



Bringing older and younger people together

Happy New Year everyone. We have a packed bi-annual Newsletter for you; **another school**, an update on our **growing community of volunteers**, a big welcome to **two new coordinators**, a recap of the **Winter Gathering** and some sad **goodbyes**. In addition, Lynn Nathan, a volunteer and Acre Hall Primary School share some of **their stories** while we get the chance to congratulate **Kylie Spark** on her **MBE**. We think that you will see yourself in the **“we are the bridge”** piece of writing and perhaps even use it. Finally, our **Facebook update** and your invitation to share that we will be at the **Strefford Volunteer Fair on 29th January**. Happy reading.

Welcome to Stamford Park Primary School



Just as with Heyes Lane Primary School, we had a couple of enquiries wanting to volunteer at Stamford Park Primary School. Our coordinator Christine Kay approached the school which was only too happy to start taking in volunteers from Intergen-Trafford. This is our 27th school and they are delighted with their two volunteers. Our presence in both Altrincham and Timperley areas is now growing and providing opportunities for anyone who wants to share their skills and make a difference to children in their communities.

A big welcome to all our new volunteers

Since the start of the new school year last September, we have welcomed 22 new volunteers plus 9 still awaiting their DBS or start date and some just starting the recruitment process.



Janet Poyner has joined Tyntesfield and Heyes Lane has welcomed Hazel Dowell.

Welcome to the Intergen-Trafford family



A big welcome to our new coordinators too

Back in September we told you that Janice Mortimer, our coordinator for Urmston and surrounding area was leaving her role to concentrate on other commitments (*she assures us that she is not putting her feet up!*) but remaining with Intergen-Trafford as a Trustee. Our lovely volunteer at Victoria Park Junior School, Sue Gill has offered to take on her role, minus Partington Central Academy which will now be under the kind attention of another new coordinator, Anne Keddie who is also taking on St Vincent's PS in Altrincham and Woodheys PS in Sale. We are delighted to welcome them into the "volunteer" management team of Intergen-Trafford. We hope they enjoy their new roles and wish them well. Let's meet them.



My name is Anne Keddie and I live in Sale with my two rescue dogs from Cyprus. I am a former marketing communications professional, who has also taught ESOL both as a volunteer for Manchester City Council and as a private tutor. In my spare time (when not busy walking the dogs!) I enjoy gardening, pilates and zumba, and I am also a keen theatre goer.

My name is Sue Gill and I have been involved with Intergen for two years. I live in Stretford and since retiring in 2019 I have volunteered with a charity supporting homeless people and with Trafford Healthwatch as well as helping with reading at Victoria Park Junior School.



And a heartfelt farewell to Maurice Mosco and Pauline Castledine



Our long time colleagues, **Maurice Mosco** and **Pauline Castledine** retired from their Trustees positions in November after many years of service for Intergen-Trafford. Their dedication and support to all involved will be missed.

Maurice became a Trustee in 2021 following the death of his wife, Sue Mosco who had been the driving force behind Intergen-Trafford since 2008. Prior to that he had been a coordinator for many years. We are particularly thankful to him for his fundraising work and consistency in attending volunteers fairs where he enjoyed making connections.



Pauline took over the role of Chair of Trustees in 2021, bringing in years of experience with Intergen-Trafford, first as a volunteer at St Hilda's PS and then as a coordinator for the Urmston area. Her wisdom and advice will be missed. At the last trustees' meeting Pauline reminded us all of the essence of Intergen-Trafford as a nurturing community for the benefit of both young and older people and of the importance to always put the volunteers first, because "*without them Intergen-Trafford simply would not exist*". Wise words indeed. Thank you Pauline and Maurice.

Would you like to join our Board of Trustees? Our organisation is small and does not require special skills, other than a keen interest in helping children and the local community. Trustees meet 3 to 4 times a year, provide guidance and generally help with the running of the organisation. If this could be you, please do get in touch for an informal chat.

Acre Hall Primary School made a fuss of their volunteers last summer

Today, we came together as a school community to celebrate and show our heartfelt gratitude to some of our most valued supporters—our fantastic volunteers from Intergen and our much-loved Grani Pat.

Throughout the year, Mrs Ewan and Mrs Macdonald from Intergen have dedicated their time each week to support our pupils with reading. Their encouragement, patience and genuine love of books have made a lasting impact on the confidence and progress of so many of our children. Meanwhile, Grani Pat has brought our garden to life – literally! Through her hands-on gardening sessions, she has helped students develop a love for the outdoors, taught them how to grow their own food, and brought excitement and wonder to our school garden.

To say thank you, our Key Stage 1 students hosted a lively and joyful celebration in their honour. The children presented our wonderful volunteers with flowers, chocolates and beautifully signed cards to show just how much their kindness and commitment have meant to us all. It was a truly special moment to reflect on the positive influence these incredible ladies have had on our school. Their time, energy, and warmth are appreciated more than words can say.

From everyone at Acre Hall – thank you Mrs Ewan, Mrs Macdonald, and Grani Pat – you have made a great difference, and we are so lucky to have you as part of our school family.

Although Grani Pat is not an Intergen-Trafford volunteer, she is a lovely example of what other activities the schools are interested in. Any gardeners out there?



Our 2025 winter gathering, held at Victoria Park Infants School on 4th December was once again a rather wet event. Still we were delighted to meet some new faces and catch up with others. A big thank you to all of you who could attend and to the coordinators for organising a lovely spread and a Christmas quiz based on sweets knowledge! But more importantly thank you to the children who entertained us with wonderful renditions of classic Christmas songs and to Debbie Vrlec, the head, for welcoming us to her school. Because we know how difficult it is for the schools to find the space to accommodate us at that time of year, it may be time to go back to the drawing board with your help. We will be welcoming your input soon in an [online survey](#), (read about it further on).

This year we decided to send a Christmas e-card to you all which allowed us to include a snippet of the children singing “We wish you a merry Christmas”. We do hope you enjoyed it.



News from Wellfield Primary School

Our long-standing Intergen volunteer, **Lynne Nathan**, who has been with us for an incredible **15 years**, together with her colleague Pam recently delivered a session on **Judaism** to sixty Year 5 pupils at **Wellfield Primary School**.

Together, they brought the topic to life through a power point presentation, artefacts, symbolism, and personal experience (prayer shawls, kippot and FOOD), giving pupils an insight into Jewish traditions and beliefs. The children seemed to enjoy and engage with the session and staff commented on how valuable it was for pupils to hear directly from someone within the faith.

We love it when we hear what our volunteers get up to. If you have stories of your own and would be willing to share them, our next Newsletter will be published at the close of the school year. We also send out news bulletins from time to time, so don't hesitate to get in touch at any time.

Following on our 25th Anniversary last year, we thought that it was time to re-appraise what we do and how we do it in order to carry on growing and improving. The first step should be to reach out to you, our volunteers, who are, after all, central to our success. So sometime in late February, early March, we will send out a survey which we hope you will kindly complete and return. It will be in the form of an online questionnaire with lots of ticking boxes as we know how busy you are. If you would prefer a paper one, please let us know so we can then review our method of delivery to reach the majority of you.



Kylie Spark, who is the CEO of the Inspiring Learners Multi-academy Trust and the **Executive Headteacher of Tynesfield Primary School in Sale**, one of our partner schools has been made a **Member of the British Empire** in the 2026 list.

Ms Spark has worked in education her whole career and has been a headteacher for the last 20, notably at Firs Primary School, also another of our partner schools, while also working closely with and supporting other primary schools in the borough.

In particular, she has worked to help improve the transition between key stage two and key stage three for primary school leavers. She told The Messenger that she feels "very humbled" to be receiving this honour, which she described as a "privilege".

Ms Spark added: "I love my job - I always have - and I'm so blessed to work with amazing leaders and staff who work so hard and give so much to ensure the best education for our children. It's thanks to the dedication and capability of our team that I also have the capacity to work with schools and school leaders beyond the Trust - training aspiring heads, supporting schools and developing local authority wide primary/secondary transition. I am so fortunate to do a role that I love."

Ms Sparks is also a National Leader in Education and a lead facilitator on the National Professional Qualification for Headship. She has led the Inspiring Learners trust since it was founded in 2017, when Tynesfield Primary School was converted into an academy.

Intergen-Trafford would like to add their warm congratulations to Kylie.

My name's Richard. I'm 74. And I've come to realise something about my generation: we are the bridge.

We were born in one world and grew up in another.

A world where summers meant open windows, the hum of a box fan, and the smell of fresh-cut grass.
Where neighbours waved from their porches, and if your bike chain broke, you didn't Google it - you knocked on a door
and someone came out with a wrench.

We lived in a world built on patience.

We waited for letters to arrive.

We waited for the library to open.

We waited for our favourite song to play again on the radio - and when it finally did, it felt like magic.

Then, almost overnight, everything changed.

Phones shrank. Music became invisible.

News arrived before the coffee finished brewing.

We learned to type, to swipe, to tap.

We learned to talk to machines - and to have them talk back.

We've seen milk delivered to the door in glass bottles..

and we've scanned groceries without speaking to a single cashier.

We've dropped coins into payphones..

and we've made video calls to loved ones across oceans.

We've known the deep quiet of a world without notifications -

and the noise of one that never stops buzzing.

And sometimes, the younger ones look at us like we're behind.

But what they don't see is this: we know both worlds.

We can plant tomatoes and write an email.

We can tell a story without Grok and ChatGPT- and then fact-check it with Google.

We know the weight of a handwritten letter and the reach of a message sent in seconds.

We've lived long enough to understand that you can change without losing yourself.

That you can honour where you came from while still learning where the world is headed.

We've buried friends and welcomed grandchildren.

We've seen diseases disappear and new ones arrive.

We've unfolded paper maps - and followed glowing blue lines on GPS.

We've sent postcards with stamps - and emojis with a single tap.

And maybe that's our greatest gift:

the memory of a slower, gentler time,

and the courage to adapt to a world that never sits still.

We can teach the young that not everything needs to happen instantly.

And we can remind our peers that it's never too late to try something new.

Because that's what we are - the bridge between what was and what will be.

And as long as we keep standing strong,

the world will always have something solid to cross on its way forward.

Because every generation builds the road a little further -

and Ours remembers both the dirt path and the highway.

Thank you to Richard whoever you are [Richard, 74 - by William C. Green - 2 + 2 = 5](#)

On 29th January we will be at the **Stretford Volunteer Fair** from 1pm to 3pm, please spread the word as we are very keen on recruiting more volunteers in the areas of Urmston, Flixton and Davyhulme. The fair is being held at Stretford Public Hall, Chester Road, Stretford, M32 0LG. The event is being held upstairs in the ballroom.

Our Facebook group exclusively for volunteers to interact is crying out for you



In the July Newsletter we mentioned that we had 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. Unfortunately, so far it is not being used, but we will keep it available as in time it might be just the thing you want.

The number of followers on our Facebook page has grown to 73. 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. Facebook has proved to be an excellent recruitment tool and we used it to promote ideas, add snippets of our news and school news too.

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



Some jokes to share with the children



It's called **reading**.
It's how people install new software into their brains.

Why was the math book sad?
Because it had so many problems.

Why is six afraid of seven?
Because seven eight nine.

Why did the teddy bear say no to desserts?
Because it was already stuffed.

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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