

# Camphill Devon

## Spring Newsletter



### A little bit different...

Actually more than a little bit. We are not holding a Summer Fair this year, and instead we are having an **open event on Sunday, 21st July** based around our craft workshops and day activities. There will be an opportunity to buy items from the workshops as usual, and there will also be demonstrations, as well as the chance to take part and make something too.

We are hoping this open event, to experience activities at Hapstead, will be popular and a welcome change for visiting family members and people from the local community who support us. We have been finding the "summer fair season" is becoming more and more crowded and last year there were two other major fairs on the same day as Camphill Devon's. We are thinking about ways to refresh next year's fair with additional attractions, and possibly holding it earlier in the year... late spring or early summer. Ideas are welcome.

I hope to see you on Sunday, 21st July. I have been asked to confirm that the café will be open and we will be serving delicious home-made cream teas, and it will be up to you to decide whether you spread Anney's Strawberry Jam or local clotted cream first. If you can't decide expert help will be on hand.

Looking forward to later in the year we will be holding our ever popular **Advent Fair on Sunday, 1st December**, so please put the date in your diary. December is a special month for Camphill Devon as it marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first residents moving to Hapstead Village, with more people arriving the following year. There will be a display of photographs at the Advent Fair as we start to celebrate those 40 years: 1979 to 2019 and still going strong.

Enjoy this issue  
John



On the left is a newspaper article from when Camphill Devon first opened, featuring Roger who still lives here today. See the picture on the right. We even found one of the old milk churns for him to sit on for the picture.



## Every day really is different at Camphill Devon!

The Department of Health and Social Care recently ran a national campaign called "*Every day is Different*" to encourage more people to consider a job in adult social care.

Late one Thursday afternoon we received a phone call from a London based PR Company who wanted to come and visit us and take some photographs to be part of the Government's "Every Day is Different" campaign.

The company was particularly keen on the range of activities and abilities of people we support and loved our commitment to treating each person as an individual and enabling people rather than 'caring for' people. We asked residents and tenants if they were happy to be part of this campaign and have their photograph taken to which many said yes!

They came the following Monday and their photographer took some shots so that the PR company could choose one of those shots to be included within the "Every Day is Different" exhibition in the Houses of Parliament on 2 April 2019.

This is the great photograph of Sylvia and Ed that was exhibited in the Houses of Parliament on 2 April 2019 as part of the national exhibition.



The people from the PR Company enjoyed their visit so much that the photographer said he would be happy to come back and take some more photographs for us to use as we wish.

We have all chatted about some ideas for the next 'photo shoot' and are looking forward to seeing Guy, the photographer, again so watch this space...

All in all it turned out to be a very productive phone call that Thursday afternoon.

## A lovely tour of the town

The weather was lovely for this year's Ascension day. The group I walked with had chosen to walk to South Devon railway through the town centre, which meant the hill they walked is back up to Hapstead. However this year we managed two Ascensions! With Mike (the driver) leading the way after leaving the railway, we walked up a slope, passed some old lime kilns and the entrance to the caves where the Greater Horeshoe bats roost. Apparently, at dusk you can watch them fly out in their hundreds. Then we walked up further through the ruins of the old church at the top of the hill before walking back up to Camphill Devon for a lovely fish and chip lunch. We also had a gentleman joining us for a trial week, so it was a lovely tour of the town for him, and us, looking at some of Buckfasleigh's history and places of interest.



## 40 Years

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David Says he remembers the exact day he moved to Camphill Devon from Botton; it was New Year's Eve 1979 and it was cold.

There were originally only 5 individuals that arrived at Hapstead from Camphill Botton and 2 of them still live here today.

The site has changed a lot, as you can see from these two pictures. Many of the buildings, including some of the houses and the land barn, were built over the 40 years; our most recent building was the Merlin extension. Years ago, the cows were milked early in the morning and residents made candles. Along with cows, Camphill Devon used to keep pigs, sheep and chickens as well as chopping the wood for fires. Metal work has now expanded to all types of metal whereas it used to be just copper; now we have a weavery, pottery, woodwork and we also keep bees and chickens.



David remembers when he had to share a room with two other men and is very pleased now to have his own. Over the years, Camphill Devon has supported well over 100 individuals. Today we have 36 residents, 15 in Supported Living and 5 Day Service users.

One person, Martin, was talking to me about how he has been supported by Camphill Devon for a long time. He lived in Merlin, Avalon, Feirefis and then Pendragon for 10 years before moving into Supported Living, where he has been for 6 years. He loves living down at Merryfield and he is proud of his vegetable garden there, which he looks after with the other tenants. He goes to Tesco to do his shopping and enjoys DJ-ing as a hobby, he also goes to a hydro therapy pool at Seale Hayne. He attends weavery, metal and woodwork up at Hapstead. He used to stay on site a lot more also working in Copper (now metal work), wood, bakery and on the land, where he helped put up a lot of electric fences. He remembers when we used to keep geese, which Martin helped to kill and pluck. He remembers the land barns being built and the days when everyone still used the swimming pool.

The weavery used to be a pub called the "Woodman's Arms" where everyone could relax, play darts and have a beer. Roger, who was one of the first to arrive at Hapstead, misses the pub and remembers Galahad used to be one of the houses but now it is just offices and co-worker bedrooms. The workshops all mainly started in the houses; for example, the bakery was in Pellinore and candle making in Avalon until they gradually moved into their own buildings. However, the pottery has always been where it is today, but the weavery used to be in what is now John's office. The main office used to be the Art room, before becoming a library. Roger first lived in Pendragon, he used to help mow the lawns and recalls when horses were used to plough the fields. Roger used to like making candles. Everyone was involved in making jam and home produce. Communal bread making is now only done on a Thursday afternoon as a workshop and cooking and life skills are facilitated by the houses. Roger also mentioned that we go down and play skittles in town now and we have African drumming once a month. Some people go to a night club in Torquay, attend college and drama groups, have local volunteer jobs and we have groups that work with Dartmoor ponies and the Donkey Sanctuary.

Camphill Devon is still going strong and continues to change and grow.



## Short and sweet

Sadly, we said goodbye to Fiona in March. She started as a volunteer then became a member of bank staff for the workshops taking on the art group before starting up a Dancing group on site. Fiona found full-time employment at a nearby school and we wish her all the best in her new role.



Maureen was very happy to receive a nomination for the BASH awards this year.

Here is a picture of her showing off her certificate.



## Working together

Recently, with Fiona leaving, we had an opening for a workshop and, just at the right time, we were approached by Learn Devon offering an Art and Literacy course. The course is funded because of the literacy element and, instead of us having to provide staff and transport to a college, they have organised a tutor to come to us. They are using a vacant workshop on a Monday afternoon and so far the course is proving to be a success with 6 attendees. There might be the opportunity to run more courses in the future, which will only enhance the lives of individuals here.



**Michael's New winning smile:** Michael is one of our newest residents here at Camphill Devon and he has just been fitted with a new smile and he couldn't be happier. Here he is posing with Leon from the Supported Living team.



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**Cream tea and Crafts**   
21st July 2019  
2-5pm

With workshops and Demonstrations

  
  
  
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