**NEWS FROM UNITED FOR ALL AGES – MAY 2020**

**BEYOND LOCKDOWN AND SOCIAL DISTANCING – MIXING MATTERS!**

The world is a very different place to when our last newsletter was published at the end of February. Our thoughts are with all those who have lost family and friends and have experienced ill-health and hardship and all those working to keep everyone well and safe during the pandemic.

As has been widely reported, there has been an upsurge in neighbourhood volunteering to provide practical support and befriending. For many of us, I am sure that getting out to collect and deliver prescriptions and shopping while ‘meeting’ new people is the highlight of our day in lockdown.

There’s also no getting away from the fact that social distancing has not been good for intergenerational mixing. Many intergenerational activities have simply stopped as older people’s housing and care schemes have gone into lockdown and schools, nurseries, colleges and community facilities have closed, while millions of people have had to self-isolate.

Some organisations, particularly in community settings, have been very creative in devising new, often virtual, ways to keep in touch. The pandemic has also highlighted the difficulties of reaching the most isolated and lonely people and particularly the digital divide facing many older people and low income families.

Lockdown will start to be eased in the coming weeks and months, but social distancing will be with us for much longer. We need to re-think how we work, double our resolve to re-build confidence in social mixing and tackle ageism, and ensure that the new world brings generations together and doesn’t promote intergenerational conflict.

This e-news provides updates on some activities and resources which we hope will help you support much needed intergenerational interaction. Please keep us posted!

**INTERGENERATIONAL HOUSING NETWORK – NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Intergenerational Housing Network will be on Wednesday 13 May at 2pm. This online meeting will review the impact of COVID-19 on intergenerational housing and discuss opportunities for developing intergenerational housing beyond the lockdown. Please contact me if you want to join the meeting. You can also join in the discussion by contributing through the forum on our website at: <https://www.unitedforallages.com/forum/intergenerational-housing> There are two discussion pages: one related to the next meeting which includes a short paper to prompt comments and one for sharing news and updates on intergenerational housing developments and issues.

**NEW FORUMS ON OUR WEBSITE**

As above the United for All Ages website has a new forum for discussion on all things intergenerational. In addition to intergenerational housing, there are pages where you can share updates and comments on issues from intergenerational fairness post-COVID-19 and intergenerational research to creating a Britain for all ages and intergenerational action in communities. Get involved here: <https://www.unitedforallages.com/forum/united-for-all-ages>

**SOCIAL INTEGRATION APPG**

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Social Integration is holding an inquiry into ‘what can we learn from the COVID-19 crisis about social connection with isolated groups. More about the inquiry can be seen here: <https://socialintegrationappg.org.uk/2020/03/20/what-can-we-learn-from-the-covid-19-crisis-about-social-connection-with-isolated-groups-an-appg-on-social-integration-inquiry/> and our submission to the inquiry is here: <https://www.unitedforallages.com/news>

**AN INNOVATION CHALLENGE**

The Collective Foundation is seeking innovative ideas on reaching and helping excluded groups including older and young people during the COVID-19 crisis. See here on how to get involved and get support for your ideas: <https://thecollectivefoundation.com/>

**MAKING CONNECTIONS**

People are coming together in communities during #Covid19, showing how we can be socially close while keeping our distance. United for All Ages has joined the #ConnectionCoalition to help build connections now and in the future. If you're an organisation, please join [www.connectioncoalition.org.uk](https://www.connectioncoalition.org.uk/)

**INTERGENERATIONAL WEEK**

It may seem like a lifetime ago but the first National Intergenerational Week organised by St Monica Trust took place during the first week of lockdown on 23-29 March. News about the week and what happened can be found here: <https://www.stmonicatrust.org.uk/national-intergenerational-week> and by searching on twitter for #IntergenerationalWeek

**NEW RESOURCES AND BOOKS**

**InCommon Buddies** provides families in lockdown at home with resources that they can use with older friends and family to stay connected. See here: <https://www.incommonliving.com/buddies-about>

**Care Home FANS** has produced a range of resources for 5-14 year olds to keep in touch remotely with care home residents during lockdown. See here: <http://carehomefans.org/remote-intergenerational-linking/>

**Bridging Ages** is making its materials available free to individuals to help younger people compile the Life Stories of older people. See here:<http://bridgingages.co.uk/>

**The Ten Steps of Positive Ageing** helps readers explore psychological and emotional aspects of getting older to improve well-being in later life. The book by Guy Robertson is available directly from <https://positiveageing.org.uk/book/>, Amazon and ‘all good bookshops’.

Lorraine George’s new book, **Growing Together**, has fifty themed intergenerational activities – all clearly set out for those leading activities. Supporters of United for All Ages can get a 10% discount on purchasing Growing Together by quoting GT10 at [Yellow Door](https://www.yellow-door.net/products/growing-together/).

**A BETTER SOCIETY FOR ALL GENERATIONS**

ILC-UK’s ‘Future of Ageing 2020 – Together for tomorrow’ event will focus on making our ageing society work for all generations – from health and housing to finance and business - with a great line-up of speakers. United for All Ages is supporting the event to promote intergenerational fairness and to mark our tenth anniversary. Future of Ageing 2020 will take place on 3 December in London and details are here: <https://ilcuk.org.uk/future-of-ageing-2020-together-for-tomorrow/>

Please contact us with any queries or check out our website.

Keep well

Stephen

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