

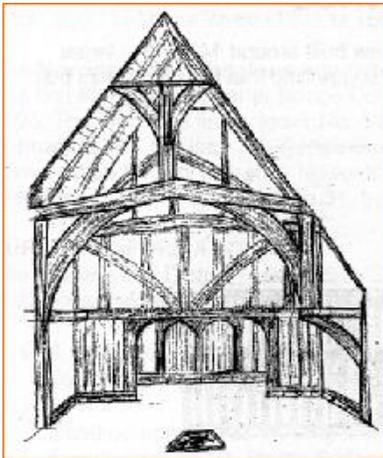


HIGH WEALDEN COMMUNITY NETWORK – Intergenerational Work

16 people attended the seventh High Wealden Community Network at Bridge Cottage in Uckfield on 7th November 2018.

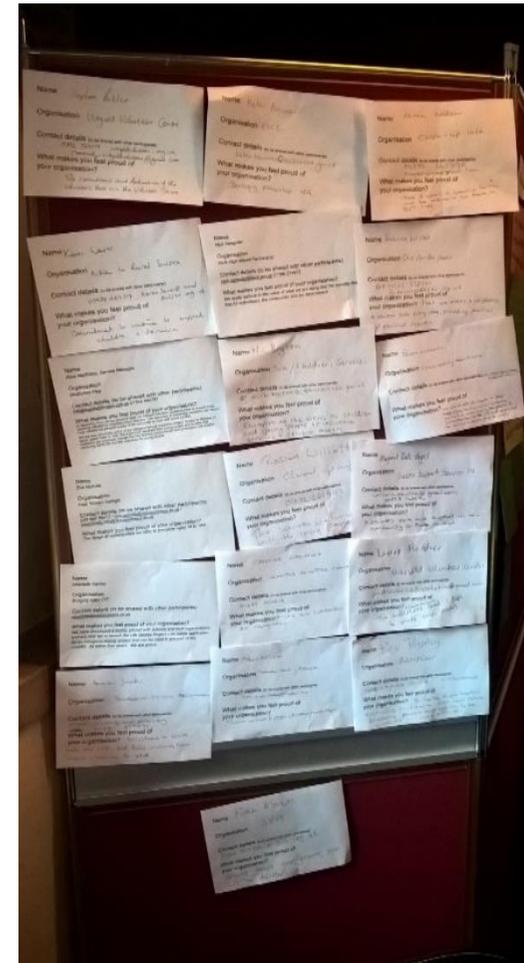
This ancient building has recently been refurbished and is the venue for many community events. Many generations have passed through this 14th Century building so it seemed apt that the network focussed on intergenerational work.

Participants gave their contact details and shared what made them feel proud of what their organisation had achieved.

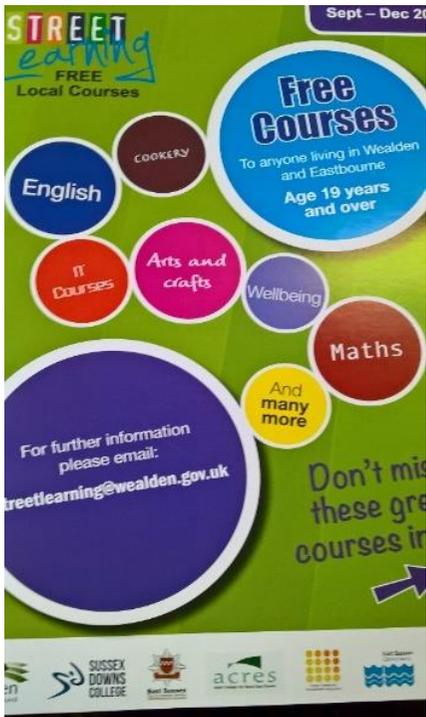
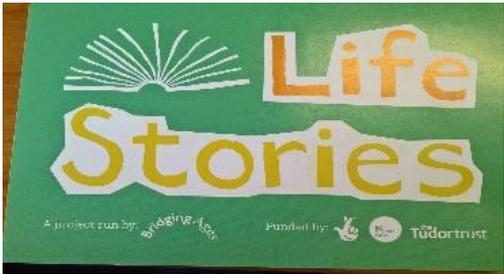


What makes you feel proud of your organisation?

Organisation	What makes us proud?
Clued-Up Info	That it offers a generic service and the difference we make in young people's lives. The success we have with the young people.
Care for the Carers	That we make a difference to carers' lives every day, providing practical and emotional support
Chanctonbury Healthcare	We like to offer our support to other organisations and the community. We have a large sitting room suitable for events/meetings we offer (free of charge) and we now hold a support group for carers
Sussex Support Service Ltd.	It provides care and support in our community for those in need.
Uckfield Volunteer Centre	The difference and commitment that I hope to make with others. The commitment and dedication of the volunteers that run the Volunteer Centre. It's run completely by volunteers.
Artytime	Bringing people together enhancing confidence and self-esteem. Increasing people's opportunities to be involved in arts and crafts.
Southdown Housing Association	Support we provide for people with mental health issues. Commitment to clients, both MH and LD, and fully involving them. Support and training for staff.
3VA	Support local voluntary groups to get started, find resources and deliver projects.
Action in rural Sussex	Commitment to continue to support children and families.
Kent High Weald Partnership	We really believe in the value of what we are doing and the benefits this has for individuals, the community and the environment.



Mediation Plus	At Mediation Plus, we are proud of skills our trained volunteer mediators have to support local residents affected by neighbourhood disputes. The outcomes of successful mediation can have a huge affected on people's quality of life and ability to cope with future conflict. We are also extremely proud of our intergenerational mediation project, funded by Children in Need, called Time to Talk. We know from feedback from young people and families that mediation can positively change the way families communicate and understand one another, improving family life and the outcomes for young people
East Sussex College	The range of opportunities we offer to everyone aged 19 to 100!
3VA/Children's Services	Championing the views of children and young people to influence services and decision makers.



Young people making their mark – Nic Bryson



Nic Bryson supports young people in East Sussex through having their voices heard in the design of local services and priorities. She has offered her support to voluntary organisations in helping to engage young people in local community projects. She works closely with schools and other organisations and is willing to facilitate introductions between community groups and young people. Part of her work is to support the Youth Cabinet. They have looked at issues such as young people and transport, mental health. Their reports are available to help inform community action.

BALLOT PAPER

place a cross next to the ONE issue you wish to vote for

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mental Health – Devolved Mental health services should be improved with young people's help; and should be available in schools.
<input type="checkbox"/>	End Period Poverty – Devolved Sanitary products are an essential item. The Government and the NHS should make them free and accessible for all who need it.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Votes at 16 – UK Give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in all elections/referendums.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Put an end to Knife crime – Devolved Too many young people's lives are lost to knife crime; the Government need to do more to help end the knife crime epidemic.
<input type="checkbox"/>	A curriculum to prepare us for life – Devolved Schools should cover topics like finance, sex and relationship education and politics.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Support Youth Services – Devolved Youth services help young people but in recent years they have been cut. Youth services need better financial support and security.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Equal Pay for Equal work – Devolved Give young people the same amount of pay, if they are doing the same work as adults in the same job.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Let's tackle Homelessness – Devolved Every person should have a place to live and the opportunity to live comfortably. Let's make it happen and put a stop to homelessness.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transport – Devolved Make public transport cheaper, better and accessible for all.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Welcome Refugees – UK Everyone deserves the right to live without fear of death and persecution so we believe that refugees should be welcomed into communities in the UK.

Nic shared the results of a nationwide poll of what issues were of most concern to young people. Over a million people took part, and proud to say it was very well supported by young people in Sussex. The top 5 issues get debated by young people in Parliament. The local priorities chimed with what the network also wanted to focus on, for example mental health, poverty and transport. Knife crime was the highest concern amongst young people. The network discussed the findings and shared ideas about how to involve young people in decision making about their communities. Often formal consultations rely one member of the household completing surveys etc – we need to think of creative ways to involve young people. Nic shared the example of Uckfield Town Council co-opting a member of the Youth Parliament. The young person then stood as was elected as a full councillor when they turned 18.





Young people's volunteering project - Uckfield Volunteer Centre

Stephen Butler, Laura Fletcher and Caroline Searchfield, described how they were working to celebrate youth volunteering and to help young people to become volunteers.

Groups were asked to nominate young people who deserved recognition for their contributions their communities as volunteers. The project has three strands. Stephen will be working with secondary schools to celebrate and promote volunteering, Laura is specifically targeting young people who are not in education or training and will be encouraging whole families to volunteer together. Caroline is working with primary schools and gave examples of the intergenerational work they were already undertaking at a local care home.

Myths

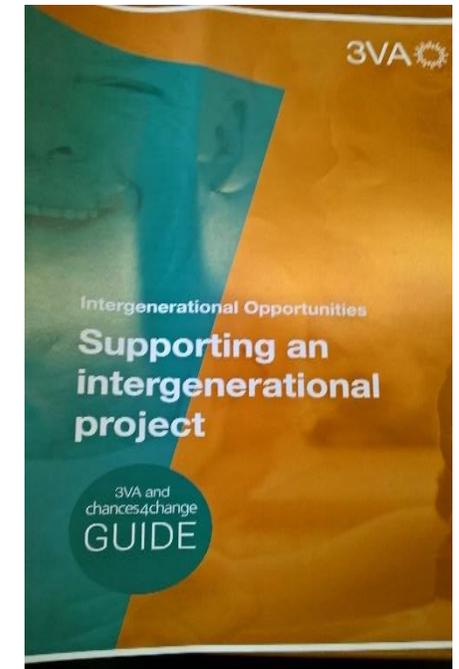
Groups often felt daunted about involving young people in their work. There were concerns about safeguarding, cost of DBS check, getting parental consent, insurance etc. 3VA and Chances 4 change produced a guide to supporting an intergenerational project.

https://www.3va.org.uk/sites/default/files/Supporting%20Intergenerational%20Opportunities_3VA_Chances4Change.pdf

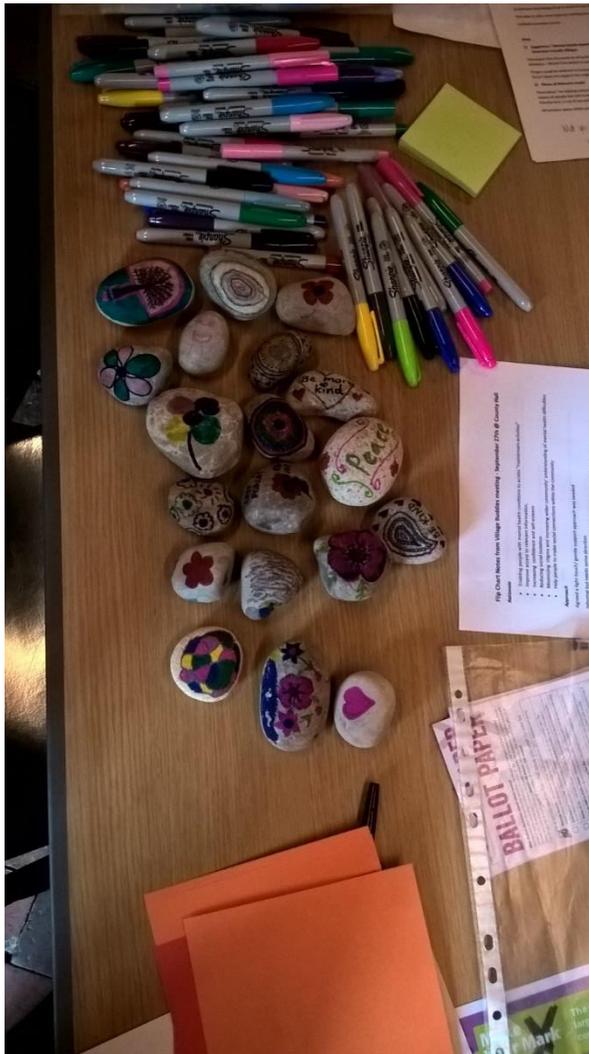
It may be helpful to put a lot of useful information and case examples together as a guide to supporting young people who want to volunteer.

Laura shared information from the "I Will" organisation that provides lots of useful information.

<https://www.iwill.org.uk/about-us/principles/>



Artytime – art projects and intergenerational work.



Artytime is a not for profit community group that hopes to address issues in the local area. It aims to bring arts and crafts activities to all ages and abilities, encourage people back to work, encourage young people to become role models and gain work experience.

Artytime has run projects in 4 care homes bringing arts and crafts projects to 74 people, using 6 volunteers. A grant from the Building Stronger Communities Fund helped fund this work. Parents were invited to bring their under-fives into the care Homes for a “Young at Heart” session. Each care home enjoyed 6 sessions and three out of the 4 have made arrangements for this to continue. The feedback was so positive, and the pictures of the event say it all.

Funding for this work to continue is an issue, as is recruiting and retaining volunteers, particularly coping with the rules around volunteering and universal credit.

Artytime also works with after school clubs, holiday play schemes and runs one-off sessions to attract people to groups.

They also have a “scraps store” in Crowborough. This new project has recruited volunteers to collect useful materials for art and craft activities. If any group is looking for materials do get in touch.

You can see the full range of Artytime’s work by visiting their web page:
<https://www.artytime.co.uk/>

Fire Fighters

Lunch took place in the community fire station in Uckfield. Firefighters showed us what a great community space it is although the community room does not offer disabled access at present. Plans are being made for other emergency services to share the building and when that is done the community room will move to the ground floor. Watch this space.

Please remember to use the community firefighters. They are trained to work with people who may be isolated in their communities and support them to access services.

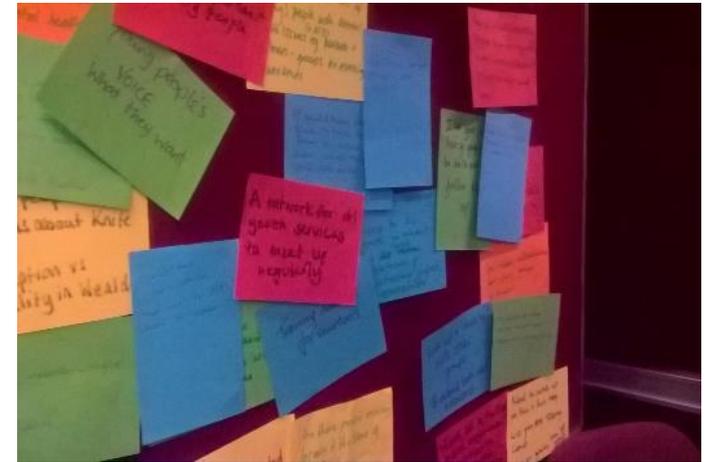
Do you know anyone who may wish to become a firefighter? The fitness requirements can be daunting but the fire service run sessions to help people reach the necessary standards.

We are inspired - ideas and feedback

What have I learnt today	What is missing	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people's role and what's important to them - knife crime and mental health – top 2 • The kinds of organisations that might be open to build relationships with for the benefit of young people – Laura Fletcher • Young people's concerns about knife crime. Perception vs. reality in Wealden • A better understanding of 3VA – Laura • Mental health is one of the top priorities for adults <u>and</u> young people • That there are lots of great organisations that we can work with • That asking the youth about their needs chimes with the whole of the community • Just get started and try things out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots – what is happening locally and nationally with young people and BG priority by young people and people here on mental health • What is going on in Uckfield • What is important to young people • Young people's voice – what they want • Great for networking. Important to put faces to names • Are there people missing because of the time of day? People at work, scout/guide leaders. Networking events in evening? • A network for voluntary youth services to meet up regularly • Training available for volunteers • More support for carers of (young) people with mental health issues (and ASD), e.g. parents and partners – groups in evenings and weekends • Interaction between young and old • It would have been good to have someone from a school to hear what they think and are doing • Access to the youth in schools to raise awareness of volunteering/project opportunities • Regular contact/networking between those working on youth/intergenerational projects in High Weald area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep promoting youth service = young people talking and interacting • I've got a list of groups to talk to – follow them up! • Looking at young people's role as volunteers within my charity • To build on what we've learnt and make new partnerships • Increase collaboration between groups and schools

What do you think went well at the meeting?

- Excellent connections with new potential partners/users of Life Stories Project
- Useful to meet people, hear what they are doing, share ideas
- Interaction, e.g. painting stones and voting
- Meeting everyone from various agencies. Good links made
- Really good networking. Picked up several tips on different subjects
- Friendliness with similar purposes. Thanks x
- Good networking, great presentations, and information sharing
- Meeting everyone and having the opportunity to learn about the different groups and what they do
- The introductions were a really good idea
- All really well run making it very useful to all who attended
- Good to meet up with different organisations
- Great to meet people and network/share ideas
- Good presentations (not too long)
- Good informative group
- Useful contacts
- Good networking opportunities and enjoyed the presentations, v informative



What didn't go so well at the meeting?

- Seating was not good
- Nothing I can think of
- Little bit difficult moving round the room as cramped
- May be useful to have a background of organisations before?
- Longer term parking!
- Just venue – cold
- N/A