CAMPHILL
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THE FOUNDING OF ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL: WE CELEBRATE THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Welcome to Pages!

This issue features the special 70th Anniversary of The Camphill St. John's School in Aberdeen (p.03) as well as the beginning of the series "People's Lives" featuring the lives of people within a Camphill community (p.12).

70th Anniversary Celebrations.
See page 03

70th Anniversary Celebrations.
See page 03

Camphill's Social Media Community.
See page 11

Camphill Festival. See Pages Plus

Youth Conference. See page 08

Pages Plus

Our supplement this issue features an International Gathering of Camphill Communities in Germany, organised by The Camphill Community, where a festival took place like no other! A group from Newton Dee Village went and were involved in a play as well as a Camphill Movement Group Meeting which brought representatives from around the world.

You can read what happened in the centre pages.

Pages is the newsletter of the Association of Camphill Communities UK and Ireland
www.camphill.org.uk

WELCOME

Contents

The Founding of St. John's School

03 The 70th Anniversary of St. John's School
05 Address Given by Morwenna Bucknall
05 Esk Valley Camphill Community's St. John's Festival
06 In Pictures: The 70th Anniversary of St. John's School

Community

08 Camphill Clanabogan Youth Conference
08 Alliance for Camphill
09 How Can I Carry The Camphill Flame Into The Future?
10 Poem 'Death' by Peter Brown
10 Launch of Esk Valley Camphill Community
11 Facebook

Pages Plus: Camphill Whitsun Festival

- Camphill Whitsun Festival at the Bodensee
- Minutes from the Camphill Movement Group Meeting

People's Lives

12 Growing up in Camphill
13 Gabrielle Werth

News

14 Corbenic 40 Years
14 A Very Warm Welcome
14 ACESTA Meeting
15 Keith Hobbs Obituary
15 Charities fear Brexit policy is 'closing the door' to volunteers
15 AGM & Open Meeting
16 Inside Scotland's 'village of dreams'

International News

17 Camphill Celebrate Womanhood
18 Camphill School Hermanus: Heaven & Earth Our School

20 An Afterword: Community in Transit Camphill in Context

Get in touch

Contributions are very welcome and should come through to *viviangriffiths@talktalk.net*

We look forward to hearing from you.

Maybe it was the heatwave, maybe the football even(!) or maybe a significant seven year rhythm, if you are interested in a numbers approach, but this summer as can be seen by the reports of events, festivals and anniversaries has marked a turning point for Camphill and it's future.

It is almost as if something is in the air that wants to move on with positivity from the recent past and the changes wrought (not always with sympathy and understanding) and in an almost "laying on of hands" a gift of community to a new generation of children, residents, helpers and co-workers which was expressed in the remarkable Camphill Festival which took place in Germany and is a feature supplement in this issue. The 70th birthday celebration of The St. John's School in Aberdeen in June, an important Camphill Youth Conference in Camphill Clanabogan in Northern Ireland in July, Corbenic's 40th birthday in Perthshire, Esk Valley's Opening Ceremony in Danby Village Hall earlier in the summer and not forgetting a film made by a sympathetic and caring director for BBC Scotland about The Newton Dee Village Community, all these contributed to a sense of regeneration and renewal for Camphill.

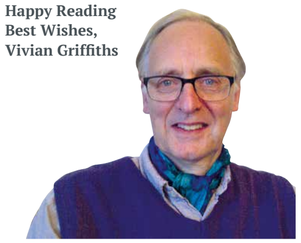
Mind you life goes on as normal as well, coffee is served at The Lantern Cafe in Ringwood and in the Clanabogan Coffee Bar. Mourne Grange Community was sponsored in The Belfast City Marathon, there was a Royal Wedding Tea Party at Pennine and Graduation Day at this West Yorkshire College was a remarkable moment for the students moving on to new opportunities.

All these moments are recorded within the pages of Pages, it is a privilege to record them and you find yourself holding your breath and hoping against hope that the substance to create community for and with the children, students and adults in the festivals and celebrations this summer will translate into new strength for the road ahead.

PS. In the *Seven Ages of The Human Being* the number 7 alluded to at the beginning is seen as a significant measure of time as in seven days of the week. It was seven years ago in 2011 that a whole raft of new management ways for some Camphill Communities were introduced from ending money sharing to laying aside local management committees. Now seven years later much has been learnt in social care practice from how to do things and how not to do things... we have learnt what is important to keep in a Camphill place and what may be laid aside. If ever the thoughtful prayer "Lord, teach us what can be changed and what cannot be changed and give us the wisdom to know the difference" could be applied then now is the time, what ever your social or religious preference.

As ever this Pages is offered with special greetings to you dear reader and please have a good read and comment if you feel there is something important to say.

Happy Reading
Best Wishes,
Vivian Griffiths



A Message from the Coordinators

When you take away the places to live, the places to meet and the places to work in Camphill, the distillation, what is left is the people themselves who live and work in the communities, that is the real asset and the real truth of the places whether as resident, support worker, co-worker or manager, all have a counted place in the organisation, all matter and all make a contribution to the life and work of the communities through the daily life, the festivals the outings and the mutual support that develops. It was one of the cornerstones at the beginning of Camphill getting on for 80 years ago with the life of sharing, the tasks in hand and it is still the case today. How to bring over the importance of this picture of community and the individuals in it presents an interesting challenge.

The Association Of Camphill Communities has been aware that in all the changes in the social care sector recently and there have been many important ones especially in the safeguarding realm, the one inviolate in Camphill is this respect of the individual whoever that person maybe and moreover that person has in the case of residents - parents and siblings who are all counted in so how do we recognise this unique situation where all matter and all have a story to tell?

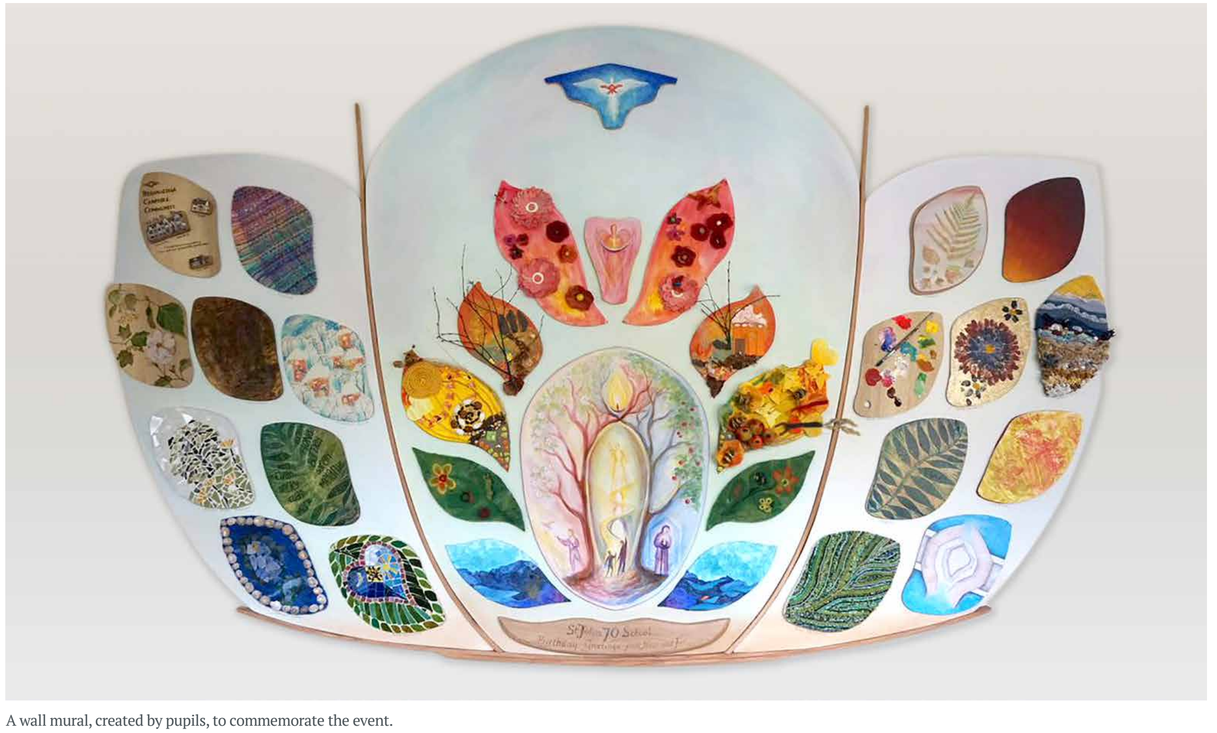
It is interesting to note that John Lewis, the famous employee owned department store, will now be known as John Lewis & Partners along with its Waitrose cousin. Each partner is considered so maybe there is a lesson there to recognise, how about Camphill & Partners!

Camphill Pages can make a contribution here by highlighting in future issues "People's Lives" when we, after seeking the right permissions, ask to share the life of a Camphill person and how that person has experienced Camphill in many cases but not all from childhood at one of The Camphill Schools through student life at a College and into adult life in one of the Village or Urban Communities. We can ask a long or short term co-worker to share their experiences and parents and siblings as well.

Over the last few years a "character" of Pages has emerged as a reflection of the communities it represents and an over riding impression is the value of everyone in the community surrounding the care and work of that community. So we plan to feature a "People's Lives" and ask a wide range of people who live - or don't actually live - and work in a Camphill Community that is a Member of The Association of Camphill Communities to tell their story as they would wish it be told.

The first of these stories appears on Page 12 and is published by the kindness of Betty Marx and Camphill Correspondence.

THE FOUNDING OF ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL: WE CELEBRATE THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY



A wall mural, created by pupils, to commemorate the event.

The 70th Anniversary of St. John's School

By Birgit Hansen

Celebrating a child's birthday is usually a bright and lively affair. The children are busy and messy. The adults are marvelling at "how much they have grown and developed" since the last birthday.

When celebrating an older person's birthday – say 70 years, the changes and developments happen more subtly – "Oh my, 70 already?!", "It's just a number", "we don't need a big fuss" …

So, when our school's 70th anniversary "crept up" on us, there were similar sentiments - Celebration? - Yes!

Why celebrate? And how?

Well we are of course glad that we are still here! We are glad that this 70-year-old impulse of bringing Waldorf Education and Therapeutic Education together is still alive and thriving!

We want to celebrate that the "joy of learning" is still one of the most invigorating and life–affirming experiences in daily life.

Such a birthday event also gives us a chance to look back and connect to the moment of birth, to become aware of the development and to look ahead at the future possibilities.

In the month of May a few of us had a most wonderful opportunity to meet with some of those "children" who had helped to start the St. John's School.

Chailean (née Weihs) and Palle Elmquist, Christine (née Weihs) and Keir Pollybank, Agnes and Elizabeth (née Lipsker), John Baum and John Tallo spent a Sunday morning sharing their memories from the early days of the school.

It was inspiring and amazing to hear how vivid their memories were; they brought life to these first years from a child's perspective:

The first little hut which was used as a classroom stood on a hill in Murtle, hence the children named it 'The Acropolis'. A year later disused huts were acquired from the RAF. These were named 'Pyrite' inspired by a stone of Pyrite given to the first teacher, Morwenna Bucknall, by Karl Koenig.

At the 30th anniversary, Morwenna spoke to the children about the significance of this stone and its qualities. [See next page for 'Address given by Morwenna Bucknall']

They remembered having to wear their coats in the classroom for the first hour of school despite the pot-bellied stove in the middle of the room, which the teachers had to light very early in the morning.

They remembered poems, songs and several times burst into reciting these together. They recalled the joy when meeting the postman, not because they were expecting letters, but because it offered them an opportunity to listen to the Scottish dialect, rarely heard in Camphill during those early days.

They remembered going up to the railway line – which now serves as a cycle and walking path - in order to wave to the Queen when she passed by on her way towards Balmoral.

Having the privilege to hear these memories filled us with gratitude, respect and also motivation.

Gratitude for those who made this impulse a reality either through their gifts as educators or through their need for education.

Respect for the work and insight their teachers must have had.

And **Motivation** to become better teachers. Would we be able to create such lessons and learning opportunities that our pupils 60 to 70 years hence will recall their experiences in school with a similar joy and enthusiasm.

The first class in the St. John's School had its first lesson on the 13th of October 1947.

Continues on next page...

THE FOUNDING OF ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL: WE CELEBRATE THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Continued from previous page...

This is no insignificant date as it was also on this day in 1922 that Rudolf Steiner gave his special Michael address to the youth circle.

The following June, in 1948, Dr Karl Schubert came to officially open the school. His warmth and presence were vividly remembered, as was the way he called upon the hierarchies to help this "school to grow".

And the school did grow. Both here in Great Britain and worldwide.

On the 29th of June 2018 we had a 'Festival of Learning' in order to celebrate this anniversary.

The pupils of the St. John's School in Aberdeen presented the story of the beginning of the school with music, songs, poems and slides from the early days. This was followed by exhibitions and demonstrations of work in the classes as well as in the workshops.

Lastly, a school project, which many pupils have been engaged in building during the last three years, namely 'Noah's Ark', was officially opened by a local Member of the Scottish Parliament: Maureen Watt.

Like the start in 1947, this celebration was "humble, yet grand" and it was truly a children's celebration. Many former pupils came and shared their memories.

A wall mural to commemorate the event has been created with David Newbatt's help. All the pupils have decorated 'wooden petals' and many other beautiful 'petals' have been sent to us from other centres and former pupils.

Thank you so much. It has been truly heart-warming to receive these beautiful and creative gifts, which are brightening our school house and reminding us that there are many others striving alongside us albeit far away.

So far, we have contributions from Scotland, England, Russia and Botswana, and there are still more petals arriving from near and far. Thank you again!

Agnes Lammers (née Lipsker) came all the way from Holland to represent the pupils from the very early days. She shared some of her memories and reminded us that we are not only celebrating by looking at the past. She pointed out that although the school is 70 years old, the pupils of the school are always young.

Looking ahead

Such celebrations not only offer an opportunity to look back at the past, but also to consider the future and to become conscious of what our special task is today and for the future.

In 'Towards Creative Education' (2012), Kevin Avison suggests that the *"Waldorf Curriculum is the 'child'"* and, as childhood develops, so must the curriculum develop in order to meet their needs.

Today we meet many children who find it challenging to focus on one activity or who struggle with most social situations, children who are afraid to learn in a group or in a class together with others, children who are so worried that they are too afraid to even try. A lack of "instant results" is often experienced as failure. And certain habits or obsessions overpower them in such a way that they are not able to experience freedom in their activities.

Our task in the St. John's School is to help each pupil to achieve their own individual potential. Most of the pupils have an individual education plan in order to support just this. Every child needs to feel that they are important and have a valuable contribution to make.

There is, however, also a virtue in "just being". Sometimes it is healthy not to be too "special", not to "stand out" and "be unique". To be secure enough in oneself, so that one can be included in a group without feeling overwhelmed.

Many of the pupils who come to our school at the moment seem to need a "safe place" where they can develop positive relationships and only when this is established are they ready to learn.

Here in Aberdeen we are making efforts to demonstrate how the Waldorf Curriculum and the Scottish 'Curriculum for Excellence' can be integrated in a way that supports the pupil and does not "dilute" our values.

We have always had classes of different abilities, which called for a differentiated approach in the lessons. This has been taken a step further in that we now again have two inclusive classes in the lower school, where the majority (20) of the pupils are not diagnosed as having additional support needs.

Maybe this approach can be a small gesture in our times of social fragmentation and division, towards bringing people together and integrating "differences".

On behalf of the teachers in St. John's School Aberdeen.

In Pictures

View all the photographs from the day on the following pages...

70th Birthday Cake.

Philip Hodgkins and Maureen Watt MSP address in front of Ark.

Maureen Watt MSP opening the Ark.

THE FOUNDING OF ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL: WE CELEBRATE THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Address given

By Morwenna Bucknall

I am holding something in my hand - do you know what it is? It is an iron pyrite. It was an iron pyrite very like this one, that Dr König gave me for the beginning of St. John's School. It was just a few weeks after Michaelmas 1947 and he said this stone is the stone of St Michael. Here you get the colour of sulphur; sulphur is a greeny, yellow colour and it has a not at all pleasing smell. In olden times people believed that sulphur was the symbol and substance of the dragon. But here the colour has been shaped and formed by the power of iron to this shining, almost golden colour. This is the force of St. Michael, who forms and shapes the forces of the dragon. That was the stone given to me for the foundation stone of St. John's. I had it for many years. Then one of the children who liked it very much picked it up and it never appeared again. Somewhere in Cairnlee someone might find a pyrite and it would be the pyrite Dr Koenig gave me for the formation of St. John's School. Perhaps that is why there is so much digging up at Cairnlee.

When the school started there were only five children, as many as the fingers on one hand. Some of them you might know: Chailean Weihs or Barbara Cook. Her brother was also in my class which was in a dormitory at the end of Murtle Cottage, which is now called St Andrew's. After a little while we moved to a summer house more or less where the end of the Hall stands. Early in the first year we acquired the huts, old army huts they were, with rooms rather like sheds. Because the roofs were sagging one had to climb up when it snowed to push off the snow. The three huts stood up on the hill right at the end of the field where now your school house (Pyrite) stands.

By 1948 we were ready to open the school because you can only open it if it has a proper house to live in. There came a great friend of Dr König's and that was Dr Schubert. He had been asked by Rudolf Steiner to start the class for children who did not quite manage in ordinary classes - the Hilfsklasse. Dr Schubert came on a world tour to visit Waldorf Schools, and he came to Camphill in time to open our school.

He was a wonderful man, very warm. If he shook your hand you felt as if you were covered in a mantle of warmth. He was very proud of his English. He was Austrian. He spoke to the children, and everywhere he went he asked the children, "Do you love your teachers?" The nursery class children said to this big man, "Yes!" Overawed by this great warm man who spoke to them. They did love their teachers.

When he got up and spoke in the biggest of the three huts we had, it was full of people. He got up and spoke to them and he said, "This school must grow!" With the nursery class and the first class there were not more than about 16 children in the room. He said this school must grow and must get a proper house. Then he began to call. He called on the angels, on the archangels, and he called on the elemental spirits of the trees, flowers, earth, stones, he called on them and said, "You must help the school to grow." He was really mighty when he spoke. Those who were present will remember how he lifted up his hands, and he said the angels and archangels will all help the school to have a proper house.

I think we can truly say that the angels have helped, that the elemental beings have helped so that our School has grown and has spread its seeds all over the world, East, West, North and South, and where the seeds of St. John's School have been sown many children have been able to learn. This is something not all of you may understand now but may do so when you grow up. That is all I am going to say to you today. You must never forget that pyrite is the stone of Michael, and any school that starts should have this as their foundation stone.

Esk Valley Camphill St. John's Fire

Esk Valley Camphill Community also enjoyed the St. Johns' Festival...

We had a wonderful time yesterday celebrating the festival of St. John. We met at 11.30am to watch a play, in which we all joined in with the chorus "change your thinking, change your ways", John's powerful message. We then wound our way to a field where a bonfire had been constructed, which we surrounded, singing as we went. The fire was lit on the stroke of 12 and burnt beautifully. We all then sat down to enjoy our picnic lunches together and then finished off with the tradition of leaping over the dying embers!

Singing and dancing before the fire was lit.

The fire was lit on the stroke of 12.

THE FOUNDING OF ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL: WE CELEBRATE THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Agnes Lammers, Maureen Watt MSP and Neil Henery, Camphill Scotland.

Philip Hodgkins' address in front of Ark.

Maureen Watt MSP opening the Ark by Witiko House on Camphill Estate.

Agnes Lammers cutting the cake, Maureen Watt MSP standing by.

Agnes Lammers cuts the cake, Alex Busch holding his breath.

In pictures: *Current and former teachers and pupils attended the celebrations along with parents, co-workers, friends, board members and their local MSP Maureen Watt..*

Children's presentation.

Children's presentation - The Postman.

Children's presentation The Royal Train passes Murtle.

Agnes Lammers, who was a child at St. John's School relates her experiences.

Camphill Clanabogan Youth Conference

By Camphill Clanabogan

Thank you everyone for this wonderful weekend! We had a great Youth Conference here at Camphill Clanabogan!!!!

People from all over the world came together to share their ideas and inspiration for a bright future of the Camphill Movement.

Team photograph.

Friendships were made.

Sharing their ideas via graffiti.

A lovely sunny walk through the woods.

Group team building.

Woodwork.

Group art installations.

Announcement

Dear friends,

I'm very glad to be able to tell you that the Alliance for Camphill have now set a date and location for our gathering on the theme, "Reimagining Camphill Communities."

The event will take place at Trinity College, Bristol, on 26th -28th October.

This will be an important occasion for the Alliance and we believe for the Movement as a whole. We are inviting both seasoned and younger Camphillers and others to participate, and will draw from this great reservoir of expertise, energy and good-will to produce a concrete blueprint for a new community.

The Alliance's Working Group have researched how different Camphill models operate and how communities have dealt with the many challenges they have encountered. We are forming an ever-clearer awareness of what is needed, and what is possible. We gained much information and encouragement from a recent meeting in London to discuss innovative housing solutions, attended by representatives of numerous Camphill Communities in the UK and Ireland, Camphill Families and Friends, the head of a housing consultancy familiar with Camphill, co-housing experts and other professionals.

We very much hope that many of you will want to participate; please let me know as soon as possible whether you can via email *membership@allianceforcamphill.com*

Please also pass this on to anyone else you think might be interested.

I will be sending out more information about our gathering in the next couple of weeks.

Warm greetings

Julian Haxby
Chair, Alliance for Camphill
membership@allianceforcamphill.com

How can I carry the Camphill Flame into the Future?

Shortened version of a talk given at the Clanabogan Youth Conference
By Cherry How

The image of the candle flame connected to Camphill is rooted in an experience Karl König had in 1927 when he was just 25 years old, soon after he qualified as a doctor. It was Advent Sunday and he was in the anthroposophical clinic for children with disabilities in Arlesheim, Switzerland, where he had just arrived to work. Some of you will have seen or heard of the Advent Garden which curative homes and Camphills with children create.

This is how Dr König described it:
And then, the celebration began.
Each child, holding in its hand an apple into which a small candle was fixed, had to walk along the spiral to light its own candle at the central candle on the hill. The people sitting round sang Christmas carols and the whole mood was one of reverent joy and happiness. The faces of the children were radiant as each one tried very hard to perform the task of walking and reaching out its little hand to light its own candle at the candle on the hill. My own heart flowed over with compassion. I saw these severely handicapped beings who appeared so happy and bright. I suddenly and very profoundly experienced that the spark of the living spirit was present in each one of them in spite of their deficiencies. And in this hour, the decision was taken that I would dedicate my life to the care and education of these children. It was a promise I gave to myself: To build a hill upon which a big candle was to burn so that many infirm and handicapped children would be able to find their way to this beacon of hope and to light their own candles so that each single flame would be able to radiate and shine forth. At this moment, I did not know that the hill would in time bear the name: Camp-Hill. An ideal started to grow in my mind and heart.

König then started by working with disabled children, studying Anthroposophy and developing his ideas about Community during the next 10 years.

Then the candle appears again in 1938 (80 years this Christmas) 11 years after the Advent Garden. He had a career as a doctor, had married and moved back to Vienna. But as Nazism grew he had to flee Europe to Britain for where he had obtained a visa. It was Christmas again, Christmas Eve, and he found himself alone and lonely in a cold room in London. He sat "a small candle in front of me" full of doubts and questions: What is my task? How can I reform my life? Will I have the strength I need? Reading the Bible inspired him to go forward.

"But let us not do it in words but in deeds. To serve and not to rule, to help and not to force, to love and not to harm will be our task." All the essentials of Camphill for next 80 years were there. But how does a person come to that point, to know his or her future task, to be so in touch with one's true self and the ideals and decisions with which one has come to earth. We can surely say that if a person can really do that it is a very powerful force. Just look at what developed out of Karl König's recognition: a worldwide movement of 100 centres, thousands of people helped and empowered.

If we look we can see that elements of Karl König's early life prepared him for that call. Rudolf Steiner has said that there are certain qualities which help us lift ourselves out of the attachment to the physical sense world and in different ways make us open to something greater. They are awe/wonder, compassion, conscience. (Lecture of 14.5.1912 GA 133)

Wonder: we feel amazed and humble in front of something greater than ourselves.
Compassion: we feel the struggles, pain and sorrow of someone else, not only our own.
Conscience: this is the inner voice which leads us beyond our own impulses, wishes, likes and dislikes to do what is true and right.

These are all intrinsically human qualities and they free us from the ordinary world so we can be part of something greater, so we can direct our outer and inner lives consciously, morally, freely, and not just be victims of forces that control us.

I believe we can see these three qualities in Karl König's early life.

Awe/Wonder
When Karl was 5 years old he was fascinated by the image of Christ on the Cross which he saw when visiting a church. When he was 11 his Jewish parents found a picture of Christ hidden in his room. It was something he didn't understand but it moved him, spoke to him of something greater. At age 15 he wrote "God was so great. I saw God in Nature. I pray when I see. I see God in everything." So by the teenage years he already had reverence for God, Nature and Christ.

Compassion
As a teenager Karl König decided he wanted to become a doctor so as to live a "life in God that is filled with kindness." He was very aware of the poverty around him. "I am ashamed to go about the streets so well dressed when I see such misery in the people around me." These were the poor and WW1 soldiers who had been injured and made destitute.

This led him to Conscience
It is well known that as a teenager König couldn't bear to see other people suffering through cold or hunger and repeatedly gave his own things away. "I saw a poor boy freezing without a coat so I gave him mine." His parents couldn't stop him.
His compassion and conscience were so great that he could already identify with the suffering of others above his own.
We also know that the first words from the Gospels which he met which impressed him deeply, before he knew where they came from, were those written over a large hospital he passed on his way to school each day, words from St. Matthews Gospel which say Care for others, that is the Christian principle. "In as much as you have done it unto the least of these my brethren you have done it unto me."

I am suggesting that through all these early experiences Karl König was led to be open to the image of the child with the candle in the Advent Garden which wakened into consciousness in him the intention with which he had come to earth.

But now it was conscious he had to make it real, make it happen, and so he began to develop his capacities, inner and outer. For the rest of his life, for 40 years, we know he never stopped educating himself, learning, examining himself, expecting himself to do better. We know this from his diaries, many of which survive.

So how can we access the part of ourselves which is full of ideals, enthusiasm, initiative so that we can also fulfil our pre birth resolves.

The candle flame has become an image of the inner and outer essence of Camphill.
Outer: It is the effort to do good deeds in the world and so spread light and warmth.
Inner: But it is also the eternal warmth and light of the spiritual individuality of every single person whether we call it the higher self, the true self or the real me.

Your destiny has led you to meet Camphill but Camphill is not a fixed thing which you join or you don't: it is a path, a process of interrelationship between ideals of good and healing and your own growth and development.

And all that Camphill contains helps you walk that path: the opportunities, the challenges, the work, the learning, creativity, the amazing people you meet.

And by meeting a huge variety of people, and in particular people with disabilities and mental frailties we enter the realm of wonder, compassion and conscience.
We can experience awe that a person lives their life so bravely and wholeheartedly.
We experience compassion for their struggles. We experience conscience when we hear the call to help them.

Camphill gives us the chance to learn to look after people, to take initiative, widen our interests, overcome our prejudices, develop conscience. It is a chance to overcome barriers and hindrances in ourself, go beyond our limits, to be truly human, who we truly are.

Karl König said in 1960
"We work inwardly because we try to keep alive the tiny flame of our humanity, which we all carry within us, so that it may not be extinguished by any outer or inner reasons.

We begin afresh every day not out of duty but because we learn to kindle our burning will to be human."

So the best way to carry the Camphill flame into the future is to learn to know your real self and the intentions with which you came to this life as honestly and truthfully as you can. And you can do that anywhere in the world. So that means that Camphill arises in the world wherever deeds are done out the Camphill impulse.

Rudolf Steiner gave many verses and meditations to people who asked him for something, or to illustrate something he wanted to convey.

At the very end of his life in 1925 he wrote down a verse which expressed his own life's task, what he had come to earth for.

Could I but kindle every man
with the spirit of the Cosmos
that he might be a flame
and unfold his beings essence as a flame.

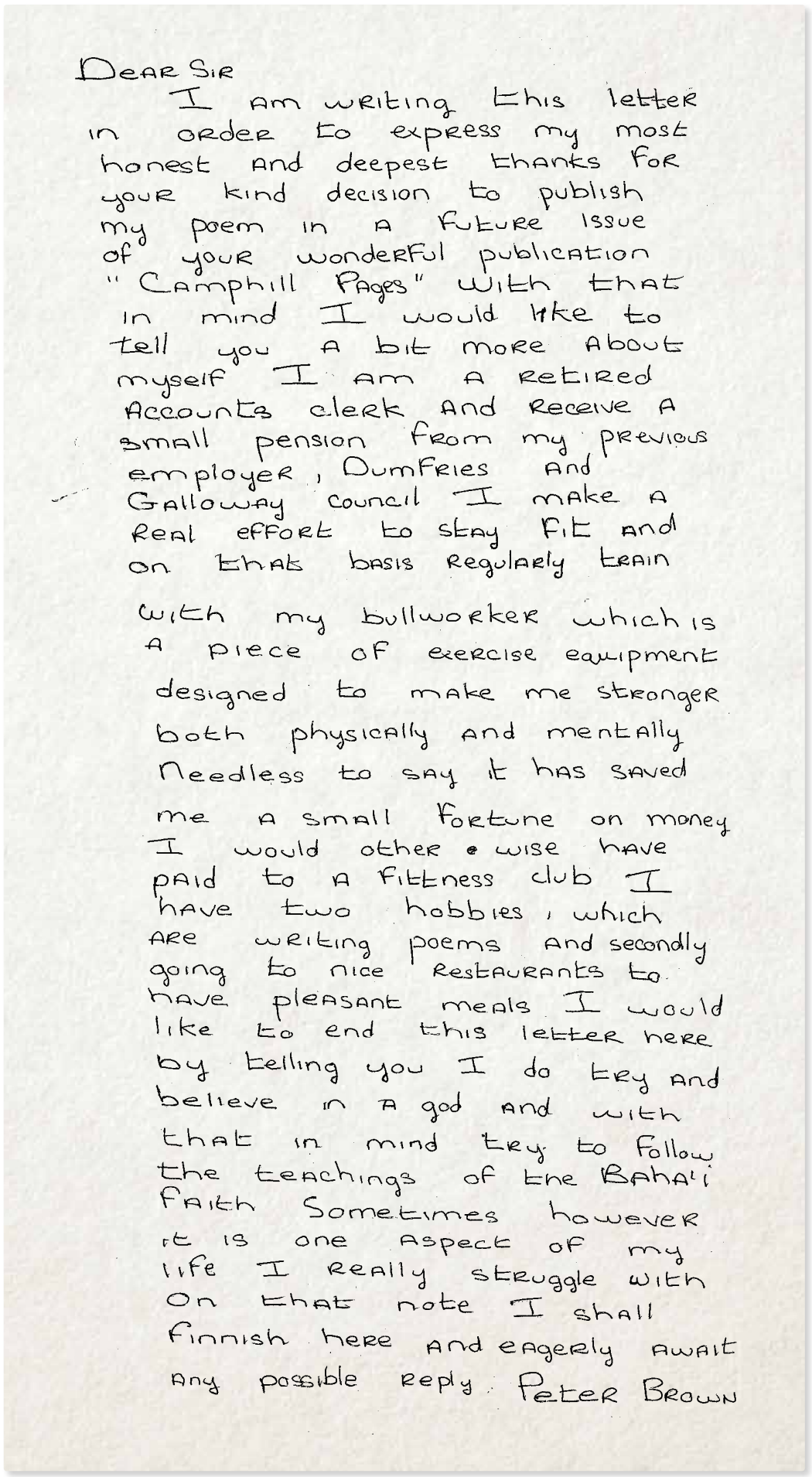
Others would take water of the cosmos
to quench the flame
and make all being
watery dull within.

O Joy, to see the human flame
burning brightly
even when at rest!
O bitterness, to see man like a thing
bound, where he would be free!

Rudolf Steiner 1925

Karl König A Central-European Biography of the Twentieth Century
Hans Müller-Wiedemann
Camphill Books

COMMUNITY



Dear Sir

I am writing this letter in order to express my most honest and deepest thanks for your kind decision to publish my poem in a future issue of your wonderful publication "Camphill Pages" With that in mind I would like to tell you a bit more About myself I am a retired Accounts clerk And receive a small pension from my previous employer, Dumfries And Galloway council I make a real effort to stay fit and on that basis regularly train

With my bullworker which is a piece of exercise equipment designed to make me stronger both physically and mentally Needless to say it has saved me a small fortune on money I would other wise have paid to a fitness club I have two hobbies, which are writing poems And secondly going to nice Restaurants to have pleasant meals I would like to end this letter here by telling you I do try and believe in a god and with that in mind try to follow the teachings of the Baha'i Faith Sometimes however it is one Aspect of my life I really struggle with On that note I shall finnish here and eagerly await Any possible reply. Peter Brown

Death

When my past being has acknowledged it's final breath,

And it is time to leave behind,

The inevitable truth of physical death,

I know my inner soul shall depart,

And travel upwards into the night sky.

Where above those random rooftops of cruel bigotry,

My soul shall grasp that long awaited victory,

And witness the divine presence of the true god,

With a silent nod.

Peter Brown, 2017.

Launch of Esk Valley Camphill Community

By Vivian Griffiths

A remarkable event took place in Danby Village Hall on 28th April. It was perhaps the audience gathered on that afternoon which made it all the more remarkable. They were attending the official launch of The Esk Valley Camphill Community (EVCC) and represented a rainbow of interests which had worked so hard to bring this new Camphill venture about: a partnership of people with learning disabilities, their families, co-workers, friends from the local community and further afield, and representatives of the Avalon Group, with whom most EVCC members have registered as Shared Lives carers or customers. All of them wishing to see the household extended family model of care continue in a Steiner influenced way as a cultural, spiritual and working intentional community. That means shared incomes and shared resources from the toaster to the people carrier. It has taken seven years to achieve, but EVCC now receives the original Botton baton carried into Danby Dale 63 years ago, and will be taking it into the future.

Who was actually at the gathering? Keen observers could see members from The Action for Botton Group who had supported the residents, co-workers and their families through all the long negotiations required to bring the EVCC-Avalon partnership into being. There was a representative from Alliance for Camphill, an organisation set up for the purpose of promoting intentional Camphill communities at national level. There were supporters from a sister Camphill Community that has acted as a kind of mentor to the fledgling project, namely Loch Arthur Camphill which is situated at Beeswing near Dumfries. And a key constituent of this new project, the Avalon chief executive who gave an encouraging and true partnership speech for the new Shared Lives house communities. And throughout the audience, local people who had been following the sometimes painful birth pangs of the new community with interest and concern. Family members from as far away as Switzerland and the Sussex coast attended, glad to see their relatives secure within a Shared Lives setting and part of this new community venture; co-workers and residents, some who have been in Botton for 40 years; former co-workers now retired from neighbouring Camphill centres at Larchfield Community, Middlesbrough and The Croft, Malton – all these groups were acknowledged by Elise Bos one of the Esk Valley co-workers who highlighted the gratitude felt for all the support that had helped to bring about the project.

What of the community venture itself? Well, once upon a time Botton Village, the first post-war community settlement of its kind begun in 1955, grew its workshops, farms and gardens, social enterprise schemes, halls, chapel and households on the one site at the head of Danby Dale. The new venture has seeded offspring down the valley, as was described most graphically by residents and co-workers in a series of vignettes of the Community Garden at Danby Vicarage with its staff and Facebook page (this presentation was a delightful and impromptu duet), the unique Danby Health Shop (how many villages can boast a whole food shop?) and the new Brotherhood Bakery project which will open in Whitby in partnership with Common Cause, a CIC based at The Dispensary in Skinner Street. A fundraising project to provide a hub for the new community was also announced. This will involve acquiring and developing land, workshops and new Shared Lives residences. It will also need £1 million, but when you are a community of 80 who have already pooled resources to the tune of £100,000, it does not seem so unattainable.

The presence of young volunteers who have joined Esk Valley Camphill for shorter and longer stays from Latvia, Italy, Holland and elsewhere was also noted. They are a vital part of the project and it was a joyful moment to see them as part of the presentations, singing in the choir and helping with the organisation of the day. Then there was the cake and the cutting of the cake after Mark Barber's reflections on what inspires Camphill. The choir sang and all in all a very significant beginning to an important project was celebrated in which a child of Botton is creating new links with its locality in a very positive way. Esk Valley Camphill seems to be welcomed into its vicinity and with the barn dance in the evening it was noted a 'good time was had by all!'

Vivian was a Botton co-worker in the 1970s and 80s. He now lives in the Lake District and is a member of Alliance for Camphill.

PAGES PLUS

Camphill Whitsun Festival at the Bodensee

By Carrie Keys

Tom Meskells huge shirt lantern to be ‘the intolerable shirt of flame’ from the IV stanza of Little Gidding by TS Eliot, featuring the image of Whitsun, ‘The dove descending…’.

A gathering of Camphill Communities from all over the world in May this year took place at The Bodensee in Southern Germany, organised by The Camphill Community. Here’s what happened from the eyes of a group who went from Newton Dee and following on we print a shortened version of The Camphill Movement Group Minutes who also met at the festival.

On 12th May we, four residents and two co-workers, left Newton Dee in Aberdeen at 4 in the morning for our journey to Germany. We were going to take part in the Whitsun Festival, but since we were going on such a long journey, we thought we might as well add a few days of holiday to do some sight seeing in this beautiful area.

We had rented a van at Zurich airport and a holiday cottage near Heiligenberg. The first days of our visit we spent looking at the imposing castle at Heiligenberg, tasting the delicious cakes in the Konditoreien, sightseeing alongside and on the Bodensee. We went to the Affenberg; a large area where monkeys can move around freely and visitors can feed them popcorn which they very gently take from your hand. We enjoyed watching the many storks who were breeding on top of the enormous roofs of the houses.

On 16th May we made our way to the Lehenhof to register for the conference. It was pouring down with rain and we struggled to find where we needed to go. After registration we had an interesting tour of the Lehenhof.

The conference took place in 3 different locations: Lautenbach, Naturatelier and Lehenhof. We were at Lautenbach. They had put up a large tent where we had lunch and supper. There was a choice of different groups. Four of us joined the drama group and the other two the music group. We started all together in the morning with singing and storytelling.

The aim was that on Sunday all groups from the different venues would give a presentation and this is what we were working towards.

Continues on next page…

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The story we were going to present was about a charcoal burner. For many years this charcoal burner had worked with fire to do his work and he had always seen it as his friend. But then on one terrible day, just when they had been celebrating together, there was a fire in his village. There was great suffering: a mother got separated from her child, houses and goods burned down, granny died in the flames. The charcoal burner asked himself why the fire, that had provided him with a living for so many years could also burn and destroy. He decided to go and search for an answer to this question. After a long and fruitless search, he came to a house on top of a steep hill. In it lived a wise old woman who said she could give him an answer to his question. She told him that long-ago fire was sacred. It was kept in the Temples and from there distributed to the people. Once a year all fires were extinguished three days before Whitsun. Then, on Whitsun, a messenger from the heavens would come down and relight the fire in the Temples. The priestesses could hold the fire in their bare hands and give it to the people; it did not burn and destroy. This went on for many many years. But then, the people became careless and they lost their connection with the spiritual world. One year some priestesses forget to extinguish the fires. When on Whitsun the messenger from the heavens came down the old fire was still hissing. It did not receive the heavenly fire. From then on it was no longer possible to hold the fire in your bare hands. And from then on, the fire also had the power to burn and destroy. But, she said, it was possible to restore the connection to the spiritual world if people would prepare themselves properly for it. The charcoal burner took this to heart. He made a great pile of wood which the celestial fire could light, a large copper bowl in which the fire could be carried, and strong gloves, so he could not burn himself. The old wise woman watched him working away. She shook her head. He had not understood what kind of preparation was needed. When Whitsun came the charcoal burner watched the messenger from heaven come down. When the time was right he could not come forward to receive the fire. He was not yet ready. He felt dejected, but the old woman comforted him: she was sure that now he knew what to do and that he would be properly prepared for next year when the fire would come down again. His longing would spark his courage, give wings to his hope and strengthen his trust. That night he dreamed that he needed to open his heart. Because as never ending as the stream is, so boundless is the receiving heart.

After the storytelling we all went to our different groups to work with the story in drama, music or eurythmy. Only on Saturday afternoon we all met together for a dress rehearsal. You can imagine there had to be a lot of improvisation and flexibility! On Sunday all groups came together from the different venues in and outside the large hall at Lautenbach and presented what they had worked on. It was amazing what had been achieved by the different groups in such a short time!

We enjoyed taking part in the conference and we are very grateful to the many people and places that have been involved in organizing this. It was a wonderful way to meet other people and to make new friends!

Saturday night celebrations, with the band leading, the clowns weaving in and out with their warmth and tricks, and the fantastic burning shirt at the end, in the field.

David Adams, dressed as a clown.

The band lead the way.

The burning shirt at the end.

David Adams, who was a clown, chatting with David Newbatt, who was a painting workshop leader at Lautenbach.

Tom Meskell leading the group making lanterns.

Minutes from the Camphill Movement Group meeting

Höchsten, Germany: 13th - 16th May 2018

Day 1
Introduction (Michael)

The attention was drawn to an event that happened: 55 Years after Rudolf Steiners opening address of the teachers' seminar (Study of man) in 1919 and at the same year where the Movement Council was relinquished and a division of 6 Camphill regions began:

Florida, February 1964 Cassius Clay (later Muhammad Ali), very self-confident and convinced, prepared himself to step into the ring to fight against the Champion, Sunny Lisston: he knew that he was going to win and he revealed his resilient technique:

"Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee".
The hands can't hit what the eyes can't see, Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) :

A. on the one hand he was being stable and grounded and being attentive through sense perception.
B. on the other hand he wilfully adapted and acted in a playful, elastic and rapid way.

In the Oxford Dictionary resilience is described as a force uniting two polar opposite elements:

A. flexibility, pliability, suppleness, plasticity, elasticity.
B. durability, ability to last, strength, sturdiness, toughness.

The Swiss doctor Guillaume le Monde describes it as: "*Resilience is when the individuality is able to link itself with the difficulty/obstacle so that the obstacle becomes a new reality with which one now needs to count. Aaron Antonowski refers to another resilient Image: "being able to swim in rapids of a stream without drowning".*

Presentation of the Middle European region (Miriam, Sharon, Roger and Michael)

Michael:
52 years ago, 4km away Karl König gave his inauguration speech at the opening of the Lehenhof 25 September 1965. He spoke about two streams:

A. A strong stream that builds, creates everything that makes the different cultures come and go.
B. Alongside flows another stream, a quiet stream, a stream of sacrifice and stillness. A stream that seeks to care, to protect and to listen.

This second stream was alive when in Middle Europe, particularly on the south shore of the Lake of Constance (also on the isle Reichenau) the Irish monks (Columba and Gallus) sacrificed leaving their country and brought here a new Christianity as a non-religious new and open path to link to the spiritual world. It appeared again in Middle Europe around 18th century through the working of the priest Oberlin and the brotherhood community of Count Zinsendorf (one of the pillars of Camphill). König says that now it is Camphill that can link to this quiet stream that wants to put something in the world, by creating places where people with special needs can truly radiate and show their task by awaking in humanity important values: forces of love and compassion.

Michael spoke briefly about the development of Camphill and referred top some important dates concerning the birth of the different regions/events:

June 1st 1940 Official beginning in Scotland, Kirkton House.

1949 England: Thornbury, Sheiling schools.

1954 Northern Ireland: Glencraig.

1957 South Africa, Hermanus.

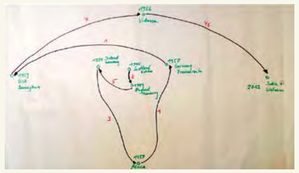
1958 Middle Europe/Germany, Brachenreuthe.

March 1964 After having given up the responsibility for the whole Camphill Movement and after the Central Camphill Movement Council was laid down, König moved from Scotland to the middle European to Brachenreuthe.

1966 Northern Region: Norway, Viderasen: 7th region.

1979 Camphill became a full member of the Konferenz for Curative education and Social Therapy.

2012 India and Vietnam joined the Camphill Movement.



Form of the dove: "underlying spiritual principle in human nature".

Through lecturing in Germany in the fifties and sixties (themes medical and curative education) and through starting several Camphill places in Germany and middle Europe he participated in a healing impulse after the happening of the Second World War. König's intention was to create in Middle Europe a heart organ that should radiate qualities and values like love and compassion into the world transcending all nations developing thus a comprehension and recognition for the different nations and their tasks.

Rudolf Steiner:
The Middle European people bear the potential quality being neither nationalistic, democrats nor liberals but are as wide as the world.

Goethe talks about "World-creation" which is a high spiritual goal an links with the capacity of the Middle European impulse: "to gather the different elements of cultures from all over the world while recognizing in each culture a true humanness".

Camphill today is being fully involved with both streams (König 1965) and that the challenge is to find the right balance!

Roger:
Roger referred to the newly founded (1981) Movement Group as an organ of the inner Community and its relationship and development to the Regional Groups. He made us aware how in Middle Europe the regional Conferences enriched and brought about important impulses in Middle Europe. The 3 councils (Free spiritual Life/ Middle Sphere/Economic Life) in Middle Europe worked consciously over years on the theme of "Threefolding". The workings of these groups gave birth to a new regional organ"Camphill Forum" that worked a lot on governance and more recently on the mission of the places and the region. A Middle European Association was also founded that financially supports the different delegates/comities and also host a fund that supports individuals in challenging situations.

Miriam and Sharon:
Miriam and Sharon explained that the Middle European Region englobes 20 Places, where four different languages are spoken; Slovenian, German, French and Dutch. The communities vary from one place with six children to one place with 170 residents; adults and children with a range of disabilities and all sizes in between. Great variety of support needs, from children with a traumatic background, refugees, teenagers, people with mental health support needs, teenage mothers, elderly to babies and people with burn out support needs. There is much more collaboration than in the past and an acceptance of differences and learning from each other. The question 'Are YOU Camphill?' has been dominant in the recent past, but is now being replaced with "How does your centre do things"? In some areas/countries the Camphill centres meet six times a year, others once a year. The duel background of Camphill of a 'building' stream and a 'quiet' stream is still alive, working with governments and regulations, but also taking time for reflection. It was noted that the associations are not responsible for what is going on in each place, this is the responsibility of each individual Camphill, but they work on a certain cohesiveness based on the values of Camphill.

Discussion
It was noted that it is important not only to be aware that all Camphill have common roots (history), but also share the same star (culture and values). It is clear that in some regions there no longer was or is a same star. Questioned was what the younger generation need to bring Camphill into the future. What do they bring? How can we keep it alive and open to new possibilities? The importance of the UN convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities was mentioned and questioned how the inclusion of them can happen in and outside our communities.

Presentation from Pham Van Tu about Camphill in Vietnam, Peaceful Bamboo Family
Tu portrayed to us the inspiring and effective initiatives (reaching peoples in need of all ages) of TTG (TinhTruc Gia, Peaceful Bamboo) in Vietnam. With a youthful spirit TTG connects to a variety of other streams and organisations and therewith widens and strengthens the curative education impulse (see above, contribution of Walter) in a most impressive and innovative manner.

Presentation from Faiza Alhusseiniabout her project "Alsama" in Palestine
Faiza shares with us about her social therapy initiative that offers day care and operates under extremely difficult circumstances in Palestine. She works closely with the anthroposophical Kibuts Haddduf. She is about to establish a support circle with several people within Camphill and would like to connect closer to the Camphill movement.

Day 3
Talk by Cornelius Pietzner - Organisational Resilience

Resilience should not be a defence strategy but a muscle that needs to be trained and used.

The world is full of dualism and this has great potential to become a conflict.

USA military has come up with an abbreviation to understand the forces in societies at play in this time and age:

VUCA:
Volatile; there is no stability, all is constantly changing fast and exhilarating.
Uncertain; the world is unpredictable, nothing is certain.
Complexity; what is cause and what is effect? So many different factors are involved.
Ambiguity; things are not clear, dualism, multiple versions, misreading, hard to understand.

This asks for building resilience.

The three C's for organisations (from Peter Senge):

A. **Coherence**, what is our vision, our 'star', why do we do what we are doing, being of one mind.
B. **Communication**, internally and external of the organization, skills are needed. Research has shown that 50% of communication needs to be face to face to ensure being effective.
C. **Complexity**, there are many roads to Rome, the expression of ideas can be diverse, how can things be done in different ways.

All C's need working on simultaneously.

Five important aspects to ensure practising organisational resilience:

1. Develop an Overview
What is really going on? Look beyond the symptoms, take a bird's eye view. This needs to be done consciously (consciousness soul). What is the perception form the outside?

2. Understanding organisational boundaries
How transparent is our organisation? Where are your boundaries?
Overtime organisations get thicker skins, innovation becomes management, initiatives become policies, procedures and structures.

Community organisations, like other organisations go through development, where are they on their biography? How to counterbalance this hardening tendency? Reflections internally and external.
Too much inward looking can prevent picking up signals from the outside that things have changed and might require action.

Boundaries, how to be not too opportunistic nor too strategic?

Opportunities: reacting and taking things on that come up to ensure the organisation develops, but not jumping all over the place and changing/reacting to everything that comes on its path.

Strategic: having a clear plan that can help with vetting opportunities, but not so set that it can't changes if mayor things come on its path.

3. Everything is dynamic/ always changing
The blind spot, not the things we know we don't see, but the things we don't know we don't see. We can change the things we know we don't see by making them conscious. We need help to become aware of the things we don't know (and don't see). People from the organisation need to be able to step out and look around and bring it back in. Additional, outside friends can help by giving feedback to the organisation and help to reflect on issues. Charities and foundations are citizen for being 'Ivory towers', not really knowing what is going on. The McArthur foundation uses scouts to find initiatives and organisations that do important work and so ensuring they get good intelligence and preventing a blind spot.

4. Understanding the timing of things
There is chronological and Kiaros time, one linear and external and the other an internal process, catching the right, critical / opportune time for things to happen.
What is the right time for things, when to make a decision, when to wait? Sometimes waiting ensures ripening and deeper reflection, sometimes decisions have to be make fast /immediately as otherwise you miss an opportunity.

5. Mix of Competencies
Ensure an organisation has a good skill mix of people, diversity in profile, social and spiritual competencies. If a team/ organisation is divers, it can complement itself. (Prevent group think, ensures issues are looked at from different angles.

Leadership in organisations - Otto Scharmer - U theory, talks about the change process, to create pilots or prototypes to try new ideas to see if and how they work: Integrate the successful ones into the organisation.
Distributed leadership, this was practiced in the past but in many places become more traditional hierarchical. Many organisations are looking at alternatives, like Fredric Laloux - Reinventing organisations.
This explores organisational structures around networks and inter-connectiveness, without a central decisions making body.

What is the culture of an organisation? Does it welcome new things or not? Is there a consistency of vision and is the message consistent? Ensure accountability and decision making is clear to all.
Build partnerships in times when things are going well with different stakeholders and support them through training.

For businesses their most important stakeholder is not their client/consumer but their co-workers/employees. It they are happy this will shine through everything they do and the client/consumer will notice.

If there is a crisis (human, social or otherwise), slow things down so there is time to reflect on matters before actions are taken (High emotions make people reactive). De-accelerate and de-escalate, brake a crisis down in bite size pieces of things are too overwhelming or big.

Ensure thinking in correspondence with reality, not just "right thinking".
Reference to the four ways if thinking: R.Steiner, Dec 1911, Hanover, 'The World of the Senses and the World of the Spirit'.

1. Soul opening (awe)
2. Venerate, Respect something-one
3. Empathy
4. Devotion or self-surrendering

Organisational resilience and individual resilience are two sides of the same coin. These four aspects also apply to individuals.

Movement Matters
Impressions from British Isles (Noortje, Geoffrey and Cecilie):

The English/Welsh region is gaining momentum and several places innovate and find new impulses (EskValley, Thornleigh communities, co-housing, new forms of leadership and governance) and the question "How co-workers connect to Camphill?" is worked on strongly.

In Ireland the situation is still rather challenging: in Ballytobin, managed by the Health Service Executive since June 2017, the future is still unforeseeable.
Three other places suffer from instability and have difficulties to meet state regulations, although have made great progress recently. Organisational changes are initiated and driven by CCoI board of directors and by the Health Service Executive. There is support from the state agencies but many places are underfunded. A Wellspring group (set up by long term co-workers)has been set up and a stakeholder group (in the process being set up by the AoCC), to try to bring the different parties together aiming to build thefoundations to go into the future.

Report from **"Freunde der Erziehungskunst Rudolf Steiners":**

Claudio reported that the Freunde are now establishing a Trauma Training for their "emergency volunteers" that find themselves in challenging situations during their internships where they are often confronted with individuals that have war traumas.

There have been some cases of mental health issues with volunteers and Claudio asks us to contact him if there is a case where support would be needed.

Day 4
Highlights of Movement Group:

The knot exercise is an example of resilience.
- Meeting with the inner core, from I to I where all is stripped away (resilience). Our residents are very good in that… we do need to practice.
- The importance of human connection and building links between regions.
- Realising I am the co-creator of the chaos in the world.
- Referring to the importance of lively spiritual and practical overlap which is a form of resilience and can be compared to combining steadfastness and adaptability (on an individual as on a collective level).
- Feel really fed and inspired.
- Strong link between our theme from last year "decision making" and "resilience".
- Seen a lot of change and development in the Movement Group the last couple of years.
- Liked Cornelius' input: the membrane around our organizations: there we need a good permeability (gesture of openness).
- Felt a connectivity.
- We belong to something much greater as a movement.
- A lot to bring this back to my region?
- Knot - was a sense of achievement together.
- In the fog, there is a star beyond the mist.
- The fundamental cohesive force is "trust".

Outlook
- Next Movement meeting in May 2019 to be held in Vietnam, subject to the Peaceful Bamboo community being happy to host us. There we will inaugurate an 8th Eastern Camphill region together with Camphill India. The occasion will allow us to connect to and invite some other Camphill initiatives (Thailand, Sri Lanka, Japan, China etc.). Tu will take on the role of the first delegate for this new region.
- Delegates: a very warm thank you to Jonathan and Bruce who have participated actively the last years and will be replaced for 2019. All new delegates need to be confirmed by 31st October 2018 so that Tu will be able to announce the exact number/names of participants of the Vietnam Meeting to the local authorities!
- The minutes will be published and sent to all delegates in June and need to be widely distributed to all regions.
- Michael briefly shared about two Camphill initiatives in Columbia (Jan Goeschel has been visiting recently, will be linked with the American regions) and in Romania (probably linked with Middle Europe). Michael will send out more information to all delegates.
- A big thank you to Jakob and the Lehenhof for their warm hosting of our group!

"Let them all be one"

COMMUNITY

Facebook

Camphill reaches out into the wider community with its social enterprise initiatives.

Camphill Clanabogan *Posted 27 July 2018*
A big thank you to all our lovely customers today for coming and supporting The Learners' Café and for your kind words of feedback. We look forward to seeing you all again soon.
#supportinglocal #learning #cake
Keep your eyes peeled for the next date in August.

Lantern Cafe, Ringwood *Posted 22 May 2018*
Delicious lunch , in the sunshine, we hope to see you! Come and support our Cafe and our charity.

Pennine Camphill Community *Posted 9 May 2018*
Our Royal wedding celebrations are happening! Still time to join our Coffee Morning. Coffee, cakes, scones and a big smile waiting x

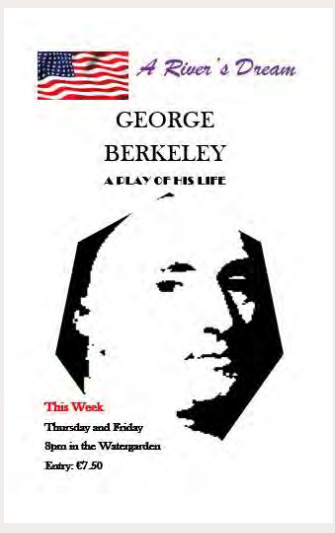
Camphill Community Mourne Grange *Posted 8 May 2018*
How fantastic are these three! Johanna, Ryan and Glenn completed the whole 8 mile walk during the Belfast City Marathon yesterday May 7th. Smiling as they set off and STILL smiling on the home run. Thank you to all their sponsors. They'll soon be out practising for next year.

Camphill Community Dingle *Posted 3 July 2018*
Hope everyone is enjoying the weather… I know we are! Here's a few pictures to keep you updated as to some of the things we have been getting up to.

Esk Valley Camphill Community *Posted 1 May 2018*
A little snippet of our celebration last Saturday's Opening Day Choir.

Camphill Foundation UK & Ireland *Posted 21 August 2018*
A wonderful photo from Tiphereth Camphill Edinburgh earlier this year on Ascension Day.

Camphill Community Glencraig *Posted 15 June 2018*
All is ready for tomorrow's Summer Craft Fair!! Come to Glencraig from 11am to 3pm and enjoy all the amazing homemade goodies and see the wonderful arts and crafts we have made with love in our community. It will be a fun day!



Camphill Communities of Ireland *Posted 15 August 2018*
You are warmly invited to 'A RIVER'S DREAM' - a one man show and dramatisation of the life of George Berkeley, the world famous philosopher who grew up in Thomastown.

Berkeley University in California is named after him.

Bishop George Berkeley was a remarkable human being! Rudolf Steiner even makes reference to him in glowing terms.

8pm on Thursday and Friday nights in the Watergarden.

David (left) and his father Ted in 2004.

Growing up in Camphill

By Brenda Claxton, David's mother

I was moved to write this article a few years ago after reading articles by Andrew Plant in Camphill Correspondence and the invitation of the Editor in a an earlier issue. My experience of Camphill covers the past 46 years and I have seen it primarily through the eyes of my son, David. Camphill has changed greatly over this time, as has David, but like all growth and development leading to maturity at times it has not been easy.

After the initial interview, David was put on the waiting list for The Sheiling School. We waited a couple of months and then we took him back to Thornbury for a visit; I remember Christine being very welcoming and David taking it on himself to climb up a big red tractor. Little did we know at that time that this was an anticipation of the course his life would eventually take. Within a few weeks of our visit David was offered a place for the coming term in September. He was just seven years old and went to live in Copper Beech at the Sheiling School, Thornbury, where his teacher for the next nine years was Ella Van der Stok. David's behaviour could be disruptive at times and he was very young to live away from his family, but he settled into the rhythm of life in Camphill and it quickly became his home.

It was not easy for us either to have such a young child leave the family and board in a strange unfamiliar environment but we sensed a deep love for others emanating from this place. The school was surrounded by tall trees and he lived in a beautifully created and cared-for home.

The sense of community was palpable. David was welcomed, nurtured, loved and gently instructed in the art of living. Shared meals with flowers on the table, natural wood furniture, home cooked food, all of which gave us a sense that David was welcome and cared for.

At school, his teacher Ella told us that David would spend the first hour of each day on his own beneath the desks during the main lesson. Later he was part of a small group of three children who explored the grounds and farm accompanied by a wheelbarrow and co-worker, learning from participating in the natural world.

He was fortunate to be able to be present during the main lesson even though he appeared to take no interest in lessons. One Parents Day, David showed me his exercise book, with drawings of the heart and circulation perhaps drawn by a co-worker, which he described to me in detail. Ella found this difficult to believe but I believed then and now that David had learned by 'osmosis' just by being present and listening at a deep level of consciousness. Being able to experience a higher level of intellectual instruction than he would have experienced in any other school setting has enabled David now to understand the world in greater depth than would have otherwise been possible.

Christine von Jeetze was the school nurse at the Shelling School and it is in part due to her insight and humanity that David has become the mature and kind adult he now is. After a couple of years he had been moved from Copper Beech to another larger house in the grounds of Thornbury but this move disturbed David. His behaviour became unmanageable and we were told he would be asked to leave.

Then Christine decided to take him to live with her in Thornbury Park. She took responsibility for him and cared for him herself - and gradually he was able to regain trust and settle down once more. The following school year he returned to his home in Copper Beech and there he stayed until about 17 when he left Thornbury to finish his schooling in The Hatch.

Thornbury introduced me to colour and light, nature in its simplicity, flowers and leaves displayed on tables, music and singing… a joyful way of living and relating to others which I had not then met in the world and which is still quite rare today. I found a respect for others without judgement or criticism and expectations to be met. Thornbury is set in amongst magnificent trees and buildings filled with light and space, curved and gracious. Visiting the Sheiling School in Thornbury a few of years ago, I was taken back to that sense of having my spirit uplifted, a sense of a world full of peace and joy. Once again I was filled, as I had been as a young mother, with gratitude that such a place and such people could exist beyond the gates of the world outside where disability was rejected. Karl König's words as I remember them – 'the body can be damaged but the spirit cannot' – assured me all those years ago that Camphill would be the right place for my son and my foresight was correct; his spirit has been recognised and nurtured throughout all the years he has lived in Camphill.

During David's time at Thornbury, as parents we were invited to watch the Advent Garden and were deeply touched but even so we always felt like outsiders and understood very little about Camphill and its festivals. Nor did we learn about anthroposophy upon which we understood Camphill was based. But this was acceptable because David was thriving and we knew he was well cared for both in spirit, in body, and in mental and emotional aspects.

The Hatch was even more of a distant institution at that time. David was on his way towards adulthood and I remember very little of his two years living there.

After school, David was then particularly fortunate because Sally and Georg Schad, who had been houseparents at Halliers in Thornbury next door to his home in Copper Beech, started a new Camphill community at Blair Drummond especially to fill the gap for students between school and village life. He moved effortlessly to Blair Drummond, working in the woodwork shop with Georg. I still delight in using the beautiful wooden spoons which David carved during his time at Blair Drummond. His main complaint was that the lions roaring in the Safari Park beneath his window kept him awake at night!

Sally used to invite us for parents' weekends in summertime where we were introduced for the first time to the meaning of Camphill, its ideals and aims. We experienced the warmth of its hospitality ourselves. Her friendship was down to earth and for the first time I began to feel part of Camphill alongside David, who I knew had always been deeply accepted and nurtured. He was fortunate to have grown into a young adult in a gentle and generous place where he could slowly mature and develop into the human being he is. For this we are all grateful.

David Newbatt's paintings slowly transformed the vast empty hall of this enormous Scottish Manor; how Sally and Georg were able to make such a warm and comfortable home there I could never comprehend. I have one of David Newbatt's paintings in my home as a memory. One parent's weekend David Newbatt was giving a talk when he suddenly stopped speaking and invited us all to turn round and look at the rainbow shining outside the window behind us. Where else I wondered would a speaker break off his talk and invite his audience to admire a rainbow. He then drew this rainbow and used it to give meaning to his words. I have never forgotten this incident. Camphill shared with me, a parent and visitor, a different way of living and demonstrated values which I still treasure today.

After a couple of years, as David slowly developed into a young adult we felt it was time for him to move on. One day, sitting on a mountainside in the Lake District watching a farmer as his dog rounded up a flock of sheep, David said "I want to be a farmer". So began my quest for the right Camphill village where David could live the life he had chosen.

I visited Botton and though it was very alive and busy I felt it was too large for David; he could have felt lost amongst all those people. Then during one parents' weekend at Blair Drummond a group came to tell us about a new Camphill village they were starting. The village was Loch Arthur in Dumfries and after their presentation I promptly paid a visit. I was invited for lunch at Loch End Farmhouse in a rather small dark room full to the brim with villagers, co-workers, the house parents (who were the farmer and his wife) and their small children. Together we ate our frugal lunch of lentil soup and after being shown around I knew beyond doubt that this was the right place for David's next move.

David was invited for a trial period and I well remember his anxiety beforehand – would they accept him, he wondered? He made his home for the next 20 years with Lana and Denis in Stable Cottage, in the early days sharing his room with David Halsey who remained his friend for many years. Lana and Denis had four children and David particularly enjoyed being part of this family; he was able to experience their children slowly growing into toddlers and beyond.

David has now spent the last 31 years living in Loch Arthur. During this time,

PEOPLE'S LIVES

Spoons David made and Brenda still uses. Photograph taken by David's sister Anne Claxton.

we have watched Loch Arthur grow from humble beginnings, where we would bring a packet of ground coffee as a special treat for Denis when we visited David, to the successful farming community it now is - producing award-winning cheeses, with its own shop, bakery, weavery woodwork shop and much more.

In those early days the now famous creamery was situated in a makeshift portacabin in Loch End Farmyard. One early summer morning as I walked across the empty farmyard the beautiful sound of a voice singing drifted across to me. I paused and listened not knowing where this lovely music was coming from. I spied an open window in the portacabin and realised that Barry was singing whilst turning the cheeses. I have many such precious memories of Loch Arthur which I carry with me in my heart.

David still works daily on the farm as well as in the gardens; he talks to us about feeding the piglets and calves, and mucking out which he is beginning to learn to appreciate for its value to the animals. Loch Arthur is a world where he has grown and matured, a place where he is respected. He also enjoys helping to cook lunch in St Brides House on a Monday morning as much as he enjoys working with the milking herd; his work affords him great satisfaction and gives his life meaning.

David is able to be independent and chooses to walk to his work even in dire weather when most of us would take a lift. This real freedom to make choices is I think the central important feature of adult Camphill life. People can truly choose how to live their own lives, whether it be going to the talk in Cresset Hall or a ceilidh in Beeswing Village. Unless he is unwell, David always goes to the Sunday morning gathering; I know that being an independent member of the community contributes to his basic sense of identity.

We have also found a home in Loch Arthur over the decades and we no longer feel outsiders of Camphill, but true friends. I remember on one of my visits working alongside David in the vegetable garden, Pat Parker said she would be giving a talk on the nature and structure of soil. I am always eager to learn new things and David decided to attend also. He was clearly used to attending talks and lectures and was engaged and able to participate. This sense of everyone being equally welcome and accepted, whether an elderly relative like me, a Camphill villager or a foreign co-worker lies I believe at the heart of Camphill.

As Camphill has evolved I have found people more willing to share what it is that Camphill means for them. In the early days it felt as if Camphill were a secret but now it is as if the flower has blossomed and opened with its scent, beauty and nectar available for all to enjoy. I don't know what the future holds but I do know that my son, David, is living a fulfilled and meaningful life. He is an integral part of Camphill at Loch Arthur and Camphill is fundamental to who he is and how he has matured.

In unexpected ways David continues to develop. He is now beginning to have some concept of time which gives him a better sense of his place in the world and strengthen his sense of identity. His loving nature and care for others can only be the consequence of the manner in which he was cared for at various Camphill places where he has lived.

As Andrew Plant says in his interesting two-part article in earlier issues of Camphill Correspondence, life in Camphill and outside is never going to be easy or straightforward. Challenges are an essential ingredient for living well. But I do know that the results I see in my son David's life speak for themselves.

Reprinted with kindness and with updates from Camphill Correspondence 2014.

Gabrielle Werth

By her mother Kay Wilson and including Gabrielle's words

My daughter Gabrielle had significant difficulties from the beginning of her life. Important ones were - an inability to communicate satisfactorily with others, hyperactivity, obsessive behaviour, self-centredness, and difficulty in regulating her emotions. She was diagnosed with autism aged 7 and, failing to find any suitable school for her in our county, we contacted the Rudolf Steiner Centre in London. Subsequently, aged 11, she went to the Steiner Schools in Aberdeen and this was the beginning of a completely new life for her.

Gabrielle joined the family of Betty and Julian, in a house called Mignon on the beautiful Murtle estate. Living with the houseparents were their two young sons and several schoolchildren with various difficulties of their own. Gabrielle began to discover community life. She was encouraged to take part in household routines and duties and gradually she started to realise the presence and differing characteristics and needs of other people. The reassurance of the daily routines and the peace they brought, eventually had an effect on her. She enjoyed music played at bedtimes and in the mornings, and after the evening meal; and although it wasn't the sort she liked best, she became open to different kinds of music and that has brought her great happiness.

The school provided a range of lessons including Geology and Chemistry, and also practical classes introducing many and varied crafts. She particularly enjoyed weaving, which she still does with great enthusiasm.

In her mid-teens Gabby went to live with Laurence and Vibeke and their family in Witiko and, when she was 18 she spent a year with Rainer and Rasheeda in Mignonette, continuing to receive great warmth, guidance and support in her life with them all.

After leaving Aberdeen Gabrielle spent a year outside Camphill, but before long she missed life in the Community and went to live in Botton Village. She joined the household of Mickey and Ernst and for other villagers, in Nook House.

The familiarity of the life, combined with her houseparents' patience and understanding, made settling into the new situation easier. Happily she was given places in the weavery and dollshop and she walked across the Dale to work each weekday. After 12 years of her special Nook House life, Gabby went to live in Sherwood House with Soleira, Erwin and four villagers. She has been very happy there too and continues to mature long past the time we had thought possible, benefiting enormously from all new experiences and activities. In Aberdeen she attended the Christian Community church and still does - also enjoying bible-reading suppers and all the Christian ceremonies.

Gabrielle's Camphill life has really been exceptionally blessed. The familiar rituals including pageants, skits, and plays delight her heart as do the birthday celebrations (many of which have been amazing!) barn dances, all musical events - and much more. She has been abroad on holiday to Ireland, Italy and Estonia. All of which give her experiences she would never otherwise have had, and from all she has happy memories.

Gabrielle still has times of misery and is often in the grip of her obsessions, but living in Camphill has allowed her to come to understand others more and sometimes to be able to engage with them on an emotional level and to see their point of view. Also she seems better able to use reason to regulate her own emotions.

The wisdom, kindness and guidance freely given by the co-workers, teachers and the volunteer co-workers over all the years, have been, and continue to be, exceptional.

Corbenic 40 years. Established in 1978

Corbenic celebrated its 40th birthday, at the Family Weekend on 23rd and 24th June. To mark the occasion, the Paragon music/ drama group, an inclusive music company inspiring people to create and perform their own music came on board. Over 10 weeks, they would come to Corbenic to meet with the residents, teasing out memories and stories, which were creatively spun together into a rich tapestry of music and lyrics. The play was performed on Saturday against a beautiful backdrop painted by the Craft team, headed up by Monica Hand. It was an inspiring and hugely impressive performance in the yurt.

Everyone seemed captivated at a glance around the audience. The play was followed by a BBQ feast and an evening's Ceilidh performed by 'Tunna', a four-piece local Scottish band.

Sunday saw the cutting of the wonderful birthday cake lovingly prepared by Thomas Heilbronner, our bakery workshop leader. Songs were sung, and stories of the past were told in celebration of Corbenic's achievements over the last 4 decades. A unifying end to a significant weekend.

BBQ feast and an evening's Ceilidh performed by 'Tunna', a four-piece local Scottish band.

The wonderful birthday cake lovingly prepared by Thomas Heilbronner, our bakery workshop leader.

The play performed on Saturday against a beautiful backdrop painted by the Craft team, headed up by Monica Hand. It was an inspiring and hugely impressive performance in the yurt. Everyone seemed captivated at a glance around the audience.

A Very Warm Welcome

By Sally McCorquodale

Last weekend 23rd and 24th June I went with my friend Juliet to the Family Weekend for Corbenic's 40th Birthday.

From the moment we arrived we were met with a very warm welcome. The yurt looked beautiful, decorated with glorious summer flowers, the centre piece of which was a beautiful tableau by Monica of the entire Corbenic estate, the houses, workshops, cottage, farm and the offices and the birds flying in the sky. Around the yurt were photographs of all those who have lived, and indeed some who still do live in the Corbenic Community.

Naturally there were tables loaded with delicious cakes and biscuits, coffee, tea and cold drinks too.

Betty introduced us all to the weekend and afterwards, we all went to walk the Poetry Path stopping at intervals to hear readings from the Poetry Path Poets. If you haven't already walked there, do try to go as it is a beautiful walk up towards the hills, windingaround the estate back through the rhododendrons towards the main house.

In the afternoon there was a performance by residents and co-workers in the yurt. At one moment all the co-workers held up their own country's flag in a long line across the yurt. It was very moving, and the performance showed us everybody's different abilities of how they take part in the life of the Community.

Corbenic has developed hugely with new buildings, the farm, workshops, Ossian and Fingal, both new houses, stables and yet the ethos of Camphill remains strongly in place, that of shared living in a Camphill Community.

In the evening a BBQ followed and we all ate outside enjoying the glorious weather and renewing friendships. The band then played and a Ceilidh started with reels and dancing and everyone joined in- all amazing.

On Sunday morning, which was St. John's Day, we all met up again in the yurt. Glenn spoke about the message of St. John and how this was understood and discussed in the weekly Gospel study. Many family members shared their memories and we were looking ahead with future plans and discussions about the building of a new hall. Thomas had made a HUGE Birthday cake divided into different sections in order to suit everybody.

Juliet and I left full of moving thoughts, totally in awe of all we had witnessed.

Corbenic is a wonderful Community in the heart of beautiful Perthshire shared with equally wonderful people who come from all over the globe having chosen to live and share their life with adults with special needs.

Sally McCorquodale, Mother of Euan who has been a resident of Corbenic for 17 years. Previously Euan lived in Cairnlee House and before that he was a pupil at the Camphill schools in Aberdeen.

Euan, also 40 years old, has lived under the umbrella of the Camphill Movement for 32 years.

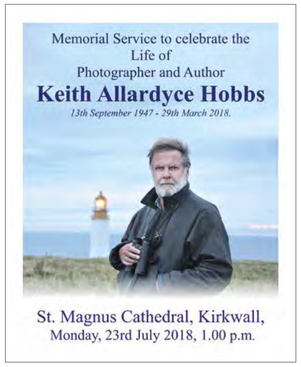
ACESTA meeting at Rudolf Steiner House

We would like to remind you of the forthcoming ACESTA meeting at Rudolf Steiner House on the 18th November, 10.30am for 11am start until 4.30pm. This is an important meeting where the future of the way we associate together and the best way to do this will be discussed. This meeting has come about after the suggestions and encouragement from friends here in UK and in Europe, who attended the last ACESTA conference: that we found something together that could fulfil more than ACESTA (which is an unincorporated Association) is able to do.

ACESTA is at the moment the only platform for all the many places working with Anthoposophical Care and Education in this country and Ireland and we have kept the fire burning with many inspiring events and conferences over the last few years. We have kindled good relationships with the many places and associations such as the BD social farming network, the BD Association, the Social and General section of the Anthroposophical Society in Dornach, ECCE (European Co-operation in Curative Education) the STAG, the Social Therapy Group of the Konferenz in Dornach and the new leadership etc. Could now be the time for us to widen our remit and membership to create a better and wider platform to work with, research and share the way we can make a difference together. Please come and hear what has been achieved and what could be possible or different!

The next ACESTA conference will be 29th May - 2nd June 2019. The programme is being finalised, and we are happy to say that Ruskin Mill Educational Trust, Joan Sleigh and Richard Steel and many others will be joining us once more for this event.

Looking forward to hearing from you
Paulamaria Blaxland-de lange,
Piet Blok and Edeline Lefevre, ACESTA
elefevre01@gmail.com



Keith Hobbs Obituary

By Vivian Griffiths

Keith Hobbs who died in March 2018 had a special connection to Camphill and it's communities as renowned photographer, house parent and Holiday Provider from his seaside home at Craster in Northumberland. His life began in Ashington in September 1947 as a doctor's son; his connection to Botton Village in 1980 after a spell as a Lighthouse Keeper in Scotland, where he made a name for himself as a photographer of all the offshore lighthouses before they became automated and with each picture a story of treacherous conditions, the lighthouse keepers family and a way of life lost. This work became a special book Scotland's Edge (Collins1986) and it showed as well as the dramatic locations, the human story of the lighthouse community.

This skill of evocative image and community image was transferred to pictures of the cultural, social and work life of a Camphill Community life in 'Imagine' (2006) and Keith's work was much appreciated by Camphill Residents for their beautiful and descriptive images. His partner Iku from Japan is a special photographer in her own right and a picture they worked on at Botton won an Observer Magazine Photographic Competition.

Later in life after a spell in Edinburgh working for Garvald another anthroposophically inspired project for young people with special needs, Keith settled at Craster where he alternated much photographic work on The Orkneys, producing a number of books on artefacts for The Orcadian Press with royalties going to The Stromness Museum and The Orcadian newspaper, with taking residents on holiday bird watching, visiting Holy Island and The Farne Islands and fish and chips at the local pub! Keith was an active member of The Holiday Providers Group in Camphill hosting one of its meetings in 2014. These holidays were enormously appreciated by those who came from Newton Dee and Loch Arthur as well as Botton and a special service at a green burial site near Morpeth in April brought relations and members of The new Esk Valley Camphill Community together for an appreciation of Keith's life.

Somehow Keith seemed to be taken from us a little early was an impression and to honour him in The Orkneys a special service was given at the famous St Magnus's Cathedral in the summer.

As a picture says a thousand words a few are reproduced here as a tribute to Keith's life.

Keith at his seaside home at Craster in Northumberland.

Walking along the coast towards Dunstanburgh Castle.

Keith's funeral service held at St. Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall.

Charities fear Brexit policy is 'closing the door' to volunteers

Kirsty Weakley
News editor, Civil Society Media

A number of volunteering bodies have said they fear that the government's approach to Brexit is "closing the door" to potential volunteers from outside of the UK.

The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations and a number of other organisations have written to the Home Secretary with concerns that Brexit will affect the number of volunteers.

SCVO, Camphill Scotland, Volunteer Scotland, Cyrenians, Volunteering Matters and L'Arche have asked for an urgent meeting with home secretary, Sajid Javid highlighting that the number of people taking part in volunteering programmes has fallen since Britain voted to leave the European Union.

Anna Fowlie, chief executive of SCVO, said: "Charities in Scotland need to recruit more volunteers than ever, and it is vital that current volunteering schemes – which help us attract volunteers from across the world – are not only maintained, but further enhanced.

"We believe it is of the upmost importance that the UK government commits to recognising the important contribution made by volunteers and voluntary workers across the UK, instead of closing the door on greatly valued and much needed volunteers from Europe and beyond."

Increase in rejections of non-EU volunteers
It also says that there has been an "alarming increase" in rejections for people from outside the European Union who are applying to come and volunteer in Scotland.

The letter says that there is no longer a consistent approach to Tier 5 applications from non-EU citizens. Tier 5 visas are designed for people from outside the European Economic Area looking to come to the UK for a short time to do work experience or take a language course.

Charities told the government that "there no longer seems to be a consistent approach applied to applications from different countries leading to a loss of volunteer contributions that many charities rely on".

Ewan Aitken, chief executive of Cyrenians, added: *"As an organisation that has a long history of successfully supporting, and being supported by, volunteers we are greatly concerned by the recent decline in successful Tier 5 volunteering applications.*

"By excluding individuals who have the desire to support vital services delivered by a wide range of third sector organisations, our government is directly impacting the quality of the services available for Scottish citizens in need of our support. "Volunteering is the heartbeat of the third sector and international volunteers should be celebrated for both their willingness to get involved and the diversity they bring to our sector. We strongly urge the government to explore this worrying trend and address the current inconsistencies in regards to international volunteering."

Reminder - AGM & Open Meeting Sat 20th October 2018

We warmly invite you to our AGM and Open Meeting at Carrs Lane Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham B4 7SX – a short walk from New Street Station.

Are you confused about the new funding?
If so, you're in good company. Universal Credit? Personal Payments? Even the experts seem uncertain about how they will work. But we need to be alert to what is coming our way. It will have an impact on levels of funding for our family members. Come to the meeting and hear all we know so far.

Speaker TBC

Camphill organisations can be confusing too
Linked to the worldwide Camphill movement, the Association of Camphill Communities (AoCC) supports Camphill places in the UK and Ireland. How does it do this? How does it fit into the jigsaw of all the other Camphill organisations?

Tim Davies, a Regional Co-ordinator, will tell us all about the work of the AoCC, of which CFF is an affiliated member.

As always there will be time, too, for you to bring up any matters of general interest.

Agenda
10.15 - Welcome and refreshments
10.45 - AGM
11.15 - Presentations followed by questions and discussion
12.45 - Lunch
13.45 - Further questions and discussion following the presentations
14.30 - Discussion of matters of general interest
15.45 - Close of meeting

Members: Attendance free, lunch £12 including coffee.
Non-members: Attendance £15, lunch £12 including coffee.
Non-members may join CCF on the door. Please book lunch at least a week in advance to help with numbers for catering but pay on the day.

RSVP
Please email Jane Vizard at *jane.vizard@gmail.com* or write to 25 Kersley Street, London SW11 4PR. Including the following information...
- Name(s)
- Numbers requiring lunch
- In which community do you have a relative or friend?
- Email address
- Mobile (in the unlikely event of last minute changes)

Thank you.

NEWS

Inside Scotland's 'village of dreams'

By Debbie Jackson, BBC Scotland

It is talent night in Newton Dee, one of the few places in Scotland where people with learning difficulties and special needs can live fully integrated into village life.

On stage, Ali is sporting full Kiss-style make-up and belting out Paint It Black by the Rolling Stones. He nails it.

One of the judges screams: "There's no dilemma - it's a yes from Emma".

Newton Dee is part of the Camphill movement, whose communities are run as charities with no division between carers and the cared-for.

Jake came to Scotland 10 years to spend his gap year as a co-worker at Newton Dee.

He stayed, raised a family there, and now shares his home with members of the community.

He told a BBC Scotland documentary Village of Dreams: "I live with my wife, my two children, our dog and seven adults with additional support needs.

"Yes, I'm sharing my family life with a group of people but I get to be around because I work here and I see my kids a lot."

The home life of the village is based around large and small households ranging from four to 16 people.

The charity provides housing and work. People can work a gap year there or move permanently as long-term volunteers.

Sometimes one turns into the other.

The village provides for its own, and what it does not generate itself, the charity provides a budget for.

Any surplus cash generated through the shop or the cafe goes straight back into maintaining and improving the village.

There are 36 comfortable houses in 180 acres of wooded grounds, with schooling, a bakery, coffee shop, organic farms and community meeting places.

Aberdeen's Camphill community is special because it was the first.

Now, more than 100 villages which share the same ethos are thriving in more than 20 countries across Europe, North America, Southern Africa and Asia.

Jake arrived for a gap year and is still in Newton Dee 10 years later as one of the village's co-workers.

Ali is happy in the village and his father and sister come to visit him.

Alan is a well-known character in the village of Newton Dee.

Look after you

Back in the village, Jake explains how it works.

He says: *"When Camphill was started the idea was that nobody was paid, you gave freely of yourself, and you trusted that the community would look after you. And that's more or less how Newton Dee still operates.*

"All of the long-term co-workers don't get paid in the traditional sense.

"That doesn't mean we don't have money to go and buy clothes, or go out to eat or to go to the cinema - we still do those things - but we just don't receive a cheque.

"We operate out of the ability of the community to be able to support us."

Jake arrived in Newton Dee as a volunteer because he fancied going to Scotland for a year.

He says: *"I wanted to do something different and I was avoiding going to university. I loved the work and I met a girl - that helps."*

"What we actually do here at Newton Dee is to support people to have professions, jobs, independence.

"You come to work in the joinery, the farm, the garden, you work in the houses cooking and cleaning, you learn skills to have a social identity.

"You no longer say 'Hi, I'm Jake, I have Down's syndrome', you become 'Hi I'm Jake, I'm a baker'."

Jake says the "lady of the house" in his home is Carla.

'So much loneliness'

A real character, she teases Jake constantly.

Carla's boyfriend is the talent shows Rolling Stones fan Ali.

She says: *"I asked Ali to go out with me and he said yes. I decided he was my boyfriend because I love him."*

Ali moved to Newton Dee after his mother died and his father struggled to cope.

He admits: *"I thought because of so much loneliness, I wouldn't be able to carry on much longer on my own."*

Now Ali works on one of the farms, his father and sister are able to visit him and he looks forward to taking Carla to the cafe every Saturday.

The farms at Newton Dee keep cows, pigs and chickens. Milk, meat and eggs are all produced there and two organic gardens supply the village with fruit and veg.

Katie works at the Roadside Garden.

As she plants vegetable seeds with co-worker Scotty, she talks non-stop about her girlfriend Steph - who skied in the Special Olympics.

The man with the vision - Dr Karl König

The Camphill Movement was founded by Dr Karl König, an idealistic paediatrician from Vienna. He dreamed of creating a community to help children with special needs.

Born to Jewish parents, he attracted a following among young students in Vienna. When Austria was annexed by the Nazis he fled and regrouped in Scotland.

He set up the first community for children with special needs in 1940, named after the Camphill Estate in the Milltimber area of Aberdeen, where it was built.

The movement is an initiative for social change, building residential communities and schools that provide support for the education, employment, and daily lives of adults and children with developmental disabilities, mental health problems, or other special needs.

Katie lives with house parents Holly and Finn, who moved to the village last year.

Holly has helped Katie deal with her feelings for Steph.

She says: "*It's quite an intense relationship and they do need a bit of guidance sometimes.*

"They're in love and that's great but they don't need to spend 24 hours a day together, they can have some time apart!"

Sometimes a village romance can lead to a happy-ever-after.

Ingrid, who works in the bakery, met John in the village and they have been married for 10 years.

She says: *"I met him out cycling. I proposed to John. I got down on one knee."*

Backstage at the village show, Ali gets a congratulatory hug from Carla.

He is through to the finals proving he, and Newton Dee have, indeed, got talent.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The Association of Camphill Communities has a special connection to the work of Camphill in South Africa supporting through visits from Britain and Ireland and taking an active interest in the work done by the school and village communities. Here we feature recent articles sent from South Africa to The Association Coordinators Group and they are printed with grateful thanks and good wishes for all the work done with our friends there.

Camphill Celebrating Womanhood

By Carine

South Africa has a special celebration for women - National Women's Day on 9th August. It's a public holiday which seeks to celebrate women and their contribution to achieving freedom in South Africa.

Woman are often regarded the nurturers and carers within our society. Within that nature, they have so many roles to fulfil, being the daughters, sisters, mothers, spouses and the list goes on. Society, culture and tradition have created massive expectations from women. Sometimes the expectations include caring, serving, mothering, nurturing - all beautiful, self-less and giving attributes, but often come at the price of the self, own goals, dreams, ambitions and opportunities. It is these attributes that also often make women vulnerable, dependent, co-dependent or isolated, or sadly suppressed.

On 10th August we had a "high tea" at Camphill, celebrating womanhood. We were honoured with the presence of a group of 8 female members from Philadelphia SAPS, along with Capt. Rossouw, their Station Commander and Heidi Abrahams from the Department of Justice at Malmesbury Magistrate's Court.

Captain Rossouw opened the morning with a special word of inspiration and appreciation for women and confirmed his station's commitment to serve and support our Camphill community.

He was followed by Heidi who discussed the gloomy topic of Domestic Violence with the focus of empowerment of women in such situations. The symptoms and types of domestic violence and abuse was highlighted and discussed, along with the options women face in such circumstances within the Criminal Justice System.

Thereafter, women were celebrated through scripture and positive affirmations of how beautiful and strong they are with great inspiration from her own life story by Hester Moses.

Hester works within her own community in Atlantis and has a great passion for working among members of gangs in her area. She believes in change from within and has a long history in working within the criminal justice system with offenders of crimes, including intimate partner violence, along with training service providers of Trauma rooms at SAPS offices offering victim empowerment to the victims of crimes.

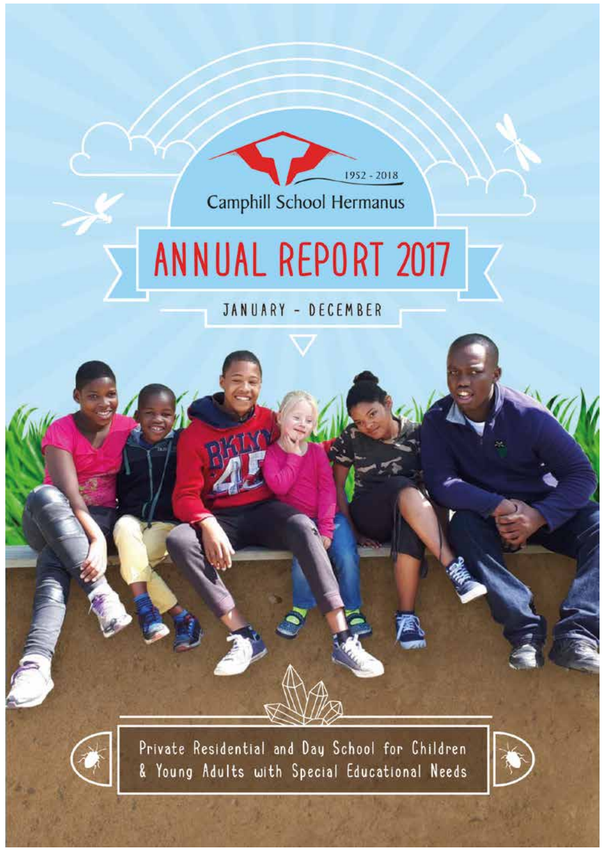
The ladies felt inspired, motivated, proud and empowered after listening to the speakers.

A few ladies were lucky enough to receive a gift from the lucky draw and the day ended on a very sweet note with delicious refreshments being enjoyed by all.

I am sincerely grateful to everyone who contributed to this special occasion through a financial contribution, refreshments, magazines, vouchers for the lucky draw and all our staff and residents who helped in preparing and assisting for this lovely morning.

Also, finally to Captain Rossouw, Commander of SAPS Philadelphia for availing his staff and to Hester Moses who gave us a morning out of their busy schedules. You were all very inspirational.

'High Tea' at Camphill, celebrating Womanhood.



Our Mission Statement

Camphill School Hermanus is a therapeutic community in a rural environment setting for children and young adults with special needs. We use a Curative Educational approach in home, school and therapies.

We aim to uphold the dignity of the human being by addressing the spiritual uniqueness in everyone, creating opportunities for developing individual potential.

Our Vision

We envisage Camphill School Hermanus as a thriving centre of Curative Education for children and young adults with special needs. We are a committed community of appropriately trained people, adequately resourced, working with sound communication and professional practices, striving to identify and meet new challenges.

Heaven and Earth

By Geneviene Linney

Many people have heard of the Hemel en Aarde Valley, but how many realise the special healing taking place at Camphill? Our school is tucked away in the folds of the tranquil Hemel en Aarde (Heaven and Earth) Valley near Hermanus. It has been called a 'time honoured' valley of indescribable beauty. Our school is surrounded by picturesque mountains, glorious gardens, ancient oak trees and an abundance of wildflowers and Fynbos.

Camphill has been a place of hope and a safe haven since its inception in 1952. Our school and environment has welcomed and grown alongside generations of children and young adults with moderate to severe disabilities of all kinds.

The land continues to nurture us. Our wise, old trees have seen the struggles and the victories and impart their essence to us all. We try to instil strength and grounding, beauty and a sense of well being. Thepeacefulness and tranquillity of the valley plays a pivotal role in each child's life, nurturing and feeding the soul, from our autistic children to our children struggling with ADHD and other emotional challenges. It is a place of spiritual, physical and emotional healing, and those who work with our children witness their progress and say that our children seem to have 'something special'.

On entering our grounds, one feels the deep connection to the earth. Our children are embraced and calmed by the serenity and atmosphere of the valley and this filters into each classroom. At the school we are aware of other concepts of Heaven and Earth, knowing that we can transcend the ground-roots problems and disadvantages in the lives of our children and enable them to grow and to soar.

As we move through the seasons, we have the faith that, as the land has grown and evolved throughout the years, so each of our children will find their happy place in the world.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Our School

By the Teachers

The Camphill/Steiner ethos of teaching with love and respect for each individual is evident throughout our school. All aspects of the child are nourished: body, mind and soul. Each class uses the guideline of the Special Education Curriculum and the Camphill Curriculum, but each child has an Individual Education Programme (IEP) within this.

Interdisciplinary meetings between teachers, housemothers and therapists are held regularly and adjustments are made to the programme, where necessary. Learning through creativity, music and movement play significant roles within our day.

We interviewed and accommodated as many learners as possible this year and most of our classes are to full capacity, with an expanding waiting list of children waiting to be admitted.

With a heavy heart we bid farewell to our long-standing teacher Karin von Maltzahn. We thank her wholeheartedly for her true dedication and commitment to our school and the learners. We welcomed Lizé-Meri during the third term as teacher to our Creative class.

The Upper School class started the year with new workshops in hairdressing, baking, needlework, dressmaking and housekeeping for the girls. The boys continue to participate in gardening, woodwork, maintenance and car wash. The learners enjoy these vocational phase workshops, continuously improving their life skills and preparing them for life outside of school. Vital training was organised throughout the year for all our teaching staff. We attended workshops on autism, and on anxiety and also visited Alexandria Hospital in Cape Town for an essential course on identifying and reporting sexual abuse in intellectually disabled children. Later in the year we were privileged to attend a basic fire fighting course with an exciting practical demonstration afterwards by the Overstrand Chief Fire Fighter. Our local fire department passed on educational materials for each of our classes and we thank them.

Our annual Sports Day took place in May and we welcomed many parents supporting their children. Once again each class made up a team with their own colours. Each child took part in one of the individual, relay or novelty races. Not only do the children participate, but all staff takes their turn at a bit of tug-o-war, three-legged races or simply cheering on the side of the field for all our little winners. We welcomed many visitors and friends to our school during the year. In May we had our annual Open Day where our children once again showcased their talents in the classrooms with their school books, crafts and sang songs to cheer all our guests. Pancakes and coffee were served by the young girls in our senior classes.

We thank the Hermanus High School Interact Club with whom we had the pleasure of spending much time with.

From a fun day at the High School, to a friendly soccer game at our School, to a fun-filled Spring Day picnic and to end off the year with our specially made Santa Shoe Boxes, we thank you all for the time and love you have dedicated to each of our learners.

We would also like to thank Wynberg Boys Service Club for joining hands with Hermanus High School and for including us in your Outreach programme for the year.

They spent an entire day painting the outside of Dawn House and sprucing up the outside of our Foundation phase classroom and adding lots of colour to the jungle gym and playground area.

We had two memorable cultural days, Mandela and Heritage days. For Mandela Day our senior classes did their bit and spent 67 minutes picking up litter along our coast stretching from Sandbaai to Onrus Beaches. On Heritage Day some of our learners and staff dressed up to show off their traditional costumes.

We were blessed with the opportunity to take our children on a lovely spring day picnic to Piet-se-bos and Grotto beach.

We all enjoyed delicious braai rolls, ball games and long walks on the beach. We thank all for their contributions made towards this day, especially the tasty brownies from the ladies of the Hermanus N.G. Church. Every term we have managed to go and entertain the residents at the retirement villages within our Community. Our learners prepare a few songs and liven and lighten up these retirement villages with their songs of love, hope and sunshine.

The teachers and learners of our school wish to thank the Old Mutual Care and Share team for their visit and for all the educational toys we received.

Our three senior classes went to the Holistic Faire at the Fernkloof Nature Reserve on a cold winter's day and sang a few songs to warm the hearts of all the visitors and managed to sell a few craft items.

Our senior classes were also invited to run a car wash outside one of the local restaurants to be a part of the disability awareness week. Each term we end off with wonderful sharing concerts and at the end of the year, we give thanks with our annual nativity play, followed by a Christmas feast.

STOP PRESS

We say goodbye to Steven Hopewell on the Pages Editorial Coordinators Group, England and Wales Section as he retires from Pennine Camphill near Wakefield. Steve has been working in the community for many years and we wish him well in his retirement developing an Air BnB in the vicinity with his partner. Thank you for all the help with material and advice for the Pages publication.

NEXT ISSUE

Vol. 28: Spring/Summer 2019

Camphill Milton Keynes Community have been working hard together to produce a Plan for the Future of the Community in this famous new town. We cover the proposals in detail. We continue our People's Lives series and with Brexit very close at time of the next publication, ask how it will affect Camphill Communities. All in the next issue published in April and received by Issuu, by online and by post from The Editorial Coordinator, just ask!

An Afterword *- Two vitally important talk summaries (printed below) which were given in full at The Camphill Festival (see centre pages) and are remarkably relevant for Camphill today and are worth reading. The Editor can send the full text.*

In putting together Camphill Pages this time, I am made aware of the strengths and vulnerability of Camphill at the moment. I therefore found the content of these talks brilliantly contained in their summaries and conclusions and relevant to all who have an interest in Camphill. Joan from her work at The Goetheanum in Switzerland talks about empathy and it's cultivation from reading Rudolf Steiner's lecture "Social and Anti Social Forces". Dan as an academic and a Harvard Divinity Professor looks to the phenomena of community in the last 70 years and sees great hope in engagement with fellow communards. In a way both talks ask of us to engage with our neighbour as the texts below illustrate.

Community in Transit

From life sharing to self intended community. How do we include our differences in real encounters?
A Lecture given by Joan Sleigh

Introduction
"Humanity finds itself living in a global civilization today. On the one hand the boundaries seem open and, particularly in the cities, all different cultures and nations live and work together. This is partly by free choice and partly due to wars, exclusion and extreme life situations which force people to move from their homes to foreign countries. Potentially this provides the possibility for a cosmopolitan world society, or 'All-World', as Edouard Glissant calls it, but in fact, in many places, the opposite seems to be happening".

"We live in a time where it appears to be increasingly difficult to meet and engage with other people in a constructive and harmonious way. Can our fast-paced lifestyle, a world dependent on the practice of digitality, acute individualisation, be responsible for this global phenomenon? Why does it seem so complicated to develop healthy relationships with another person?"

"To the personal and social challenges, the economic and environmental crises have reached alarming proportions. The exploitation of the natural resources and the irresponsible attitude to the living environment, has resulted in the fact that the basis of human life is becoming more and more endangered".

"Yet in this time of disconnect, separation and alienation on all levels: to society, to the natural surroundings and therefore ultimately to oneself, a new capacity seems to be emerging – that of empathy. A human quality which allows one person to feel the pain and suffering of another, without losing or compromising the own unique viewpoint or self. The global migration and homelessness cause the necessity for human beings to grow beyond themselves and their familiar comforts, in order to meet and include the unknown, or else to retreat into, to fall back into the safety, but also limitation of the genus, nation or confession."

"May we suggest that today each individual faces the potential, but also the challenge to make a personal decision, either to expand the self beyond the confines of the own identity, to step into the scary but creative and fragile space of the unknown, or to stay in the 'splendid isolation' of the known genus or group. It requires courage, participation and flexibility; but does the current world situation provide the tools and practice to develop these faculties?"

"Rudolf Steiner predicted that it would become ever more difficult to develop the right relationships to other human beings, in the process of evolving individuation as the basis for self-awareness and ultimately freedom of choice. With the emerging consciousness soul, human beings define themselves more and more as separate, individualised, solitary and self-absorbed beings, organised within the boundaries of their own physicality".

Conclusion
I listen without knowing if what I hear is silence or God.
I listen but don't know if I'm hearing the echo of the empty expanses
Or the attentive consciousness which from the edge of the universe
Sees and deciphers me.
I know only that I walk as one who is watched, loved and known
And that's why I place in the smallest act - solemnity and risk.

By Sophia De Mello Breymer Andresen (1919-2004)

Camphill in Context

By Dan McKanan
For Camphill Community/Movement Group Whitsun Festival

Introduction
For 80 years, the Camphill Movement has grown and evolved in many contexts. Camphill participates in anthroposophical striving, in social care for people with special needs and in care for the earth. It has also grown up alongside other movements that responded to the devastation of Middle Europe by creating communities. The Kibbutz Movement in Israel and the Bruderhof were also created by refugees fleeing fascism. Iona Community and the Catholic Worker were created by anti-fascist activists in Scotland and the United States. Remarkably, all of these movements are still thriving 80 years later. Camphill has much to learn from these movements and other networks of intentional communities. It also has much to teach.

Conclusion
I'd like to name three symbiotic relationships that Camphill can and should develop more fully in the future. The first symbiosis is with the global movement of resistance to the politics of austerity. Austerity hurts people with special needs and it hurts intentional communities. Whenever people protest cuts in social spending, Camphillers should stand with them. I realise that protesting doesn't come naturally to many Camphillers but the Botton experience shows how effective it can be, and I hope that some of the Camphillers who have recently embraced the spirit of protest will not let it go.

The second symbiosis is with the disability rights movement. As you know, many disability rights activists are hostile to Camphill and other intentional communities. They don't see how these communities differ from the old institutions. But that is not their fault. In most cases, they simply haven't gotten to know Camphillers. So it is up to Camphillers to partner with them. If this happens, they may begin to understand that persons with special needs have a right to live in an intentional community if they so choose, just as they have a right to education and meaningful work and a safe place to live.

Finally, Camphill can and should pursue a deeper symbiosis with other intentional communities. I have suggested that many other intentional communities follow the path of "evolving beyond community" in their third or fourth generation. Most of these communities include members who regret having to follow that path. They yearn to deepen, rather than relax, the cooperative practices that bind them together.

Camphill has much to teach these communities - about the unique gifts that people with special needs can bring to community, about the value of community festivals like the one we are celebrating this week, about biodynamic agriculture and other ecological practices. The other communities also have much to teach Camphill about organisational alternatives to charity status, and about nurturing the individual aspirations of entrepreneurs, artists, and activists. Together, Camphill and the other community movements can deepen their identity as communities and enrich the individual lives of their members. I hope you will embrace this partnership and I hope to see many of you in New York* next summer.

The International Community Studies Association Gathering in Camphill America 18th - 21st July 2019 with the theme "Diversity and Inclusion in Intentional Communities". Contact: *rsoboly-t@bezeqint.net

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