

# InterACT Annual Report 2018



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“I have so much fun as a volunteer at the community cafe ...I’ve learnt so much too, completing a food hygiene course, mastering the dishwasher and becoming a more open and chatty person.”

Volunteer, Holy Trinity Community Café

“My favourite bit was the pudding - it made the day the best ever.”

4 year old participant, Make 'n' Eat

“The thing that’s most given me life through this process? “Opening up.”

Participant, A Wind of Change Community Theatre Production

“This was a wonderful expression of the life and creativity to be discovered in our own community. Well done indeed!”

Audience member, A Wind of Change Community Theatre Production

“I really want to go again”

6 year old participant, Experimenters

It's been a year of new initiatives for InterACT, and although we thought we had a lot going on before, 2018 was FULL ON.

Here's some of our highlights.

The beginning of the year was packed with rehearsals for our February **community theatre production** called **A Wind of Change**, in partnership with Common Chorus Theatre Company.



The production showcased many different stories from our local community, told in four very different ways and involving almost sixty people in its making. It was a fantastic celebration of Meanwood past and present, reflecting on the changes that have come to the community and how people have dealt with them.

It was fun to meet new people, re-ignite an interest in theatre among some local residents and encourage others to try it for the very first time. Local people took on the roles of singers, writers, actors and stage managers. Many have made friends for life.

In follow-up to this, we ran **two drama workshops for children** in October half term holiday, an **8 week theatre 'course' for adults**, hosted a **touring family theatre show** by Suitcase and Spectacles Children's Theatre, and have partnered with Common Chorus Theatre Company on a **project about loneliness and isolation**, which will be performed in Spring 2019.

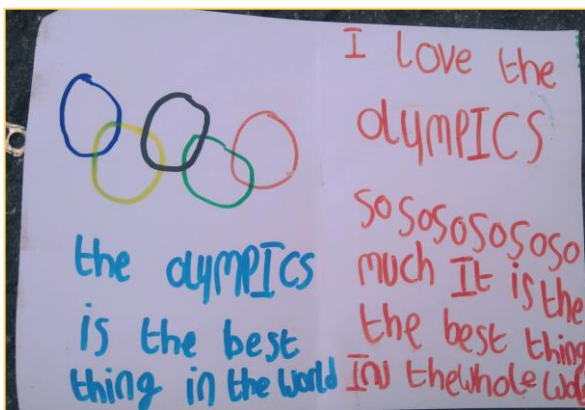


At the same time as all those early-year rehearsals, we were busy preparing for the launch of **Holy Trinity Community Café**, which we are running with Holy Trinity Church. The café runs for two hours a week on Wednesdays and is served by a team of around forty volunteers on a rota basis, some as home cake bakers, others as food makers and servers. It's been a big learning curve starting up a café – even one that's as small and local as ours. From food hygiene training to finding the best way to serve LOTS of toasties in the half an

hour everyone seems to order them, we've been working hard to make it a good experience for volunteers and customers alike.



We're really pleased to see the café full every week and to be able to give all profits to a different charity each month.



Other new initiatives this year have included being one of a number of organisations in Leeds working to help **combat holiday hunger**. We know that many families of children

who would normally receive school meals in term time struggle during the holidays to eat well and to eat enough. We made some changes to our usual holiday activities, as well as added to the programme, so that we had lots of opportunities to eat! This included family picnic lunches at the ever popular **Meanwood Olympics**, fruit picking and picnics on **family day trips** and making frying pan pizzas from scratch for **Make 'n' Eat**. We are looking at ways of working together with other organisations in Meanwood so that we can coordinate this even better next year.





We were also pleased to run two other firsts for InterACT: as part of the Meanwood Festival, run by Meanwood Valley Partnership, we ran family sports activities at Woodhouse Cricket Club

followed by a lovely 45 minutes walk through the woods to the site of the Festival Fun Day. We were also pleased to run the **Meanwood**

**Family Challenge** in October – a volunteer led afternoon of sports and games for the whole family.



2018 saw the start of our **Parenting Blog**.

This has been a further development of the resources we have been creating for local parents, following on from courses we have run in past years. We also printed a

**Parenting Pack** – a folder filled with tips and ideas for parents. We have been pleased to be able to give these away through schools, our Play and Learn group and other local organisations.

At the end of the year, it was great to connect with Meanwood Valley Partnership in a **Reverse Advent Calendar** scheme. Lots of people

took part, collecting items throughout Advent to be distributed to local families in need after Christmas.

## And the rest!

In addition to all that was new, we continued with our regular (with an occasional 'twist') activities throughout 2018.

### Play and Learn

This weekly session at Meanwood Community Centre creates space for children aged 0-5 and adults to play together, with healthy snacks, messy play and singing. Due to illness and an increase in volunteers, there have been changes to the team this year. But we're pleased to say this session is as popular as ever!



### Experimenters

As a development from Craft for Kids, Experimenters mixed up science, engineering and arts for children aged 5-8 and their families. We enjoyed digging for fossils, making solar systems, creating sun-developed photographs, incorporating electronics into sewing

projects and loads more.

## Board Games Days

These run every few months at Stainbeck Church. It's great to host such a wide variety of games with such a great mix of people – and gift them with a free lunch too! We even managed to work a board games day around the World Cup, so that everyone was catered for.



## Monday Night Youth Club

Weekly “do as you feel” sessions are mixed in with special events nights such as pizza making, games, karaoke and quizzes, as well as more reflective moments such as the one pictured here.

We've been really pleased to have our first young person graduate into a leadership role this year and look forward to welcoming a second young volunteer in 2019.

## Make 'n' Do!

We began 2018 with a table-tennis tournament as part of Make 'n' Do and ended it joined





by a group from a local residential home for deaf people, whom we hope will be joining us regularly in future. In between, we gained a new volunteer, enjoyed welcoming others to the group, and taken part in a peace project with Leeds City Museums . Make 'n' Do remains primarily a craft-based social group, but we also have games and other activities on offer for those who aren't too keen on crafting.

## Summer Trip to Whitby

We visited Whitby again this year, as it's by far the most popular of our choice of destinations for our annual seaside trip. As ever, it was great to take a coach filled with people of all ages from Meanwood for a day away from the city.

## 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 (Wellbeing Fund, Housing Leeds, Youth Activity Fund; Leeds Inspired);

GiveLoveLeeds; Gifting Leeds; Awards for All; AllChurches; Ann Maguire Education Trust; Yorkshire Building Society; British Science Association; Barchester Foundation; Gay and Peter Hartley's Hillards Charitable Trust; Healthy Holidays; 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 were delighted to welcome Meanwood Methodist Church to our partnership in 2018 and are now made up formally of five congregations: Holy Trinity, Meanwood; Meanwood Valley Baptist Church; St. Matthew's, Chapel Allerton; Stainbeck United Reformed Church; and Meanwood Methodists.

## 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 really do 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 overleaf 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 serving 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.

## 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.