



Bringing older and younger people together

It's already July and the end of the school year. Where does time go? In less than two months, our partner schools will be welcoming their regular volunteers again and hoping that we can fill their "volunteer vacancies". In this Newsletter we welcome **four more schools**, making our coordinators recruiting work busier than ever. Fortunately, our **enquiries are up** and we have **new volunteers** starting this autumn, **meet a few here**. In this Newsletter you can also read **some examples of feedback from schools**. Have you ever wished you could get some **volunteer's advice, on tap?** We may have a solution. On 17 July, we had our **AGM** and our **Annual Report** is now available on our website. Happy reading and if you have suggestions for future newsletters, please do get in touch. We welcome everyone's contribution.

Welcome to St Joseph Catholic PS



Whilst we were enjoying ourselves on the occasion of our 25-year anniversary at St Joseph's Hall -next door to St Joseph Catholic Primary School- Father Wooley went to see Damian Arthur the Head of St Joseph's to tell him about Intergen-Trafford. Mr Arthur was curious and followed him into the hall where we were delighted to offer them both a cup of tea and some cakes. Mr Arthur must have liked what he saw and heard as the school has now decided to become an Intergen School. We are delighted to welcome this new partnership and even more delighted to be able to send them their first two volunteers, one of which is a returning Intergen-Trafford volunteer. Maybe **"it's the cakes that did it!"** But we like to think it was what all of us stand for. Of course we want to send them more volunteers come September, so if you know someone who might be interested, ask them to get in touch.

Welcome to Heyes Lane Primary School

It was the **need for proximity to a partner school** for one new volunteer that got our coordinator Christine Kay to ask Heyes Lane Primary School if they would like some volunteers. Although the original volunteer unfortunately could not take up the role due to ill health, we received two new local enquiries while also processing a volunteer for a "Timperley School". So by September, Heyes Lane will enjoy the help and dedication of three volunteers. We wish them well and it looks like they will have a lot of fun at Heyes Lane.



Welcome to Elmridge Primary School

Elmridge Primary School is a Bright Future Educational Trust School and **was referred to us** by another Bright Future ET partner school, Lime Tree Primary School. This will be our fourth Bright Future ET school along with Acre Hall and Barton Clough too. Elmridge are based in Hale Barns and we are currently processing four volunteers for them. On this occasion **we were helped by our Facebook presence**. Perhaps it was the quote by one of our volunteers included in the post that sparked interest. All Facebook comments are highly appreciated. If you can, please give us your support on Facebook.



Welcome to Woodhouse Primary School



We are a little embarrassed about our fourth recruited school. We contacted them as we had two local prospective volunteers. Upon hearing about us, the school was keen to take them on and to become a partner school, but unfortunately both recruits pulled out. We are determined to find them a volunteer to start early in the autumn term. Sometime things just don't work out but we keep trying. Tyntesfield Primary School is one example where **patience paid off**. They have just welcome their first volunteer since Covid.

Schools do appreciate YOU, our volunteers. Here is some feedback from our annual reviews with schools.

2. Are there any particular highlights you would like to share with us?

Both of our volunteers are fantastic! The class teachers speak very highly of them. They are reliable, get through plenty of readers and are both lovely with the children.

3. Have there been any problems which we should know about?

None

4. How can we help in the future? E.g. more volunteers or other specific needs.

Please can we keep these 2 bodies and if possible, we would always welcome more volunteers.

2. Are there any particular highlights you would like to share with us?

All our volunteers come in each week ~~are~~ full of energy - they have strong relationships with the children & staff.

3. Have there been any problems which we should know about?

They are AMAZING

No

4. How can we help in the future? E.g. more volunteers or other specific needs.

More volunteers if possible as the children love having intergen in.

A big welcome to all our new volunteers

You are part of a growing organisation determined to bring younger and senior people together so that they can both enjoy the benefits of interacting with each other. Many of you already know how this feels, but we have a great number of new volunteers. For some of them school is a new environment while others have a wealth of experience to bring to their role but all are looking forward to starting in September. It has been said that **volunteering in the UK is in decline but we are bucking the trend**. Since April this year, we have received 32 enquiries, compared to 6 only for the same period last year. Janet Thorn of Reach Volunteering believes that in fact volunteering is more popular than ever, but with small organisations where **“people are motivated to volunteer by a sense of purpose**. The most popular motivations were “knowing that my skills are making a positive difference”, “to make a positive difference on an issue I care about” .” **We think we’ve got that covered**.

Meet a few of our new volunteers being introduced to their schools.



LEFT: Meryl Scott being welcomed to St Vincent's by Naomi Farrell, Deputy Head Infants on 9th July.



RIGHT: Susan Harrop being welcomed to Heyes Lane by Wendy Brown, Assistant Head on 10th July.



Rosie Brown and her friend and neighbour Amanda Howarth being welcomed to Lime Tree Primary Academy by Jemma Kenny, Assistant Principal on 15th July.

Would you like more interactions with your fellow volunteers? We may have the solution.



Intergen-Trafford Volunteers Chatterbox



We have set up a **Facebook Private Group** for all current volunteers where you can get in touch with each other to socialise, exchange ideas, get advice about your school volunteering and make suggestions. To join the group, you need to email us on enquiries@intergen-trafford.org.uk and we will then invite you to join. **It is a private group so nobody who is not a volunteer will see you.**

The success of the group in giving and receiving help and support will be down to all the volunteers who join. Annie O'Connor is the administrator. Be patient with her, she has not run a private group before, let alone set one up. If anyone has experience of the ins and outs of Facebook Private Groups, please do get in touch, she could do with your help.



Our **AGM** took place on 17th July at Worthington Primary School. We were treated to the **children's choir** who performed two songs. Their rendition of "This is me" from the film The Greatest Showman was particularly beautiful and **can be listened to in the gallery section of the website, under News**. Christine Kay opened the official part of the AGM thanking Sarah Jones for letting us use the school premises. She then briefly addressed the audience stating that **she had never experienced such a busy year**, especially when including the first 4 months of this new year (as you can tell from this Newsletter and the Annual Report). We then all battled with an **unusual and fun quiz** while socialising and enjoying some lovely **home made cakes**.

The number of followers on our Facebook page has grown to 52. We need 100 to access more social media options. So if you are on Facebook, please join us and encourage your friend and family to do the same. Not only will you get to see our news earlier but you will see other relevant information once in a while.

And if you want to join the group, note that you will need to be on Facebook and be a follower.



Our Annual Report 2024/25 is now available on our website.

If you have not yet done so, also check out our news section and gallery to read, see and hear all about our **25-year anniversary**. It was a great reminder to all our volunteers of their immense supporting contribution to the children and their schools. We thank all those who contributed to its success. We are looking forward to the next 25! A good cause with that "sense of purpose" will always be popular. And finally, **we wish you all a fantastic summer break**.

Some jokes to share with the children

Why did the boy throw his clock out of the window? Because he wanted to see time fly.

Why did the elderly man fall in a well? Because he could not see that well.

What goes up and down but does not move? Stairs.

Do you know someone who would be interested in joining our team of volunteers? Tell them that they can join at any time of year, not just for the beginning of a new school year. Our volunteers have been a big source of recruitment. They are trusted simply because it's always better from the horse's mouth.

Intergen-Trafford Registered Charity Number 1086430 www.intergen-trafford.org.uk

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