

## **Bringing Generations Together**

The 50+ Forums have been very busy over the summer focusing on their Intergenerational work. All the projects that have taken place have been a great success and so rewarding for all those involved. It really shows that if you take away the typical stereotypes, people of any age and ability can join in activities together, learn new things and have some fun.

**The Heanor & District 50+ Forum** has been working with Blend Youth Project and Sporting Futures to hold a series of events over the Summer Holidays. After a getting to know one another session over tea and coffee the group created a fabulous menu and shopping list for an activities afternoon they were due to hold the following week.

On the day of the activities afternoon members of the forum and young people from Blend arrived early and chopped, sliced, baked and created a sumptuous meal of pizza's, salad and pasta to be followed by delicious strawberry cheesecake. They served this to lots of hungry customers who then all enjoyed lots of activities including new age curling, shuffleboard, bingo, loom bands, cards and badminton. As a thank you the young people from Blend invited Forum members along so they could help them out with their tablets and smart phones. The magical thing about all these activities is that they have all met new people, learnt something new and feel part of the community they live in.

In **Clay Cross** the 50+ Forum has been working with Sharley Park Community School visiting the school every week and working with the Year 6 students doing a wide variety of crafts including knitting, crocheting, nail art, paint and plant a pot, willow weaving, bird box making and card craft.

They are also delighted with the funding they have managed to obtain to be able to design and create a memorial garden at the school that can be enjoyed for generations to come. It looks so beautiful and is a real testament to all the hard work put in by the forum and students.

The **Chesterfield 50+ Inspired** Group run scheme for toe-nail cutting for anyone in the community who has difficulty in cutting their own nails, for reasons of age or health, but who cannot get this service through the Health Service. Surprisingly, this is a very real need and the opportunity has been taken up enthusiastically; in times of funding reductions, a modest charge for the service was introduced but this does not seem to have reduced its popularity.

They have also engaged in some "inter-generational" activity with the Chesterfield College by linking in with Final Year students offering 1-1 fitness training programmes. Members also attend Parkside School to receive 1-1 computer tuition.

**Long Eaton & District 50+** forum Chair, Pete Wearn, has linked in with Long Eaton School and has been holding very popular astronomy sessions for forum members in the school's new 'top of the range' Observatory – after a break during the summer

months the sessions have now recommenced and it is hoped a number of students from the school will be joining in the coming sessions.

The 50+ Forums hold events and activities all across the County. If you know of someone who would benefit from getting out and about and being involved more in their local community, please contact the Prevention Team at Adult Care on 01629 532446, 532466 or 532049 or visit:

[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/50\\_plus\\_forum](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/50_plus_forum)

