

CRAFTING CONNECTIONS 2023 IMPACT



Launched in March 2022, Crafting Connections is the arts & crafts exchange pairing children with care home residents to give 3 HITS OF HAPPY every month. We pair children with older adults from all across the UK.

460

Friendships made in 2023



“I love that Crafting Connections gives my children the opportunity to have these experiences with older people.”

Parent/Guardian



35

Care homes involved

360

Residents signed up

“Edward was only 10 months old when he started and it’s been fantastic how May’s enjoyed Ed’s progress. She hasn’t got any grandchildren, never had her own children, so it’s been wonderful for her.”

Activities Coordinator



“Keeping the residents busy, involved with small children, involved in the community - makes them far happier.”

Happy

Activities Coordinator



“The emotions that come along with Crafting Connections have been surprising.

“Being so important in someone's life - enough for them to make and give you a special gift, is of great importance to someone who has never had that in their life.”

Activities Coordinator



“One day a resident received a friendship bracelet from his friend - he was so excited, he wanted to wear it straight away and wouldn't take it off.”



Activities Coordinator



“One resident, sleeps with her artwork under her pillow it means so much to her.”



Activities Coordinator

Recent feedback from a care home:

“Our residents love it, they look forward to getting their packs monthly but it's not just about the artwork, it's about the friendships they've built up. It sometimes brings a tear to the eye when you see how the friendships are going.

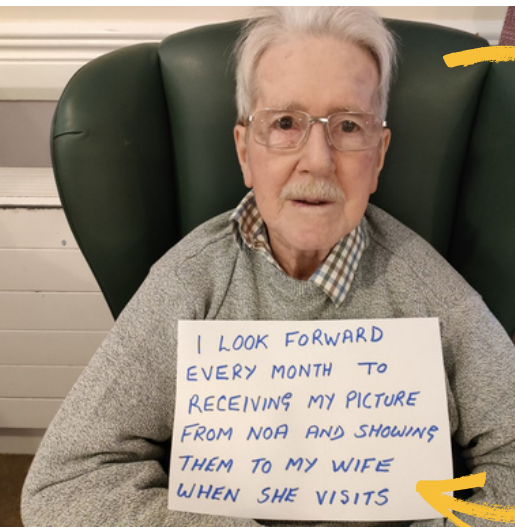
“When you're in a care home you haven't got your everyday personal things and you can't get out and about so Crafting Connections means our residents can talk about something personal to them with their families. Their families say it's absolutely marvellous. We've had residents who've passed away and the families have asked if they can keep the Friendship Folder.”



In 2023:

353

Children signed up



We asked parents/guardians why did you sign up?

“One child was displaying some unkind characteristics, and I thought this would provide an opportunity to help explore those feelings through an activity we can do together.”

“It’s nice to have something organised, providing a rhythm for monthly crafts. It’s also good for literacy and to practice writing. I love to see the exchange between the two friends, even though they are so far apart in age.”

“I knew the value something like this can have on older, sometimes isolated people so when I heard about it, I knew it was something I wanted Noa to get involved in.”

“I wanted to encourage kindness and thoughtfulness and thought having an older pen pal would be a great idea”

“I had a parent who passed away recently, the in-laws aren’t involved due to health problems so we wanted her to have a connection with an older person“

CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT CRAFTING CONNECTIONS?

“I liked that it was beneficial to the community, helping people’s mental health and for those who didn’t have family.”

“Crafting Connections really speaks to my own values of displaying kindness. And it supports us in having those conversations as a family.”

“I absolutely love everything about Crafting Connections!”

“I really enjoy the crafts *and* the connections. As a result my children are demonstrating more empathy.”



Crafting Connections has sparked Aubrey's interest in crafts and his Mum told us he looks forward to receiving Alan's artwork.



Luka's Mum said: "We love learning about Augusta's life and what is important to her. It's so lovely to get to know someone that we would have never met otherwise."



As someone who doesn't have any grandchildren, Joyce cherishes her friendship with Florence and finds it truly wonderful.

Read more about their blossoming friendship

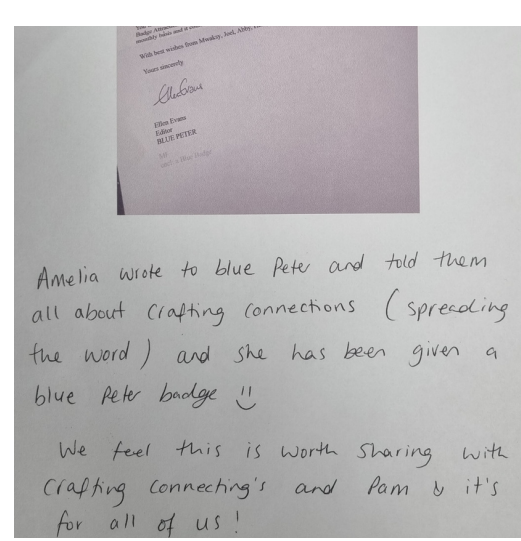


"I love crafting and I get so excited when Violet sends me her reply! Violet is really lovely and I like finding out more things about her. She is over 100 years old!!!"
Ava, 7 years old





Special friendships to make you smile...

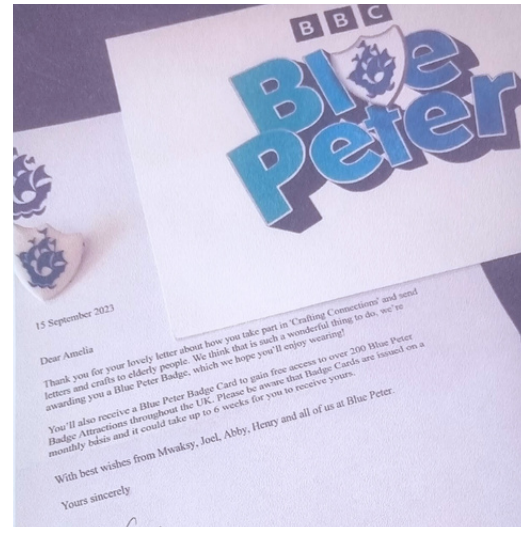


Amelia & Pam

Crafting Connections pals Amelia and Pam have caused quite a stir!

Amelie wrote to Blue Peter to tell them all about their friendship, and got a Blue Peter badge in return!

Amelia's mum says: "We feel it's worth sharing as it's for all of us!"



Charlie & Judith find more in common than they ever thought. Read more about their friendship.



Judith, a care home resident has rekindled her connection with Maxi's Mates Rescue and Rehoming Centre for dogs after meeting teenager Charlie through Crafting Connections.



"This project shows time and time again that, though people may be generations apart, we have more in common than that which divides us." Louise Goulden, Founder & CEO of The Together Project CIO



