

Changing the world together

Twenty six intergenerational ideas for a better world for all ages

Edited by Stephen Burke
#GIW26

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intergenerational ideas for a better world

Twenty six for 26

United for All Ages is a thinktank and social enterprise that brings younger and older people together to build stronger communities and a stronger Britain.

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Designed by Carol Enright

At a time when the world has never seemed more fragile, divided and uncertain, we must try much harder to bring people together and create a brighter future.

After the Covid years, it's inspiring to see how keen people of all ages have been to mix again and share activities, experiences and purpose. Connection is the antidote to division.

With the growth in intergenerational action, we asked United for All Ages supporters to nominate projects that have inspired them recently – from the very local to the global. Some nominated their own projects, others nominated projects thousands of miles away. All in fifty words or so.

This is a celebration for Global Intergenerational Week (24-30 April). It's also recognition of the value and difference these activities make for people of all ages – from reducing loneliness to improving care and housing to literally changing the world.

And it shows what can be done in difficult times by small groups of committed people.

Of course there's no such thing as a new idea. And one of the purposes behind this paper is not only to share these twenty six ideas for 2026 but also to encourage others to think about their futures and borrow an idea or two.

The projects are grouped under four themes to make it easier to find examples: homes and communities, care and learning, culture and sport, and today for tomorrow.

How do we create a world which thinks and acts for this and future generations? Here are some starting points. Let's make it happen! And let's do more to engage policymakers and changemakers at all levels.

As always, we're very grateful to everyone who shared their time and thoughts with us to compile this paper. Thank you!

Stephen Burke
Director, United for All Ages

1. Homes and communities

Where we live and spend most of our time is where the heart is. It's so important to us, yet for many home and community could be better, much better. Here are some practical and policy-oriented ideas to create better places to live, work, play and rest.

>> BEYOND THE WHITE PICKET FENCE:

A companion for intergenerational communal housing

This excellent [report](#) by Winston Churchill Travelling Fellow, Savannah Fishel, offers valuable international insights into the future of housing, health, ageing and social connection through the lens of intergenerational living. Drawing on international examples of intergenerational communities in Australia and America, this is the definitive guide for UK policy makers and practitioners on creating shared spaces that provide mutual support and reciprocity and widen housing choices for all.

Jeremy Porteus, Housing LIN

Housing LIN recently published a [report](#) by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Housing and Care for Older People on its inquiry into creating intergenerational communities.



>> UNIVERSITY RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

Today's retirees don't want to "retire" at all... but pursue active, intellectually stimulating, and intergenerational living environments. Sound like a college campus? YES!, says URC.

Whether pursuing lifelong learning, attending visual and performing arts events, or cheering a team on to victory, senior living communities associated with a university or college are reinventing what it means to be retired at some of the most recognised academic institutions in the United States.

The growth of retirement communities in the UK could be accelerated by building links with universities while helping them tackle some of their major challenges.

UniversityRetirementCommunities.com

Stephen Burke, United for All Ages



>> The Glamour Club

We will ignite a burning fire in the hearts and minds of every member of our community to join us on our mission to eradicate loneliness and loneliness caused by social isolation.

We want a Glamour Club in every village, town and city in the UK in the next decade.

For our guests, if you would like a great night out in the safety of the day you can buy a ticket to one of our events, there is no obligation to join.

For those who are change-makers in the business community and want to make a positive social impact, ask how you can support us. It's a golden opportunity to extend horizons and develop other pathways to fight loneliness.

www.theglamourclub.co.uk

Janice Moth, The Glamour Club



>> One Love Luncheon Club

One Love Luncheon Club is an integrated, volunteer-led community club where older people and young people connect with a shared purpose in the Milton Keynes area. Young people gain work experience supporting elders through meals, activities, and companionship. This intergenerational approach reduces isolation, builds skills, mutual respect, confidence, and visibly strengthens community wellbeing across generations locally.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1BQ8jPoy1Y/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Sandra Trew, One Love Luncheon Club

>> — IBASHO

[Ibasho](#) is an intergenerational initiative founded by Dr Emi Kiyota. It is a remarkable model that genuinely repositions older people as active leaders within their communities, working alongside younger generations in ways that feel purposeful, grounded and sustainable.

Ibasho is distinctive in placing older people at the centre of intergenerational life, not as beneficiaries but as leaders. Originating in Japan, it has grown internationally, showing how shared spaces and elder leadership can strengthen social connection, resilience and community wellbeing across generations.

Marisa Toldo, Space Your Place



>> — Copleston Community Club

Copleston Community Centre hosts a nursery on site and a day centre for asylum seekers (all ages) on a weekly basis and otherwise offers older people's groups, but also hosts singing classes, women's groups etc. They're embedded in the Caribbean community, including guided walking tours of the area, as one of their Trustees (an academic at Greenwich university) is documenting the oral history of the Windrush generation's contributions in Peckham. They marry that up with the Irish community and others in the area, so are multi-cultural and intergenerational in many ways. See their weekly programme: [Copleston Weekly Programme 2023 | Copleston Church and Community Centre](#)

Barbara Reichwein, United St Saviours Charity

>> — Two Generations

Two Generations' work focuses on two main groups: younger people who are struggling to find decent, affordable places to live, and older residents who may be living alone and feeling isolated and cut off from their community. The heart of this work lies in the meaningful intergenerational relationships that form naturally through shared living. We facilitate regular opportunities for residents to spend time together, whether that is sharing a meal, helping with household tasks, or simply having a chat over a cup of tea. These everyday interactions help to break down barriers, challenge stereotypes about ageing, and build a genuine sense of belonging for everyone involved.



This approach does more than just provide a roof over someone's head; it builds a resilient, caring community where people of all ages can thrive together. The Isle of Wight Council is working in partnership with Two Generations to establish a Homeshare scheme for Island residents.

<https://twogenerations.co.uk/>

Lisa Goldsobel, Two Generations

>> — Grandma's Soup

Grandma's Soup is on a mission to combat loneliness among older people in the UK by bringing generations together through soup. They are a student-led organisation hosting intergenerational cooking sessions where older adults and students prepare and share a bowl of soup together, creating warm spaces for conversation, connection and meaningful relationships across generations.

<https://grandmassoup.co.uk/>

Andrea Wigfield, Sheffield Hallam University, and Hannah Lim, Grandma's Soup



>> — HOMESHARE

Homeshare's pioneering intergenerational approach brings together two people to safely share a home. Friendships across generations are formed through autonomy, shared interests, reciprocal support and genuine companionship. Homeshare UK members are conscientiously transforming lives and creating connected, resilient communities, demonstrating the meaningful social and emotional impact of intergenerational living with a 54% increase in matches over the past year.

- [Meet John and Nick – a rewarding experience with Homeshare West | Homeshare UK](#)
- [Dementia Action Week: Finding friendship and peace of mind – Beryl and Aruna's story | Homeshare UK](#)
- [Dementia Action Week: Stephanie and Paul's story and the power of Homeshare | Homeshare UK](#)

Nicola Watson, Homeshare UK



>> — RUSS

[RUSS](#), the Rural Urban Synthesis Society, is an inspiring Community Land Trust that has developed 36 homes on derelict land. With housing, gardens and a new play area, the design focuses on inclusion, mixing people across traditional barriers, including age and housing tenure. RUSS is dubbed by Big Issue magazine as 'the Londoners building sustainable communities.' The oldest resident is 80, the youngest just weeks old.

Ed Mayo

>> — Chobham Manor

An established scheme now, but I recently came across the multi-generational houses at Chobham Manor again. The principle of flexibility to support diverse and changing households is so valuable, also enabling ageing in place. A model that designs in flexibility from the start can allow future development and evolution to unfold in a way that is harmonious with the street scene and local neighbourhood.

[22-038. Chobham Manor multi-generational housing Annex A.pdf](#)

Holly Sissons, Corstophine Wright Architects

2. Care and learning

In many ways, care and education are similar, underpinned by shared values. When they are good, they enable people of all ages to fly and lead independent, purposeful lives. When they bring people of all ages together, they can have life-changing impacts.

>> — IMPACT

We nominate a national embedding project from [IMPACT \(Improving Adult Care Together\)](#), focused on building a more intergenerational adult social care workforce. Adult social care has an ageing workforce, with an average age of 45. In 2023/24, an [IMPACT-hosted project with Paradise Independent Living](#) aimed to recruit more men into the organisation. The project evolved into a wider intergenerational initiative focused on myth-busting perceptions of adult social care careers with young people.

This project is special because it tackles age and gender stereotypes, [engaging young people directly in rethinking adult social care careers](#). By connecting students with the realities and values of this sector, it strengthens understanding and recruitment while building a more intergenerational workforce that benefits individuals, services, and communities.

Beth Jay, IMPACT



>> — Growing Friendships

'[Growing Friendships](#)', an intergenerational initiative created by The Compass School, in partnership with Our Community Kitchen in East Lothian, showcases a strong, sustainable model of intergenerational best practice. Purposefully integrating intergenerational learning into the curriculum, the programme promotes ongoing participation, thoughtful reflection, and lasting, meaningful connections between generations in the community.

Lorraine George, Generations Working Together

>> — Keshar Ben Dori

Keshar Ben Dori, Israel's nationwide intergenerational charity, builds trust across divides. One impactful initiative is in the Arab city, Umm al-Fahm, where children and elders connect through weekly programmes co-developed with the local municipality. Despite language and cultural barriers, the project has flourished, doubling participating kindergartens and tripling elder involvement. Co-funded by social security, it includes research and evaluation.

<https://www.kesharbendori.com/english>

Judith Ish-Horowicz, Apples & Honey Nightingale

>> — Scarlett Buckling

Anchor's intergenerational literacy programme uses a children's detective novel to help schools, families and care homes connect across generations. Written by Mario Ambrosi, Scarlett Buckling models person centred dementia care through child friendly storytelling. Expert informed and community focused, it links schools with care homes to have a lasting impact for future generations.

[Behind the Book: Mario Ambrosi Talks Scarlett Buckling and the Case of the Missing Pictures](#)

Mario Ambrosi, Anchor

>> — Brighter Together

Castlenau Community Centre and Lowther School, Barnes (SW London)

This project marked a new chapter for Brighter Together, welcoming older adults from Castlenau Community Centre into Lowther Primary School for weekly intergenerational sessions. Through shared learning and creative activities, teachers have been delighted to see children grow in confidence and make notable improvements in language and communication. Centre staff have also witnessed older adults rediscover purpose and connection — a true win for the whole community.

www.brightertogether.org.uk

Polly van Marken, Brighter Together



3. Culture and sport

Sport and culture have long brought people of all ages together as participants and fans. Often these connections are not explicitly labelled 'intergenerational' – despite the fact that the shared interests can lead to long-lasting bonds between generations.

>> Haringey intergenerational podcasting

The Together Project's Haringey Intergenerational Podcasting (HIP) project brought teenagers and older residents from the borough together to share life stories, experiences and perspectives. It built confidence, digital skills and mutual understanding, and demonstrated how creative collaboration can strengthen belonging, challenge ageism and deliver meaningful community connection.

<https://thetogetherproject.org.uk/programmes/hip-haringey-intergenerational-podcast>

Louise Goulden, The Together Project



>> WEST HAM UNITED FOUNDATION

The Foundry Community Hub, which opened in 2025 following a multi-million-pound redevelopment, was recently nominated for the Community Project of the Year award. With newly developed [Foundation headquarters](#) in Beckton, The Foundry is significantly increasing the club's community footprint, enabling West Ham to reach more than 60,000 people each year via over 30 dedicated programmes catering for all ages and backgrounds.

The Foundry supports up to 4,000 community participants of all ages each week across education, employment, physical and mental health and social inclusion programmes and a brand-new enterprise zone, inspiring future business leaders. It also houses health and wellbeing spaces, an outdoor gym and a welcoming kitchen and café, profits from which go towards providing free meals for those in need – ensuring the club's legacy continues to be felt far beyond matchdays. This in addition to the club's programmes which extend across east London, Essex and internationally.

The Foundry anticipates delivering £75 million in social value in its first five years of operation.

Stephen Burke, United for All Ages
(a Brentford fan)

>> — Night-time economy for all ages in Greater Manchester

ILC-UK has advised Greater Manchester and partners on how they can shape a night time economy that works for all ages. This would boost participation, spending and wellbeing, and support good jobs. Our report illustrates what encourages people to go out, the obstacles they face, and potential opportunities to create a more inclusive, vibrant evening culture. Other UK cities could benefit from better understanding how long lives should shape night-time economies. Very little published research looks at age and the night time economy; of that, most focuses on middle age rather than older people, and few have asked what truly age-friendly evenings look like.

<https://ilcuk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/ILC-Night-Time-Economy-final-.pdf>

David Sinclair, ILC-UK



>> — Front Room Theatre

Through our collaboration with Alive and Flibbertigibbet Theatre in Weston-super-Mare, we hosted an intergenerational family theatre show at our community theatre venue last year. There were 30 pupils from reception classes at a local school and 30 residents from a local home for older people, all in attendance at a relaxed showing of *The Farmer and the Clown*. Travel for both groups was subsidised by the partners and the event was such a beautiful example of both ends of the age scale coming together to enjoy a live performance together in a way that made clear the relationship between the ages when engaging with theatre. As a result of the successful trial, and thanks to funding from Arts Council England, we intend to repeat the activity four more times over the course of the next twelve months.

<https://frontroomwsm.com/>

Adam Fuller, Front Room Theatre
@frontroomwsm

>> — It's on the cards

'Over the hill! Past it!' say the shop-bought birthday cards.

Well, that's just rude, thought Magic Me's intergenerational group of artist-participants. East London primary school students and local older adults set out together to create some non-ageist cards, which celebrate every stage of getting older.

See the results at The Wellcome Collection's 'The Coming of Age' exhibition from March-November 2026.

www.magicme.co.uk

Julia Bird, Magic Me

4. Today for tomorrow

One of United for All Ages' favourite sayings is: "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children". Growing momentum towards foresight, future generations and intergenerational fairness across the UK and wider world is therefore full of exciting possibilities.

>> — European citizens panel on intergenerational fairness

It's a strange and beautiful thing to witness a group of ordinary citizens — from across the EU, of different ages and backgrounds — pick up a concept as complex as intergenerational fairness and, within a few hours, make it entirely their own. When we, as the Knowledge Committee, listened in on the first Citizens' Panel weekend, what struck us most was how little explanation was needed. People instinctively got it. They understood, almost viscerally, that fairness isn't just about who wins and loses today or on one issue — it's about overall are things fair for everyone over their life, regardless of when they are born. And a second weekend deepened that conversation.

https://playingwithtime.substack.com/p/playing-with-time-listening-to-europes?utm_source=publication-search

Cat Tully, SOIF

>> — Next generation foresight practitioners

The Next Generation Foresight Practitioner (NGFP) Fellowship is an initiative of the School of International Futures (SOIF). The annual Fellowship is designed to help change the status quo and democratise the futures and foresight field with diverse perspectives from younger generations in under-represented geographies and communities. In addition to onboarding 25 individuals and teams to the NGFP fellowship, we partner with [Teach the Future](#) in the [Next Generation Foresight Practitioner – Young Voices \(NGFP-YV\) Awards](#) to showcase the emerging ideas of youth 12-17 years of age.

<https://nextgenforesight.org/our-network/fellows/>

Cat Tully, SOIF



>> — InCommon and SAACY

InCommon and SAACY (Sciences of Ageing and the Culture of Youth) co-designed a 'sharing your special objects' workshop. Bringing together local school children and their older neighbours from a retirement scheme in Kennington, the activity centred on sharing sentimental objects and related memories. The exchange fostered appreciation about different ways of living and change over time.

The workshop was held with a view to inform part of the SAACY exhibition, *Lifelines: Rethinking Ageing across Generations*, at Science Gallery London in the summer of 2025. We prepared a table display with five select objects and quotes from school children and older people talking about the relevant object. We also took photos at the workshop and displayed these photos at the exhibition.

See the [original advertisement](#) for the exhibition by Science Gallery London. On one of the photographs, you see the table display (including a navy blue 1920s/1930s shoe, a bag of marbles, a book and a small cigarette case); on another photo you see visitors bent over the table display. A further photo shows a shelf in the background (the chess game in the foreground); on the shelf you see the photos displayed.

Martina Zimmermann, King's College London



>> — Parliamentary Committee for the future

These are hopeful times for anyone who wants government to think and plan long-term, engaging future generations. A UK Parliamentary Committee for the Future now seems within reach.

In mid-March, MPs, civil society and next-generation voices came together to explore a mechanism to build a collective vision for a better future, keep us safer, and lead to better decisions for our children and grandchildren. They left inspired. But they also left fired up — and clear about action:

- Building on the cross-party support across Parliament and hosting the first prototype Committee for the Future meeting at the end of May
- Shaping a practical agenda, from pensions to climate to a positive long-term vision for the UK
- Connecting to the community building work developing a better more hopeful future for the wellbeing of current and future generations being done across the UK as well as align with growing interest at the highest levels

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/soif_ukcommitteeforthefuture-futuregenerations-activity-7440051739929759744-JaA8?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAP_I4BqtR7hTKp1gNGE7c_jdCd3ioLpsc

Cat Tully, SOIF and many partner organisations

>> — REVERSE MENTORING

Workplaces are changing faster than ever, with four or five different generations often working together. How can we harness all their skills, experience, knowledge, enthusiasm and energy? And what happens when younger workers are empowered to take a lead? Reverse mentoring is when the junior person guides and shares their perspectives with a more senior person. How many employers are ready to give it a go?

<https://reversementoring.com/>

Stephen Burke, United for All Ages



Changing the world together

The title of this paper might sound idealistic but the ideas in this paper are far from it – they are practical ways to bring people of all ages together to change their world. People and organisations are already doing it, along with many others, locally, nationally and globally.

To help oil the wheels of change at all those levels, we need more support and action:

- Locally, our communities rely on a variety of partners to add and spread the glue that binds us together. That might come from local residents, social enterprises, voluntary organisations, employers, councils, sports and arts clubs, businesses, education establishments, philanthropists and many more. Whoever, they all require support and encouragement to fulfil their potential as community enablers, working within an intergenerational strategy developed with and by the community.
- Nationally, from governments everywhere. A growing number of governments are now backing the idea of ‘committees of the future’, so that policymaking takes future generations into account. We also need governments to join up action by their departments now, so that plans and policies are not siloed but recognise the cross-cutting nature of connection, community and programmes that could be

nurtured to tackle loneliness, ageism, poor health, housing, care and learning.

- Globally, while war, migration and climate change dominate the headlines, there are global and regional organisations intent on building a better future. From strategies for intergenerational fairness and involving future generations, they are mobilising forces to end scourges like ageism, loneliness and unfulfilled potential. As the global intergenerational world grows, so it must be bold, imaginative and dynamic in linking up with other global movements and exercising our shared purposes.

So let’s all start now. Work together to change the world. And celebrate the magic, joy and impact that intergenerational projects create wherever you are. With confidence in tomorrow.

We look forward to hearing about your achievements in the year to come.

Stephen Burke
Director, United for All Ages

About United for All Ages

[United for All Ages](#) is a thinktank and social enterprise that brings younger and older people together to build stronger communities and a stronger Britain. See our latest news and reports at: [News | United For All Ages](#)

