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CAMPHILL



PAGES

VOLUME 33 AUTUMN/WINTER 2022

Welcome

Welcome to Camphill Pages. Firstly thank you to everyone who has contributed. Your stories are at the heart of every edition but especially this edition which focusses on reconnecting.

For over 12 years I have been privileged to be involved in producing Camphill Pages and I can genuinely say it continues to amaze me just how diverse and incredible the organisations that make up Camphill are.

I would also like to welcome a new iteration of the production team to Pages. The full team is Nic, Niki, Colm, Tim and Tom. We have worked hard to refine our editorial decision making to ensure a clear and consistent vision for Pages. If you live and work in Camphill we want to hear your story.

On behalf of us all, I hope you enjoy this edition of Camphill Pages,

Tom



Music and good friends dancing at the Loch Arthur Folk Festival.

Back to music, dance and joy

Loch Arthur's journey out of Covid.
By Susanne Salthammer.

Our Community, like many others, had to retreat from our usual ways of doing things during Covid and lockdown. Although undoubtedly a challenging time, we coped well as a Community and many positives shone through, despite the many things we missed.

Loch Arthur has always very much been part of the wider local Community - part of the local farming world and by selling our produce locally and later in our own shop - first a tiny one and, for 10 years now, in our big purpose build farm shop and café. It is important to us that we connect with the world around us in meaningful ways. For us this means also connecting

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In Pictures: Camphill Communities enjoy the Michaelmas celebrations. See more on page 08.

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We can now reconnect on social media @CamphillPages



WELCOME

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Where are we Ned?

Where are we Ned? Where are we Lionel? At the height of the Covid pandemic these were the words spoken at the start of the podcasts, Never Strays Far and The Cycling Podcast. They were the words that kept me connected with thousands of people stuck at home, unable to meet friends and family. These were words spoken when it was easy to feel anxious and afraid for the future and reminded me that there were many others out there all experiencing the same worries. *Where are we Ned* connected me to others, they were also words that brought joy and hope.

When we live through uncertainty we can feel alone and disconnected. We need to find the connections that carry us into the future.

For this addition of Pages we have chosen the theme of reconnecting. Camphill has always tried to place people at the heart of community but this only really means something when we also work to value connections between people within our

community and across our communities. Whether those are Camphill Communities or the places in which we are located.

But perhaps we can also think of reconnecting to mean building new connections and finding people we may have yet to meet who share our experiences. And this act is critical to sustaining who we are as Camphill. Now is the time to rediscover old friendships but also to look for new opportunities to be open to and to seek out new people and organisations. To build the positive connections that can carry us into the future.

The world in which we live is deeply polarised, split between people who are for and against. Within Camphill organisations we have an opportunity to build bridges, to reach out to others, to lead through doing. And it is incumbent on us to do so in order to keep moving into a sustainable future.

The question “where are we” is one we can all ask ourselves, and in this edition of Pages I hope you will see that we have tried to ask that question and to answer it. I hope too that you will agree that the reward for making time to rebuild connections and to seek out new connections is of great importance.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Camphill Pages.

Tom



Callum and our gift box - Give or take. Make someone happy!

The little free library

Tom Marx, Tigh a'Chomainn

At the end of our garden path, beside the pavement is the Tigh a'Chomainn little free library. This was built by Callum and Coralie who wanted to share some of the plants grown in our garden and small items from our workshop.

A little free library (or swap box) is a box, anything from an old phone box to a plastic crate will do, filled with books, unused clothing, or plants.

It has been a popular addition to our street, especially with children and local families on their way to the primary school and with neighbours, many of whom have left their own things for others to take.

The little free library is an important part of how we can communicate sustainability with others. It is a very practical example of reducing waste and re-using items.

RECONNECTING

Continued from front cover...

socially and we have done so in different ways. Twice a week, there is a wonderful Forest School run on our land, which is attended by children and families from the Community and from further afield. It helps us to make long lasting connections and form friendships. We are living in such a beautiful place, it feels important and right to share this wider.

Music has always played an important part in how we connect with the Community. Whether it be choirs, singing graces, dancing or playing music together, the joys of music are always present. We are lucky to have a beautiful hall with brilliant acoustics and before Covid we put on regular concerts, mainly folk music, but also plays and classical concerts. This grew and became a lovely part of our lives - musicians coming, sound engineers setting up, tickets sold in the shop and then the actual concerts which brought so much joy and introduced us to other music enthusiasts in the locality.

We started a Folk Festival in a big marquee which attracted many people for concerts, workshops, and a Ceilidh. We planned a festival for the summer of 2020 - bands were booked, a poster designed then Covid happened. Everything got cancelled and lives changed beyond recognition.

Only now, with life regaining more of a sense of normality, can I quite appreciate the importance of the concerts, the connections we made and the joy so many of us experienced from sharing music this way. At the time there was so much to worry about, a cancelled festival seemed a small issue, but the accumulated absence of music became an issue for me.

Life is not easy at the moment. The Community is juggling so much – the requirement of visas since Brexit and the insecurity that comes with them,



Reconnecting at the Folk Festival. Community spirit was in full force.

adds to the already full bag we carry, and sometimes it is hard to see the right way forward.

Despite (or rather because!) of all this, we decided to put our worries to one side for a short while and hold a festival in June of this year. Even at the last minute it was not clear if we could actually go ahead since Covid raised its ugly head once again, but despite it all, we managed to have our festival!

The Community spirit was in full force during our festival preparations - the sewing of an incredible amount of beautiful bunting, the counting of cutlery and the cleaning of the cow barn, the making and laying of our very own

wooden dance floor, people dropping by in the barn to decorate the wall with colourful chalk drawings, the children racing all over the place on a whole fleet of toy tractors, the jokes that were exchanged while standing on precarious high ladders discussing if we REALLY need one more chain of fairy lights - the answer, always a loud resounding, yes!

The loud and joyful band, 'Old Blind Dogs' came to play, and a local Ceilidh band and good friends led us safely through a bustling Ceilidh. We finished with the singer-songwriter Karine Polwart, and it was beautiful to end the festival on that quieter note, which left me with a tear or two of joy.

The Covid years have highlighted, more than ever, the importance of joy, of music and of human connections in our ever-challenging world. Yes, there is so much work to do, so many boxes to tick but what are we without joy, dancing and singing? Just another care provider doing a good job but that is not what we want to be, we are a Community, an interesting mix of folks and ideas and we need those joyful times to celebrate together.

Go the extra mile, to do the unnecessary thing to create joy and to put effort into friendship, dancing, music, and Community building – not despite of, but because of, all the stresses we are all facing in a complicated world.



The loud and joyful band, 'Old Blind Dogs' came to play, and a local Ceilidh band and good friends led us safely through a bustling Ceilidh.

RECONNECTING:



Mourne Grange reconnecting with a community picnic

Mourne Grange

On August 29th, we had all the ingredients for a great picnic – hay-bales for sitting, hampers full of treats, folk music, circus equipment and lots and lots of sunshine. Everyone was excited to meet up again after a few years of trying to keep our distance!

Shortly after breakfast, cars and buses departed from Glencraig, Clanabogan, Hollywood and Ballybay, while Mourne Grange stayed at home and prepared to welcome everybody to the big Camphill picnic.

After a lot of eating and chatting, Martin Schmalz emptied his big box of circus tricks onto the grass and invited everyone to step forward. Some fashionistas discovered that juggling scarves doubled up as colourful summer accessories, and circus hats looked really cool. They were very reluctantly returned. However, it was the juggling balls, spinning plates and diabolos that got most people into a frenzy of action and determination. People of all ages got involved and discovered new skills!

Then it was time for a walk in the sunshine around Mourne Grange or to stroll over to the Main Lawn for a shot at American soft-ball, guided by Joe. Despite all the good food, there were quite a few fast runs, and a fair amount of very healthy competition.

When it was time to pack up and head home, tired and happy, everyone agreed we just had to find a reason to meet up again! Spending time together, getting to know each other and having fun are the main ingredients of the Camphill ethos anywhere.

Before the Covid pandemic, the annual community picnic had become an end-of-summer tradition so everyone was happy that restrictions were lifted, and we could all get together again. The Hall lawn in Mourne Grange was ideal for the gathering, and we all fitted comfortably and cosily in a big circle on the grass. The Mourne Grange Céilí Band played some tunes while people settled into their places and got organised for an al fresco lunch. This was a good opportunity to walk round to say hello to old friends, to make new friends, and to take a peek into other people's picnic baskets!



Family and friends enjoying good company and good food at our community picnic.

Summer fair and garden party

Thornage Hall

On Sunday 4th September the community at Thornage Hall Independent Living reconnected at our annual summer fair; an event thoroughly enjoyed by everyone at Thornage.

Families were able to view and purchase items produced within our Day Service Provision, experience a farm walk with the knowledgeable Farm Manager, Phil Culley, taste and purchase our fantastic fresh bio-dynamic market garden products whilst reconnecting with family members and friends they had not been able to meet up with for some time. The BBQ was a success

as was the amazing selection of cakes, tea & coffee.

The whole community worked hard to make this event possible so a special thank you has to go out to everyone at Thornage Hall for their hard work during the year in workshops and everyone who helped and attended on the day.

We are very thankful for our community at Thornage Hall Independent Living and hope that this article helps highlight the importance of reconnecting during unprecedented times.



Danny thoroughly enjoyed the garden party!

WITH OUR COMMUNITY



It was lovely seeing everyone, all sitting round and breaking bread together.



Harvest celebrations

Liz Wilkinson Cave, Camphill Devon.

This year's Harvest celebration rocked! Frustratingly we haven't been able to hold any gathering of the Community for the last two years due to Covid. This year, we thought it was important to make it an occasion. Everybody had so much fun which was a joy to see.

All the houses contributed homemade soup and bread, with some of the soup ingredients coming straight from the land. Soon, we will be fundraising to build a 'garden kitchen' within our barn so that food can be brought directly from the land and cooked for such an occasion.

It was lovely to see everyone sitting round and breaking bread together, telling stories, catching up and in some cases meeting for the first time. The people we support come from our Day Service, Supported Living Service and our Residential Service. It was lovely to see old friendships rekindled and new friendships being forged.

This year, for our entertainment, we invited 'The Rockeries' to come and play. They are a unique and talented rock band made up of two people with learning disabilities and their Support Worker, Adrian.

Aaron on the bass, used to come to Camphill Devon for day activities until he moved to Dawlish Garden Trust, which is where they all met. Hence the name 'The Rockeries'. Dave was great on the vocals and Adrian on lead guitar. They played some covers as well as some songs they have written and composed themselves. It was a great gig and everyone really enjoyed dancing. Toby even showed off his break-dancing skills!

We are all very much looking forward to the next community event and are already planning a party for Halloween.



Brilliant music by 'The Rockeries' and plenty of dancing!

Tiphereth's first graduation ceremony - Skills for Growth

Gordon Hudson

The first ever Tiphereth graduation ceremony took place in July for the students who had completed their courses through our Skills for Growth programme which began right at the beginning of the pandemic. The courses equip people with the skills for everyday life and independent living. It also provides recognition of the skills they have gained through our workshops.

The project is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and The Robertson Trust. The SVQ qualifications that we award are accredited by the Scottish Qualifications Authority and designed in partnership with Border's College.

The ceremony was held in the main hall and the turnout was overwhelming. So many of the students' parents, family members and carers were able to come along and there was a real buzz in the air! The celebration was launched with a traditional Camphill song, with the whole audience joining in, followed by a short speech by Carey Leslie, Skills for Growth Coordinator, who talked about all the hard work the students had done, and thanked the amazing tutors and the other garden group co-workers.

and building a border wall for the flower garden. They all came up to receive their framed certificates and shook hands with Tobi. Next up were the Cookery students who had completed a course in following a recipe and had spent many months honing their culinary skills. They had used their skills to cater for 2 events - the supported living Valentine's Day social and the parents' and carers' forum social dinner. Last, but not least, one member of the Tiphereth community took to the stage to receive his Tiphereth Special award in Independent Living Skills, a short course designed by Tiphereth and run in the new community kitchen.

Dora Kalendarian was then welcomed as the new Skills for Growth Coordinator, who will continue with the students who are still working on their courses and help to enrol lots of new students for next year.

After the ceremony, everyone stayed around to have a chat, some tea and coffee and had a look through the students' portfolios.

Well done to all the students for their hard work and dedication and we look forward to seeing what next year's students do!

Tiphereth CEO, Tobi Emonts-Holley then took to the stage to welcome the graduating students. First up were the Horticultural students. Their course in Estates' work revolved around learning skills in cement mixing, brick laying



Receiving the Tiphereth Special award in Independent Living Skills.

RECONNECTING:



All of us at Camphill, along with the rest of the country were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of HRH Queen Elizabeth II.

We shared in the country's mourning and offer thanks for her dedication to the role and support that she provided during her lifetime.

We have enjoyed looking back at the memories created during the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.



Dancing along the Mall waving our Kinetika flags.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee pageant

Camphill MK

We were very proud to have been invited to participate in the Platinum Jubilee Pageant in London, where we performed the "Thank You" dance, alongside other key workers, community groups, residents and students from Milton Keynes.

Andrew, Stuart, Liam, Roanna, Guimin & Emi walked and danced along the Mall waving kinetika flags (originally created for Milton Keynes International Festival) near Buckingham Palace and it was such an honour!

Our dancers had been practicing since March and learned four dance routines! Well done everyone for your brilliant performance!



Practicing our dance routines.

Thornage Hall Queen's Jubilee

People we support created a variety of posters within the Art & Craft Workshop. This was a perfect opportunity to develop our art skills while celebrating the Queen's Jubilee. A massive well done to our Platinum Jubilee Winner - Kim!



The Alder tree being delivered to Camphill MK.



"Tree of Trees", designed by Thomas Heatherwick at Buckingham Palace.

A royal gift for Camphill Milton Keynes!

Tim Davies

We have received a royal gift! As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, a tree sculpture "Tree of Trees" was created as a centrepiece, which is part of the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative.

We have been gifted an alder tree, from the sculpture. The "Tree of Trees" stood tall as a message of hope, regeneration and optimism to our nation and the world.

Designed by Thomas Heatherwick, the sculpture sought to put the importance of trees at the heart of this historic milestone to celebrate Her Majesty, who planted over 1,500 trees all over the world throughout her 70-year reign.

The trees were set in aluminium pots embossed with Her Majesty's cypher in order that they could be gifted to selected community groups and organisations to celebrate their work and inspire the next generation of tree planters across the nation.

"We are excited and honoured to have been chosen as a recipient of a 'Tree of Trees'. Camphill has long standing traditions of care for the environment and our connection with the land is something that we all treasure, many of our 70 disabled residents taking part in our gardening and horticulture activity every day. The food and produce that we grow in our gardens is eaten in our houses and served in our vegetarian café. We are deeply proud to have been selected by the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire and look forward to our planting ceremony in the coming weeks. Our 'Tree of Trees' tree will stand proud alongside recently planted 100 Queen's Green Canopy trees."

Tim Davies, CEO Camphill MK

The alder tree was delivered to Camphill MK at the start of October and will be formally presented by the Lord Lieutenant in November as part of the second planting season of the QGC initiative (extended until March 2023) to Honour the late Queen.

WITH OUR COMMUNITY

In Pictures:

What a beautiful weekend for the Queen's Jubilee. Here are some photos from our Friday afternoon Tea Party celebrations at Newton Dee (the hats were spectacular!) and hilarious skit. Lots of fun had by all!



Bee Tapestry

Camphill MK has been a hive of activity celebrating & creating! And to mark the return of the bees at Camphill MK and honour the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we made a large tapestry featuring lots of bees.

The community-wide project used individually designed and hand-stitched bee-inspired squares to make the project come alive. Each house received an embroidery kit containing instructions and plenty of materials for everyone to take part.

Thank you to those who made their patches! We have a bee-autiful tapestry!



Below: The people who we support from Blackthorn left flowers at Milton Keynes Rose and had great conversations with visitors about how beautiful and strong the Queen was.

She will be missed by many!



RECONNECTING:

Michaelmas celebrations!

Milton Keynes

Michaelmas has been for centuries, celebrated in the Christian tradition. There are many depictions of Michael - one being on the outside wall of Coventry Cathedral - subduing a dragon. The dragon can be seen as our inner challenges such as fear, greed and pride. Michael often holds a scale weighing a human against a devil.

Since it is just the time of year when dark nights and cold increases, Michael is a symbol for courage, decision-making and trust in facing the future. This is certainly a timely reminder in the times we are confronted with now.

In past years at Camphill Milton Keynes we have had a community meal for the whole community - a sharing of our harvest of food with different soups made by each house, bakery rolls, and a beautiful harvest loaf made by Maria. Our hall was full of tables decorated with colourful leaves and berries. We usually had a harvest table holding our garden produce and also sometimes a display of items made in our workshops - a harvest of our year-round endeavours.

This year it happened that on 29th September Michaelmas Day, we had a community assembly - a gathering of another sort than from the past but also sharing positive news of our endeavours.

Michaelmas as a season arches over until Advent/Christmas. Whatever faith (or no formal faith) one has we can benefit from the positive hope of courage and trust in facing the future.

The Mount

We enjoyed harvesting our home grown vegetables and coming together for our Michaelmas meal. So wonderful to see so many people round the table!



Camphill Blair Drummond

It was great to be able to come together again as a Community on Thursday 29 September 2022 to celebrate Michaelmas. We all enjoyed a Harvest meal which was set over two of our rooms; the Library and Drawing room. Together we ate our traditional meal of melon boats, homemade soup and bread buns from our Bakery and finished with biscuits, cheese and fruit.

During the meal we sang a few traditional songs, and our residents and day students shared the story of Stone Soup and Harvest Loaf. We ended this celebration with a lively Ceilidh in the gallery. A truly great time was had by all!



WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Glencraig

We had a beautiful Michaelmas celebration in Glencraig. The sun was shining and we all came together as a community, sang songs, decorated the harvest altar, listened to a Michaelmas story and enjoyed a magical festival atmosphere.



Beannachar

It was lovely to be able to reconnect for Michaelmas, we harvested some of our fruit and vegetables from the garden which included some tattie picking!



Tigh A'Chomainn

Our rather splendid dragon, toasting marshmallows and coming together to enjoy good food and good company. All part of our Michaelmas celebrations!



Thornage Hall

What a wonderful display of colour from our biodynamic produce and depiction of Michaelmas with our artwork.



Clanabogan

We enjoyed re-connecting with the community with this year's Michaelmas celebrations. The food and the company was spectacular! We are grateful to our gardeners, farmers, musicians, and hard workers who make this community so special! We also welcomed all our new young volunteers coming from Germany, France, Peru, Columbia and Brazil.

RECONNECTING:

Bridge of Allan Highland Games 2022

Camphill Blair Drummond

This August we had a stall at the Bridge of Allan Highland games. This was a wonderful opportunity to begin reconnecting with the wider community following the easing of the restrictions around the COVID pandemic.

We were able to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones while displaying items, such as delicious homemade oils and jams as well as a selection of beautifully made crafts, created in our Community by the people we support.

The day was very successful in promoting the work of Camphill Blair Drummond and we look forward to attending next year.



Our stall at the Highland Games displaying our home made products.

WITH OUR COMMUNITY

A kitchen garden

Tom Marx, Tigh a'Chomainn

This summer, Tigh a'Chomainn asked the National Trust for Scotland if they had a space for our garden workshop to work in. We were very pleasantly surprised to be asked if we wanted to garden the kitchen garden at Craigievar Castle.

After a few exploratory visits in August we started work there in September. At the moment, we are only going once a week. The main job is for us to weed and tidy as the garden hasn't been used for a few years. This will be a big job as we need to design and plant a garden that will be welcoming for the visitors who come to Craigievar.

If you enjoy visiting National Trust properties, you will know that the gardens are of a high standard. We will need to meet this standard and bring something that is uniquely Camphill into the space. As well as the garden we are looking after the orchard. We managed to gather many bags of apples which we turned into juice. The plan is to spend more time at Craigievar in the spring and once the weather starts to improve again. So, if you are in the North East of Scotland doing a tour of the Castles, please come past to say hello.

We have been made very welcome by John and Paul at Craigievar and we would like to thank the National Trust for Scotland and Social Juice for supporting our work.



We managed to gather many bags of apples which we turned into juice.



Article published in the Hermanus Times.

Camphill School Hermanus celebrates its 70th birthday!

The following article, which ran in the Hermanus Times reads: Camphill a place to call home

Camphill School celebrates its 70th anniversary this year. It is far more than a school, it's a place children can call home.

small classes, but they also have access to a wide range of therapies, an educational psychologist and a social worker.

Tucked away in the folds of the beautiful Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, near Hermanus, lies this Christian-based haven of tranquillity for children with intellectual and other disabilities. Established in 1952 as an independent, special-needs school, it has offered generations of children the opportunity for high-quality education and care. Deeply rooted in the worldwide Camphill Movement, which holds that all children, whatever their abilities, carry within their humanity a spark of the divine, and are therefore worthy of love, respect and nurturing. In this caring environment children are assisted in developing to their full, unique potential.

At Camphill School the learners are happy and self-confident. They are loved for the special people they are and offered a chance at self-actualisation and hope.

Camphill School celebrates its 70th anniversary this year. It is far more than a school, it's a place children can call home.

One of only two small special-needs schools in the vast, largely rural Overberg region, it caters for both day and residential learners, aged 5 to 19 years. Not only do the pupils receive high-quality, individualised education in



A well deserved tea break!



Tigh a'Chomainn at the Concious Market at Crathes.



RECONNECTING:



Beannachar - doors open day

Beannachar

What a wonderful day we had, Saturday 17th September, re-connecting with the community, friends and family on our Doors Open day. We had guided tours, live music, home baking, a BBQ, exhibition, raffle and lots more!

Our homemade tombola drum, made by our Tools Workshop from an old Swan hot water tank, a frying pan, spanners and a zimmer frame was a brilliant tool to help us select our winners!

Thank you to everyone who came along, helped out, donated a prize or baked some goodies!



Camphill Blair Drummond - doors open day

Camphill Blair Drummond

As a building of historical interest, we opened our doors as part Doors Open Day - Saturday 24 September 2022. It had been 4 years since we last held this event and so it was great to be able to welcome visitors back and provide them with a taste of the life and work of our community. We offered guided tours of the Mansion house and our grounds, and had a great spread of home baking which was enjoyed with refreshments.

The event was a great success, well attended with many of our visitors finding out about us for the first time. We are looking forward to being part of Doors Open Day 2023!



The newly refurbished Pond House opens its doors!

The Mount

The Mount Camphill Community in Wadhurst, East Sussex, is excited to announce that the renovation and refurbishment work at Pond House has been completed - a fabulous new home for six cohousing supported living members, some co-worker coordinators and two volunteers.

This project is part of The Mount's pioneering new model of provision for young people with learning disabilities offering supported, independent and community living called "cohousing". Pond House will increase The Mount's number of cohousers from ten to sixteen. The fundraising target of £613,000 has

been reached, due to the very good news that The National Lottery Community Fund have pledged £100,000. Students, cohousers, families and friends have helped to raise over £78,000 towards the campaign, supported by several high-net-worth individuals and grants awarded by over 15 trusts & foundations - all helping to endorse the project further.

Peter Bateson, Chairperson of The Mount, said, "We feel that the support received by all the trusts and foundations and generous donors, truly validates the faith in The Mount and this project and brings us to a secure and strong position not only for Pond House itself but for us as a charitable organisation."

Michael Hayes, cohouser who will live at Pond, said: "When I joined Cohousing my dream was to live in Wadhurst in Pond House. I used to be shy, but now I am more outgoing. I might make some new friends and join some new clubs and get a part time job because it only takes 5 minutes to walk into the village."

The Mount is now undertaking a proactive fundraising campaign to raise a further £75,000 for more landscaping needed



Celebrating Pond House opening.

to create a beautiful outdoor surrounding space to enhance the wonderfully refurbished inside space. Our original request for funds towards the project landscaping covered some of the functional and necessary aspects. To donate, please visit our Just Giving page www.justgiving.com/campaign/PondHouse-landscaping

To find out more about The Mount and our Pond House project go to www.mountcamphill.org. Alternatively contact Vicky Phillips on 01892 782025 or vicky.phillips@mountcamphill.org.

WITH OUR COMMUNITY

GET INVOLVED!

We want to hear from our Camphill Community members!

If you have a story to share please email pages@camphill.org.uk

Alternatively share it on social media @camphillpages



Reconnecting with outdoor pursuits!

Hetty van Brandenburg

Camphill Community Clanabogan in Co. Tyrone is lucky to have Co. Fermanagh on its doorstep, with lots of water to enjoy. This summer, contact with Erne Paddlers Paddlesports Club was resumed and whenever the weather allows, we take the opportunity for a day of canoeing.



Canoeing on Lough Erne.



Food, drink, music and games brought the community together.

Barn on the farm festival

Sturts Community Trust

After a difficult period throughout COVID, we found our community slightly disconnected with the wider community so this year, we were thrilled to be able to hold our annual fundraiser event in June, Barn on the Farm, where food, drink, music and games brought the community together.

Our festival also provides a great opportunity to showcase the many talents of the people we support - everyone's hard work made it happen!

Barn on the Farm is organised by Sturts Community Trust's Social Enterprise, Gullivers Enterprises.



RECONNECTING:

Devon open studios 2022
Saturday 10 to Sunday 25 September

Liz Wilkinson Cave, Camphill Devon

Devon Open Studios is the annual flagship event of Devon Artist Network. For two weeks, every September, members of the network, potters, painters, jewellery makers, wood workers, needle workers and creatives of every kind, open their doors and invite people in to discover their work. Visitors can chat to the artists themselves about their processes and inspiration. Work is also on sale and it can be a perfect opportunity to purchase unique artwork direct from the maker.

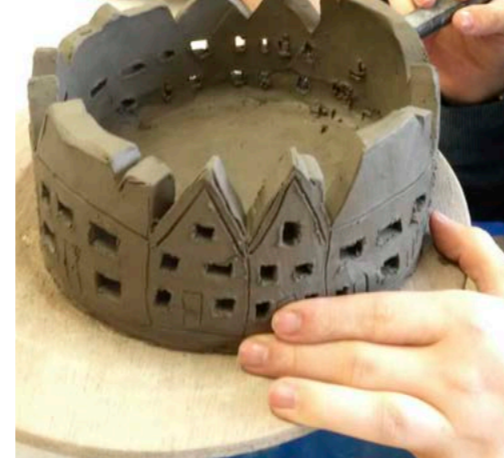
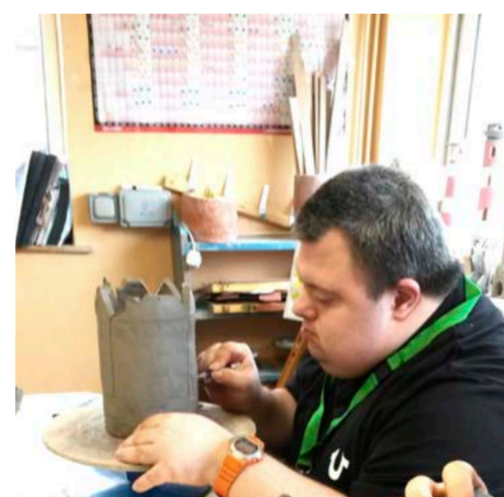
It was great to be a part of this event. Instead of the usual crowds and queuing at our other one-day events; where people only have a few hours to visit all of our studios, BBQ and café; this was a very different affair with a few people visiting at a time. There were some new faces as well as old, but we really had time to talk to them and they could see first-hand, the work being made by the people we support and their level of skill and creativity.

The people at Hapstead relish the opportunity to be part of the community, seeing their work and skills being valued, and even being able to teach people something new and share knowledge. Thankfully plenty of people at Camphill Devon were willing to give up part of their Saturday to come in when the studios were open to help demonstrate and sell work.

We have a wide range of activities on offer. Our Weavery is equipped with floor and table looms, as well as sewing, knitting and spinning. We are now also offering painting and screen printing. In our metal work area, you can make jewellery, cards, sculptures and lights, and we have a kiln for glass work and enamelling. Our Pottery produces a wide variety of hand-built work that is fired in our on-site kilns and our wood work area has lathes for turning beautiful bowls, pens and spoons not to mention the carved and functional work that is produced.



Demonstrating our skills and creativity at our Open Studios, Camphill Devon.



WITH ART AND CREATIVITY



Drawing by one of the people we support which was scaled up and set in white cement into the grass.



Kate and Amandos' sculpture gifted to Agnes Lunny.

Budapest art students

Jon Plunkett, Corbenic Camphill Community

Corbenic recently welcomed four students from Budapest School of Fine art who came and lived on site for four weeks, working with people we support, to create some spectacular new sculptures for The Corbenic Poetry Path – another example of the emphasis this care community places on creativity. One of these sculptures is based on a drawing by one of the residents. The drawing was scaled up and set in white cement into the grass of the horse paddock giving Corbenic

our own version of the White Horse of Dover, in the shape of a line drawing of a bird some forty meters high!

The Corbenic Poetry Path remains always open and free to visit, and Corbenic as a Camphill community is a reminder that regardless of the challenges of the pandemic years and those economic challenges that lie ahead, there should always be room for creativity!



The Great Pottery Throw Down, 2022

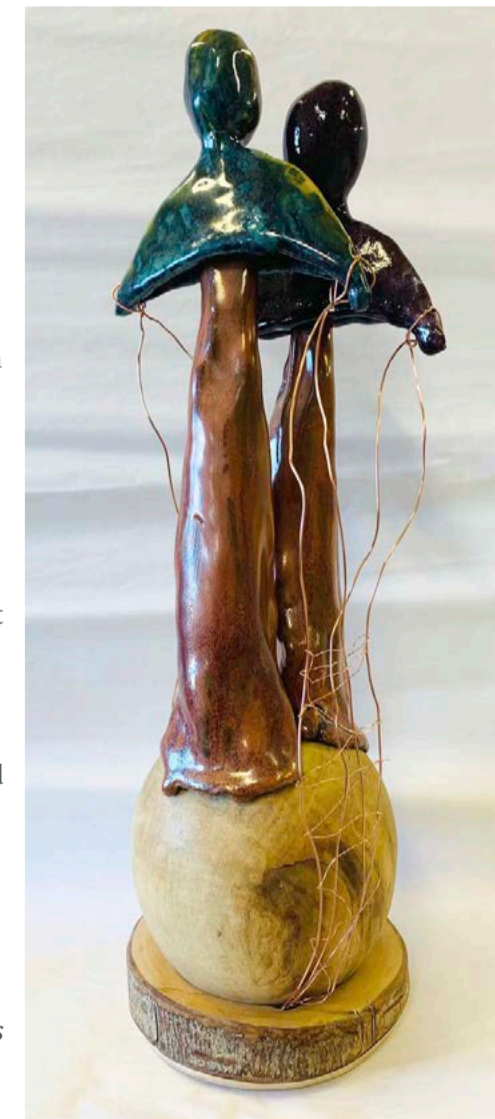
Hetty van Brandenburg

Earlier this year, the people of Clanabogan and friends had the pleasure of watching Channel Four's, 'The Great Pottery Throw Down 2022', in which Anna McGurn, who is much more than our Social Care and General Management Facilitator, took part. Twelve weeks of suspension! Anna ended up as one of the three top potters and continues to produce the most fantastic ceramic creations.

What happened next?

Two of the people we support at Camphill Clanabogan, Kate and Amandos, inspired and guided by Anna, created a delicate sculpture, which they presented at the AGM of ARC NI on Michaelmas Day 2022, as an award for Agnes Lunny, the retiring chairperson. Their gift was very well received!

(ARC NI Association for Real Change is an umbrella body representing service providers in the learning disability sector; they are very helpful to our community).



Heal the World

Poem by Lucie P



The latest inspirational poem by our resident poet Lucie P, pictured above.

At a time of uncertainty and turbulence, hope is Lucie's soothing message to help us ease anxiety and help with the process of healing at both personal and societal levels.

*If I could plant the dying trees of the world
And stop them from falling to the ground
To change the world and make it a better place
For you and for me.*

*If I could pour the water into the lakes and oceans
And stop the floods in countries from afar
To change the world and make it a better place
For you and for me.*

*If I could build the highest mountain in the land
And stop all deaths and dooms of the world
To change the world and make it a better place
For you and for me.*

*If I could protect the weakest deer of the world
And prevent hunters from seeking their prey
To change the world and make it a better place
For you and for me.*

*If I could give everyone a comfortable home
And make them feel love and respected
To change the world and make it a better place
For you and for me
I would do it all.*

RECONNECTING:

Horrible Histories: The Terrible Tudors!

Vicky Allington Jones, Gannicox

Gannicox Camphill is an urban Camphill Community set in the heart of the lively town of Stroud, Gloucestershire. Being so close to the town centre offers lots of opportunities for engaging with cultural events such as plays, concerts, gigs, festivals and fairs, as well as a variety of cafes and restaurants to enjoy. Our location also means that everybody has the chance to be as independent as they wish to be, choosing to go unaccompanied into town, or accompanied as the need arises. One of our favourite local spots is the Stroud Subrooms, a vibrant venue with all sorts of music and theatre offerings throughout the year. Over the Summer, a small group of us went there to see 'Horrible Histories: The Terrible

Tudors!'. Tolly particularly enjoyed this performance. Tolly is an avid theatre lover, with a very creative mind; he does a weekly creative writing session, as well as a weekly drama group with another resident living here. Sometimes there are also drama workshops held at our Christian Community next door that Tolly enjoys getting involved in, and of course, our annual Christmas play! Tolly is also a keen history buff, with an extensive knowledge of the Tudor era, so this performance was right up his alley. He recently wrote a review of the Horrible Histories play for our monthly newsletter, the 'Gannicox Gazette', which we thought we could share with you here, too!



A picture by Tolly of his depiction of Shakespeare, Henry VIII and Elizabeth I.

Review of 'Horrible Histories: The Terrible Tudors' by Tolly

On Tuesday 26th July 2022, I went to see the Terrible Tudors with Vicky and Jules. Before that we went to Star Anise for lunch (10 out of 10), then we looked around 2 or 3 charity shops then we went to the show.

I liked the bulk of it. There were only two actors, which was probably quite difficult because they were playing all the characters. They showed they were changing characters by changing props, I do like that sort of acting because it's quite good fun. It was quite quirky and was a comedy. Some of the information was through song. One bit that stood out for me was the Tudor way of dealing with real or supposed criminals for example you could be branded or have an ear cut off or a hand. I quite liked the fact that they mentioned Elizabeth I's blackened teeth from eating sugar, because that's true, she did eat a bit too much sugar. I also liked their portrayal of Henry VII, because he wasn't good at maths which I thought was terribly funny, even though I don't know whether he was. He was a miser though. He was a very interesting man, as was Henry VIII who was his son.

One thing I didn't care for was the hackneyed, stale idea that Anne Boleyn had a sixth finger on the left or right hand. This is probably untrue. It was a myth perpetuated by Nicholas Sander, a Roman Catholic historian who hated Anne Boleyn and wrote that she had six fingers on the left hand. He also said that she had a protruding tooth and a large goitre with a mole on her neck. She may have had a few moles but she managed to captivate Henry VIII. Nicholas Sander was a boy who was five or six years old when she died by decapitation, so he might not have known what she looked like and was writing in the reign of Elizabeth I. The Horrible Histories team also had the idea that she was promiscuous, but some historians have found some evidence that she was a deeply religious, moralistic person who didn't believe in sex before marriage.

Now to Edward VI. I liked the fact that the Horrible Histories team portrayed him as a doll because he was sickly and was a bit of a puppet in real life because he had these two very ambitious uncles called Thomas and Edward Seymour who were the brothers of Jane. They were his protectors but they didn't give him much room to be king, and they were controlling the show and ruling through his name. When Edward VI died in 1553 there was a kerfuffle about who should be king or queen. John Dudley, the Earl of Northumberland, wanted Lady Jane Grey to become Queen. She ruled for 9 days and she was sent to the tower where she was beheaded age seventeen.

In the play, Elizabeth I was portrayed as being a little bit unpopular but I think in reality she was quite popular. She was quite a formidable person, but I think that she was popular. The Catholics didn't like her very much, but I think they grew not to like her very much. She tried not to persecute them but there were plots made against her and I think that's when she started to tax the Catholics and was a bit of a bully to them in a way. In the play they mentioned that she had teeth like a chessboard because they were black and white and she also used lead and mercury to make herself look white and cover up her smallpox scars. She also could be a bit touchy about her portraits if she felt the portraits were making her look too old or too ill she would get angry.

In conclusion I'd give it a 7 out of 10 or an 8 out of 10. It was imaginative, witty, funny. I would recommend it to other people.



Tolly outside Stroud Subrooms, a vibrant venue with all sorts of music and theatre offerings.

Commotion in the ocean!

Tigh a'Chomainn

For the first time in many years Tigh a'Chomainn had a stall at the Culter Gala.

The theme this year was 'Commotion in the Ocean' and we made some amazing earrings and other crafts, all made from upcycled materials, in the theme of sustainability.

It was very enjoyable connecting with the local community and being part of such a super event.

Well done to everyone for all their hard work in the gala preparations and thank you to everyone who stopped by on the day to say hello and purchase our fabulations creations.



WITH ART AND CREATIVITY

Care and creativity

Jon Plunkett, Corbenic Camphill Community

While many care homes and organisations in the UK continue to batten down the hatches while trying to recover from the effects of the pandemic, the national care staffing crises and the escalating costs of living, Corbenic has continued to focus on creativity as a means of supporting the wellbeing of the residents and the workforce. Corbenic Camphill Community is home to forty-three residents and has, for more than forty years and like other Camphills, had a strong focus on supporting creative outlets.

Since the easing of Covid restrictions the Corbenic Community have quickly adapted our barn on farm and have been regularly using it as a venue to reconnect as a community and to enjoy a variety of

performances. Over recent months we have had some of Scotland's finest poets perform, ukulele playing cabaret acts, local musicians and even a 22piece string orchestra who performed a concert while chickens wandered around the base of their cellos and the musician's feet.

Most recently we had Singer Songwriter, Foy Vance, join us and perform while the swallows flitted among the rafters. Foy, who has shared the stage with the likes of Elton John and Ed Sheeran and played to full stadiums, was quick to say that the gig in the barn at Corbenic was certainly one of his favourites.



Tiphereth's new pottery

Gordon Hudson

During the Covid period, Tiphereth launched a new pottery. This was the result of ideas from members and co-workers over a number of years. The pottery started with the donation of a potter's wheel. This was used in one of the garden polytunnels during wet weather. Colleagues from Garvald visited Tiphereth to teach us how to fire pottery in fire pits. Over time this developed,

and it became a popular activity. Funding became available for a kiln in 2020, and then in 2021, funding from the Scottish Government made it possible to renovate the Brigantia building into a pottery workshop. Since then, the pottery has exhibited at an exhibition in Edinburgh and become a welcome part of the Tiphereth community.



Enjoying music by singer songwriter Foy Vance.



'Defiance'

Poem by Peter Brown, Loch Arthur Camphill Community.

When I face bigotry
I shall grasp victory
When I want to cry
I shall still stride down busy pavements with head held high
When people say accept defeat
I shall refuse and never crouch on hands and feet
And when this long war is finally won
I shall kneel and utter a prayer to the holy one

'Victory' by Phyllis Jack - Newton Dee

RECONNECTING:

Permaculture Design Course (PDC)

Camphill Community Trust, Botswana

Food security is a global issue affecting millions of people around the world and its effects have been worsened by the Covid 19 pandemic. The State of Food Security and Nutrition Report 2021 estimates that in 2020 approximately 33 million people faced moderate to severe food insecurity in Southern Africa. Responding to this challenge needs a holistic view of the agriculture sector to develop sustainable, productive and resilient systems for food production, processing and distribution in order to meet the growing demand for food in Botswana, the southern African region and globally. The Permaculture Design Course was a platform for interested people from many walks of life to develop the confidence and tools to start designing their own holistic permaculture projects.

based integrated organic production system since 1974. We therefore have mature systems that model many of the principles involved in Permaculture design. The facilitator for our PDC was the internationally respected Permaculture teacher, Caspar Brown. Mr Brown has many years of experience in Permaculture practice and training in the UK, Spain, South Africa, Namibia, Kenya, Tanzania and Botswana. We had the great fortune of having Mr. Brown with us for the duration of the first Covid 19 lockdown in 2020, and have been developing the concept of hosting Botswana's first certified PDC ever since.

Fifteen people took part in the course, of which, ten were Camphill staff. We started the course by covering the basics – developing our permaculture thinking, exploring the core principles and ethics, and learning to observe more deeply. After developing this firm foundation more region-specific techniques and strategies were shared through practical hands-on learning sessions and observing and studying existing systems at Camphill Farm. The PDC was an experience of community in itself. For fourteen days, we were living, learning, and working together. Participating in the daily program of activities and helping with the daily chores necessary for the course to run smoothly is an integral part of the process and rhymes with the ethics and principles of permaculture.

During an interview with the participants, they said they were happy with the way the course was delivered and their expectations were fully met. For some of them it was their first experience, so the course has developed their skills and knowledge on how to do right by the earth. They will share what they have learnt with their families, their colleagues and the communities they serve.



Students presented with their course certificates.



Camphill Community Trust Botswana hosted its first ever Certified Permaculture Design Course from the 14th to 28th August 2022 in Otse. The course covered topics such as food production, resource management, project management, soil, agroforestry, animal systems, appropriate technology, people systems and how to create a holistic context for your designs. Camphill Farm in Otse provides a unique location for this course as it has been developed and managed as a community-



US organic farmers visit

Loch Arthur Cafe and Farm Shop

We were delighted to welcome to Loch Arthur, a party of 40 organic farmers from the CROPP Co-operative in the United States. They were on a Regional Understanding Tour of Ireland and Scotland and stopped by to learn about how we farm biodynamically at Loch Arthur.

It was fascinating to learn about how they work together and foster farmer-to-farmer learning and international connections, which in turn help grow organic food and farming opportunities for us all.

WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

West Coast wildflowers

Janine Strumpher

Camphill Village West Coast (CVWC) in summer months can be dreary looking, it is dry, sandy and an odd cream, yellow orange desert. This always makes me think of what Renate Sleight told me. She said when they started Camphill in 1964 there was not a tree in site and sandy soil as far as the eye could see and it felt as if nothing would ever grow here. Instead of becoming despondent, she thought, if we can work with disabled people and be there for them as they develop to their fullest, then why can we not do the same for our disabled soil. Wise words from our Founder and Mother of Camphill.

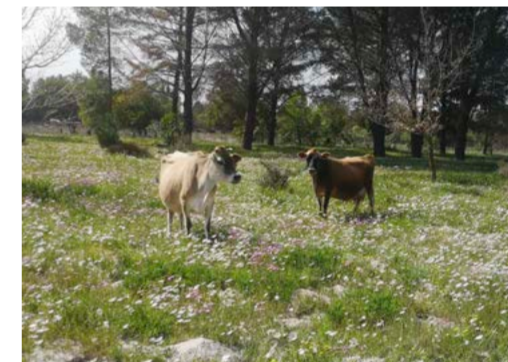
Today Camphill has trees, an orchard, fodder, vegetable and jojoba fields and the once disabled soil is now where these roots reside.

Now, each spring, the most beautiful West Coast wildflowers grow right here at Camphill, and each year, it amazes us all. From August, when the first natural flowers rear their pretty petals, to October we are bedazzled by an ocean of daisies. Fields are filled with bright and beautiful white, purple, orange, pink and red wildflowers. Interestingly around our Chapel and graveyard, only white daisies grow. The rest of the farm changes colour as the colours intermingle.

You can feel spring is in the air, you can see spring everywhere, everybody is smiling and have flowers in their hair. Houses have celebratory meals, decorated and dressed in flowers, they do flower tours around the farm, soaking in the beautiful scents and smells of wild flowers and the spring spirit is tangible.



The beautiful flowers make everyone smile, especially when they decorate our hair!



World Ocean Day beach cleaning

Glencraig

On 8th June 22 Glencraig community celebrated World Ocean day by joining together to clean the beach.



RECONNECTING:

Sturts Farm Day Opportunities

Lee Doran

James (pictured below) is one of our farmers within our Day Opportunities who has been learning the acquired skills to become an accomplished farmer. James is always hard at work and whatever the weather, always has a huge smile of his face.

We offer Day Opportunities for people with varying support needs to work on our farm here at Gullivers and our farm next door at Sturts. Our support is person centred and we offer a pathway in people journey to become a farmer, a gardener, a chef or a shop assistant.

To find out more information, please email SocialEnterprise@sturtsfarm.com



Camphill Milton Keynes litter pick

Camphill Milton Keynes

Camphill Milton Keynes had fun with Great Linford Parish Council volunteering to help pick up a whopping 120kg of litter from around Pennyland. Following the litter pick, we enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by Great Linford Community Hub.

Tommy Hayes, Community Liaison Officer for Great Linford Parish Council said "Our monthly litter picks have become great community events, with over 25 people attending regularly we are not only helping to keep the streets free from litter but providing an opportunity to come together and help combat social isolation."

120kg of litter picked!

WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

Green Projects at Camphill MK boost connectivity with the wider community

Lucy Davies

Camphill MK has been a hive of green activity this year, working on numerous environmental projects aligned with our continued commitment to environmental sustainability.

We all know the environment should be at the top of everyone's agenda, and the community has big plans to ensure it's at the forefront. In 2016, we installed solar PV on the roofs above the Chrysalis Theatre and some of the houses. As part of our commitment to environmental sustainability, the community partnered with Wolverton Community Energy to make it happen. They coordinated the installation and continued to "rent" Camphill MK's rooftops. As a result, the community gets a better tariff for their electricity, and the surplus is used by Wolverton Community Energy to help people experiencing fuel poverty.

Over six years, a whopping 154,445kg of CO2 emissions have been avoided (25,700 kg per year). That's the equivalent of drinking 15,506,000 cups of tea or watching TV constantly for over 350 years, from the sun's energy since installation. The community has also planted 100 trees thanks to Queen's Green Canopy that will take several years to mature to add a further 2,500kg (100 x 25 kg).

But that's not all!

As part of our Capital Plan to build new rooms for the growing and ageing population of the community, the charity has been involved in other green projects, including the redevelopment of the paddock to include a forest garden,

new raised beds and polytunnels, and Camphill MK has been engaging with the wider Milton Keynes community to create opportunities for individuals and businesses to develop their green spaces.

Most recently, the Volkswagen Group MK volunteered at the community by creating new beds (from scratch), planting goji berries and new lavender beds, and planting perennial sweet peas and fennel in the Forest Garden. The volunteers will return in November to help the charity plant a further 400 trees.

Daimler Truck Financial Services UK also volunteered in the gardens working on the paddock to build strawberry beds using reclaimed tiles during Great Big Green Week in September and October. The garden jobs involved digging and building raised beds filled with woodchips and soil and planted with strawberries, which had been propagated on-site using Camphill MK's homemade compost.

During the summer, Camphill MK was also delighted to host Gardeners' Question Time (GQT) at their Chrysalis Theatre. The event was facilitated by The Parks Trust, which expertly cares for over 6,000 acres of green space in Milton Keynes, including river valleys, ancient woodlands, lakes, parks and landscaped areas along the city's grid roads. In addition to managing and developing local landscapes, staff and volunteers work hard to support local wildlife and biodiversity, providing valuable facilities for park users, delivering extensive education programmes and connecting communities with events and activities.



Camphill MK hosting Gardeners' Question Time at their Chrysalis Theatre.

The expert panel of Matthew Wilson, Dr Chris Thorogood and Juliet Sargeant answered some very challenging questions from the audience of over 200 local gardeners who'd secured a ticket for the sought-after event.

Camphill MK has long-standing traditions of care for the environment, and connection with the land is something that we treasure. Many of our seventy residents participate in gardening and horticulture activities daily. The food and produce we grow in our gardens are eaten

in the houses and served in our vegetarian café. The community celebrates the benefits of gardening, and the importance of environmental consciousness has always positively impacted the people we support. As we embark on a five-year capital expansion, this remains embedded in our culture, with green roofs and sustainably sourced materials instrumental to our building process.

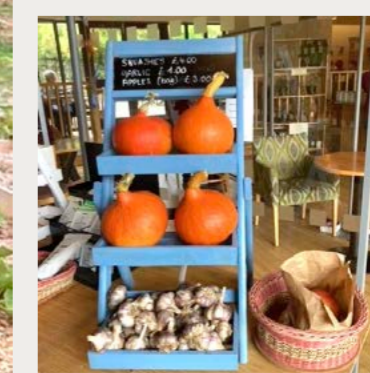
camphillmk.co.uk



Volkswagen Group MK volunteering at the community Forest Garden.



During Great Big Green Week, we harvested all our squashes & apples in the paddock.



October's freshly harvested, homegrown, chemical-free squashes, apples and garlic on sale in our Community Café.

NEWS

What is the Camphill Foundation?

Simon Beckett

A question that often arises in our Camphill Communities is "What is the Camphill Foundation and what does it do?" I hope this short article will provide the answer to that question.

The Camphill Foundation (formerly the Thomas Weichs Trust) was founded in 1984, with the intention of supporting the development of new initiatives within the Camphill Communities of the UK and Ireland; this support coming through both grants and loans; the funding for the Camphill Foundation coming from legacies and donations.

The trustees of the Camphill Foundation come from a varied background of parents of residents, past and present, ex co-workers, co-workers and individuals who grew up in Camphill Communities. All have a good knowledge and appreciation of the ethos and values of Camphill.

Over the years, the vast majority of communities have received support from the Camphill Foundation for a wide variety of projects ranging from residential buildings, workshops, cultural activities, conferences, training, publications, and research. Recently we have supported several initiatives, which include:

- A grant towards the Pond House project at the Mount Community. Pond House is a co-housing initiative for young adults in the town of Wadhurst.
- A grant towards the Twin Oaks project at Sturts Farm. Twin Oaks is a community housing project in the heart of Sturts Farm Community.
- Grants and loans to Esk Valley Camphill Community to help them with a variety of community projects.
- A grant to underwrite the costs of the most recent youth conference.
- A grant to Camphill School Aberdeen towards their new residential house project.

During the pandemic the number of requests we received was limited but we hope that Communities will now, once again, approach us for support. Details of the application process and our work can be found on our website www.camphillfoundation.com



Alliance for Camphill – founding a new community

Julian Haxby, Chair of the Alliance for Camphill

The Alliance for Camphill are looking for interested individuals to support it in developing a new Camphill community in England. We wish to engage with people with an interest in and commitment to Camphill and to create opportunities to put these ideals into practice. We do have the support of experienced people with a Camphill background, but would welcome more! There is also a clear need for younger people to breathe life into a new project. Whatever comes about will be created by you and us together.

I'm very glad of the opportunity to share my thoughts about and hopes for Camphill. I have a long connection with Camphill through a close family member who has lived in Camphill communities for 50 years. I have found it inspiring to see people coming together to work towards a common ethos. At the same time I have also had the painful experience of seeing how fragile and vulnerable Camphill communities can be.

The Alliance for Camphill was born in 2015, out of a sharp awareness of the

urgent need for positive action to protect and promote the core principles of the Camphill ethos. Particularly the principle of living in a life sharing community shaped by the needs of its members. We value the great variety of settings that have arisen from this impulse. But we also see a great need for thriving new Camphill communities.

Campaigning is not enough, so the Alliance has now registered as a charity with the aim of starting new Camphill centres. We would do this by:

- Raising funds, purchasing land and property to be held in trust
- Working with other bodies to determine the appropriate legal structure - charity, social interest company, or other
- Promoting the Camphill ethos with a focus on social and ecological sustainability, integration and care for the earth.

We envisage an initial project based in a rural or semi-rural area, integrated with the wider community and with a strong emphasis on healing and caring for the earth. The precise characteristics of a new project would depend on those who come forward.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The Alliance for Camphill can be contacted at:
allianceforcamphill@gmail.com

[f](https://www.facebook.com/allianceforcamphill) [@allianceforcamphill](https://www.instagram.com/allianceforcamphill)

A new Camphill for Scotland?

Lothar Radysh-Haasis

In summer 2021 the Camphill Communities through Camphill Scotland, were approached with the question "could a new Camphill in Scotland be started?". The question came from a family trust who had discovered Camphill whilst looking for a holistic care environment. Before the question could be answered the Camphill communities in Scotland needed to get a better idea of what the Camphill places were doing and what was planned for the future.

Through Camphill Scotland they asked Lothar Radysh-Haasis to do a survey. Lothar has a long-standing connection with Camphill and other social initiatives across the UK.

Lothar organised visits to all the Scottish Camphills, to get a first-hand impression of how individual communities were reviewing and updating their development plans in response to the Covid crisis and changing needs. These findings have revealed challenges in some areas but paint an overall positive and healthy picture.

Amongst the challenges, people have highlighted the ongoing impact of covid related disruption to the cultural life, the impact of isolation on the core values of sharing and participation, the meaning of associative work amongst communities and the impact on interdisciplinary work for day activities. This has, in many cases, left community life either more fractured, or now requiring greater effort to achieve a similar sense of community togetherness.

Despite these challenges there was also much to look forward to. Discussions held with leadership teams helped to bring ideas of planned development to life beyond capital investment figures and revealed how management teams try to respond with individual solutions to the changes in their care practice.

There is a lot of work being undertaken in each of the communities, with each Camphill at a different point in their development process. Approximately £45 million is planned to be spent over the next 10 years by the 10 Camphill centres that make up Camphill in Scotland. Both to improve and increase the provisions. So, can a new Camphill be started in Scotland? The answer to that is both yes and no. One of the communities looking to expand is Tigh a'Chomainn Camphill who have been developing a core and cluster model of care. The ambition is to include a full range of life sharing accommodation options including a semi-rural setting.

This has given rise to the exciting prospect

of creating a new outreach project for Tigh A Chomainn, on the premises of the existing Lembas organic vegetable business. Initial conversations have mapped out further steps for a feasibility study and we hope to share our findings on this in the next issue.

As they say, watch this space.



NEWS

Campaign and planning

Camphill School, Aberdeen

To meet this growing need, Camphill School Aberdeen recently launched a major fundraising campaign to raise £10 million over 10 years. The campaign aims to increase its capacity by 60%, by building three new residential homes, developing the sustainable social enterprise, expanding its workshops and creating a certified internal awards centre.

Planning on phase one of the project has recently been approved and work will begin on the 11-bedroom residential home with independent living wing later this year. The home will enable the charity to open its doors to more vulnerable young people in our community who are in urgent need of support.



Rear view of store and seating area.

Work on Murtle Market, Camphill School Aberdeen's Social Enterprise, which secured planning permission in July, is anticipated to commence next year. The market will provide a zero-waste organic produce and refillery store, café and heritage centre.

Alex Bush, Executive Director of Camphill School Aberdeen, said: "Currently the demand for our services far exceeds our capacity, the only way to help more young people in the north-east is to make our plans come to life. We want to ensure that every young person who needs access to our support, receives it. Together with the support of the local community, we can build futures and transform lives."

The new house has been designed by award-winning Glasgow architects, Collective Architecture, who worked with Camphill's young people to create a home that will be environmentally sustainable and fully accessible.

Alex continued, "The residential house will enable us to open our doors to even more young people who are in desperate need of our services and support. While Murtle Market will provide meaningful training and work opportunities for 54 young people aged 16 to 25 who have complex additional support needs. Since launching phase one of the capital appeal in February, we have raised a fantastic £1,900,000 but still need the support of the local community and businesses to raise the remaining 40% to fulfil our vision."



Artists impression of the 11 bedroom residential home.

Young people supported at Camphill often struggle in mainstream education and other care options - but thrive at Camphill School Aberdeen. Regardless of their abilities the children and young people at Camphill grow in confidence, independence and fulfil their potential - often achieving outcomes their families never thought possible. The school's unique approach, integrates education, lifelong learning, and expert care within a therapeutic environment as part of a sustainable shared living community with onsite medical support.

Karen, mum of Laurence, a student supported by Camphill said: "As soon as we stepped onto Camphill Estate we knew this was somewhere special, a home from home that would celebrate Laurence for who he is. We were relieved to find a calm, accepting and loving environment in which our son could truly thrive. And for the first time, we were part of a strong support network we could call on any time. They see the young person and not the disability."



Mum, Joanna and dad, Kenny, speak of how much their son, Kier has flourished at Camphill School Aberdeen.



Ayrshire family reflect on positive outcome of decision to place son at Aberdeen Residential School

Having a child with additional complex needs can be hard however, being unable to access specialist support locally makes it even harder. This was the case for an Ayrshire family, whose son has been living almost 200 miles away from them at Camphill School Aberdeen for the past decade.

When Kier was just 11 years old his family were advised that his Special Education Needs (SEN) school was no longer able to provide the support he needed. They were left with a heart-breaking decision - to continue to

struggle to care for him at home or to send him to a specialist school at the other end of the country.

Now 20, Kier is a residential student at Camphill School Aberdeen, in the west of the city, where his mum Joanna says he has flourished. "I really cannot put into words how thankful we are that Kier is at Camphill, the only other option for him would have been a small flat with 24-hour care, which would have broken my heart. At Camphill, he sees and looks after animals every day, lives on a stunning estate and has access to incredible workshops and therapies such as equine therapy."

Camphill School Aberdeen has been delivering life-transforming opportunities for children and young people with learning disabilities and complex additional support needs for more than 95 years and residential students for over 80 years. Set over three leafy campuses, its unique approach combines care, education (including SQA qualifications) and meaningful vocational workshops, such as weaving, farming, woodwork and bike maintenance, and a wide range of therapies, from massage to equine therapy, with on-site medical support.

Therapies at Camphill School Aberdeen are a key strand of the school's approach which integrates education, therapies and expert care in a holistic therapeutic environment with onsite medical support. One of the therapies - Equine-assisted Therapy, focuses on various exercises with the horse, such as leading the horse around a series of obstacles without a lead rope and care management of the horse such as grooming, shoeing and feeding. This therapy can impact very positively on young people's confidence, memory and concentration, communication and relationships, balance and coordination.

Keir's dad, Kenny, added: "Horses are something Keir has always had an incredible connection with, when he is with a horse, he is truly calm and totally at one with the animal. The fact Keir can access Equine Therapy at Camphill is fantastic for him and he has come on so much because of it. He is confident and incredibly competent when riding and he also undertakes duties such as mucking out the stables."

"Keir has a fantastic quality of life at Camphill School Aberdeen and we are so incredibly proud of him and how far he has come over the past few years. All the staff are amazing

and truly care about all their students and encourage them to reach their full potential. Camphill is all we could ask for and more for our son."

There has been a huge surge in demand for specialist care facilities such as Camphill School Aberdeen across Scotland. The charity has seen a 140% increased demand in placement enquiries in the last year alone. In response it recently announced an ambitious £10 million capital fundraising campaign to increase its capacity by 60% over the next 10 years to ensure local children and young people can access the support they deserve.

Alex Busch, Executive Director of Camphill School Aberdeen, said: "Families face a real challenge to access local support that fits the needs of their child. We are delighted to have been able to support Keir and see him develop over the years. Camphill is such a unique and special place that gives families another option if their child is struggling in mainstream education, therefore it is so important to open the doors to even more children and young people who need it most."

For further information on their campaign please visit - camphillschools.org.uk/capital-appeal/

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NEXT TIME IN PAGES:

The theme for our next edition of Pages is Partnerships.

We want to hear from our Camphill Community members!

If you have a story to share, email pages@camphill.org.uk with your story and photos.

The deadline for contributions is 17th February 2023.

Camphill Milton Keynes steps up fundraising

Lucy Davies

Camphill MK has spent the past six months raising its fundraising game. The Milton Keynes-based community has been a hive of fundraising activity since appointing Lucy Davies as their Head of Development earlier this year.

Lucy came from an art, culture and music background, with a twenty-year career supporting artists and artistic organisations in Milton Keynes. During her career, she has secured £12m into the city to support the development of the creative industries and cultural sector. Most recently, Lucy was Executive Director for The Stables and IF: Milton Keynes International Festival, where she led on implementing their business plan, developing partnerships and securing funding.

As Head of Development, Lucy and her team have a HUGE task ahead of them. Over the next five years, Camphill MK will be expanding their services and facilities. This is because they need to meet the needs of their current residents who are approaching an older age and to meet the increasing demand for support for younger adults with more complex needs.

Camphill MK has planning permission to build on their two sites: Pennyland and Willen Park sites. They will add sixty new accessible rooms for residents; over eight new buildings; a workshops unit with pottery, weavery and tools refurbishment; adaptations to the Chrysalis Theatre; expanded car park, allotments, forest gardens, raised beds and polytunnels.

To achieve this large-scale, life-changing project, the community needs to raise £14 million to achieve its goals. No mean feat, as many of you will know, but the target is enough to spur fundraising activity. Through creative thinking, a proactive



A donation, received with thanks, from MK Medics.

attitude, hours and hours of networking, and convincing businesses to part with the cash, Camphill MK has already achieved so much!

The community has started by enhancing people's understanding of Camphill MK with a PR campaign and a commitment by the leadership to get out there networking. These early efforts have led to new relationships and spurred donations, volunteering hours, and mutual profile-raising activities.

MK Community Foundation were the first to put their hat in the ring, with a significant donation of £75,000 towards hoists for the new-build. Further Partnerships have come through from Deloitte, an international finance company who have pledged to support Camphill MK for the next 3-years. They have started their relationship with a £7,000 unrestricted donation. In addition, a network of local doctors and GPs clubbed together to donate £1,100, while the local branch of Morrisons has stepped in with £22,000.

This fundraising activity could be initiated thanks to an unexpected legacy donation which pump-primed the process. Grants have followed from the local Community Foundation, charitable fundraisers such

as the local Rotary's, Buckinghamshire-based philanthropists, and community events such as fundraising concerts and sponsored walks.

Camphill MK still has so much to do to achieve its target. Newly appointed Carolyn Green is adding community fundraising and events skills vital to the Fundraising team. Familiar with the community, Carolyn's daughter lives at Camphill MK, so she knows the challenges they face and what the community needs. She is leading the way in promoting a Swimathon and Dragon Boat race in aid of the charity.

"Fundraising is a new activity for Camphill MK, and it has been important to start in a very structured way. We now have a new business plan, fundraising strategy and marketing plan, which is helping us approach our target strategically. Camphill is such an incredible story to share, so my job has been made easy in many ways. I am excited to drive forwards our plans to achieve the first phase of our capital expansion".

The first phase of build work requires £3.3m in funding, with 80% already secured. The charity is now working on bids to the larger trusts and foundations interested in supporting capital build costs.



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AoCC Individual Membership 2022

Tim Davies, AoCC

The Association of Camphill Communities (AoCC) is a membership organisation. Traditionally the membership has been made up of Camphill Communities from across the United Kingdom and Ireland, with further memberships for affiliated organisations with aligned objectives and values.

At the AoCC Annual General Meeting this year the membership agreed to an exciting new membership type - individual membership.

Individual membership is now available to anyone with an interest in the work of Camphill in the UK and Ireland and beyond and is for people wanting to establish or maintain a connection with the Camphill Movement.

Individual members can attend the AoCC AGM and assembly, they have access to AoCC benefits including the Camphill insurance scheme for business, home and car insurance. Members will receive regular news and updates on work in the UK & Ireland and from the Africa region and will of course receive copies of Camphill Pages.

Membership is for 12 months from April and costs £10 per year but is free until March 31st 2023.

To request an application form and further information please email: aocadmin@camphill.org.uk

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Contact and contributions are very welcome and should come through to pages@camphill.org.uk



PUBLISHED BY:

The Association of Camphill Communities UK and Ireland.

Contact Us:
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