

Angus and Agnes' friendship blossoms

When Rothiemay Playgroup arranged regular visits to Balhousie Care Home in Huntly last year, a special friendship formed and continues to blossom between Angus Johnson (now in primary one) and ninety-one year old resident, Agnes Rae.

Angus visits Agnes at the home regularly and Agnes has also visited him at school. She enjoyed spending time with Angus as he showed her around the classroom and how to use the smart board. This also gave Agnes the opportunity to reminisce and compare how much things have changed since she was a primary teacher at Skene School until she retired.

Agnes said: "Angus is a pretty intelligent kid, with a lot of go about him. Both of our names are quite similar in spelling and this was what encouraged Angus to become close to me. He's just such a jolly little kid. He's at a pretty good school and his teacher is just great with her class. Angus seems to take everything in and isn't shy – just a great kid!"

Angus' mum, Debbie said: "Angus absolutely loves spending time with the residents and the genuine friendship, love and delight of being in each other's company shines through. We are delighted that this connection is continuing now he is at school. The care home residents have become important to Angus and he talks so proudly to others about his 'special friends' from Balhousie. Spending time with the residents has really brought out Angus's caring and protective side. It is wonderful to see the two generations playing and working together as equals. We feel very lucky that our son gets to spend such special, quality time with the residents and hope this intergenerational work continues.



"Angus and Agnes have such a strong, loving bond. Angus enjoys Agnes' company so much and he really gets a lot out of the time they spend together. Angus' confidence has increased since spending time with Agnes. She genuinely is interested in all he has to say and he loves chatting away to her. Angus missed seeing Agnes during the school holidays so one day asked if he could buy her flowers and give them to her. It is so obvious that they both enrich each other's lives and give each other much happiness."

Tanya Smith, activities coordinator at Balhousie said: "The connection between Agnes and Angus is very special and you can really see the joy they both bring to each other. This friendship shows how intergenerational work has numerous positive outcomes for both generations and is something that needs to be pursued more by schools and care homes. I have worked on many intergenerational projects but the partnership that we have linked up with Rothiemay playgroup is by far one of the most positive and successful ones. This story of Agnes and Angus is just one of the many positive outcomes from the partnership."