

Growth Points

Camphill Devon's Monthly Newsletter

May 2022



An Inspector Calls.....



By Steve

Well three inspectors in fact!

You will be aware of course that all care homes (and other providers) are registered with CQC (Care Quality Commission). Whilst routine inspections have been somewhat dormant for the last couple of years, they are keen to get back on track.

As a result, we were ourselves inspected at the end of last week, and whilst we have no formal report as yet, I thought you may be interested in their initial feedback provided before they left.

Our inspectors arrived on Wednesday morning (11th May), and were here for three full days. On day 1 an inspector from the 'Medicines Optimisation Team' also attended to review how medication across the houses is administered, stored, and recorded, and the processes we follow.

Inspections usually take the form of a thorough review of all aspects of the services we provide. As such, inspectors reviewed documentation e.g. support plans, risk assessments, supervision and training records. They visited the houses and spoke with the people we support, the Managers and staff, and observed staff engagement with people and the activities that people participate in.

As is often the case with inspection feedback it was mixed, and areas for development were identified, as well as many positives.

They acknowledged the staffing challenges the sector is facing, which has stretched our teams for some time now, as well as the impact of our shortage of volunteers. Whilst our Managers have been providing hands-on support they accept that so long as the quality of support is right, that the documentation reviews may sometimes become overdue. The impact and demands of Covid has of course also played its part, which they also say is recognised.

P.T.O.



A few particularly welcome comments are as follows:

- They loved the atmosphere at Camphill, and really felt that they 'got a feel' regarding the ethos and values that we live and breathe.
- Staff engagement witnessed was at all times positive and personalised.
- It was clear to them that the PwS are happy, safe, comfortable, and able to make choices
- Staff were passionate about the people we support, the service, and of their colleagues.

Next steps - We now wait with baited breath regarding formal feedback, and eventually our CQC rating! We are hopeful that whilst we know that there are areas for improvement, there are mitigating factors (i.e. staffing and the Covid challenge!), and that we have plans, and commitment to action these. We also know that Camphill Devon is a very special place, where people live the life they choose, and the inspectors clearly went away with this impression too. Our staff team works so hard, and deserve for this to be recognised – so fingers crossed, and further updates to follow.....

Out with the old and in with the new

by Anne



Here at Camphill we have a tradition of welcoming people from all over the world to work as a resident Volunteer for a period of a year or more. Volunteers live in with the people we support providing companionship as well as support to do the extra one-to-one special things. Some of our volunteers come as part of their gap year, some to develop their passion for providing good quality person centred care, some come for a career break and others to exploring new horizons and the untapped potential. Whatever the reason, all have a positive impact for the people we support and become part of our family. Over the years many have volunteered. Some come back years later and many keep in touch.

This week saw one volunteer who left last summer, send us a card and box of chocolates saying we are still in her thoughts, with the arrival of a new volunteer Hinayara. Hinayara is from Brazil and has settled in straight away. Over our lunch we each welcomed her with our own hopes and aspirations for her time here:-

Thomasin – I hope you will be happy

Sylvia - welcome to Feirefis

Lauren - welcome to your new home

David – I hope you are going to spoil me

Anne – warmest of welcomes, we are so excited to have you joining us.



Church meeting

by Anne

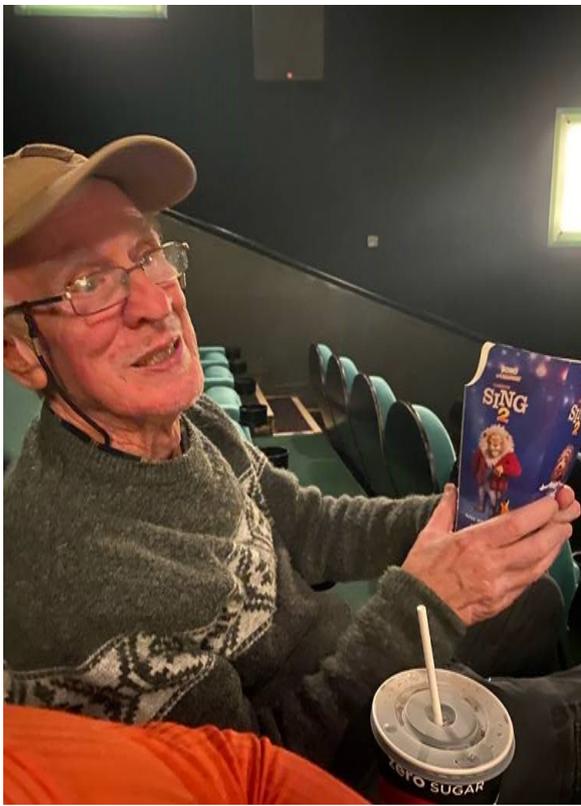
Last week I took Sylvia, David and Toby to the Methodist church in Buckfastleigh for a church meeting to discuss same sex marriages. Church members had been written to, inviting them to attend for a discussion and for a fish & chip supper. We had talked a little about this before the meeting to work out what we understood by the proposal. On the night, during the supper, people were asked to think and share their views on what a loving relationship is and might look like, marriage and how people felt about the proposal to offer the Methodist chapel as a place where same sex couples could marry. It was a very interesting evening with the chance of meeting up with friends who had not been seen for sometime. After home made cakes and cups of tea and coffee, the evening ended with church members voting Yes to offering same sex couples the opportunity to marry in the local Methodist Chapel.



Café Date

by Anne

Sylvia invited her boyfriend of 17 years to join her for hot chocolate and marshmallows topped with cream at her local garden centre. Toby explained they met when Sylvia joined the pottery workshop at Camphill Devon. He said Sylvia, has a kind heart and good personality. The couple enjoyed their drinks after a bit of window shopping. Both agreed they had had a lovely day.



Cinema trip

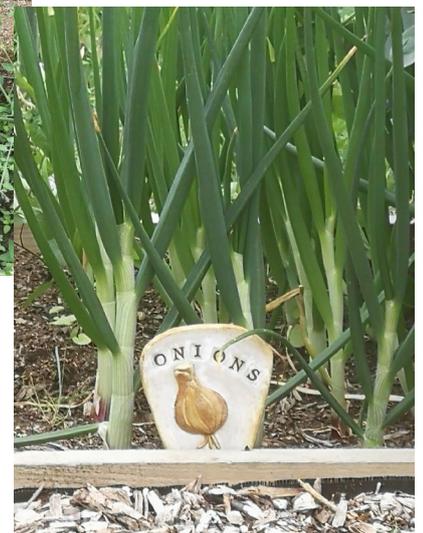
by Anne

Roger has been dying to see the new Batman film and last week, he and his senior support worker, Kharis made the trip to Paignton. Roger was very excited. The whole experience was enhanced by his pick n mix. He actually also had his pick of seat, as he and Kharis were the only ones in seeing the film. This did not put Roger off who said "the film was very good" and he has been telling everyone back home all about the film and in particular telling them about Batman's boots.

Roger and Kharis are now planning the next trip to the cinema, as Roger he has his eye on Downton Abbey later this month. Enjoy!

Pollinating and growing By Liz

There has been some great progress in the garden: producing our first cauliflower, planting more veg, pollinating using an electric tooth brush (which has made people laugh) and labelling with some fantastic plaques made in our pottery.



Camphill Devon

Supporting adults with learning disabilities

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