

# InterACT Annual Report 2019



“The kids have enjoyed every session, they can't wait for the next ones.”

Parent, after-school clubs

“Thanks for asking me to [come and help]. I enjoyed it as well.”

Young volunteer at Play and Learn session

“We are so excited to see the end result of the Community Centre Mosaic!  
Thank you Interact Church and Community Partnership.”

Meanwood Valley Pre-School, who are housed at the centre

“I think InterACT is really important in meeting the various needs of  
different sections in our community.”

Volunteer and participant

“Community involvement and interaction...Well organised and friendly.”

Parent/Carer at Meanwood Olympics

We started the year welcoming Maureen Lillywhite onto the staff team for 3 days a week, as Community Development Officer. Maureen has extensive community development experience, and she loves working in Meanwood!



Maureen's role includes advice with debt, benefit and housing issues; home visits; organising Meanwood Olympics and other family activities during the school holidays; and developing work with men. She has a very full and varied working week!

## Children and families

As ever, we had plenty going on for children and families throughout the year. **Term time** included Monday Night Youth Club for 9-16 year olds, Play and Learn (0-5's stay and play) and the first block of our new after-school sessions, where we worked with Seagulls Repaint to make a mosaic for Meanwood



Community Centre. **That's 50-60 young people a week at our busiest times.**

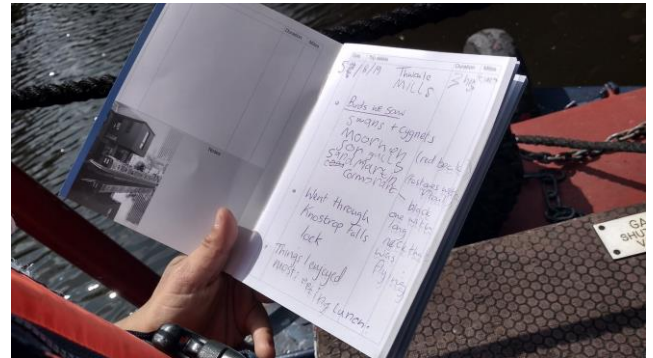
It's great to have sessions that include the grown-ups, as well as space for young people to meet and build relationships on their own. It's also great to have such strong connections with others in the area that work with young people. Carr Manor Community School and Leeds Youth Service



provide staff for our youth club, for example. It helps us connect better with families and the wider community, which enables us to see the lives of those young people in a more holistic way.



**School holidays** in 2019 were a combination of one-off events,



Meanwood Olympics Family Fun Days, and day trips. Highlights included a Greatest Showman themed party run by Fall into Place theatre, narrowboat trips on the Leeds Liverpool canal with Canal Connections, and birds of prey displays. Lots of action, lots of outdoors, lots of nature, lots of laughing and lots of people!

## **The tradition of community theatre**

There's been a good amount of community theatre in our area for a good number of years, and we were pleased to enable more of it in 2019. Our friends Common Chorus Theatre generated some moving conversations around what it means to be lonely in our society, from the writing process right through to facilitated after-show discussions.



## **Board game days**

Around 50-60 people come along to each of these events. We ran three this year and every chair and table in the building were in use for each one!

Board games days appeal to people of all ages and different board-gaming interests. And we even offer a free lunch to make the day even more inviting!



## **Community Cafés**

Our community café runs for two hours every week at Holy Trinity Church (hall). We love how many volunteers from church and community help to make the café happen, from home-baking to making toasties and serving sandwiches. It is most definitely a community affair.

We also take part in Stainbeck Church's community café every Thursday, offering games, table tennis, pool and crafts. This is a weekly contact point for Maureen, who receives visits from local residents needing support and advice on a wide range of issues.



## **The rest of our year...**

... included a Trustees/Management Team vision day; joint youth events; interagency meetings; seaside trips; raising money for food

vouchers through Reverse Advent Calendars; being part of the Love Meanwood consultation; home and group visits with warm blankets, mugs, hats and winter wellbeing advice; and a lovely Christmas day party, including dinner, for anyone who would have otherwise been on their own.



**InterACT is a partnership – of ‘punters’, of volunteers, of churches, of staff workers. And there are hundreds of us, connecting through events, activities, home visits and meetings throughout the year.**

**It has been another brilliant year.**

## **Our Supporters**

From practical volunteering to people who pray, to those who help us communicate across the area, there are many who give to us in many different ways. If you would like to sign up to our newsletter to find out more about what we do on a regular basis and how you can be involved, please email [vanessa@interact.uk.net](mailto:vanessa@interact.uk.net), or call 07961 535 767.

Financially, activities this year have been funded by: Leeds City Council (Community Committee Funding and Housing Leeds); Awards for All; Coop Community Fund; Stay Well This Winter; Leeds South & West Methodist Circuit; Stainbeck United Reformed Church; Meanwood Valley Baptist Church; St. Matthew’s Church; and Holy Trinity Church. We are also

thankful to The Barn Meanwood for a regular supply of great coffee to our community café.

We are grateful for a number of donations and standing orders from individual donors.

## Structure

InterACT is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission, number 1171402.

We are formally a partnership of five congregations: Holy Trinity, Meanwood; Meanwood Valley Baptist Church; St. Matthew's, Chapel Allerton; Stainbeck United Reformed Church; and Meanwood Methodists.

[www.holytrinitymeanwood.org.uk](http://www.holytrinitymeanwood.org.uk); [www.mvbc.org.uk](http://www.mvbc.org.uk);  
[www.saintmatthewschurch.com](http://www.saintmatthewschurch.com); [www.stainbeckurc.org.uk](http://www.stainbeckurc.org.uk);  
[www.lswmethodists.org.uk/meanwoodmethodistchurch.aspx](http://www.lswmethodists.org.uk/meanwoodmethodistchurch.aspx)

## Can you help us?

The number of activities we now run on a regular basis has significantly grown over the years, and we are an established and well-known part of our local community. We rely on an amazing group of volunteers to make this happen, and we would love more people to join the team! There are so many ways to get involved, from setting up equipment to chatting to folk who attend our activities and much in between. Please get in touch.

And if you feel you can support us financially, please complete the form below and send to us at Stainbeck Church, Stainbeck Road, LS7 2PP. Like all charities, we spend a considerable amount of our time looking for funding when we would rather be getting on with working in the community. Regular

donations are particularly helpful because they enable us to budget more easily.

If you can help, enclose one-off donations with this form. Information needed for standing orders and bank transfers is included, for those who prefer to set this up themselves. We'd be very grateful if you let us know you're planning to give in this way. Thank you.

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### InterACT Financial Giving Form

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am giving a one-off gift of £\_\_\_\_\_ and enclose my donation.

I will be making a donation of £\_\_\_\_\_ by BACS

I am setting up a standing order mandate with my bank for the following amount £ \_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer InterACT to send me a paper copy of a standing order mandate so that they can help me set this up with my bank.

#### **Our Bank Details:**

**Name of Bank:** CAF Bank

**Address:** 25 Kings Hill Ave, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19

**Acc. No.:** 00030580; **Sort Code:** 40-52-40

**Acc. Name:** InterACT Church and Community Partnership

**Gift Aid:** If you are a UK taxpayer, we can claim back 25p in every pound that you donate, making your gift go further. It can make a big difference.

Please ask us for a Gift Aid form.