

Camphill Devon

Autumn Newsletter

Sadly, an important announcement

The plan was to talk about the place of Advent in the Christian calendar, moan a little about the Christmas songs on endless loops in shops, and then talk about Camphill Devon's popular Advent Fair. Sadly, I have to announce that this year's **Advent Fair has been cancelled due to very heavy rainfall causing severe damage to the road to Hapstead.**

Very heavy rainfall over the past 3 weeks has caused very severe erosion of the steep part of the public road leading to Hapstead, with the roadway restricted.

Further erosion observed on 6 November 2019 led to Camphill Devon's Management Group concluding that it is necessary to cancel the Advent Fair to avoid inviting increased road traffic from family and public travelling on this road to attend the fair. Using the back lane both to enter and exit the site is not feasible for this volume of traffic. We have been in regular contact with Devon County Council Highways Department throughout, but works cannot be undertaken in time. We understand that this situation will disrupt the plans of many, especially families.

To make matters worse, we had planned to use the Fair to celebrate the **40th Anniversary of Camphill Devon Community**. Some of the people who arrived back then, on a cold winter's day, are still happy to call Hapstead their home, along with all those who came in all the years that followed.

The Advent Fair is our main fundraising event of the year and we had been hoping to draw attention to our anniversary and to raise extra funds through sales, the raffle, and donations. This was to be the start of a special effort to raise extra funds, and throughout 2020 we hope to clear a backlog of works in all our houses and other buildings at Hapstead: repairs, windows, bathrooms, paths, doors... the list never ends on such a big estate.

We will continue with the raffle for a Christmas hamper and other prizes, and we hope this will be well supported as usual. The draw will be made as an internal event at the weekly 'Gathering' meeting on Monday, 2 December 2019, so please return tickets and payments before then. The winner will be contacted and arrangements made for handing over the prize. Beyond that we will find a way for the 40th Anniversary - including a photo display and celebration cake - to be acknowledged in 2020.

For now the road remains passable with caution, and regular updates will be given on our website, Facebook page, and other forms of communication.

Enjoy the rest of this issue

John



Inside and out by Liz (Day Services Coordinator)

This year TRAIL celebrated their 15th year which is a tremendous achievement. Recycling is becoming more and more part of our everyday lives and I love how this exhibition shows what you can make out of what some people might call 'a load of old rubbish'. It felt good to be part of the outside sculpture trail again after a few years. Apparently, a lot of people used the opportunity to take a selfie in our chair that the Weavery put together.



Above are some of the other sculptures that shared the seafront with our chair.

Our Chair

We had sourced some old leather sofas so that we could use the leather for some note book covers. Once we were left with the carcass of a sofa we decided on the idea to reupholster one with ironed together plastic bags...etc. It made a nice practical piece of sculpture promoting the idea of not sitting around whilst our planet goes to waste. It has also proven to be a very resilient and water proof cover for a chair.



Leather books

We also had pieces from the workshops in the inside TRAIL exhibition, alongside which was running a recycling workshop. Some individuals from Camphill Devon went along and had a go making boats out of old sardine cans and clock towers out of cardboard and plastic.



Our work sold well alongside other artists' and we raised well over £200. Everything in the exhibition needs to be over 70% recycled and it is amazing the variety artists make. We have been participating in this exhibition for around 8 years now and I am looking forward to many more. TAAG in Teignmouth does an amazing job and is a fantastic volunteer led organisation.



New guinea pigs

Maureen wanted to introduce her new six month old guinea pigs. They are called 'Paul' and 'Jamie'. She got them from the rescue centre in Ipplepen, where she still volunteers.



The great escape!

The Woodwork group have come to their own rescue. Their fire escape needed to be rebuilt, so they have done it themselves. Cutting the wood to size, making sure the steps are safe and secured as well as treating the wood so it keeps them and others safe for years to come. Well Done!



"An excellent event" a quote from someone who came

Those that attended said that they had a lovely time at our Cream Tea and Crafts Event in the summer. The scones and jam were home made and the gorgeous clotted cream came from Scorrilton Organic Dairy Farm, which is as local as we could get and picked up fresh on the day. Individuals watched weaving, spinning and metal work demonstrations. One of the co-workers played some music and sang to create a lovely atmosphere in the hall whilst people queued for their cream tea. The sun shone and people enjoyed meeting our bees and purchasing fresh honey. Visitors participated in the workshops, polishing pennies and making pendants, making chopsticks, pom-poms and bunting.



Weaving demonstrations



Metal work demo using a jig that was made and designed in woodwork.



Chopstick making



Penny polishing and Ben proudly wearing a pendant he has just made.



Everyone enjoying the sun, cream teas. And a good natter.



Spinning honey



Ed showing people a frame of honey before it goes into the spinner and some of our bees in an observation hive.

Ed

Ed has worked at Camphill Devon for 3 years and has now sadly left. It has been great having him here and during his time he had to deal with some changes along the way. He has worked well here, striking up good working relationships with service users and staff and has brought bees and honey to Hapstead. We all wish him the best for his future, he will be missed. We will introduce our new land group leader in the next newsletter.

Lets Celebrate Harvest

In September we had a Let's Celebrate service here at Hapstead as we do quarterly. It is always a lovely and thoughtful Christian service giving those that choose to, the opportunity to attend, learn and worship.

In this service they spoke about being grateful for the harvest; Rev Tom also spoke about salt and what it is used for: healing, preserving and making food taste good. Thomasin said that Christians are called to be like salt in the world. Thomasin told me about how they boiled salt water to show that it contained salt, you could see it when the water had evaporated and said 'It is important to remember that just because we can't see something it doesn't mean its not there'. She said that we also have salt in our bodies and she enjoys reading from the bible. They are going to have a 4 week Bible study soon and learn about St Paul. This will be in October/ November and will look at the life of St Paul and what his life can teach Christians today.



The salt experiment



Everyone listening to Rev Tom.



A collection for harvest

A Dance to remember



Everyone enjoyed a lovely home cooked Michaelmas lunch together and a touch of clog dancing with the Heather and Gorse dancers.

Happy Halloween

Spooky fun was had at our Halloween party this year with some fantastic costumes.



A warm woolly gathering

We were part of the Buckfastleigh wool gathering again in October. It was a lovely event and some happy helpers went down to help Anna with our stall and talk to the public about the work they do here.



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