

# Camphill Devon

## SUMMER Newsletter



### CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO CAMPBILL DEVON'S "KEY WORKERS"!



What an amazing team of Managers, Support Workers and Volunteers we have at Camphill Devon!

Despite the challenges that the Coronavirus pandemic presented, our team has delivered time and time again. Always putting the needs and well-being of the people we support front of mind, they have taken on different ways of working, adopted the constant changes of PPE requirements, and somehow managed to achieve social distancing, both on site and within the houses.

At the beginning of June, we implemented our testing programme. All results have now been received providing confidence that, at this time, we have no positive cases or symptoms of the Covid-19 virus. This has allowed us to make some adjustments to our 'lockdown' position, which for a residential service with 40 staff supporting over 50 people is quite a success!

Entertaining the troops has, at times I'm sure, been difficult but, as the weather picked up and having such an amazing site, we have seen some great activities going on. Baking, gardening, sports days, country walks and art competitions (including Rainbows of course!), to name but a few.

I would also like to thank those central staff who were able to continue to work on site at a distance, and our grounds are looking better than ever. Some of our team had to 'up sticks' and set up their workstations remotely and others, unfortunately, had to be furloughed.

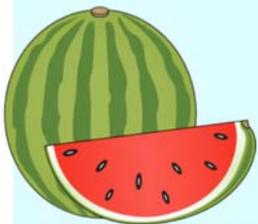
I am sure all our supporters join me in thanking the whole team for doing such a marvellous job throughout these difficult times, and we are hopeful that we can return to some form of 'business as usual' as soon as possible.

Well done Team Camphill Devon!  
*Steve Whittingham, Chief Executive*

### The Strangest Times

By Liz

During this period we have had a mixture of staff working on site, working from home and being furloughed. So, right from the beginning, Steve introduced the idea of having a weekly bulletin to help everyone exchange idea, news, information and generally keep in touch with everything going on. This is called 'Strangest Times' and over the next couple of pages I have included some snippets from these bulletins to give you an insight into how everyone has been doing during these last few months.....



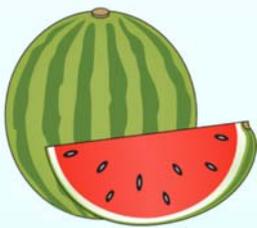
## Easter at Hapstead

Easter seems like a long time ago now but at the beginning of lockdown the sun was shining and everyone made the most of the occasion with sports days, egg hunts, baking and crafts.



## Lock down Birthday celebrations

Lock down has not stopped other festivities as many people we support have celebrated their birthdays over this period and the staff have made a fuss of individuals on their special days.



Painting, drawing and letters home have also been enjoyable activities



## Workshops from home



It has been lovely to see everyone keeping busy and practicing their skills at home including pottery, sewing, spinning, painting and drawing to mention a few. Also I am sure people have learnt and discovered new skills and likes. So, when we are able to start back we will have more ideas to share and experiences to learn from.



## Baking and Growing

Some of people's favourite pastimes over the last few months, in addition to crafts, have been growing and baking. Everyone has made the most of the site, foraging, growing and cooking. Here are a few pictures to show what everyone has been producing....



Wild garlic has been a favourite ingredient for soups and scones...etc.



## Keeping fit and active

Keeping fit and active has also been important - going for daily walks and exercise including table-tennis, cycling, playing football are amongst some of the activities



The beautiful view from the memorial garden: well worth the walk.

# IT'S NOT WHAT YOU KNOW, IT'S WHO YOU KNOW...

The Covid-19 lockdown has been a challenge for Camphill Devon, but one that our team continues to manage well. However, it is also having a financial impact on us, as our spending has unexpectedly increased and our income reduced.

Essential PPE purchases and increasing staff costs, plus reduced income from our Day Services being 'on hold', continues to make a dent in what are always limited funds.

Disappointingly, the people we support have not been able to go to events to sell the arts and crafts they work hard to make and, sadly, what should have been our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summer Fair is also not taking place this year. These fundraising activities would normally support us to develop our activities and extend the services we can provide. We will weather the storm, of course, but will notice this unwelcome impact on our finances.

"Why the sob story?" I hear. Coining the expression 'it's not what you know, but who you know', I am conscious that there are so many good causes out there, but they have to be aware of you, or you of them, to make a connection that may be useful. There are also generous donors who may be looking for an organisation to support, perhaps an organisation such as Camphill Devon.

Our intention is to have the funds to offer more activities and extend the list of opportunities we already offer – perhaps fishing, climbing, sailing, courses in animal care, hazel fencing, and willow craft, but each of these comes at a cost.

So, on a 'if you don't ask, you don't get' basis – if any of our readers or supporters have contacts with local fundraising organisations (Rotary, Round Table, Lions, W.I., Probus, etc.) for whom we could perhaps be their chosen charity, we would be hugely grateful if you could put them in touch with us.

Alternatively, if you are aware of any grant-making organisations for whom our rural craft and land-based activities, and support of people with learning disabilities meet their criteria, we would be pleased to hear about them.

Thank you in advance of your support. Steve Whittingham, Chief Executive

Please contact [stevewhittingham@camphilldevon.co.uk](mailto:stevewhittingham@camphilldevon.co.uk) or visit our website page if you or anyone you know wishes to Donate.

**Camphill Devon**  
Supporting adults with learning disabilities

Hapstead Village, Buckfastleigh  
Devon, TQ11 0JN

Registered charity no. 278173

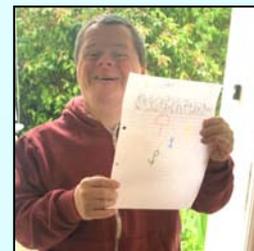
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[Facebook: Camphill Devon](#)

If you would like to be on our supporters list to receive regular updates and news please contact the Office and we will send you our 'Permission to Stay in Touch' form.

I just wanted to end this Newsletter with a little poem written by Richard. He never fails to make me smile. I am looking forward to when we can all be back together again but in the meantime...



**"Spring is here, let's have some cheer!  
Flowers bloom, trees grow, water falls,  
winds blow, bees buzz, minds play,  
say hooray! Spring is today!"**