With your support we were able to create a spirit of harmony among the generations.”*

### **Newington Day Centre and Currie Primary School** – ‘Christmas Transage Ceramics Project’

The Newington Day Centre provides day care for people promoting independence, well being, dignity and self esteem. The leader in charge felt that a joint Christmas themed ceramics project held at the centre with pupils from local Currie Primary would benefit both age groups. The group worked on their project for five weeks with an arts facilitator involving design and practical sessions in the first four weeks. This involved both age groups working together on joint and individual pieces of ceramic art which were then taken away to be glazed at ‘All Fired up’. On the fifth week Lord Mayor of Belfast Naomi Long visited the centre to see the work the group had been doing and to offer her support. The group then visited ‘All Fired Up’ to see the finished products and enjoy lunch together.

## **Some Comments**

**Leader Statement** - *“Some children finished off their art work and made Christmas cards for the adults. This was encouraging as it showed both groups were getting to know each other’s names and chatted together*

*while others finished. We also observed one child giving one of the adult's sums to complete a budding teacher perhaps!"*

*"Although some of the adults have dementia causing communication difficulties for them this was certainly overcome by the children and did not present any problems."*

### **Morton Community Centre** – 'Morton Befrienders Group'

The Morton Community Centre operates in the Windsor ward of Belfast offering social activities and addressing the needs of the whole community. Their intergenerational project brought together young people from the community centre with older residents of nearby Sloan Court to participate in mixed activities. The usual meeting place for the project sessions was at Sloan Court where the older participants welcomed the young people the majority from the Chinese and Indian community into their home. The group met up every Tuesday night for nine weeks getting to know one another and having fun with a jam packed programme of activities. A session of icebreakers started the programme off followed by hatmaking, wax candle making, a visit from the classic film club, baking, scarf making, singing and a trip to the cinema to see Alice in Wonderland in 3D! The project was enjoyed by all involved and by offering an opportunity for the two otherwise separated groups to meet has promoted understanding and friendship. This project won runner up the NI Youth awards for the intergenerational category.

### **Some Comments**

**Facilitator** – *"Lovely atmosphere I really enjoyed every session, my son came along who is usually glued to his playstation and loved it. I hope this good work can continue."*

**Older** – *"I enjoyed it very much every night with the children and the leaders and especially enjoyed the old rhymes which we sang together Bringing old memories back."*

**Younger** – *“The old people are nice if you needed help they help you and are generous and don’t shout. Nothing about it was bad.”*

### **VSB Belfast** – ‘Intergenerational Action Magazine’

The aim of this Intergenerational project was to bring older people and younger people together through a series of workshops, to look at issues such as homelife, school life and social interests/activities and encourage the two age groups to discuss any differences and similarities they have. The younger people involved were pupils from the Belfast Metropolitan College, Victoria College and young people working with Include Youth. The older people involved were volunteers and service users from some of VSB’s projects and also some members from local senior citizens forums. The sessions were planned to encourage interaction between the two age groups, build relationships and challenge perceptions each group may have had about the other. The project involved the facilitation of three workshop sessions with older and younger people, with over 75 people taking part in the project. Alongside the workshop interaction, pupils from Belfast Metropolitan Year 1 HND in Broadcast Journalism class incorporated the project into their study plan and submitted a series of intergenerational articles for the Magazine. The magazine will be distributed to local schools and colleges and will be used as a tool to promote the benefits of intergenerational work and give background to some intergenerational projects that are happening and encourage older and young people to get involved.

### **Some Comments**

**Older** – *“All of it was a very worthwhile experience and has created a better understanding. My opinion is that we can see each other from a different perspective now.”*

**Younger** – *“All of it was great. Hearing people’s opinions from an older age group was great and I enjoyed talking at the end about music and dance. It has changed my perspective in some ways; they are wise and have a great sense of humour.”*

## **West 50+ Forum supported by VSB** – “Talking bout my Generation”

The West 50+ Forum is made up of representatives from older peoples groups throughout West Belfast and involved young people from schools all over Belfast, university students and VSB Young Citizens in Action. VSB facilitates Afternoon Delight a radio programme run by older people for older people covering relevant issues such as health, fire safety, access to benefits etc. The aim of the project was to engage older and younger people in discussions on topics relevant to both generations. An initial focus group was held with both age groups to gauge views of one another and also to decide on the topics to be discussed which would then become part of the Afternoon Delight programme. The topics decided upon were music, dancing, entertainment, jobs, learning, the workplace, family and community. These topics were discussed by younger and older participants and aired live on Feile Fm, Vicki spoke on air on the final session about IG in general. The discussions have also been copied onto CDs which can be distributed to schools, community groups, charities etc for future resource.

### **Some Comments**

**Leader** – “The younger people who took part did not have regular contact with older people apart from their grandparents – this project was a good way for them to talk to older people in an environment where discussion was encouraged even the disagreements!”

### **St Vincent De Paul** – ‘Feel Safe, Keep Safe, Be Safe’

This project involved members of the Holy Trinity Senior Citizens group and young people from the Turf Lodge area. The project didn't go originally to plan due to hold ups with the bad weather at the start of the year. The intergenerational group enjoyed sessions of arts and crafts, drama and also storytelling. The theme of the proposed project was to make participants feel more involved within their community and as a result feel safer. Through these activities the group enjoyed each other's company and had fun, the project was completed with a joint trip out for a meal and to see a performance by Fusion Theatre. Fusion Theatre are themselves an intergenerational drama group further showing the activities old and young can enjoy together.

## **Some Comments**

**Leader statement Older** – *“I feel the older people became more tolerant towards children and young people. In getting to know each other and becoming friends there was a sense of them feeling safer and understanding the differences for young people today.”*

**Leader statement Younger** – *“The children had great fun and enjoyed all of the activities. At the beginning some of them did not want to take part in the project but once it had started they became involved and made friends really well.”*

## **Corkey House and Harmony Primary** – ‘Building Relationships’

Corkey House residents and children from nearby Harmony Primary school embarked on this intergenerational project offering an opportunity for the otherwise disengaged groups to meet. The home had been subject to incidents of nuisance in the past from local school children such as golf balls being thrown at window and burning paper set on window sills. The aim of the project was to link with the school to educate the children about the homes purpose, introduce them to the older people and to hold art sessions over a six week period finally producing a piece of art for both Harmony Primary and Corkey House. The first session involved the children bringing along images they had drawn which they felt represented older people. It was decided that the art technique would be textiles with both younger and older participating in the production over the six sessions. The final artwork was unveiled at a celebration event in Corkey House and attended by Belfast Lord Mayor Pat Convery who spoke in support of the work of LGNI.

## **Some Comments**

(AWAITING COMMENT RETURNS)

## **Newtownards Area**

Funding from Ards Community Safety Partnership enabled a grants scheme for ten intergenerational projects with the maximum amount provided to each successful application being £600. The groups were awarded their grants in October 2009 to be financially accounted for by the end of March 2010. One of the projects was unable to go ahead due to staff shortage however the money was reallocated to facilitate a showcase event in April. Below is a brief description of each completed project –

### **East End Residents Association** – ‘2 Sides 1 Generation’

The East End residents brought together older and younger members of the local community. The group participated in arts and craft activities to get to know one another and exchange stories. They then taught each other new skills with the older members passing on their sewing machine skills (even the boys joined in!) and the young people passing on their knowledge of computer skills and social networking. The project was rounded off with a trip to the Tayto factory chosen by the young people and a social outing for a bite to eat chosen by the older members. A DVD was made of the whole process capturing the success of the generations working together.

### **Some comments**

**Older** – *“Really enjoyed the programme it was very beneficial to everyone involved and for us to develop a relationship with the young ones which doesn’t happen often. The trips were a brilliant way to end the programme, good for more communication in a relaxed environment. I look forward to the next one!”*

**Younger** – *“I loved the Tayto factory and the sewing and glass painting. The older people had a lot of patience with me. Sorry the programme has finished, older people actually aren’t that bad!”*

## **Ballygowan Senior Citizens and Alexander Dickson Primary – ‘Past and Present’**

Members of Ballygowan Senior Citizens Club and P7 pupils from Alexander Dickson Primary came together for the intergenerational project. Aiming to offer opportunities for older and younger to meet, make friends, have fun and learn from one another the project programme focused on mixed activities. The first icebreakers session brought the older people to the school with props and items from their past for the young people to find out about. The second session then gave the children their chance to present powerpoints to the older people about Ballygowan and all enjoyed the knowledge of a visiting local historian. The group thoroughly enjoyed the third session making hats from fleece blankets and all got to take one home. The last two sessions focused on the history of the World War with a trip for all to the Somme Centre and a final day at the school with a museum memory box, wartime songs and plenty of local stories from the older people.

### **Some Comments**

**Older** – *“I enjoyed everything especially when we meet the children out. We get talking to them and they know us. Well done everyone!”*

**Young People** – *“I enjoyed talking to the old people as you don’t usually talk to old people unless they are your grandparents. I would like to know all the old people’s names and see them more often.”*

## **St Anne’s Primary School Donaghadee – ‘A Christmas Carol’**

St Anne’s Primary built upon the success of their last intergenerational programme introducing older members from the local community into the classroom. As most of the pupils have moved to NI with their parents from the Philippines the principal used intergenerational practice as a method of reaching out to the community and also creating contact with older people for the pupils. The project involved the creation of Christmas Carols (a traditional Filipino decoration), a virtual tour of the Philippines for the older people and also a trip to the Pantomime

together. This cross community and cross cultural project has made strong links which continue outside of the funding period.

### **Some Comments**

**Older** – *“I really enjoyed the experience of working with the children, there are some real characters amongst them and it was great getting to know them. Is it over now? What are we doing next?”*

**Younger** – *“I liked it because I had lots of fun with the older people. They reminded me of grandma and grandpa. I learnt lots of new things and I hope they come back.”*

### **Greyabbey Primary and Monday Club – ‘A Sign of Community’**

This project aimed to create better links between young and old in Greyabbey involving P6 and P7 pupils from Greyabbey Primary and older members from Greyabbey Monday Club. The project aptly named ‘A Sign of Community’ involved pupils and their older visitors working in collaboration with a local artist to design and create a new school sign using mosaic art. The first session was used to get to know one another and to set the scene with both age groups comparing schooldays, winters and homelife past and present. The finished product was launched by the Mayor of Ards and stands a reminder of the friendships formed.

### **Some Comments**

**Older** – *“Wonderful project! Pleasure working with everyone. Beautiful sign and a lovely day for unveiling. Thanks to all who helped.”*

**Younger** – *“Being part of the project has changed the way I think of the Monday Club. When we see older people now, we respect them.”*

## **Killinchy Primary and Killinchy Seniors** – ‘Anniversary Wallhanging’

Killinchy Senior Citizens group were keen to create better links with the school and also the young people within their community. The project involved some single identity work with each groups talking about how they felt about working with older/young people. The group was then straight in to having fun with six sessions of mixed art and lots of mess, with a local artist. The aim was to produce a wallhanging capturing everyone’s artwork using different techniques. The wallhanging was unveiled in April by MP Jim Shannon with the children saying a few words about their experience and an older man reciting a poem he had written about the project.

### **Some Comments**

**Older** – *“An interesting experience! Making acquaintances with the young folk was a very enjoyable and enlightening experience. I hope they enjoyed themselves just as much.”*

**Younger** – *“I really enjoyed the project, doing the art and meeting the older people. They were really kind to us and it was so much fun, I hope we can do more.”*

## **Kirkistown Primary School** – ‘Cloughey Through the Year’s’

Keen to create links between the school and local older people Kirkistown Primary invited them to take part in this project focusing on Cloughey Past and Present. The older people and pupils took part in reminiscence sessions looking at artefacts and photographs from Cloughey past as well as hearing stories from days gone by. The sessions were used to create a theme for the production of a mosaic art piece with both young and old having an input into the production. The artwork was unveiled to the whole community by the Mayor of Ards Councillor William Montgomery and a wartime play was reinacted by the young people as a special treat.

## **Some Comments**

**Older** – *“I have had a delightful time with the children. I have been extremely impressed that they have taken on so much of our ramblings!”*

**Younger** – *“I loved every minute of the project. I had an opportunity to listen to the older peoples stories about how they lived back then.”*

## **Movilla High School – ‘Green Hands’**

Movilla High School formed an intergenerational group with pupils involved with the student support service and older family members or friends. The aim was to make school life a more enjoyable experience and also to create better family support. The project built upon work that the pupils had already completed raising money for the refurbishment of the schools greenhouse by growing and selling plants. Involving the creation of three herb gardens in the school which the group regularly maintains the project also involved work on raised beds at Towerview Day Centre and general gardening within the greenhouse.

## **Some Comments**

**Older** – *“The young people have been great to work with and very patient with us. We’ve have really enjoyed the time at the school especially in the greenhouse and planting up the raised beds.”*

**Younger** – *“Old people are good fun! They know a lot about plants! I never realised how fun it is to work in a garden!”*

## **Glenward Community Development Association** – ‘Our Past Your Future’

This project was completed by younger and older participants from the Glen estate in Newtownards. The theme of local history had been suggested as many of the older people couldn't believe how much the area had changed and in turn the young people had no memories of how it used to be. The first session acted as a get to know each other session and also brainstorming for the topics to be included in the following weeks. A facilitator covered topics such as murders in Newtownards, former factories/industry, the Old Cross and Scrabo Tower. As a treat for everyone two trips were organised to the Old Movilla Cemetery and Mountstewart Manor House which enabled the group to see the history first hand. Photos were taken during the project and made into collages during the final session.

### **Some Comments**

**Older** – *“Mountstewart was the highlight of the history project. The young people really got involved and were an inspiration to us golden oldies!”*

**Younger** – *“I enjoyed all of it, my favourite was Mountstewart! I found it interesting and also enjoyed getting to know the older people.”*

## **Rectory Park Residents Association** – ‘Family History’

The residents association recruited younger and older family members from the local community to take part in this genealogy project. The project explored the genealogical roots of those involved holding sessions in the local school's computer suite and benefiting from the knowledge of a local historian. Participants used websites such as the Ulster Historical Society and the Irish Family History Foundation, visited local graveyards and searched through the local church records to access information. Uncovering a trove of family history and improving community relations the project was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

## **Some comments**

**Older** – *“It was an enjoyable experience talking to Alex about all the relatives that he had never met. It also was also very poignant to reminisce about the people I knew as a little girl especially when we were able to view their parish records and visit their graves.”*

**Younger** – *“My granny was able to show me her family when they lived in Belfast in the 1911 census. The house had her grandparents and her mother’s grandparents all in the one house!”*

## **Additional Work Activities January – June 2010**

**Belfast and Ards area grants schemes** – Vicki continued to offer ongoing facilitation and support to involved groups. David and Vicki continue to arrange and chair the Belfast and Ards intergenerational steering meetings. The steering groups are made up of representatives from statutory and community/voluntary organisations in the relevant areas and help make decisions and offer support to Vicki on a bi-monthly basis. We plan to set up a regional steering group to help support and advise regional elements of the Northern Ireland initiative.

**Mediation Northern Ireland** – Vicki continues to attend steering group meetings and events as a member of the Ards Social Partnership Programme hosted by Mediation NI.

**Ards Over 50’s Forum** – Vicki continues to be a member of the Ards Over 50’s Forum who meet monthly to discuss older people’s issues in the Ards area. The forum is made up of statutory, community/voluntary organisations and older peoples group members. The forum regularly arranges events focusing on issues that affect older people e.g. health, safety etc.

**CIP train the trainer day at BJJ 11<sup>th</sup> January** – Vicki attended a taster session of the train the trainer course facilitated by the Centre for Intergenerational Practice at the Beth Johnson Foundation in Stoke. This session was attended by staff and used to assess the course content.

**Regional Small Grants Scheme** – The Linking Generations in NI regional grants scheme was opened for applications in February 2010 with a closing date of the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2010. The application process including criteria and assessment resources was developed by Vicki and David. The availability of the 20 small grants at £750 was promoted across NI on a regional level by Vicki.

**Reminiscence Network NI focus group 15<sup>th</sup> January** – Vicki attended an evaluation focus group at the RNNI premises. The session gathered participant's views and thoughts of training held in 2009.

**West 50+ Forum Presentation 21<sup>st</sup> January** – Vicki attended a project session as part of the Belfast Grants Scheme held at VSB to talk about intergenerational practice and to also help facilitate.

**Presentation at Ards Community Safety Partnership Event 28<sup>th</sup> January** – Vicki gave a presentation at this event in the Ards Town Hall promoting IGP and its benefits and speaking about the success of intergenerational initiatives in the Ards area.

**Emily Park 1<sup>st</sup> February** – Emily's first day of work with LGNI as the newly appointed Administrative Officer.

**Jim Nicholson MEP NI** – David, Vicki and Emily met with Jim Nicholson MEP and his assistant Stephen Nicholl at the UUP office East Belfast to discuss LGNI's work and also plans for the 29<sup>th</sup> April (EU Day of Solidarity and Cooperation between Generations).

**Meeting with OPA & NICCY 3<sup>rd</sup> February** – Vicki, David and Emily met with Older Peoples Advocate Dame Joan Harbinson and representatives from NICCY. This was first of a series of meetings to discuss plans for the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2010 EU Day of Solidarity and Cooperation between Generations.

**Intergenerational Training Seminar Coleraine 4<sup>th</sup> February** - David and Vicki delivered the second Intergenerational Training seminar in the Sandel Centre Coleraine planning to 12 in total in different areas of

Northern Ireland. The seminar was attended by ten representatives from community groups and community/voluntary organisations, the interactive training worked well and feedback was very positive. The idea of the training was to empower those in attendance with the skills and best practice knowledge needed to undertake an intergenerational project or initiative.

**Meeting with Reminiscence Network NI 5<sup>th</sup> February** – Vicki and David met with Alexey Janes of the RNNI to discuss the possibility of LGNI having an input into the teaching element of the Reminiscence MSC module as part of the Social Work Specialist Award. The delivery of an intergenerational training seminar for RNNI members was also arranged as part of the RNNI training calendar.

**Beth Johnson Foundation Staff Away Day 15<sup>th</sup> February** – Vicki and Emily attended the BJB staff away day in Stoke involving teambuilding and planning activities.

**CARDI and RNNI Memories Matter Conference 17<sup>th</sup> February** – Vicki attended this joint event hosted by the Centre for Ageing and Research Development Ireland and the Reminiscence Network NI held in the Mount Conference Centre Belfast. This event showcased reminiscence research and emphasised the importance of memories in many mediums.

**NICVA meeting 24<sup>th</sup> February** – David and Vicki met with John McCormick to discuss membership and also possible ways of working together.

**Meeting with NI Museums George Sproule 26<sup>th</sup> February** – David and Vicki met George at the Ulster Museum to discuss plans for the 29<sup>th</sup> April and also to view the premises as a possible venue for the event with OPA and NICCY in Belfast.

**Intergenerational Training Seminar 3<sup>rd</sup> March** – David and Vicki facilitated the third training seminar of a planned 12 in the YMCA Centre Belfast which was directed specifically towards the youth sector. This seminar had been initiated through contact with Youth Action and the

relevance of IGP to their members. Attended on the day by seven representatives from youth led organisations feedback was good and enthusiasm for future work high.

**Mediation NI Ethnic Minority Seminar 4<sup>th</sup> March** – Vicki attended the Mediation NI ethnic minority seminar as a member of the Mediation NI Ards Social Partnership committee. The seminar was the first in a series of four focusing on areas where mediation may be needed such as ethnic minorities, youth, community relations and older people. Attendees of the seminar represented statutory, voluntary, community and individual.

**VSB Presentation 10<sup>th</sup> March** - Vicki attended a project session as part of the Belfast Grants Scheme held at Belfast Metropolitan College to talk about intergenerational practice and also to help facilitate.

**Age Action Dublin 11<sup>th</sup> March** – Alan Hatton Yeo (BJF Director) and Vicki met with Robin Webster (Director AAI) and other representatives to discuss current work in NI and also possibilities for IGP in Ireland. This meeting also made links for the future with the hope of some cross border initiatives.

**Ards Over 50s Forum AGM** – Vicki attended the Ards Over 50's Forum AGM and was re-elected onto the committee for a second year. At the event the Chair of the Forum Mr Des Macauley congratulated the work of LGNI in the Ards area and expressed the forums supports for more initiatives in the future.

**Greyabbey Project Launch 22<sup>nd</sup> March** – A launch was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March to unveil the new mosaic school sign completed as part of the successful intergenerational project between Greyabbey Seniors Monday Club and Greyabbey Primary. The launch was attended by local MLA's, community representative's participants and the Mayor of Ards Councillor Willam Montgomery who unveiled the sign. The Ards Chronicle also attended covering the event in the local press. The Monday Club hosted all for refreshments in the hall where they meet weekly just across the road from the school.

**West 50+ Forum Feile FM 22<sup>nd</sup> March** – The West 50+ Forum participants (young and old) were allocated four sessions of airtime on the Feile Fm's Afternoon Delight Programme as part of their project. This final session acted as a sum up of the project and also its impact on those involved. Vicki attended and spoke on air about LGNI and also the benefits IGP has to offer a wide range of groups and public policy agendas.

**Castlereagh Lifestyle Forum Presentation/Workshop 25<sup>th</sup> March** – Vicki attended this older people's conference attended by approx 75 older people from the Castlereagh Borough Council area to promote intergenerational practice. Her presentation offered advice as to how older people's groups can get involved in IGP and also the support that LGNI can offer to enable them to do this. The workshop activity involved in her presentation asked each smaller group to plan an IG project with ideas then fed back to the group, this promoted enthusiasm and ideas for future IG projects.

**Coleraine Rural and Urban Network Community Conference 26<sup>th</sup> March** – Vicki was approached by CRUN to deliver two workshops at this community conference offering advice and support to attendees on how to get involved in IGP and also the support that LGNI can offer.

**Diane Dodds NI MEP Meeting 30<sup>th</sup> March** – David and Vicki met with Diane Dodds MEP, Elma Greer and Mairead Smith at Belfast City Council to discuss LGNI's work and also plan for the 29<sup>th</sup> April (EU Day of Solidarity and Cooperation between Generations).

**Regional Grants Closing Date 2<sup>nd</sup> April** – The 2<sup>nd</sup> of April was the closing date for all applications to the LGNI's regional intergenerational small grants scheme. Twenty six applications were received from groups across NI with twenty grants to be allocated.

**Lyndsay Donly 8<sup>th</sup> April** – Lyndsay Donly took up the post of Part Time Regional Development Worker with LGNI.

**Assessment of Regional Grants Applicants 14<sup>th</sup> April** – David, Vicki and Lyndsay assessed regional grants making the decision that twenty successful applicants would receive funding for their intergenerational projects to be completed by the end of February 2011.

**Financial returns Ards and Belfast Community Safety Partnerships 15<sup>th</sup> April** – Vicki met with Bob Wilson ACSP and Mairead Smith BCSP to financially account for all expenditure relating to the funds allocated for work in the Ards and Belfast areas.

**Killinchy Project Launch 20<sup>th</sup> April** – A celebration event to unveil the wallhanging completed as part of the intergenerational project between Killinchy Senior Citizens and Killinchy Primary was held in the school on the 20<sup>th</sup> April. The event was attended by all participants (approx 40) and Jim Shannon MP who unveiled the wallhanging. The young people spoke of their positive experience and one of the older participants recited a poem that he had written about the project.

**Information Handouts for MLA's 23<sup>th</sup> April** – LGNI staff produced written information for MLA's focusing on intergenerational practice and the 29<sup>th</sup> April EU Day of Solidarity and Cooperation between Generations. This information was delivered to Stormont Parliament Buildings on 23<sup>rd</sup> April to be distributed.

**Sunday Sequence Radio Show 25<sup>th</sup> April** - David took part in the BBC's Sunday Sequence radio show presented by William Crawley. William questioned David about the needs and benefits of intergenerational practice and David flagged up the work of LGNI and also the 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**RNNI Msc Lecture 26<sup>th</sup> April** – David, Vicki and Lyndsay delivered a lecture as part of the Social Work Specialist Award Reminiscence module. The session involved a lecture with information on intergenerational practice and also the delivery of three interactive workshops.

## **EU Day of Solidarity and Cooperation between Generations 29<sup>th</sup>**

**April** - The European Parliament has designated 29th April each year as a Day of Intergenerational Solidarity between Generations. This year Linking Generations in Northern Ireland was involved in various activities to celebrate the day, hosting a celebration event on 29<sup>th</sup> April showcasing Intergenerational Project work in the Ards area, providing written information to MLA's, gathering statements of support from MEP's and providing access to projects for the OPA/NICCY showcase event in Belfast. (see below)

**29<sup>th</sup> April Newtownards** - On the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2010 Linking generations in NI held an event in the Ards Town Hall to celebrate EU Day of Solidarity and Cooperation between Generations. The event aptly showcased nine successful intergenerational projects from the Ards Borough involving schools, community groups and older peoples groups. The projects were completed as part of the Ards area grants scheme managed by Linking Generations in NI and funded by Ards Community safety Partnership. The celebration event which was opened by the Mayor of Ards Councillor William Montgomery highlighted the benefits achieved by bringing generations together and building communities for all ages. Each group presented a snapshot of their project to a very captive audience of over one hundred people young, old and in between! The success of the groups was recognised on the day with a presentation of certificates to each by the Mayor. A booklet telling the story of all the Ards projects was also launched acting as a useful resource for the future

**29<sup>th</sup> April Belfast** - On the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2010 the Older People's Advocate and the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People held an event to celebrate the EU Day of Solidarity and Cooperation between Generations. This event held in the University of Ulster Belfast campus showcased intergenerational initiatives and also launched a photographic display of intergenerational projects. The majority of these initiatives had been financially supported through the Linking Generations in NI Belfast grants scheme funded by the Belfast Community safety Partnership. Funding from The Atlantic Philanthropies and the Community Safety Unit also enabled LGNI to also offer beneficial training and support to these groups and others regionally. The event generated a high profile and good publicity further

emphasising the success of LGNI's continuing work across Northern Ireland.

**Intergenerational Training Seminar 4<sup>th</sup> May** – Vicki and Lyndsay facilitated the fourth of a planned 12 intergenerational seminars in NICVA Belfast. The seminar was attended by 12 representatives of the community/voluntary and statutory sector and feedback was positive.

**Castlereagh Community Safety Partnership 5<sup>th</sup> May** – Vicki, David and Lyndsay met with Stephen Adley CCSP and a representative from the District policing Partnership to discuss possibilities for intergenerational practice in the Castlereagh area. The link with CCSP had been made previously at the Castlereagh Lifestyle Forum conference

**Kirkistown Launch 7<sup>th</sup> May** – A celebration event to unveil the mosaic art piece completed as part of the intergenerational project between Kirkistown Primary and older people from the Cloughey community was held in the school on the 7<sup>th</sup> May. The event was attended by all participants and the Mayor of Ards Councillor William Montgomery who unveiled the artwork mounted at the front of the school. The young people acted out a play for the audience and everyone enjoyed refreshments after.

**Meeting with Una Lynch Queens 7<sup>th</sup> May** – David and Vicki meet with Una Lynch of Queens University Belfast to discuss plans for Age awareness week and to catch up in general. Una passed on information re the 'Living Scenes' programme in the Republic of Ireland.

**LGNI Staff away day 11<sup>th</sup> May** – A staff away day was arranged at the Crawfordsburn Inn aiming to promote teambuilding and also to plan for the future of LGNI. The day was attended by Vicki, David, Emily, Lyndsay and Patrick and Alan from BJJ.

**RNNI Intergenerational Training Seminar 12<sup>th</sup> May** - Vicki and Lyndsay facilitated the fifth of a planned 12 intergenerational seminars in the RNNI offices Belfast. This seminar had been incorporated into the RNNI training calendar and was based around reminiscence and IGP.

The seminar was attended by approx 20 people the majority recruited through the RNNI members list and feedback was positive.

**Meeting with NTRUST 13<sup>th</sup> May** – David, Vicki and Lyndsay met with a representative for both younger and older vulnerable people from the Northern area Health and Social Care Trust. Their remit includes younger/older people at risk and in care settings. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibilities of an intergenerational programme between the two age groups with LGNI as a partner. This idea is ongoing and will hopefully progress in the autumn.

**Launch of Age NI Lisburn 19<sup>th</sup> May** – Vicki, David and Lyndsay attended one of the launches of the new merged charity Age NI in Lisburn. This launch was one of many across NI offering information about the charity and also gathering information from attendees about the needs of older people in NI.

**Post Election Training Stratagem 20<sup>th</sup> May** – Vicki and Lyndsay attended Post election training at Stratagem Belfast as part of the Atlantic Grantee training programme. The training focused on the outcomes of the recent NI and wider UK elections offering a better understanding of the NI assembly and also UK political processes.

**Age Exchange Training 28<sup>th</sup> May** – Vicki and Lyndsay attended this training facilitated by Age Exchange UK focusing on Cross Generational Reminiscence and Artwork held in the offices of Belfast Exposed. Hearing about the training through Lyndsay's contacts at the Arts Collective both found it very useful offering information on how to involve older and younger people in intergenerational Arts/performance arts and reminiscence projects.

**Regional Groups meetings** – Vicki and Lyndsay organised introductory meetings with all regional groups across NI (20). These meetings involved preparing the groups for beginning their IG projects and also giving each a handout on good practice and advising of LGNIs available support.

**BELB meeting 8<sup>th</sup> June** – David met with Bernie Mooney from BELB to discuss the possibilities of IGP and the LGNI initiative becoming involved with the extended schools programme. Bernie advised David of a cluster area where there would be need and also enthusiasm for the idea. Vicki has been following up this contact.

**Mary Surlis Living Scenes 8<sup>th</sup> June** – David, Vicki and Lyndsay met with Mary Surlis of NUI Galway in Enniskillen to discuss her successful 'Living Scenes' intergenerational programme. David and Vicki had been made aware of Mary's work by Una Lynch QUB at a meeting in May. The 'Living Scenes' programme involves working with students in their transition year and interested older people using the medium of arts, theatre and music. The programme works with a wide range of schools aiming to use the transition year as a method of engagement with older people usually finishing with an intergenerational performance by the two age groups.

**WEA Conference 9<sup>th</sup> June** – Vicki and Lyndsay attended the WEA Learning Age Conference in the Stormont Hotel Dundonald on 9<sup>th</sup> June. The conference focused on the importance of learning throughout life and the benefits of intergenerational learning were also touched upon. Vicki also gave a presentation as part of one of the workshops informing of LGNI's work and the importance of IGP. WEA have been in contact since the conference and are keen to work with the LGNI initiative in the future.

**Ards Small Grants Scheme Closing Date 11<sup>th</sup> June** – The closing date for the Ards IG small grants scheme was the 11<sup>th</sup> June with fifteen applications being received for assessment.

**Alan and Patricks visit 14<sup>th</sup> June** – Alan and Patrick came to the LGNI offices from BJB to discuss the current work and needs of staff and also to talk about the future for LGNI. This visit was also used to assist Vicki and Lyndsay to assess the LGNI Ards area grant applications of which there were fifteen. The funding available could enable ten grants at £600 although because it was so difficult to decide between the applications it was decided to fund thirteen at a lower rate of £500 with BJB making up the shortfall.

**Mediation NI Youth Seminar 16<sup>th</sup> June** – Vicki attended the Mediation NI Youth Seminar as a member of the Mediation NI Ards Social Partnership programme. The seminar focused on the needs of youth and also the perceptions surrounding young people and the wider community. The seminar was attended by young people, representatives of the voluntary, community and statutory sectors and the NI Commissioner for Children and Young People Patricia Lewsley.

**Corkey Launch event 17<sup>th</sup> June** – A celebration event was held in Corkey House residential home North Belfast to unveil the wallhanging produced as part of their intergenerational project with nearby Harmony

Primary School funded through the Belfast Community Safety Partnership small grants scheme. Belfast Lord Mayor Pat Convery attended and gave his support for LGNI's work with the children speaking of their experiences. Everyone enjoyed refreshments after and a picture of the group was published in the Shankill Mirror.

**Glastry College Citizenship Fair 18<sup>th</sup> June** – Vicki attended this citizenship fair at Glastry College on Portavogie providing an LGNI information stand. The day involved talking pupils about LGNI and her role and also collecting information about their perceptions of older people in the form of a questionnaire. On the day Vicki spoke to some pupils who had been involved in intergenerational projects in primary school and noticed the difference in their current interaction with older people.

**NI Youth Awards 18<sup>th</sup> June** – The NI Youth Council asked LGNI for their support when judging the intergenerational youth award. Vicki, David and Lyndsay assessed these awards and advised the NIYC of their decision. The awards were held on the 18<sup>th</sup> June in the Ramada Hotel Belfast and Vicki was asked to present the awards to the successful groups. One of the runners up for the intergenerational award was Morton Community Centre funded through the Belfast grants scheme and the runner up school based project was claimed by Kirkistown Primary for their IG project as part of the Ards area grants scheme.

**CIP Train the Trainer Manchester 21<sup>st</sup> June** – Vicki and Lyndsay attended the BJC official train the trainer course in Manchester. At this training the new resource guide for intergenerational practitioners was distributed.

**The Big Debate 22<sup>nd</sup> June** – Lyndsay attended the Big Lottery debate on the main issues facing younger and older people most at risk in Northern Ireland. The event was attended by many in the sector and dealt with many issues such as an aged defined society, respect, discrimination and treatment with regard to age. It was also the launch of the large lottery grants for the youth and age sector.

**Big Telly Theatre Celebration Event 22<sup>nd</sup> June** – The Big Telly Theatre Company had been in touch with Vicki when planning their pilot intergenerational programme with a schools cluster from the North Antrim Coast. The programme involved older people and pupils from

various schools in the area coming together through the medium of performing arts. Vicki had offered telephone advice regarding recruitment and participation and was therefore asked to attend this celebration event to offer words of congratulation and to advise on the support LGNI can offer. NI Commissioner for Children and Young People Patricia Lewsley was also present at this event as was the Mayor of Portstewart Councillor Norman Hillis.

**Extended Schools Cluster North Belfast 24<sup>th</sup> June** – Following on from David’s meeting with BELB’s Bernie Mooney regarding the extended schools programme Vicki met with Orla Leonard (Edmund Rice extended schools officer). The meeting involved discussing the possibilities of intergenerational practice becoming part of this programme in the next term and Vicki and Orla plan to pursue this September. Vicki has also made contact with Janice Clarke (Girls Model extended schools officer) and they plan to meet in September to discuss possibilities.

**Atlantic Grantee Convening 29<sup>th</sup> June** – Vicki and Lyndsay attended this second grantee convening with other grantees of the Atlantic Philanthropies programme. The convening involved discussing the future funding climate and also strategies the community sector may need to impose to overcome shortfalls.

**Northern Visions recorded Panel Discussion ‘Shared Spaces’ 30<sup>th</sup> June** – Vicki and Lyndsay attended this panel discussion in the Northern Vision premises in Belfast. The event involved discussion around the topic of ‘Shared Spaces’ in South Belfast including five projects working to achieve this. The Shared Space discussion focused on that of different cultural, ethnic and religious background however Vicki commented to the panel that this can also arise generationally. She spoke of how older people may find it even more difficult to integrate with their community and even more so with people from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds due to a lack of social contact. Vicki also pointed out that LGNI had been involved with two very successful and ongoing cross cultural intergenerational projects

### **Future activities/events**

**Stratagem Art of Lobbying (Masterclass training) 6<sup>th</sup> July** – Vicki and Lyndsay will be attending this training facilitated by Stratagem for Atlantic Philanthropies grantees.

**ICIP Advisory Group Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> July** – Vicki will be attending this meeting to be held in the Gulbenkian Foundation London.

**Evaluator Interviews 21<sup>st</sup> July** – The evaluator interviews to appoint an evaluator for the LGNI overall initiative will be held in the LGNI offices on the 21<sup>st</sup> July.

**IWEB training for BJF/LGNI website 26<sup>th</sup> July** – Emily will be attending this training as an LGNI representative. The purpose of the training is to learn how to operate the new BJF/LGNI website.

**Alan and Patrick's visit 21<sup>st</sup> July** - Alan and Patrick will be visiting LGNI to discuss recent evaluation applicants and also to look at possibilities for future funding.

**SELB intergenerational training session 16<sup>th</sup> September** – LGNI have been approached by SELB to facilitate a training session for leaders who are to be involved in their Peace three funded IG project. This session will be both interactive and information based.

**Microsoft Access 2007 Course September** – Emily will be attending this course in September.

**Intergenerational Training Seminar 28<sup>th</sup> September** – LGNI will be holding their sixth of a total twelve intergenerational training seminars on the 28<sup>th</sup> September in the Millennium Arts Centre Portadown. This seminar will run as part of the Age Awareness Week calendar and will be a listed event in the promotional material.

**'Relations between the Generations' Age Awareness Week Event 30<sup>th</sup> September** – LGNI were successful in their application for funding through the Changing Ageing Partnership to run an event during Age Awareness Week. The event 'Relations between the Generations' will be held in the Long Gallery Parliament Buildings (through contact with Jim Shannon MP) and will involve a series of intergenerational roundtable discussions exploring areas where there may be intergenerational conflict. Plans are currently underway for this event which will be advertised in the AAW promotional material.

**Intergenerational training seminar 13<sup>th</sup> October** – LGNI will be holding their seventh intergenerational training seminar of a total twelve in the Disability Action offices Belfast. This seminar will aim to recruit attendees from the disability sector but will have a general focus.

**Joint conference between Manchester City Council and The Beth Johnson Foundation, 1<sup>st</sup> November** – LGNI staff will be attending the annual BJB conference which will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> November on the theme of the Age Friendly City.