

Camphill Devon



Summer Newsletter

Natural Hapstead

At this time of year people at Hapstead spend more time outdoors and are enjoying the natural environment that surrounds us. Respect for the environment has always been a Camphill value, and constant news stories about damage to the planet makes us all think about how we can make things better. One of the disturbing news items has been the decline of the country's bee population. It is good to be able to report that we now have our own bees at Hapstead, and they can be seen gathering pollen up and down the site. Beekeeping is one of the new activities being developed by the farm group, and we are fortunate that we have internationally acclaimed expertise and training available right on our doorstep at Buckfast Abbey.



Several people have remarked on the damaging effects of plastic in the world, and the effects on wildlife and the oceans. Everyone is being asked to think about how Camphill Devon can be less reliant on plastic. Here are a few tips from Hapstead's MP, Dr Sarah Wollaston, who is supporting the Sky Ocean Rescue campaign. And unlike the old warning on the TV, please **DO** try these at home:



Here are the top tips on how you can #PassOnPlastic

- Drink out of a refillable water bottle
- Use a bag for life
- Avoid products that contain microbeads
- Buy cotton buds with cardboard rather than plastic stems
- Use a metal or glass straw
- Buy fruit and veg loose rather than in plastic packaging
- Give up plastic cutlery
- Bring your own travel mug to your favourite coffee shop

Small changes = big difference!

Enjoy this issue

John

Things are starting to grow

The Merryfield garden is coming along really nicely. They have added pathways seating areas and a raised vegetables garden. Their hard work is paying off as the vegetables they planted are starting to grow and they will be soon harvesting the fruit of their labours.



To Bee or not to Bee?



I am happy to say that the answer for us is, to bee!

After receiving training down at Buckfast Abbey and the farm group's excitement to get involved, we are starting to keep bees here at Hapstead. Bees are so important, forget about honey, pollen and royal jelly. Just think of a world without beans, tomatoes, onions and carrots, not to mention the hundreds of other vegetables, oilseeds and fruits that are dependent upon bees for pollination. We are hoping to increase our bee keeping over the years and will be harvesting wax and honey, and making our own produce from it.

Bees are some of the world's hardest working creatures, and humans have a variety of things to thank this little insect for. Agriculturally speaking, bees pollinate one-sixth of the world's flowering plants, equalling about 400 different types of plants. Honeybees provide invaluable pollinating services. The service of pollinating flowers is important for farming but it also serves another essential purpose regarding improving the floral landscapes of the planet. By keeping local flowers pollinated, bees promote floral growth, and this creates attractive habitats for other insects, birds, and mammals.

There are a lot of changes on the farm with our Farmer retiring and us making the decision to tenant the land instead of farming it ourselves. We will continue to keep chickens, and we will have plenty to keep us busy with bees, woodland, fencing, and maintenance. It is an exciting time. We have also been taking regular groups down to help out at the donkey sanctuary in Ivybridge, and they are hoping to be able to bring one of their donkeys to the summer fair.



Here are some pictures of the farm group's visit to the Abbey to learn about and handle bees.



Ascension day

Ascension day went well this year. All the walking groups walked from site, some to the railway and some to Hembury woods, others to the memorial garden on site. It was a lovely day full of spring colours and hills. It is a great reminder of where Camphill Devon is based with such lovely walks on our doorstep. Whether people chose a short or a long walk it was a nice opportunity to come together.



It's a beautiful view from the memorial garden





Birdwood House Art Gallery

Our exhibition in Totnes went amazingly well and people are still talking about it. We raised £1,700, created awareness and celebrated the talents and abilities of the people here at Hapstead. The exhibition did look fantastic and a lot of visitors were surprised when they were told who created the work. Also at the exhibition we were able to showcase our first screen printed bags. One year ago Phil Summerscale came up and helped us to start the process but it has been hard to give screen printing enough time and attention alongside everything else that we do. Until now, Fiona has helped us tweek the process we are using and we are now on a roll. With everyone going plastic free we thought bags might be a good place to start. In the future we are hoping to make aprons and tea towels ..etc.



Be Active Safe and Healthy

Mark attended the BASH awards back in March. He had a lovely evening with a buffet and a quiz. He finished second in his category "Making Healthy Choices" and as you can see from the images below it was a well deserved award for such a huge achievement. Mark has worked hard to lose so much weight with the help and guidance of his support staff, changing his diet and increasing exercise. He is quite literally a changed man and very pleased with himself. He has definitely achieved everything in the category title.

Well done Beth!

Beth took part in the 5k 'Race for Life' on Sunday 17th June supported by Katie. Beth worked hard leading up to this event and it was a huge achievement for her to complete it.



Good bye Rory

We said a fond farewell to our farmer Rory who retired in May. He has worked here at Camphill Devon for 5 years looking after the farm and helping to support the farm groups. He was given some cards and gifts and had a nice BBQ with the farm and garden groups.



Mark in 2014



Mark at the BASH awards in 2018

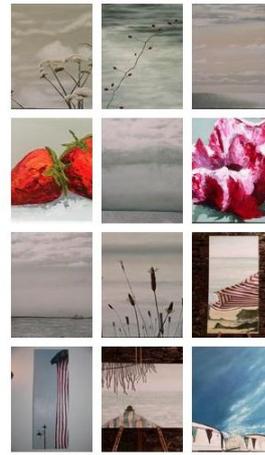


A unique donation

Fiona the new Art workshop leader, is a very talented artist who used to have her own gallery in Cornwall and is kindly donating one of her original oil paintings as a prize for this years Summer Fair. To the right is a snippet I took from her website to show the quality of her work, normally selling for £100's of pounds. The chosen painting will be displayed at the fair and on Facebook.

If you are thinking of donating anything for the fair, like good quality Bric-a-Brac or something for the friends and family stall, please bring or deliver no sooner than 2 weeks before the fair and contact Liz on, lizcave@camphilldevon.org.uk or 07710023106 to arrange. All donations are gratefully received

fiona drummond
Portfolio: Current Work



dune

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the very essence of a hot afternoon lying in the dunes.

Original
Oil on canvas
90cm x 90cm
Sold



No cash? No worries

We are now the proud owners of a card payment reader, that we will be using at this year's Summer Fair for the first time. Hopefully it will help everyone to enjoy the event and without missing out on anything. It will be situated with the raffle, so will be easy to find. As well as chip and pin it will also take contactless payments.



 It is always nice to see where peoples work ends up. This is a lovely picture of a fairy garden that Chris (the Farmer) sent in .



This year's Fair

It is promising to be a lovely fair again this summer, with African drumming, fun golf, a donkey from Ivybridge, a great raffle, a variety of stalls, not to mention our workshops and home produce. There will be cakes and a BBQ, with Art to feast your eyes on. Hopefully the weather will smile on us as well.

Camphill Devon

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Camphill Devon Summer Fair

Sunday 15th July

2-5pm

Craft stalls, cakes, raffle, face painting, children's games, BBQ and lots more

Hapstead Village, Buckfastleigh
TQ11 0JN

For more information call
01364 642631

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