**NEWS FROM UNITED FOR ALL AGES – JULY 2021**

**SITTING COMFORTABLY THIS SUMMER?**

As Covid restrictions are ended and everything opens up, what have the last 17 months meant for our country, our communities, our relationships and people of all ages? As below, several events this summer will explore these issues. Many families have paid a high price during the pandemic. Life can’t return to ‘normal’, it must be very different. We will work, live, travel and connect in different ways. We have the chance to re-build our neighbourhoods, re-prioritise investment in our homes, support and services, and restore connections across generations. But nothing will change if we are all sitting comfortably. This summer we can start to create something better from the most uncomfortable times in all our lives.

**‘HIGH STREETS FOR ALL AGES’ FOCUS FOR INTERGENERATIONAL HOUSING NETWORK**

The Intergenerational Housing Network is focusing its work in the coming year on reviving our high streets through intergenerational housing and shared spaces that promote meaningful mixing. We aim to work with local authorities and local community partnerships at the forefront of this drive. With emptying high streets and the government’s proposed planning reforms, there are opportunities to breathe new life into the heart of our communities, as demonstrated by John Lewis’s recent plans to turn stores into housing. The next meeting of the network will discuss this work further (details to follow and on our website). Please let us know of any examples of local authorities and others transforming high streets.

In September the network is joining forces with the Housing LIN to hold a panel debate on ‘Intergenerational living is the future – but who will pay for it?’. Please watch this space for details. In the meantime, the National Association of Local Councils is holding an [online event](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-future-of-high-streets-and-town-centres-tickets-159960802065?aff=MAILCHIMP&mc_cid=e8a50e8879&mc_eid=c6b39937ce) on The future of high streets and town centres on 29 September.

**TEN YEARS ON FROM DILNOT COMMISSION REPORT**

This month marks ten years since the Dilnot Commission published its report calling for a cap on care costs. As media speculation grows about the current government’s plans for the funding and reform of care, what lessons can be learnt from the Dilnot report and the last ten years? [ILC-UK](https://ilcuk.org.uk/blog/) is publishing a series of blogs about the lessons from this anniversary.

**HAPIPOD – A NEW KID ON THE HOMESHARE BLOCK**

[Hapipod.com](https://hapipod.com/) launched in June as the first matching site connecting homesharers across the generations in a mutually beneficial living arrangement similar to au pairing, just for a different life stage. Enabling people to exchange time and help for an affordable room, it primarily aims at active baby boomers and empty nesters with a spare room wanting extra company or a helping hand, with younger people happy to give it in return for substantial savings on market rents.  Members search for ideal homesharers on the basis of shared background and interests, and membership is based on a robust ID and background check and comprehensive safeguarding guidelines.

 Hapipod aims to help people in mid-life maintain their dynamic lifestyles and give younger people independence, it is not about social care for older people. As such it is a subscription-based meeting site not an agency and does not broker or monitor contracts or charge management fees. It is FREE to register and search the database. Its founder Andrea Frankenthal said: “While 3.7 million adults are now classified as lonely, 3.4 million 20-34 year olds including students, key workers and young professionals cannot afford to escape their childhood bedrooms, and I realised there needed to be a platform for the two groups to meet.”

**FULL CIRCLE RE-LAUNCHES IN OXFORDSHIRE**

The Oxford-based charity Full Circle is re-launching with a wider remit, led by a group of schools and trustees. Full Circle will continue through its website and networking to promote Full Circle groups in schools. In addition going forward they will be looking to promote and celebrate any intergenerational activity between schools and their local community which is of mutual benefit to different generations. This could be a specific club eg gardening or craft, or it could be pupils sharing their IT skills or specific projects for sharing such as a choir for a performance. These activities might take place in schools or in the local community such as care homes and village halls. The focus could also be around school transition from Year6 to Year7, between more than one school or setting and could also grow from an existing local group such as the Good Neighbours scheme. To find out more please contact [Zara d’Archambaud](mailto:zdarchambaud@garsingtonprimary.org), headteacher of Garsington primary school.

**EVENTS AND RESOURCES**

**Generations United:** At the end of June I spoke at this online event as part of the National Pensioners Convention’s annual conference. The full debate can be seen here: [Webinar Series - Generations United: Bridging the Age Gap (npcuk.org)](https://www.npcuk.org/post/webinar-series-generations-united-bridging-the-age-gap)

**An Intergenerational Divide in the context of Covid-19?** Key findings from new research with a panel discussion chaired by David Brindle, on Thursday 8 July at 2 – 3.30pm, organised by the South East England Forum on Ageing and Care.To register: [An Intergenerational Divide in the context of Covid-19? Tickets, Thu, Jul 8, 2021 at 2:00 PM | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-intergenerational-divide-in-the-context-of-covid-19-tickets-158122417407)

O**lder people living in sheltered accommodation:** Ageing Better partnerships share learning to address loneliness and social isolation on 22 July at 12-1.30pm. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ageing-better-addressing-loneliness-for-those-living-in-sheltered-housing-tickets-160180838199>.

**Post-pandemic challenges for all ages in an ageing society**: national conference on 27 July  [Meeting the Needs of an Ageing Population 2021 Event | IGPP](https://igpp.org.uk/event/Meeting-the-Needs-of-an-Ageing-Population-2021)

**Making relational care work for older people**: practical, philosophical and spiritual approaches to ageing will be shared at a forum at Holyrood House, Thirsk, on 3-4 September. [www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/events](http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/events)email[enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk)

**The Intergenerational National Network** in Scotland meets next on 6 September from 10.30-12.30. It will be hosted by Play Scotland, and the theme will be ‘Planning for Playful Environments’. Speakers include Marguerite Hunter-Blair and Cherie Morgan about the work of Play Scotland, including their ’Summer of Play’; Tim Gill on his new book ‘Urban Playground: How child-friendly planning and design can save cities’; and Emily Cutts about the Children’s Wood. Contact Pat Scrutton ([patscrutton247@gmail.com](mailto:patscrutton247@gmail.com)).

**Caring Places – Building Healthy Communities**: a national conference on better ways to live post-pandemic, organised by [Buurtzorg](https://buurtzorg.org.uk/buurtzorg-events/) on 19 October

**Community responses to tackling loneliness:** a wide range of examples and practical approaches including intergenerational action are featured in this new [Local Trust](https://localtrust.org.uk/big-local/programme-guidance/a-community-response-to-loneliness/) guide

**Finally, congratulations to Zoe Phillips** – not just for graduating from the University of Dundee with a first in Interior and Environmental Design, but being shortlisted for two national awards on display at London’s OXO Tower from 9-12 July as part of [Interior Educators’](https://interioreducators.co.uk/re-define) annual exhibition of student work. And congratulations to **Lorraine George** for being shortlisted in the Professional Books category of the 2021 Nursery World awards for Growing Together: 50 inspiring ideas for intergenerational learning, published by Yellow Door.

Please get in touch with any queries

With best wishes

Denise

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