

Intergenerational National Network

Meeting at the Ecology Centre in Fife on 22 October 2018

The meeting was hosted by the Ecology Centre. Attendance included people from Police Scotland; Fife Council; the Centre for Stewardship; Alzheimer Scotland; and Partick Thistle Charitable Trust, as well as the Ecology Centre itself and a number of individuals.

David Stockwell, who manages the Centre, reported that it has been an environmental charity since 1998. The initial focus was on cleaning up Kinghorn Loch, which had become polluted.

It is now a charity and a social enterprise. They have a dozen staff, who work on a wide ranging programme, which includes education, volunteering and activities on and around the site. Their aim is to connect people with nature, and to encourage them to care for the landscape which surrounds them. They work with people of all ages, from babies up, and have a number of activities which are specifically dementia-friendly.

They do work with some secondary schools and with school leavers, but most of their educational programme is mostly about taking primary school pupils out of their classrooms. They encourage the children to engage with their emotional side, to connect with themselves, and to understand who they are.

They also offer training opportunities, and currently have three apprentices. There are also opportunities for young people to undertake projects on site.

There are also a range of volunteering opportunities, including a programme for learning English for work, which they run in collaboration with Fife College and Fife Council.

On Wednesdays they have an open day, and feed everyone. The intention is to bring people together, including people with additional needs and sometimes their carers; to break down barriers; and to address social isolation. It is open to anyone aged 16 plus, including people in the later stages of their lives.

They have a toolshed, which predates the Men's Shed movement in Scotland.

The main presentation was given by Davy Cumming from Police Scotland's CYBER Harm Prevention team.

Fuller notes are available from Pat Scrutton (patscrutton247@gmail.com).