



Bringing older and younger people together

Welcome to our July Newsletter. Another school year over and there never will be a “could do better” report when it comes to the **contribution of our volunteers**. **Thank you everyone** for being such an inspiring bunch. Schools have been hearing about you and are asking for some volunteers too. Like **Highfield PS in Urmston now a partner school**. Fortunately we continue to get **more volunteers**, even a **new Trustee**! Read how **Geof Wilkins found his “niche”** and you could too. This July a **volunteer celebrates a big birthday**. **Our AGM** on 2nd July was **a great success**. Could your next highlight be a **local coffee meet?** And finally why Trafford is taking **an interest in what we do**. Thank you to everyone for a great year. Enjoy your summer break and we hope to see you all back in September.

“School reports” are in. Our partner schools’ feedback is very positive on their experience with volunteers.

Volunteers, you are wanted, you are needed and you are making a difference

Both volunteers are an absolute pleasure to have. They show great professional care and respect for staff and the children.

We love having R., E., and M. with us. They have been taking part in reading, craft activities and supporting classroom tasks. Can you find us more?

Both volunteers have been incredibly reliable and punctual. They have settled into a great routine, and the children really look forward to hearing them read each week.

We have invited all our volunteers to school tomorrow for a coffee morning drop in to say thank you. They have all been amazing.

We don’t wish to identify the schools that have provided recent feedback or their volunteers in this Newsletter. However, the feedback from Templemoor Infant School is rather special. The school had not had a volunteer for years until July last year. They now have 5 altogether. Here is what they wrote to their coordinator.

“What a wonderful job you’ve done this year! Thank you so much for sending 5 wonderful volunteers our way. They have been such a massive help to us. Every one of your lovely ladies are so nice, reliable and just fit in. They are all so amenable and willing to help with anything that the classroom staff need. We’re more than happy to have more volunteers if you have someone looking for a placement. Thanks so much for all your hard work in finding such lovely people to help us out this year. Your efforts are very much appreciated.”

Welcome to Highfield Primary School



Highfield Primary School in Urmston asked to become a partner school in March to have volunteers to help children read in particular. With a little help from Facebook and a volunteer event, we were able to find them two volunteers who will start in September. They would welcome more as would all our Urmston partner schools. To improve volunteering take up in the area, Trafford have been busy organising volunteering events and we are making full use of them.

Schools have benefited from 13 new volunteers since our last newsletter in January with a further 12 currently going through the recruitment process or starting in September.

We are delighted to notice a growing trend of men applying to volunteer and we have been wondering if this is due to our new website home page photo featuring Michael Faust, currently in its 21st year volunteering with us. This is good news, as men are so little represented in primary schools and they are as dedicated as the ladies. In fact one of them didn't come to our AGM this year as it fell on the day he listens to the children. "I can't not go to school" he said as I know some children do not read at all between my visits (as referenced by their reading records book)".

A big welcome to

Karen Augustin
Christine Banter
Randel Barrows
Christina Cheong
Sandra Corbishley
Anne-Marie Donaldson
Carolyn Hamand

And.....

Karen Hudson
Martin Levi
Amanda Lomon
Brenda Peoples
Alison Price
&
Helen Sanderson

A big welcome to our new trustee, Dr Ronan O'Driscoll

Ronan, a retired lung doctor and keen cyclist, first contacted us to be a school volunteer as he wanted to give back to the community. So since January he has been delighting the children of Stamford Park Primary School with his lovely Irish accent. We wonder if he greets the children with "what's the craic?". Well so long as they don't think he is a 'eejit'. Seriously though, we were delighted when Ronan responded to our pleas for more trustees and he has already made an impact in the team, helping review our policies.

Our search for new trustees is not over and we would love to have another one or two and a Charity Secretary, someone with a little experience of the role would be great. Anyone interested?



In our annual report we celebrated **the contribution that Geof Wilkins** made to the children of Woodheys Primary School for 16 years. Geof was passionate about grammar and in particular punctuation. He kept records of his work with the children to check on progress. **Geof had found his niche** within the education curriculum and his commitment was greatly appreciated by the school and the children. **Over 90% of our volunteers help with reading.** Yet perhaps many of you also have some **special skills**, gained through work or hobbies that **would make a great addition** to the school. If you feel that you could contribute more or differently, do talk to your coordinator, do not be constrained by the initial commitment to help with reading that you made. Like Geof you could **find or renew a passion** and many of our schools would welcome it.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY JOAN

You are an inspiration to anyone who think that seniors are "passed it"



Volunteer Joan has been helping the children of Lime Tree Primary Academy for 18 years with her craft skills. "It gets me out of the house, gives me something to do" she confided at our AGM. "And everyone knows me there because I get to work with them all, over the years, which is lovely and the children enjoy making my bookmarks." Apparently she "only" goes two afternoons a week now.

Her special birthday on 18th was not missed by the school. "They all seem to know it's coming", she laughed. Indeed, her Y2 children at Lime Tree PS organised something special for her. But most importantly, we heard that family members were coming all the way from America to celebrate with her (or may be to escape Trump!) As it is indeed a special birthday, Christine Kay organised for a card, some chocolates and some flowers on behalf of all at InterGen-Trafford. **Our warmest wishes to you Joan and we are all wishing to look like you and have your energy at 90 xxx**



AGM and Summer Gathering

Behind the scene.... “Let’s book St Joseph Church Hall as for our 25th Anniversary” she said.... “because schools struggle to accommodate us at this busy time of year”.... “Hmm, ok, but you do remember that it’s a big hall, beautiful but big and last year only 7 volunteers came to the AGM”.... “Have faith” she said..... And she was right!

Thank you to the 30 volunteers who joined InterGen-Trafford’s full team of 12 for a great gathering. It was truly reassuring to see so many of you. AGM are a little dry but combined with an event, they can become the highlight of the year. We owe much of it to the fabulous children of St Joseph’s Primary School who entertained us with a great repertoire. But also to the contribution of our volunteers who were genuinely interested in meeting their peers and have a good time. Special thanks must go to the team of coordinators and Annie for organising the event which included a dingbats quiz and a mystery book for each to keep or exchange as a nod to the Year of Reading. The effort was worth it and the team is already looking forward to organising next year’s AGM.

Pictures & some songs can be found on the website along with the Annual Report.



And here are your hosts, InterGen-Trafford’s full team of trustees and coordinators



Following on our Survey, we will be starting some coffee morning meets in the Autumn. Watch out for an email inviting you to come along to meet volunteers from your school and may be one or two others which are local. The whole idea is for those who wish to make connections to do so in a relaxed atmosphere. Intergen-Trafford is about more than helping children, it is about enriching the lives of older people and reducing loneliness. It would appear that more and more of our volunteers simply want to give back to their communities. **This Giving aspect is recognized in the latest Trafford Council Public Health Annual Report 2025-26, Thriving in Later Life**, which considers how **Grow, Connect, Adapt, and Give** can improve resilience and contribute to thriving in everyday circumstances during later life. A very interesting report available online. We were consulted and appear in the Appendix 4: What's On - Give section.



Following on their report, Trafford have been organising **information events** to encourage volunteering. We were **invited to join** their Urmston and Old Trafford sessions and **also to contribute** to their "loneliness awareness week", responding to the question "What does your organisation find valuable about involving older volunteers". **Here is what we think of you all.** "Because our school volunteers feel useful and enjoy their few hours volunteering in a school each week, they project a healthy and happy model of what an older person is like; a very useful lesson for the children".

The number of followers on our Facebook page has grown to 95! We need 100 to access more social media options. So if you are on Facebook, please join us, like us and encourage your friend and family to do the same. Facebook has proved to be an excellent recruitment tool. If you want to join the **Facebook group**, note that you will need to be on Facebook and be a follower. It's your place to discuss your volunteering experience and ask others for advice or simply to get to know other volunteers.



How to stress the importance of punctuation to the children

"Let's eat, Grandma!" (Family dinner)

"Let's eat Grandma!" (Cannibalism)



Punctuation: keeping grandmas and swimmers off the menu since the dawn of time!

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

enquiries@intergen-trafford.org.uk Coordinators' contact details can be found on the website.