

Camphill Devon

Autumn Newsletter



Room with a View

We are starting to use the new rooms at Hapstead, with a phased programme of people moving to different rooms, which better meet their needs. Building new rooms is one thing, but it is the reaction of people to the new accommodation that makes it all worthwhile. The first person to move into his much-needed new room did not say very much: well just one word really... "Lovely!"

Just before we started using the rooms, there was an "official" guided tour, and I must admit I was a little surprised that more people did not join in. I asked one lady why she did not come along and she told me, "Ah! I have already seen it. I have seen the bedrooms and they are very big and very perfect."

That will do for me.

Thanks to everyone who has supported the fundraising effort in such a variety of ways. Funds are still coming in, and we still have some finishing off outside and in the new laundry. The latest cheque was the result of a magnificent effort by **Bertha's Babes** – that is a dance group based at Torpoint British Legion in case you are wondering - for which we are very grateful.

Enjoy this issue

John

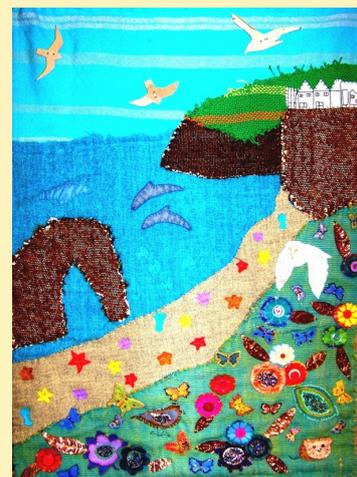


A surprise gift from the past...

We were given a donation through the 'World Wide Weave' project around a year ago. But to the surprise of the donor and ourselves, because they gift aided the money, an additional £1,500 was received on top of the original amount. This has been split between various Camphills and we have had the pleasure of being able to spend a further £300 on much needed materials and equipment for our textiles workshop.

Gift aid doesn't cost the donor any more money. As long as they are a tax payer donating through gift aid means the charity can receive 25% extra, so for every pound given we get a further 25p and this really can add up...

£100 = £25 and so on. Well worth it!



A little festive feathered friend stopped to have a drink from one of our pottery seed pods. I bet it needs a drink

Much research has been carried out into the lives of robins and it has been revealed that they are one of the few UK species that sing all year round. Both males and females sing to declare and defend their own individual territories outside the breeding season and their songs are more or less identical.



A Maiden 'Voyage' for Camphill Devon...

When one door closes another one opens. Funky Aardvark in Teignmouth has vacated and now in its place is 'Voyage Fair Trade.' 'Voyage Fair Trade' was founded back in 2013 and is owned by Sam Birtwistle who trades fairly with artisans both locally and abroad, including Camphill Devon. Now it has moved location, artists will also be offering workshops as well as selling work. It is exciting times for this area of Teignmouth, which is starting to be known as the 'Arts Quarter.' The mayor of Teignmouth, Paul Burgess, had the pleasure of cutting the ribbon for the official opening where it was definitely standing room only. I am pleased to say that we sold some jewellery on the opening night, so hopefully this is the start of a good working relationship. Voyage Fair Trade is opposite the TAAG centre where we exhibit regularly and TAAG is going to be working closely with Sam as the 'Arts Quarter' develops.



www.voyagefairtrade.co.uk



Let's Celebrate ...

This initiative was started by St Luke's and Buckfastleigh Methodist Church in 2014 to make Christian worship more accessible for adults with a learning disability. As well as making the churches more accessible for people who attend, they also facilitate an inclusive worship celebration here at Hapstead four times a year. This is made up of a time of worship and a very popular fellowship session afterwards where we share in refreshments.

In the Summer, the group celebrates 'Nature' and on the 6th July we went on a spiritual walk around Hapstead and visited the ponds, chickens, crops, ants and the memorial garden. Rev Tom, Jenny Holton and Mandie helped people to think about what they could see and what the Bible has to say about nature and how awesome it is. Everyone joined in with describing the sights, singing and prayers.

The group met again for 'Ability Sunday' on 10 September at the Methodist Church where people were celebrating using their individual gifts and strengths. Then there was a harvest celebration in the Hall on 21 September and the next time the group will meet is for a Christmas celebration on 14 December.

Awesome God



Yet another successful exhibition at TAAG this summer....

The standard of the work and artists gets better every year. Looking at different ways to recycle and reuse everyday materials. The real bonus this year was the workshops that ran alongside the exhibition. With materials from the Exeter scrap store, they ran daily workshops for the young and old transforming junk into, fairy houses, rocket ships, cars, trains, bird feeders, boats and much, much more. We always meet some lovely new artists and make connections every year. Jennifer Jenkins, who made items and art from rubbish found in car parks, kindly donated her bird scarer to us when one of our guys mentioned about a Goshawk attacking our chickens. It has now found its new home in the trees of the chicken field. All the cans were put through a dishwasher before she made the piece!



Wildlife Advocate

Hapstead is fortunate to have secured the services of a new volunteer. Her name is Anna David and she works for Devon Wildlife Trust. She is the Project Officer for the Greater Horseshoe Bat Project and has agreed to become our Wildlife Advocate.

Anna, who lives in Buckfastleigh, has been working with the farm to identify and develop areas of great wildlife interest. As you may know, we have a number of very steep fields which are not suitable for farming intensively and we have no intention of doing so as they are veritable havens for wildlife and flora. Much of the land around Hapstead is rich in wildlife, so we are lucky to have so much we can be pleased with already.

Our most important species is probably the Greater Horseshoe bat. We are situated just over half a mile, (as the bat flies) from the internationally important winter roost in the caves below the "church on the hill", above Buckfastleigh. Anna has already instigated a project to improve the orchard at Merryfield and she is providing the money to re-plant twenty five apple and pear trees, including the fence cages to protect them. Apparently the bats like to forage along lines of trees which they get to know as part of their home range. The fact that we also have cattle is also very good for the bats as their dung provides habitat for dung beetles, among their favourite food! Of the less common birds of prey we have Goshawks, both resident and migratory, who help themselves to our chickens even though we have the most sophisticated bird scarers. We have Hobbys, the smallest raptors in Britain, who feed on small birds they catch in flight. The largest animals are Sika and Red Deer along with foxes and badgers, down to frogs, toads and lizards. The Beast of Dartmoor is about in the woods, so they say.

The Early Purple Orchid is present in good numbers in the fields behind Avalon.

Anna will be engaged in a wildlife audit of all present species, this is clearly a huge task.



Being a menace at the weekend...

Jenny our Administrator often lets off a little steam at weekends doing battle re-enactments as a member of 'The Sealed Knot'. At a recent special re-enactment in Coventry they had a comic book character themed party and Jenny and her husband decided to be Menaces (Dennis the Menace). With a few additions fashioned from metal work and textiles Jenny was a right little minx (Minnie the Minx) complete with copper pipe pea shooter, a mallet, sling shot and pompom.



Taking the helm...

Here are some photos of a great start to Sailability this year. It was a memorable trip, as well as having a go at driving the boat, the group helped to perform a rescue when a father and son's boat ran out of fuel.

New Calves

We have ten lovely new calves, these are all British Blues out of dairy cows, which are quite different to look at compared to our existing Angus crosses. They come from the "Orange Elephant" farm at the end of the M5 near Exeter. The farmer, called Rob Taverner, has promised he will come and see them in due course which has pleased Robin and Sylvia. Rob's family make ice cream on their farm and have an ice cream parlour, which is worth a visit on a hot summer's day!



Camphill Devon

Supporting adults with learning disabilities

**Hapstead Village
Buckfastleigh
Devon
TQ11 0JN**

Phone: 01364 642631

Fax: 01364 644188

E-mail: admin@camphilldevon.org.uk

Camphilldevon.org.uk

[Facebook: Camphill Devon](https://www.facebook.com/CamphillDevon)

Registered charity no. 278173



Please help us to save on postage: to receive regular Newsletters from Camphill Devon Community by email please email admin@camphilldevon.org.uk requesting 'Newsletter'

Camphill Devon

Supporting adults with learning disabilities

Advent Fair

Sunday 3rd December 2017

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Craft stalls, cakes, raffle,
children's games, roast pork
rolls and lots more

**Hapstead Village, Buckfastleigh
TQ11 0JN**

For more information call
01364 642631

Registered Charity No. 278173