

Cams Community Club

Hampshire's agreed definition 2010 of Intergenerational Practice:

"Intergenerational practice aims to bring people together in purposeful, mutually beneficial activities which promotes greater understanding and respect between generations and contributes to building more cohesive communities. Intergenerational practice is inclusive, building on the positive resources that the young and old have to offer each other and those around them" (Beth Johnson Foundation 2009)



I am proud to announce that Cams Community Club has been used by Hampshire as an exemplar of how schools can enrich the lives of older people in their immediate community. For this reason I was kindly asked to put together a piece of editorial for a feature in 'Hampshire Now – Special Summer Edition' published in August 2010 (still available to view online at: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/bettertime/aug10-special-issue.htm>).

In addition the club will shortly be showcased at a Hampshire County Council 'Generations Together' Conference and Celebration Event at Winchester Discovery Centre on 30th November 2010. There are a few places remaining if anyone would like to attend this free all-day event (lunch provided) so please feel free to contact Susie if you would like a booking form.

During the summer term David Wilmot also received a nomination from one of our Community Club members for a community award and appeared in the Portsmouth Evening News on 23rd July 2010 (pictured right) wearing his striking, sunny 'We Can Do It' T-shirt (archived article still available at: <http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/t-shirt/David-Wilmot.6436983.jp>). Cams has also been one of six schools to be nominated for the overall BEST SCHOOL category. We shall find out the result on Monday 29th November at a ceremony taking place at the Portsmouth Guildhall.



To prepare for the 'Generations Together' event Susie Higgs (ESCO) is attempting to produce a media presentation – either in the form of a short film or interactive PowerPoint to showcase the club to delegates. Despite the short-time scale, it has been a fantastic opportunity to pop into many of the classes and chat to members. I am pleased to report that the feedback has been wholeheartedly positive from all of our CCC members; with one very active member saying that the club had turned her from being an isolated, home-bound individual into an active participant with many new friends. Most of our members questioned said that the cost, variety, friendship (and the most essential factor) classes running during 'daytime hours' are the major benefits of the club. Professionals from the Community Innovations Team are now accompanying isolated older people into the club to introduce them to our activities.

I am even more pleased to hear feedback about our pupils at Cams Hill. The Community Club members have been very positive about pupil behaviour, finding most young people good mannered, friendly and helpful. In particular, one member of our Thursday art class was absolutely thrilled with her handmade gift (a decorated painting shirt) made by two thoughtful year 10 pupils she had been working alongside. Where pupils and our mature guests are learning alongside one another the interaction appears to be mutually beneficial. It would be interesting to see more pupils actively participating in some of the other activities, such as a handful of pupils attending tai chi or New Age Kurling class alongside the older generation. I am sure that our members could pass on some of their love for learning (simply for learning's sake) to the younger generation.

But despite an occasional, perhaps almost inevitable hiccup from a project of this size, I am delighted to report that the beginning of November we have an astounding **240** members now signed up for the Community Club with 93 active members. The programme of activities with prices and room allocation available to view online at the Cams Hill web site at:
<http://www.camshill.com/pages/community/community.htm>.

We are very fortunate that we now have a fantastic CCC Coordinator, Sally Warmington, who joined us as a volunteer at the end of the summer term. I met Sally at a few community meetings, then again when she came into the Volunteer Bureau to look for volunteering opportunities and expressed an interest in helping me with the Community Club. I think that Cams Hill staff will agree that she is doing a wonderful job with maintaining the database of members, collecting payment, overseeing classes and tutors, phoning members and planning progression courses...amongst a multitude of other tasks too numerous to mention!

It has obviously been invaluable having Sally's help, especially as we are saying a fond farewell to Emma Watts (nee Barrett), our Community Well-Being Coordinator at Fareham Borough Council from December 2010. Emma has been a key element with setting up, advertising and accessing external funding for the Community Club.

I am sure you will join me in wishing Emma the best of luck for the future.



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