

28 February 2022



Launch of ‘All Ages April’ Intergenerational Grants!

Linking Generations NI have opened applications to support intergenerational connections in the community during April 2022

Linking Generations NI, a local charity who are passionate about promoting and supporting intergenerational activity have just launched their small grants scheme which is open to a wide range of groups in the community. The funding will support groups, organisations and settings that wouldn't normally have the opportunity to work together to reach out and connect generations.

Vicki Titterington, LGNI's Director explained:

“LGNI's aim is that the relationships, links and connections created will continue into the future beyond the lifetime of the grants scheme. It has been a very difficult period to sustain the relationships between young and old in the traditional format, but the pandemic has also brought so many opportunities to engage virtually and to be more creative in how we go about it”.

She continued... *“We are so delighted to release the grants for projects during April as it coincides with a massive drive to raise awareness of the importance of intergenerational relationships during the first ever ‘Global Intergenerational Week’ which is running from 25 April – 1 May. This puts our local projects on a global stage giving participants even more reason to get involved, as supporters of a wider intergenerational movement”.*

Awardees will be able to run one-off events or deliver a project over a number of sessions. Going forward participants will be encouraged to see the benefit of incorporating intergenerational and Age-friendly approaches into their everyday practice within the communities they live, work and go to school in. **Cont...**

The small grants are open to a range of groups across Northern Ireland including: older people's groups, care homes, schools, community groups and youth groups.

There are 28 grants of £150 available for this year's scheme. The application is available from the [Linking Generation's NI website](#), with accompanying ideas and resources to help inspire applicants.

Previous participants in the 'All Ages April' scheme have been involved in all kinds of initiatives including: music, arts and crafts, planting projects, bushcraft and baking etc

Despite a number of lockdowns throughout 2020, 15 groups/organisations managed to arrange their intergenerational activities in line with the advised guidelines at that time. A total number of 427 older and younger persons from nursery age to 80+ have taken part, to date, of which 93% would take part again or plan another event. Another 77% reported having found out new information about people of another age group and 100% of participants felt welcome and supported throughout their activities.

Participants have consistently cited how they have really enjoyed exploring common interests, sharing their knowledge and experiences together. Participant feedback has been previously very positive including *"It was a great opportunity to create and build with a different age group."* *"There were so many similarities in people of different ages."* *"It was nice to hear about young people's daily lives."* *"Older people can teach us lots"*.

One of the groups '**Aughabrack & District Community Group**' (Co Tyrone) ran a Spring Planting Project, and they commented:

"During the event we were able to see how valuable our community centre is to the local community. This was the first time different generations had come together to work and learn from each other and it was a huge success".

Vicki concluded: *"The knock on effect of feeling more included in the community and the sense of well-being from getting involved in the intergenerational projects has been notable. Indeed, the feedback from previous years has been inspirational, driving us all on. We hope that the community will get on board again this time as it goes from strength to strength, especially since the timing is perfect, aligning with the 'Global Intergenerational Week' of events"*.

Cont...

Applications are available from:

<https://www.linkinggenerationsni.com/news/all-ages-april-2022-small-grants/>

They must be returned by **Friday 11th March @12:00 pm**. For further information contact lynn.heatley@bjf.org.uk



Aughnabrack participants

Ends

Notes to Editor

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Linking Generations Northern Ireland (LGNI) have led the way in connecting generations in communities across Northern Ireland since 2009 and are the only organisation solely focusing on the development and promotion of intergenerational approaches to address societal issues.

We are part of the [Beth Johnson Foundation](#) (former host of UK Centre for Intergenerational practice) based in Stoke on Trent; who were responsible for the development of intergenerational practice as a professional/specific approach in the UK and associated training and resources to support this. LGNI operate in Northern Ireland but share learning, practice and resources developed in partnership with BJJ and also work closely with [Generations Working Together](#) in Scotland and [Bridging the Generations](#) in Wales .

Global Intergenerational Week:

Global Intergenerational Week, is a campaign connecting everyone who is passionate about everything intergenerational. Intergenerational week is in its third year, but this year it is a first to go Global! The week looks to inspire individuals, groups, organisations, local/national government, and NGOs to fully embrace intergenerational practice, connecting people of all ages especially the younger and older generations. The campaign will celebrate good practice, ideas, moments, and opportunities local to us where different age groups come together, and intergenerational friendships can be formed! It provides an opportunity to plan for the future developing new ways of connecting and being creative in how we use our spaces and places, and the resources generations have to offer one another.

<https://generationsworkingtogether.org/global-intergenerational-week>

