



# A Calling

## Project Report



# Impact

Throughout this project we empowered:

**30 older adults living in care to be involved in a community project and share their stories with young people.**

**37 young people ages 4-16 to engage with their community and older adults living in care.**

**Members of the public to engage with an interactive art piece that showcased voices of younger and older people and highlighted the need for intergenerational connection.**

# About the Project

Intergenerational connections benefit everybody. Creating connections that unite us and not divide us is essential in creating stronger communities, combating loneliness and addressing ageism.

Through the STANd (Strength Together Age Network development) project, we partnered with artists to create this exhibit, which highlights voices of the community expressing their passions through generations. This project highlights the need for passions and hobbies of all ages, learning new things and encouraging connection with others.

Engaging in meaningful activity for older people, particularly those living with dementia, has many health benefits. Enjoying hobbies and interest later in life can improve physical health and aid in promoting positive mental health & wellbeing. Engaging with these interests with others combats loneliness and promotes a sense of community for all ages.



← Helen



- William Mable Gallery
- ↑ Clare's Cottage
- Community Gallery
- ↑ Toilets

Mable Gallery



# Crafting in Care Homes

To begin the project, we connected with two care and residential homes in Weston-super-Mare.

Two local artists joined residents for a creative tea party, creating a relaxed and welcoming space where participants could share their past and present hobbies and interests. These conversations formed the foundation of the creative work.

The sessions involved writing and drawing, using personal interests as creative stimuli, as well as making bespoke badges that reflected each individual's passions. These activities supported self-expression and wellbeing, while also encouraging fine motor skills and reminiscence.

Residents were interviewed using a rotary telephone, allowing stories to be shared in a way that felt familiar and accessible. These recorded conversations were later collated and incorporated into the final installation.

The creative tea parties were a resounding success, encouraging conversation and connection between residents and staff over tea and cake. The insights and stories shared during these sessions directly informed the development of the final artwork, ensuring the installation was shaped by the voices and experiences of older people.







A CALLING!  
A PROJECT ABOUT  
OUR PASSIONS  
THROUGH TIME.



# Community Picnic

Following our visits to care and residential settings, we partnered with a local youth group, SWAN, who deliver activities for young people in the area.

The intergenerational picnic took place on Bournville Green in Weston-super-Mare, inviting young people and their families to join us for an afternoon of crafting, shared food, and conversation. During the event, we conducted interviews exploring participants' passions and hobbies, which were later incorporated into the installation.

Families dropped in and out throughout the day, and we used the same rotary telephone to record these interviews.

For many of the young people, this was their first experience using a rotary phone, prompting conversations about changing technology and the blending of old and new. This simple interaction created opportunities for meaningful discussions about ageing, change, and shared experiences across generations.

Young people attending with their families spoke about their current hobbies and how they feel about growing up. Many shared positive views on ageing, emphasising that age should not dictate the activities someone enjoys, and that older people should not be discriminated against or defined by assumptions about their interests.



**We interviewed young people and their families, encouraging them to talk about their hobbies and aging. The young people spoke positively about passions in their life and growing up.**



“ Poetry works for anyone at any stage of life. Everyone's got something interesting to say, so put it in a poem. ”



RØDE

WIRELESS II



**“ When we're bigger, we can still play with toys and play with the sand. ”**

# Install Event

Following the engagement of this project and working with participants, the final art piece was installed at Weston Museum.

Participants interviews were collected and reimagined into a free, interactive art piece for members of the public to enjoy.

Prior to this event being launched for the public, we held an invite-only event for participants and partner organisations.

During this event, older people were able to use the telephone to hear their own voices back, as well as the voices of young people involved. Each person spoke about their passions and hobbies, each with candidness and authenticity that was a privilege to listen to.





**A CALLING FOR  
DANCING**

*A year about getting out and meeting people*



**Dial 800**



## **Make a Call:**

- 1. Pick a number from the Pink Pages**
- 2. Dial the number, let the dial go all the way back round before entering the next digit**
- 3. Listen to a recording of the person you picked on the end of the line!**

# Interview Quotes

Below are direct quotes from interview transcripts. Participants throughout the generations expressed their interests and hobbies, showcasing that passions are important for wellbeing through all ages and stages of life.

“ With craft, there's endless limits to what you can make. It is just a passion that anyone could do at any age. ”

“ I believe it's never too late to try anything new. ”

# Interview Quotes

**“ I'm never too old to  
play with my  
friends. ”**

**“ I always liked dancing  
really, and ball room  
dancing is what I did in  
my life. ”**



**A Calling**

**Calling definition:**

1. the action or sound of calling.
2. a strong urge towards a particular way of life or career; a vocation.

**A CALLING FOR PIGEONS**

I could get a pair of pigeons for three pound.

**Dial 110**





**A CALLING FOR  
DANCING**

*It was about getting out and meeting people.*



**Dial 800**

# Conclusion

The art installation was presented at Weston Museum for a five-week period and received consistently positive feedback from members of the public, as well as from museum staff and volunteers. Audience responses highlighted the accessibility of the installation, the emotional impact of hearing real voices, and the value of presenting lived experiences from multiple generations within a shared public space.

The project successfully engaged communities across a wide range of ages and life stages, creating meaningful opportunities for participants and visitors to share stories, reflect on personal interests, and learn from one another.

By centring individual voices and lived experience, the installation challenged assumptions around age, identity, and participation, reinforcing the importance of lifelong creativity and connection.

# Conclusion

A key strength of the project was its use of both familiar and contemporary technologies, with the rotary telephone acting as a tangible symbol of continuity and change. This blending of old and new supported intergenerational dialogue and encouraged reflection on how experiences, interests, and passions are shared across generations. Overall, the project demonstrated the impact of creative, participatory approaches in fostering intergenerational understanding, reducing social isolation, and strengthening community connections.

The installation offered a welcoming and inclusive space for engagement, leaving a lasting impression on participants, partners, and audiences alike.

