CAMPHILL
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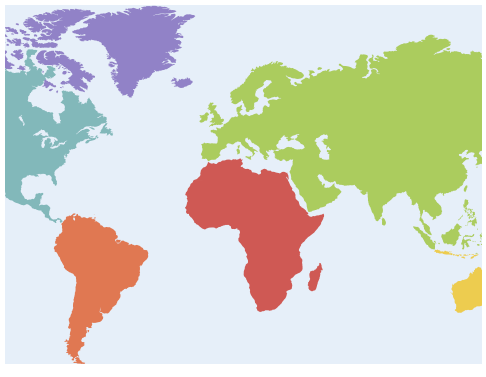
CAMPHILL AROUND THE WORLD

Welcome to Pages!

We travel the world in this issue visiting Camphills from Norway to Vietnam and including India, Botswana, USA and nearer to home, a major feature on our Irish Republic Association Region. There's a complete list of Camphill Communities Around the World and News pages full of events from the Newton Dee Folk Festival to the new Christian Community Church in Stroud.



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Pages Plus

This year our Pages Plus Supplement goes to The Association of Camphill Communities AGM Festival which took place in Camphill Tippereth in Edinburgh in April and we report on the two day proceedings in detail which took place at Hoyland Hill, the new building which houses many of the community's facilities and can be seen in the feature, named after the family who helped to found the community.

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

WELCOME

From Camphill in Ireland (clockwise from top): The Journeyman garden; Caroline doing some chalk artwork; helping tend to the garden.

The Association of Camphill Communities Festival and AGM in Edinburgh at the new Hoyland Hill building in Tippereth in April ushered in a new chapter of working together in the UK and Ireland and you can read The Camphill Values paper that has been worked on by communities at the AGM in the Pages Plus Supplement in this issue.

In the Association's support for South Africa we also heard at The AGM of the life threatening and extremely unsettling bush fire that engulfed the Hernanus School Community earlier in the year where split second decisions were needed by brave drivers to evacuate children through roads engulfed in flames. The pictures of damaged buildings and scorched earth were extremely distressing and yet the response from the local community also caught up in the drama was truly wonderful allowing halls and bedding and food and care to be manifest.
The Association's support here has never been more apparent - monies actually financed new fire hoses and a minibus - and assembled in the Hoyland Hill building for the AGM to witness this story, it was truly thought provoking. You can read the report in Pages Plus.

The Association faces representing Camphill Communities in five different countries potentially without and within the EU. That's a challenge indeed but reaching out across these new boundaries might just be a uniting element in increasingly divided arrangements for state and regional policy from governing bodies in all these separate countries.

Meanwhile as Neil Henery explains in a very important article from Camphill Scotland which even found its way onto the BBC National News, there are definite and serious European volunteer shortages in our communities.

Please find to compliment the theme "Camphill Around the World", pages of news and comment - from the opening of The Aberdeen By Pass and how Camphill radically affected it's route; how Clanabogan celebrated St Brigid's Day; how Milton Keynes "goes about working on environmental issues together" - to the reluctant closing of Camphill Literature Services and the dispersal of its book and DVD stock - all part of the wide tapestry of stories from Camphill and its many sided life today!

Happy Reading
Best Wishes,
Vivian Griffiths

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Get in touch

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

We look forward to hearing from you.

CAMPHILL AROUND THE WORLD

Camphill Village Rožkalni

Top: Camphill Svetlana
Bottom: Camphill Ireland

Top & Bottom: Camphill Lehenhof

Bamboo Family, Vietnam

Bamboo Family, Vietnam

Camphill Liebenfels

Camphill Village Rožkalni

An introduction

By The Editor

This edition of Pages may be very timely indeed... Whilst we have been looking on both sides of the Irish Sea at the future of how our countries will be organised with all the challenges and opportunities outlined, across the waters and continents there are Camphill Communities around the world that have begun and grown and adapted to the unique environment they are part of - it is a truly remarkable set of stories and gives us a strength in our common purpose.

A young student might have returned from a Camphill Community in Europe or America full of enthusiasm for what he or she found. This has led to the starting up of a home with local support and Camphill world wide support to bring about a community which as any visitor will confirm has the unique feeling of a Camphill Community wherever you go! It is a modern example that complements Dr König's inspiring lectures in post war Europe that led to the formation of communities there or enthusiastic parents of special needs children inviting Camphill to the USA or South Africa.

In these times of national identity enquiry, it is perhaps a good moment to visit these communities and hear about them through the following articles and follow up others by uploading websites and social media platforms indicated on the maps. There is a host of material out there to explore and apart from the familiar patterns of Camphill life in these often far flung countries, there is much detail to become refreshed and optimistic about in these "interesting and challenging" times!

In a strange way by enquiring, interest is generated and these Camphill Communities many thousands of miles away may feel a bit closer! Add to that the plans for the next Camphill Dialogue in the Camphill in Vietnam and we have a new chapter of awareness of the worldwide nature that we are in Camphill an International organisation transcending national boundaries.

As Editorial Coordinator for Pages I am very grateful for all the efforts of contributors to write articles and send pictures - at short notice! - for this Camphill Around the World edition. And please forgive any western centrist descriptions, we have come a long way, thank goodness, since sending out the missionaries but on reading the text I see I betray old habits..!

Peaceful Bamboo Family, Vietnam

Driving through winding little roads lined by bamboo groves here and there, accompanied by the sounds of bells from neighbouring pagodas, the sounds of local artisans hammering and manufacturing wooden bells, the smell of tropical flowers and bushes, all this tells you, you are on the right path to the Peaceful Bamboo Family, Tinh Truc Gia (TTG), in Hue, Vietnam.

The Peaceful Bamboo Family (TTG) is South East Asia's first Camphill community. TTG joined the Camphill movement in 2012 with the support of the Middle European Region.

This year TTG is celebrating its 10 year anniversary!

But actually it all started a long time before. It started with Eurasia Associations work in the field of special education and social therapy in Vietnam, over 10 years before the creation of TTG. Eurasia had created various special schools, vocational training centers and given many training courses for educators and teachers. The profession of 'special educator/social therapist' was more or less initiated in Hue through the work of Eurasia.

Eurasia Association was founded 20 years ago by Dr Ha Vinh Tho and his wife Lisi, both working in Camphill Perceval, St Prex, Switzerland, at that time. Their personal history is very much linked to Vietnam. Tho's father was of Vietnamese origin. It is in 1982, 7 years after the end of the infamous Vietnam war, that Tho had the opportunity to return to Vietnam and meet the tremendous suffering of people living with disabilities and their families, and society and nature at large.

Eurasia was born from a wish to allievate suffering and to bring some positive and innovative impulses in the field of special education and social therapy. But right from the start there was also the wish to contribute to healing the Earth. The Earth had suffered gravely during the many years of war, through agent orange and all the destructions. Biodynamic agriculture and ecology are an important aspect of Eurasia work.

A group of 'Camphillers' were part of the founders but also a very engaged Vietnamese team that helped contextualize Eurasia's work to the local cultural, spiritual, economic and political situation. Some of these Vietnamese team members were fully trained in Camphill Perceval and many of them visited various Camphills in France, le Béal, Copake US etc and we received tremendous and precious support from all these Camphill friends over all these years.

The connection to Camphill is important and yet being the only Camphill in the region we needed to connect to local organizations, NGO's, Universities, in order to build up a social field enabling us to be integrated in the local context.

TTG started with a community of 12 young adults living with disabilities, mostly having been in Eurasia special school classes in Hue as children and a team of 6 co-workers.

Now the community has about 90 members : 21 co workers, 30 adults living with disabilities, an adolescent sector with 12 young teen agers living with severe disabilities, an inclusive Kindergarten with 15 children and many Vietnamese and some foreign volunteers. Some TTG 'residents' have become co-workers .

A biodynamic garden is at the heart of the community. It is Vietnam's first biodynamic garden.

Eurasia Learning Institute for Happiness and Wellbeing (ELI), has its base in TTG and offers many training courses from special education to clowning to biodnamics but also open programs like 'Happy Schools' done in collaboration with the Education Departement and Hue University.

'Happy Schools' is a 3 year teachers training that aims at bringing three modes of care in the overall Vietnamese education system: Self Care, Care for others and society and Care for the environment and nature. Only this year about 4-5000 children go through this program.

Gross National Happiness (GNH) is one of the frameworks that enable us to explain and structure our community work and life. It is also part of many trainings given by ELI. (On our website you can find a booklet about GNH and TTG explaining how we implement this new development paragdime: ***www.eurasia-foundation.org/gnh-as-an-alternative-development-paradigm-and-its-relevance-for-community-wellbeing***)

Being in a South East Asian context the practice of Mindfulness accompanies all the activities in TTG and it is an integral part of the therapeutic and cultural identity of the community.

TTG does not receive any financial support from Vietnamese government. TTG and Eurasia together carry the running costs of the Center. This year TTG contributes to 60% to the running costs through the activities in TTG and Eurasia fundraises 40% to cover the salaries, food etc of the center. ELI is one of our income generating projects.

This is, of course, quite challenging and forces us to be very creative but also to be open to the rest of society. We welcome tourist groups to our tea house and visiting our vocational training workshops, selling incense, jam, laquerware paintings, organic shampoo made in our workshops.

A few thousand school kids from schools of Hue City and Hue Province come every year to have an immersion into social work, biodynamic gardening and ecological community living. This is part of the Happy School project.

This and many of these activities enabled us to give TTG residents a role of 'trainers' and hosts to so many people in search for a meaningful and wholesome life.

TTG has become an inspirational community in Vietnam. Television and other media have regularely reported about TTG. Many visitors come to TTG to be inspired, to learn from us.

But of course it is also demanding and is adding to the daily chores and activities the community already has. It is a true integration for the residents, but the balance between our income generating and outreaching activities and the quality of the therapeutic and educational work always needs to be re adjusted and reaffirmed at the heart of our work.

Being in a communitst country also brings the challenge of how to explain what we do, how we do, in terms acceptable to the local society and political authorities.

It started with a romantic path to TTG on a winding road through bamboo groves, but actually we are at the heart of the questions of our times and the challenges of today.

CAMPHILL AROUND THE WORLD

Camphill Norway

By Anne Langeland

Summer festival at Jøssåsen

In Vidaråsen the year 2019 began with a question: "What does it signify to be Vidaråsen Village in our time?" With this question the whole community set out on a common quest through different artistic activities, lectures and social gatherings through which each one could experience some of the core values of the village. It was a week filled with creativity, initiatives, joy and enthusiasm. Will Browne summed it up: *"Going through this process and being creative together, we experienced a lot of joy and enthusiasm. This week made us feel that we are all part of the identity of our village. We feel grateful for the past, we feel confident and have gained courage to be able to stand where we are now, and we can feel a growing optimism towards the call of the future."*

Now, spring is slowly coming to Norway. In Jøssåsen, deep in the forest east of Trondheim, the snow is still lying, but some courageous snowdrops can be seen along the south side of the Yggdrasil Hall where the whole village is preparing Karl König's Good Friday play. In addition to a performance on Good Friday, they will show the play at our Easter festive gathering of the 3 northern most Camphill places in Norway (and in the world). The people from Vallersund Village will bring a musical contribution. They live out on the coast of the Northern sea, where the wind can be icy cold, still work on the land has just begun. Camphill Rotvoll, lying right between the two other places, will host the gathering in their Mother of Pearl Hall. There, down by the large Trondheim fjord, the grass is slowly greening, and many flowers can be seen. The three places come together to celebrate in connection with the festivals of the year. In the Northern Region of Camphill places, the co-workers come together three times a year. In winter in the sphere of the Camphill Inner Community, in spring and autumn in the sphere of the Movement. The fourth gathering is a summer festival for everybody. At the summer festival we are together round a common theme, and can experience each other's countries, languages (Norwegian, Russian, Finnish, Estonian, Latvian) songs and traditions. Friendship is created through common activities despite language barriers. Every other summer this festival is shared with all anthroposophical social therapeutic institutions in the northern countries.

Life sharing is still common place in Camphill in Norway, but we do experience difficulties in finding new co-workers who want this. Many new models of living together are therefore tried out, and many houses are rebuilt to give more private space to both co-workers and villagers.

A new generation of villagers are also looking for more independent living, while still needing the social safety and joy of the village community. Where it is possible, they also like to take part in social activities not only in the village but also in their local surrounding. From Solborg an initiative came up last autumn, to start a small seminar for house parents in order to give new co-workers a background, help and hopefully enthusiasm to take on this task.

Learning is another issue that we are working with. Most people with learning disabilities do not have the possibility to go through a proper period of training to learn a trade. A group is working to get formal acceptance for this kind of training in Norway and to implement it the Camphill villages. As a small beginning a young woman in Vidaråsen last year completed a three-year training as a baker. At Camphill Rotvoll another woman has done her training as a weaver.

The council of the Camphill Village Trust of Norway meets twice a year in one of the places. The council engages in the ideals and visions of the villages and many members come from outside to help us with questions and together with us look at our tasks. Two villagers are also members of the council. Co-workers and villagers from the place may also attend the meeting. The theme for the spring meeting this year is "Meeting-places: How can we create good meeting-places and spaces in which to meet, both inwardly and outwardly, and how do these places and spaces connect?" We are looking forward to an engaged conversation which might help us develop and grow to meet the challenges of our time.

Outing in April by the Trondheim fjord

Torbjørn has lived 50 years in Camphill

The finished exterior of the new kitchen and dining hall.

Camphill Botswana - We are grateful to the AOCC!

By Andreas Groth

At Motse Wa Badiri Training, a part of Camphill Community Trust we built a foundation slab 15 years ago with the aim of building a new kitchen for the Sentlhaga house that is home to 12 of our students in the final two years of the Integrated Learning for Living and Work training programme. We were trying to find the funds to complete the building, but other projects had to come first. It happened that at the Learner Council Meeting, Motse Wa Badiri learners highlighted the need to have a new kitchen with proper equipment. The request was brought forward to the Fundraiser who then requested for assistance from the AOCC. All the project details, specifications and costs were sent to them for possible funding.

During our graduation ceremony in November 2017, our Director, Mr Groth received the good news from the AOCC confirming the funding of the project. Everyone was very excited when he relayed the good news, mostly the graduates on their special day. The reaction on their faces was amazingly beautiful because they knew that a kitchen & dining hall is so much more than just food, the learning experience can be greatly enhanced by making sure that their eating spaces are inspirational and promotes interaction between peers, students and the staff.

During our recent Strategic Plan Review Workshop the representatives of the Motse Wa Badiri Training Leaner Council informed the stakeholders gathered in the Hall how much they appreciate the new developments since they can now have their meals in a conducive environment. These new developments have really put a smile on their faces and created an atmosphere that naturally fosters goodwill, love, care and respect. A good kitchen set-up promotes social growth and gives the learners time to sit together and enjoy their meals away from the pressures of the classroom environment.

Much appreciation goes to the AOCC for their support to Camphill Africa Region. The construction of the kitchen and dining hall is now complete and the learners have started using it. They are no longer eating their meals under trees with food on the floor; they now have a kitchen & dining hall. Truthfully, we could not have made it without your support. We sincerely appreciate your generosity.

The finished interior

Camphill California - A Coworker's Perspective

By Kostiantyn

This article was written by Kostiantyn, a second-year coworker from the Ukraine. It gives his perspective on a performance he participated last year in our community hall. Enjoy!

I feel electricity in the air. I'm not the only one to sense it, the rest of the group is overwhelmed with anticipation. Even Dave Grove tries to look nonchalant but I can tell he is anxious too. I don't know how many people have come to see the performance and that gives me jitters. Ignorance is bliss, but not in this case. We are going to start off with "Hallo Django" (a German folk song), a simple but stylish one, ought to take us 60 years back in time. Welcome to the fifties, but unlike the TV show "Madmen", this is real. I hear the first chords of the melody. The audience is silent. Time to go.

The audience members are from all the North American Camphill Communities, and they've come to California for a meeting of the Camphill Association of North America (CANA). They gather to tackle various issues including state regulations, fund-raising, and the aging community population. CANA is dedicated to the common good, development, and prosperity of the Camphill community.

What an auspicious beginning! We've been warmly received – a good sign! The audience even sang with us. The next song, "I'm Walking", by Fast Domino matches our initial tones – rhythmic, dynamic, finger-snapping, and genuine. Our group of formally dressed young people strikes again.

What are CANA's functions? It sets criteria for aspiring communities to become Camphills. The Association inspects prospective communities and reviews existing places every seven years. It has legal rights to change the status of a community to preserve Camphill's high standards and ideals.

Camphill's mission is to bring good to the earth and it is carried out by people that are passionate about caring for others and dedicate their lives to giving. The forefront of the Association's actions lie here: in upholding and guarding spiritual underpinnings of Camphill.

Still full of trepidation, we proceed to the next part. *"Imagine" by John Lennon has been a daunting hurdle, the most time consuming and draining piece to practice. Luckily, I am singing base, which is a relatively easy job, even though base is the bedrock of any song. I can only imagine what the rest of the group is going to go through, especially the first-time lead singers, Jannis and Johannes.*

Next up, a living entity; a denizen of our community: Eurythmy. A sequence of movements that represent spoken words and bring beauty, joy, and calmness. Szilvia Budai directed us in a piece that required a creative impulse, which our community never lacks. It was a short but robust incorporation of a Mozart classic and a Rudolf Steiner verse and included challenging elements like rod catching. Despite minimal practice, the audience was struck by our organization, smoothness and elegance.

The finale was a community collaboration. Thanks to musical geniuses, Dave Grove and Philip Jacob, we turned the depressing tune, "Somebody that I used to know" by Gotye, into a joy-inspiring ode to friendship, "Somebody that we'll get to know". Friends and co-workers swallowed up stage fright and showed that with each other's support, the sky is the limit. After singing, I realized the strength of our community. Every person was indispensable, and this conjoint effort tightened our bonds. Despite my lack of singing skills, I enjoyed myself and sung better than I ever had. We sent a message: no matter what kind of tribulations you are going through, being a part of our community means that there is somebody to back you up with a sympathetic, ear-to-ear smile.

We gather together
… can even cry.
I like it when you are next to me
Feels so lovely in your company
The time we will remember.

CAMPHILL AROUND THE WORLD

Village Life

Camphill Svetlana, Russia - Village Life

Svetlana village is for people of all sorts, but surely happy, ready to share a piece of their joy with the people we care about, although it's a big question who and who cares about.

"Svetlana" is a living breathing organism, rather than just a social assistance institution with its own farm. The words "disabled" or "disability" here lose their power, and people with disabilities make up for these limitations by participating in the daily care of the land that feeds us, about the houses that stand on it, about nature that so beautifies our life, about people who live nearby, so different in their capabilities and aspirations.

Life in Svetlana can be called the "Privilege to be near": near the sunrise, with the earth, which rewards us for our work, with the animals we tamed and are responsible for, with the beauty of the river Syas and Ladoga, the fields and forests changing in a circuit years so magically, next to each other and eternal questions about good, consciousness, love and patience, next to each other.

Life consisting of all the colors of the rainbow, from the brightest to the deepest.

Our principles
Modern life separates us from each other in different boxes: "disabled", "educator", "farmer", "doctor", "citizen of Russia", "citizen of Germany", "people with higher education".

We have ceased to feel one and feel the divine humanity in ourselves. The streets are filled with broken souls who do not feel their integrity.

The main task of the village from its inception is to create this wholeness. We are trying to live without a stamp and boxes, as far as possible. If they call me a doctor or caregiver, I'm in the same box as a "patient" or "invalid." Therefore, we all in the village are trying to free ourselves from the conventions of the world around us. It is not by chance that in our villages you can see a doctor in the barn next to a man whom the world calls "disabled."

The fact is that when we work alongside each other, regardless of our differences with one main goal that unites us, we all become free people, gaining complete humanity, and discover new and new abilities in ourselves. In this process, our eyes open on another person: not what he is, but what he can become.

Of course, this golden ideal stands above our village life, like a guiding star, but we also have to admit that it happens to be unworthy of it. For example, unfortunately, in the village there is still a difference between an employee and a person with disabilities. Of course, we must be responsible for the children until they grow to independence and responsibility, and this they can achieve.

But if only we as employees even had modesty, we would understand that the most healing element in village life is not something that we could give to our children. It is the integrity of rural life that in itself heals us all.

Camphill Village Rožkalni, Latvia

Camphill Village Rožkalni is a socio-therapeutic home that started its work in 1999. Together with adults with special needs, we are trying to build a small society in which every individual can do the necessary and meaningful work, feel full and need a member of society.

The house is a place of recognition and trust.

Family homes are home to everyone living in the village. We want to live together by noticing our fellow human beings and his special needs. We try to listen to each other even when words cannot be spoken.

We are trying to look beyond the external disabilities in search of the true being in every human being.

Life is our teacher. Art, science and religion are part of our lives. We want to know more about the earth, the stars and about ourselves. We study together, read biographies, we sing and play music, we dance and perform theatrical performances.

We want to celebrate the Christian holidays together and seek their inner meaning. In all cultural and social events, the individual and the whole community can feel themselves as part of today's world.

We work for each other and for the world around us.

We work in the field, housekeeping and workshops. Everyone can participate in their abilities by becoming a valuable and recognized person in the village.

Only when we are given the opportunity to work full of meaning, can we feel full members of society.

We are trying to create our own rhythms of creativity ourselves, so we have abandoned the television, but we are happy to watch a good movie in the cinema or organize such a possibility at home.

In order to always be able to respond to our actions and take full responsibility, we have completely abandoned the use of alcohol and any intoxicating substances in Rosclan.

The Rožkalni community is made up of social workers, their families, adult people with different learning disabilities (villagers) and volunteers settled in Rožkalni for shorter or longer periods.

Villagers work in the forest to prepare the firewood for the next season

Every autumn, Rožkalni prepare the horn manure, necessary to increase soil fertility

Friends of Camphill India

The Camphill Idea
The Camphill idea developed out of the belief that each human being, with or without disabilities, is a unique being with the right to a purposeful life in freedom and dignity. It is the task of Camphill to create an environment in which people with disabilities can learn to live with their limitations rather than suffer from them and in which they can discover, develop and realise their abilities to the fullest extent. This is what is called Social Therapy.
The Viennese physician, Dr. Karl Koenig, founded the first Camphill Community in Scotland in 1939. Today there are more than 100 such communities in Europe, North and South America, in Africa and now the first ones in Asia.

A Home with a Difference
"Friends of Camphill India" Residential Community was inaugurated in March 1999. The community includes two family houses, Antaranga and Santvana, and a workshop building, Panchanga.

Within each house a group of 12 men and women with different mental and physical disabilities share life with house parents, several co-workers and volunteers. Together they form one large family. All household activities, meals and cultural events are shared, according to the abilities of each individual.

The workshop has sections for weaving, paper and candle making, a small pottery and a bakery. Here, again according to their abilities, all residents take part in the different activities under the guidance of co-workers.

The buildings are surrounded by a large garden where vegetables and fruits are grown. Work in the garden is an important aspect of community life. Since the community is strictly vegetarian, the organically grown produce is very welcome in the kitchens. A few cows and chicken add to the picture of a "farm house" and preparing organic compost is an important activity.

A novel addition to the garden is a "sewage treatment plant", where wastewater from the community as well as from the neighbouring houses is cleansed in a natural way and then used for watering the garden. Since we face acute water shortage in our area, this is a boon to our gardeners.

Apart from working in the house, workshops or garden, our residents are encouraged to take part in cultural activities: short dramas are performed, singing and listening to music plays an important role, regular Yoga classes are held and painting, story-telling, going for walks, attending cultural performances in town, and holidays with the whole community are all part of life here. Festivals and birthdays are celebrated throughout the year and the families of our residents are encouraged to take part in these events.

Many of the residents need help in their personal care and it is part of the co-workers' responsibilities to help with bathing, dressing, going to toilet, going to bed, eating, etc.

Great care is given to the medical needs of the residents and they are taken for regular health and dental check-ups.

Our co-workers as well as parents and family members have observed that our residents show a definite improvement in their behaviour, social skills and health after joining our community. A variety of activities provide a well-planned programme throughout the day and they make friends amongst each other – a very important factor, as this would not be possible within the normal family setting where a disabled young man or woman usually leads a very secluded life.

Through the way the days are structured, we try to achieve a life of interdependence and mutual respect for all members of the community, whether disabled or not. This is what we call Social Therapy.

CAMPHILL AROUND THE WORLD

Camphill Lehenhof, Germany

Camphill Village Community Lehenhof - a place to live for special people

"The special life and work at the Lehenhof has impressed me so much that I incorporate much of it in the education of our children."
Karin Fliegauf

The Lehenhof is a facility for people with disabilities on an anthroposophical basis. Here, above Lake Constance, live and work 350 people with and without disabilities, old and young, people from different countries and cultures - an inclusive way of life for 50 years!

Thanksgiving for the harvest.

The bakery

Summer break to the South of France

Hokkaido pumpkins harvest this year

Professional and dedicated quality books are produced in various sizes, colours, types of paper and lineatures

Camphill Lenhenhof village

"In the middle" Festival 2018

Camphill Liebenfels, Austria

Camphill Liebenfels is one of over a hundred Camphill communities in the world today, where people with different destinies, abilities and disabilities live. Camphill Liebenfels consists of 3 locations, which are up to seven kilometers apart and offer different living and working areas.

Camphill Ireland

By Patrick Lydon

During an extended time of critical challenges to Camphill's work in Ireland, there are also signs of innovation that hold hope for the future. With stringent demands made by the state funder and regulator of heath services, the necessity to achieve compliance with external standards has caused the Camphill Communities of Ireland to concentrate on the focused issues of "service provision". This is being achieved by a centralisation of management, on a national scale, application of austerity measures on all financial policies, and an intense focus on safeguarding systems.

For Camphill, an organisation known for its distinctive and unorthodox approaches to "Community", to the uniqueness of each individual whether "disabled" or not, to the care of the land and environment, to fostering the creative potential in every member, to Life Sharing among social equals who develop relationships and work together without payment – for all these interesting aspects of Camphill life, the enforcement of centralised controls has been a deep challenge. It has forced committed people to question the core values that are essential to the identity of the Camphill Movement in an effort to find ways to apply these values to changing forms – forms that can continue to inspire but also live within the regulations. We realise that we did not anticipate these changing demands early enough and we did not understand how to separate aspects of Camphill life that all seemed to be part of a whole. But now, well after the eleventh hour, earnest efforts are being made to make changes that will let some of the unique and promising aspects of Camphill's work find a new life for the future.

With the support of a local LEADER partnership, the government funded agency responsible for Rural Development and Social Inclusion programmes, an Analysis and Development process is being initiated to study the broad impact that Camphill has had in its area, and to propose ways to continue and enhance the activites that stretch far beyond provision of disability services. It has identified five key areas:

- Art, Culture, Making
- Education
- Health & Wellbeing
- Land & Ecology
- Neighbourhood

This process is in its early stages but it has already highlighted the wide reach of Camphill activities and the richness and complexity of experience that is available to members with support needs through access to these varied initiatives and the people who support them.

One particular field, in the area of Neighbourhood, is new attitudes and approaches to Housing. In the past, we have assumed that a shared Home was a natural part of supportive communities. Now, we can see that for each individual to achieve a sense of their own home belongs to the advances of self-determination and rights that are part of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability. The Nimble Spaces project, initiated from Camphill Callan, began with the aim to create neighbourhoods of interdependence in which every person would have her/his own home in a pattern of inclusive support. The process began with an Arts Council funded exploration in which individuals could work with spatial artists and architects toward a sense of "the home that I would like to live in". Small Inclusive Neighbourhoods, involving 25 houses, have been designed and we are working hard to get them built.

Working with the principles of Co-Housing, and we are in communication with related Camphill projects in Sturts, the Mount and Esk Valley in England, and Simeon and Tiphereth in Scotland. The project was delighted to get an endorsement from Simon Duffy, Director of the international Centre for Welfare Reform: "Nimble Spaces is an inspiring project for inclusive living for people with a learning difficulty – and everyone else! This is a great example of intentional communities rethinking their role for the 21st century."

Another new area of work is Home Sharing, in which an expanded family welcomes a person with support needs as a valued member. Supported by the Muiriosa Foundation (who are also guiding a radically Person Centred approach to day programmes), this has proven a tremendous success for a group of people from Ballytobin.

So, while the future of Camphill's work in Ireland remains uncertain, there are signs that innovative approaches inspired by the experience of community are emerging from its core values and that its distinctive voice will continue to be heard.

Camphill Youth Conference Clanabogan 2018

Camphill Kyle

Introductory Course Kilkenny

CAMPHILL AROUND THE WORLD

A changed Camphill in a changed Ireland

By Thomas Horan

The Celtic Tiger
The death of the economic Celtic Tiger in 2008/09 is a highly significant turning point in the lives of the all Irish population. The painful process of recovery from the social and economic hangover caused by over indulgence in a false economic bubble feast has brought a new maturity and realism to every day life. The Celtic tiger economy was built on a sand foundation of housing development funded by easy bank loans and not on true industrial productivity, which led to the demise of the construction industry, the collapse of the banks and massive negative equity for home owners. The government placed a heavy tax burden on the Irish population to rescue the discredited banking system – a burden still carried by many and clearly reflected in the current housing crisis.

Immerging Secular Society
The transition from a church dominated state and society to a secular society is confirmed by the passing of legislation to provide regulated abortion services. Proactive attitudes from younger people on gender equality led to the overwhelming landslide referendum success on marriage equality. The multicultural society which has evolved with the influx of many nationalities during the Celtic tiger years has greatly enhanced a lay society and attitude towards education. CSO figures show that 183 ethnic languages are spoken in Irish homes.

The National conscience
The recent papal visit and the under attendance at related events was a clear demonstration of a major disillusionment with organized religion. The state commissioned inquiries into clerical and institutional sex abuse and the mother and baby homes disgrace has further diminished the standing of church as well as revealing a national soul search. The Ferns Inquiry 2005 was the opening of a pandoras box revealing clerical and institutional child abuse which continues to tax the conscience of Irish society up to the present time.

Housing Crisis
Despite the housing boom of the early 2000 Ireland is in the grip of a major housing crisis with thousands of people being forced into homelessness. The crisis is fed by three main sources, a shortage of affordable housing, rental profiteering and a very poor and inconsistent rental regulation prejudiced towards the landlords. It is not just the less well off society who are homeless but many with good jobs who simply cannot find either accommodation or afford the astronomical monthly cost. The major loss of trade skills to emigration and career change following the collapse of the construction industry compounds the current house building revival.

Ireland has again entered a new social and economic period and not a little unsure of what lies ahead.

Winds of change worldwide
The winds of changes were already gathering not just in Ireland but worldwide. The fallout from 9/11 2001 twin towers attack and the subsequent wars and rise of fundamentalist terrorism had already brought a new consciousness to world conflict. A gnawing worry about global warming also took hold. The international economic disaster which began with the collapse of Lehman Brothers in the US in Sept. 2008 was the start of a new chapter in world history which had profound consequences. The Arab Spring uprisings of 2010 across the middle east offered potential for a new life to many oppressed people. The ever-growing rightwing Populist movements worldwide has a profound influence on modern party politics and the formation of governments.

Camphill and change
The changes taking place in Camphill Ireland need to be seen in the context of national and international developments.

The changes in Camphill Ireland began in the Celtic Tiger years but did not immediately show with any symptoms of an impending crisis. The numbers of long-term vocational coworkers were on the decline and the need for employed staff was increasing. To a large extent each community on a day to day basis was autonomous and self-governing while remaining accountable under the umbrella of the one corporate body, CCoI. A few serious cracks began to appear in the late 90s at local community level where some coworker relationships broke down and the CCoI board was obliged to intervene and look for outside assistance to bridge the gaps. This was a difficult process and put stress on the relationship between coworkers and board members. Shortage of money began to be a serious issue as the historic capitation rates from the HSE were massively too low to sustain evolving community costs, particularly wages and salaries.

Higher Standards
Accommodation needs/expectations and wishes led to increasing numbers of coworkers and families living in self-contained rooms or apartments and others living off site. Resident accommodation standard and expectation also changed with larger single rooms and often ensuite becoming the norm. New residential buildings began to reflect these changes. These developments were in progress during or as a result of the economic boom taking place in Ireland from the late nineties through to 2008. The Good Friday Agreement had already delivered considerable peace and stability to the whole of Ireland and removed conflict drama from international news reporting which had been the Irish focus for almost thirty years.

On the surface the way of life in Camphill Ireland outwardly seemed largely unaffected by national and world events until 2009 when the economic collapse took a firm hold on the Irish economy and society. Subliminally there were symptoms of a growing uncertainty and insecurity which would later surface in the transition process.

A perfect Storm of Change
A confluence of several factors created a perfect storm of change resulting in a radical and extensive upheaval in Camphill Ireland. The colliding elements included deep rooted idealism and naivety on the part of coworkers, the lack of an effective operational executive on the part of CCoI and overzealous state bodies short on parting with money and chastened by the abuse fallout, governance, regulation and compliance.

The detail of the changes is well known and began in earnest in 2013 with the arrival of the HIQA inspectorate. The legislation under the Health Act 2007 which saw the formation of the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) came into operation in Nov. 2013 requiring all care homes and facilities to register and become subject to inspection for quality and safety. The appointment of Persons in Charge (PIC) as prerequisite to the registration process was the end of communal and consensus responsibility and the confirmation of line management. The professionals employed to oversee the registration and inspection process were unable to prepare the communities sufficiently, with the result that some communities were not sufficiently aware of the tasks involved.

The perfect storm saw the destruction of Camphill Community Ballytobin in 2016. The final act to end the vocational life sharing community model played out in late 2018 with the transition process of all remaining long-term coworkers into retirement or employment contracts.

The net result of the changes to date is that the long-term vocational coworker community model has ceased and been replaced by an employment community model, the CCoI has established an executive body considerably designed by HSE intervention and structured to run Camphill on a centralised top down line management system. The CCoI board continues much the same as before exercising considerable executive authority. There is a good deal of unclarity as to how and by whom the essential core values of Camphill will now be maintained.

Camphill Ireland post 2018
Since Jan 1st, 2019 there are no long-term coworkers living in designated houses in Camphill communities belonging to CCoI. There are a small number living on site in non-designated houses who have been given tenancy agreements and pay rent. The transition process of 2018 saw many LTCWs take up employment contracts in their own communities while others have opted for retirement or have move on to new pastures.

For some coworkers over retirement age, one-year term contracts renewable is in place. Any involvement in Camphill life, whether by employment or volunteering, requires signed documentation in compliance with CCoI, HIQA and HSE requirements.

The transition process has been very difficult for most and has left a legacy of hurt, disempowerment, impoverishment and retirement insecurity. Legal debate continues to determine the original employment/engagement status of vocational co-workers, the result of which will have a considerable positive or negative bearing on resources available in retirement.

A designation from Revenue Commissioners and Social Services is anxiously awaited. The final designation will be critical to determining retirement financial support. Currently, because prsi (pay-related social insurance) payments have not been made by CCoI, coworkers reaching retirement age are only eligible for an Irish state noncontributory pension which prevents them from accessing any meaningful top up support from CCT (Camphill Community Trust) , the social fund set up to support retired coworkers in old age and health support requirements. Every community contributed to this fund over many years providing coworkers with a reasonable expectation of a modest retirement either within a community or outside.

Short Term Coworkers
STCWs are recognised as an essential component to the everyday running of communities and confirmed in a recent report commissioned by CCoI and carried out by the Wolf Group. However, a regularization procedure will soon be in place relevant to hours worked and financial and accommodation arrangements. Much of the day to day and night to night support for residents is met by STCWs. Twenty-four-hour rostering is very demanding on staff numbers and has brought a new dimension to community life with waking night staff on active duty. The restriction of a 40-hour working week has a definite less than positive affect on community life sharing.

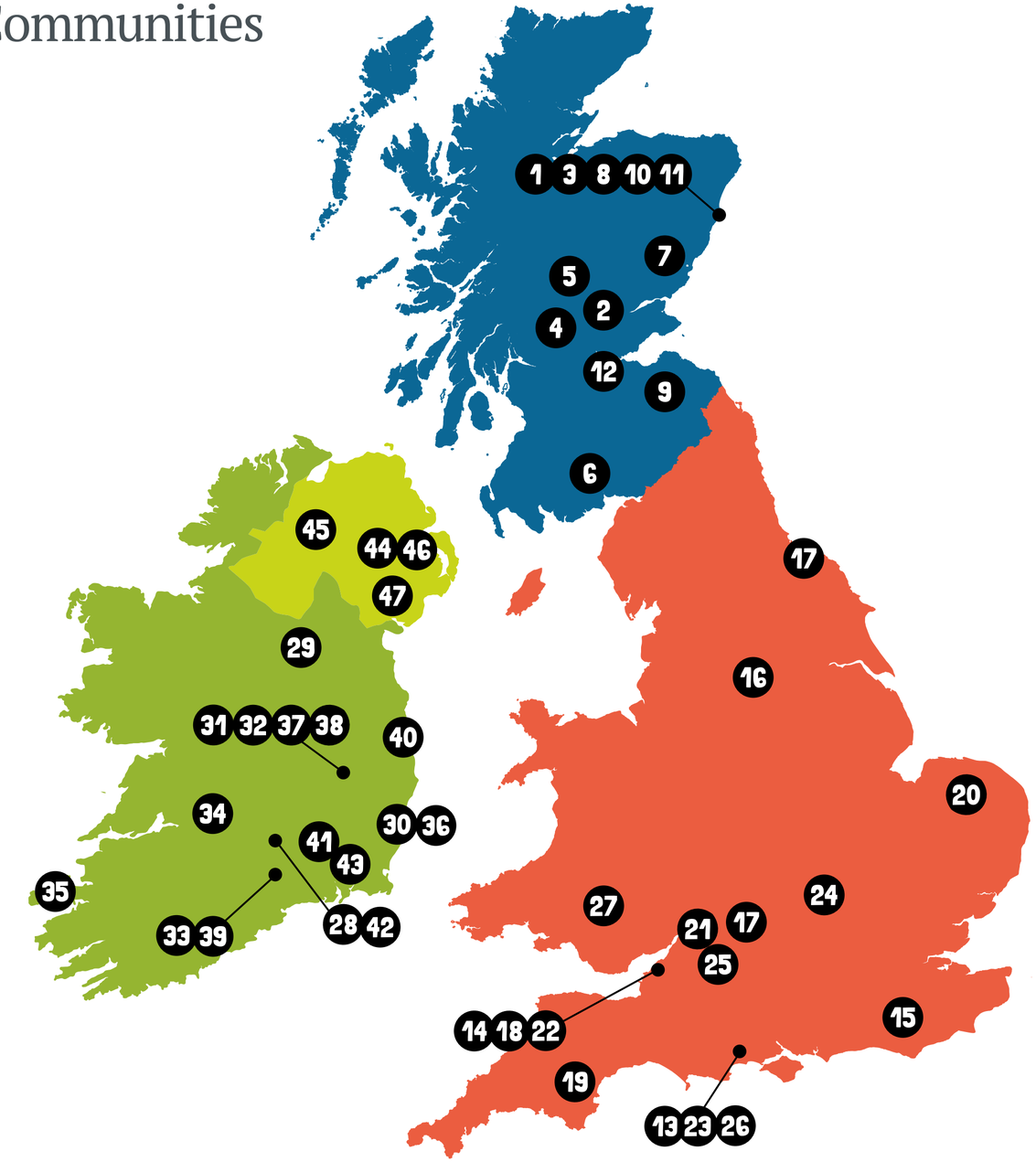
Senior Management Team
The establishment of the Senior Management Team (SMT) as the new executive body for CCoI in place since Oct. 2018, tends towards major centralization which will have a dampening effect on local community autonomy. Apart from compliance and governance compliance restructuring is demanded by financial shortages and constraints due to years of underfunding by HSE. The SMT comprising of chief officers for executive, operation, financial and human resources functions, regional managers, national social worker, safeguarding, health and quality have brought stability to the organisation and reestablished confidence with the HSE and HIQA. All communities are now registered.

The Cultural Transition
The transition from a vocational led Camphill community to an employment model has so far only dealt with employment, rostering of staff and historical safeguarding enquiries. The issue of the cultural transition remains substantially unaddressed. Can the ethos and original core values of Camphill be maintained under the new arrangements? This remains to be seen. There is a general sense of demoralization and disempowerment amongst many Camphill stakeholders which is a huge challenge for the new SMT to dissolve and reestablish a new enthusiasm for the ideals which are at the foundation of Camphill as envisaged by Dr. Koenig as a social model for the establishment and maintenance of spiritual, social and economic integrity.

Hopefully after the storm new and innovative ideas will take root and Camphill in Ireland will find a new relationship to the spirit of its core values.

CAMPHILL AROUND THE WORLD

British Isles Camphill Communities



:BRISTISH ISLES MAP

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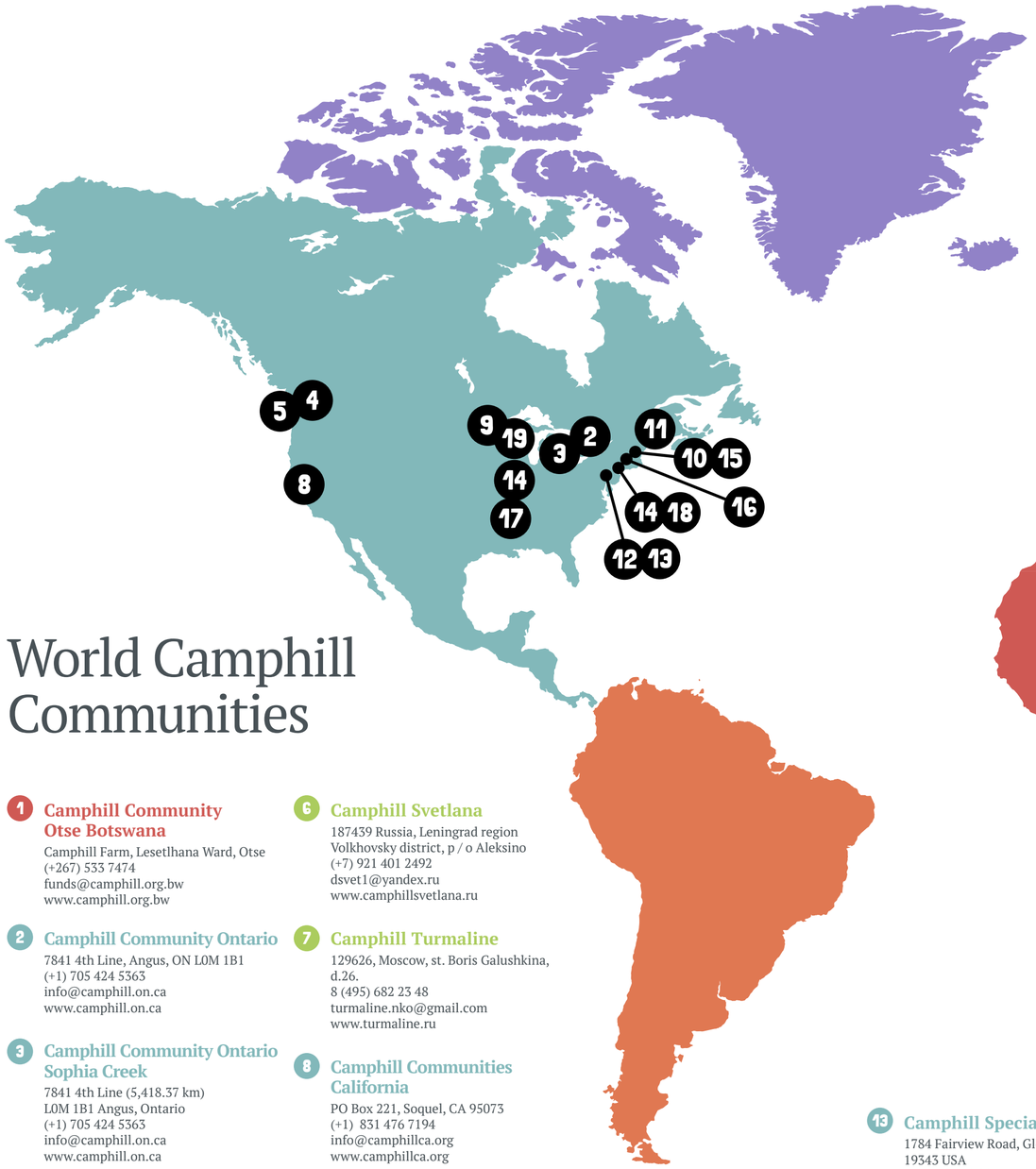
CAMPHILL AROUND THE WORLD



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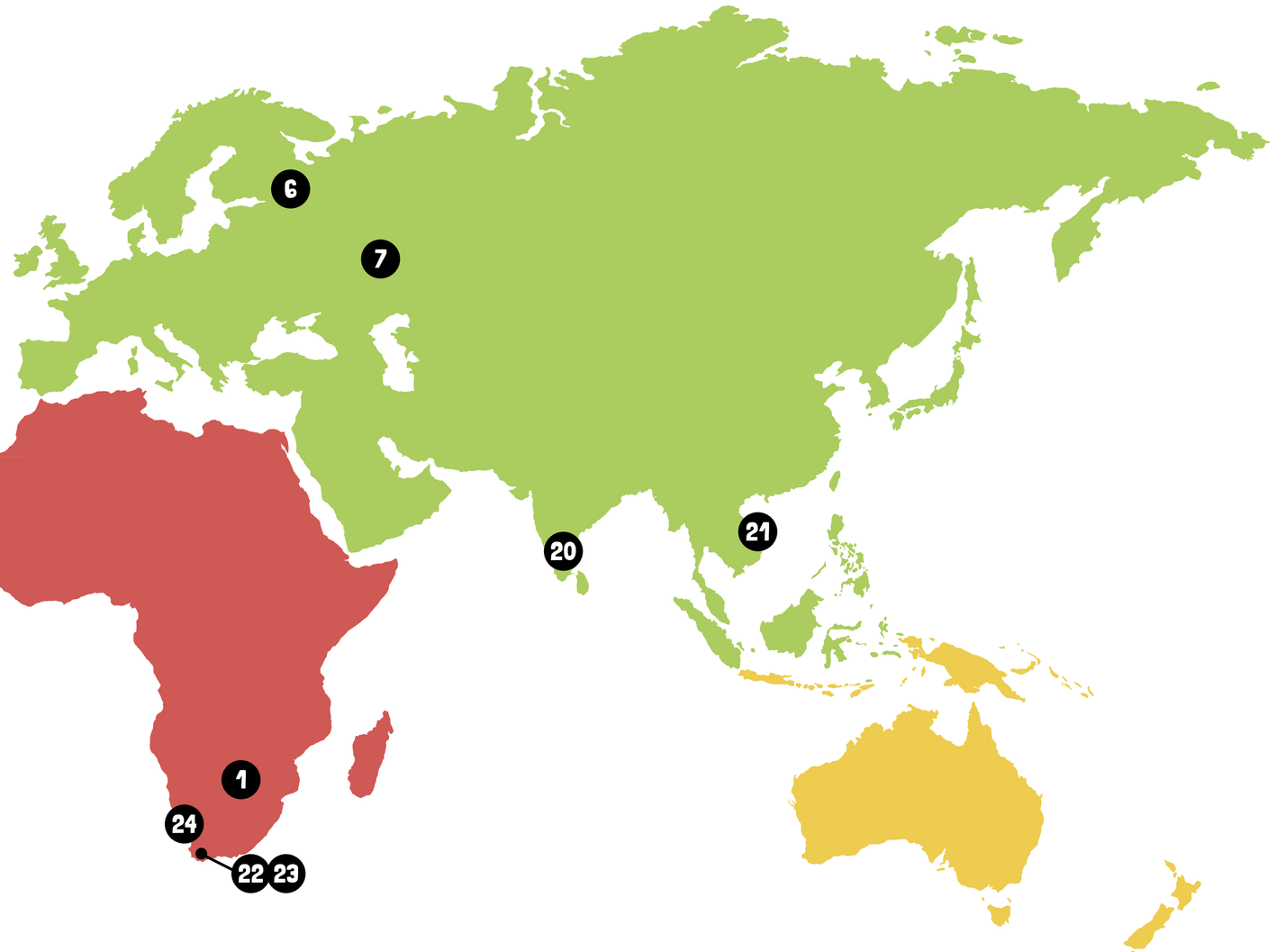
:WORLD MAP



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CAMPHILL AROUND THE WORLD

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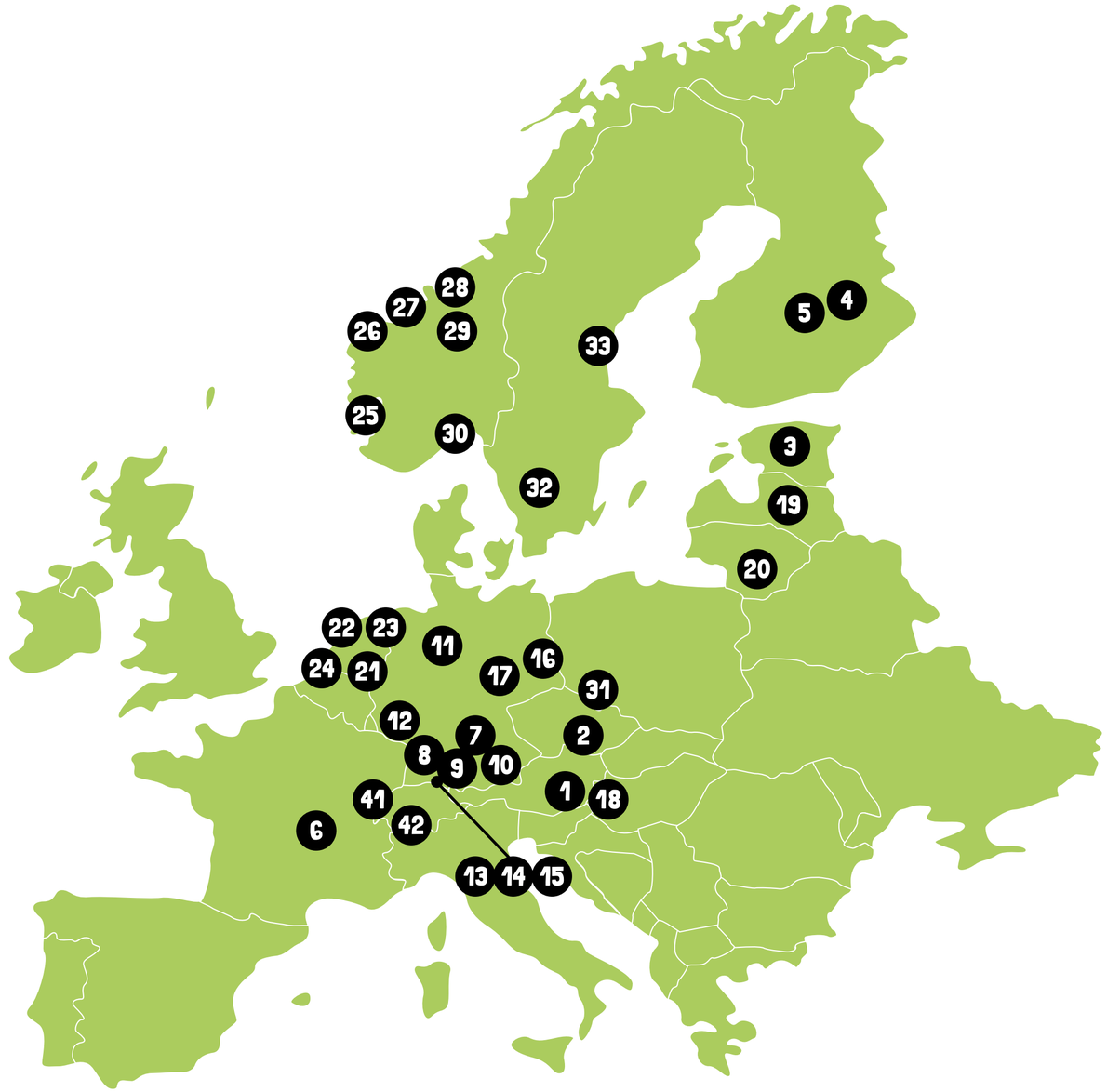
:EUROPEAN MAP



ICSA CONFERENCE USA

International Communal Studies Association (ICSA)

International Communities Conference in America

By Andrew Plant, Milltown Community

In July this year the four Camphill communities near Hudson, New York are hosting the International Communal Studies Association (ICSA) conference. Prof. Dan Mckanan is a good friend of Camphill and he is also the current President of ICSA, so he has arranged this conference to be the place and time that the wider movement of intentional communities gets to meet the Camphill movement. Conference guests will be staying in the four communities – Copake, Triform, Camphill Hudson and Camphill Ghent. Camphill people will be making plenary presentations, holding workshops and presenting papers.

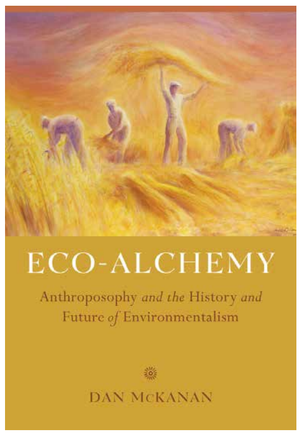
There will also be presentations from the Camphill USA Research Symposium and a performance by the Camphill Hudson Players.

The theme of the conference is 'Inclusion and Diversity', a theme that is very relevant to the Camphill communities.

You might know that Dan McKanan has published a few books that include the work of Camphill and hopefully his new book 'Camphill and the Future' will be out in time for the conference.

This will be a very interesting and exciting inclusive conference and I, for one, am really looking forward to taking part.

It's not too late to book a place. You can do this by going to the ICSA website at ***www.communa.org.il/icsa/*** and the click on the tab 'conferences'.



Eco-Alchemy by Prof. Dan McKanan

Prof. Dan McKanan

Prof Dan McKanan - Carrying a Special ICSA Camphill Flag!

By The Editor

We are approaching a remarkable event this July with the International Communal Studies Association Gathering at Camphill in the USA. Many from Camphill including Andrew Plant from Milltown Scotland will go having submitted papers on the theme and the programme is printed below. An academic rigour approach of the study of communities which had its origins in the workings of the Kibbutz, The ICSA has always had a major interest in Intentional Communities and Camphill has been a major influence in its studies. Indeed Jan Bang from Camphill in Norway and author of a remarkable little book on Camphill's Bible Evening The Hidden Seed as well as a standard work on Eco Villages was its president and organiser when the Conference was held in Findhorn Scotland in 2013. A significant gathering indeed which among many topics at a time of threat to Camphill celebrated the rise of Co Housing projects in intentional communities and how Camphill might benefit as is seen in such examples as Sturt's Farm in Dorset.

Chris Coates of Diggers and Dreamers fame heading up a co housing project in Lancaster succeeded Jan Bang and his books on Utopia Britianica and Commune Britianica are also standard texts in the field of studying communities and communes where Camphill features widely. Indeed it could be argued that Chris's books have been instrumental for a more considered understanding of Intentional Communities where otherwise they would be seen as weird and wonderful aberrations in society. For instance he traces back the Commune movement so popular in the 1960s to the land work peace camps set up for conscientious objectors in the second world war - far from the popular misconceptions of our times.

Chris Coates handed the baton of the ISCA to Dan McKanan and here we have a very special sense of gratitude for this Harvard Divinity Professor who has studied exhaustively the phonemena that is Camphill and his book The Future of Camphill will be published in time for the USA conference.

Dan first came to the notice of interested readers with his University of California Press book called Eco Alchemy in 2017. Here was a history of environmental awareness like no other which paid tribute to the Steiner Movement and Camphill in particular as a kind of soul and spirit of environmentalism, a study which could indeed have been an academic exercise of the threats to our planet if it hadn't been for the Intentional Communities that played their part in the 1960s and 70s taking to its heart those young people who with their special needs charges became land workers with a new Organic and Biodynamic purpose and knowingly or not stood up against the rise and rise of industrial and chemical farming and growing practises.

Were they drop outs or vital to draw attention to the important questions of health of the soil and the human being? For Dan McKanan the answer was the simple latter helped by his study of the importance of communities and their relationship to society in general and the questions cultural, social and economic they pose.

From that study he saw a particular gesture that emerges from 20th Century Intentional Communities that in the end they seek to integrate into wider society and don't wish to isolate or turn their back on a so called sinful or mislead society, something characteristic of more strident religious groups of earlier in history.

Dan McKanan arrived at this conclusion having toured Camphill places as well as L'Arche, Catholic Worker and Bruderhoff communities and interviewed many Residents and Co workers.

The Future of Camphill Book will go into detail the story of the school, village, college and urban communities around the world and their challenges to thrive into the future. We owe a great debt of gratitude to his academic study of our social, cultural and working life which along with such separate studies from Robin Jackson in the UK goes a long way to validate the contribution that Camphill makes to improving the quality of life for those who wish to be part of its communities.

NEWS

Brexit, Europe & Camphill

By Neil Henery, Camphill Scotland

In these very uncertain times it seems all the more important to recognise and celebrate the wonderful contribution that European citizens make to Scottish society. Camphill in Scotland has more reason than most organisations to value this contribution. Camphill was formed in Scotland in 1939 – but not by Scots. It was created by a group of Austrian refugees. The founders of Camphill were a group of successful and well-educated Jewish professionals interested in the ideas of Rudolf Steiner. They believed in the equality of people with learning disability at a time when many countries, including the U.K. were influenced by eugenics – the idea that the human race could be genetically 'improved' by scientific and social interventions.

The founders of Camphill fled Austria after its annexation by Germany in 1938. They arrived in Aberdeen with only one of them able to speak English, cut off from their social networks and dependent on others' charity.

As is the case with many refugees they displayed a tremendous inner strength and worked very hard to make a new life. Together, they created the first Camphill community at Kirkton House in Aberdeen. They wanted to build a community life where each person's social, cultural and spiritual needs could be met and each had the opportunity to make a valued contribution to community life through their work.

Camphill is now a worldwide network of educational and social services for people with learning disabilities and other support needs. There are 119 Camphill places in 25 countries across the world.

There are eleven Camphill communities in Scotland including two Schools, eight adult communities and one for older people. Together, they provide services to around 650 people with learning disabilities and other support needs.

Camphill in Scotland is not only indebted to Europe for its original creation, it remains fundamentally a European and international movement. This is graphically illustrated by the make-up of the current workforce in Camphill.

In Camphill there are three categories of worker providing social care and education.

There are 165 long term vocational workers of whom 88 or 53% are from other EU countries. There are 469 employees of whom 96 or 20% are from other EU countries. Finally, there are the young people who live and work in the communities as volunteers for around a year or 18 months. In 2016 there were 251 such volunteers and 170 of them were from other European countries. That is 68%.

The opportunity to come to a different country and meet people of different nationalities is a big part of what makes the Camphill volunteering experience attractive. It is an opportunity for young people to test themselves, grow and develop as individuals.

They live and work in the community 24 hours a day alongside the people they support. The vibrant mix of cultures and the opportunity to meet idealistic, energetic young people makes Camphill a distinctive provider of care and education for people with learning disabilities.

Brexit puts three obstacles in the way of maintaining this. Firstly, it puts people off coming. Secondly, the new post-Brexit immigration system seems likely to make it more difficult for people to come even if they want to. Thirdly, it will make it more difficult for people to stay long term.

I will deal with each in turn.

We know Brexit is already putting German volunteers off. We have good links with the German volunteering agency Freunde Waldorf. They told us that, in January 2018, 549 young German volunteers applied to come to the UK. After another year of the Brexit process, in January 2019, there were 169 applications. That is a drop of 70%.

Furthermore, any post-Brexit immigration system will treat Europeans in the same way as other nationalities. We know that this is not good news because we are well aware of the difficulties that other foreign volunteers can have in gaining visas.

From September 2017 to March 2018, for example, there were 48 applications from international volunteers to come and work with us. 20 of these were refused. That represents an increase of 50% on the previous year.

There would seem to be no change to the technical requirements in relation to the visas but the rules seem to be interpreted in a more unsympathetic way. For example, one applicant was asked whether she would be earning a wage while with Camphill. She said no but added that she would get £165 per month for living expenses. The visa was refused as £165 per month was considered to be a wage – that works out at around £5 per day!

A potential volunteer at Blair Drummond in Stirling was refused a visa because, when phoned at 11 pm her time, she could not tell the interviewer what Blair Drummond's post code was. Evidently for the interviewer, this meant the volunteer was not serious about her application.

If EU volunteers have similar problems under new immigration arrangements, there are Camphill communities in other parts of Europe and further afield that they can go to instead.

Finally, the post-Brexit immigration system will be bad news for Camphill because it will serve to prevent those who come as volunteers from staying long term. This is because only skilled workers can stay long term – and you may be classified as a skilled worker only if you earn a minimum of £30,000 per annum. For comparison, a Senior Support Worker at the Corbenic community near Dunkeld earns between £18 and £19 thousand per annum.

As you can see, by potentially cutting off Camphill in Scotland from Camphill in Europe, Brexit poses a very real and profound threat to Camphill and the people with learning disability and other support needs that we serve in Scotland.

What can be done about this?

We are trying hard to tell the world how much we care about and value the European workers who choose to live and work with us. This is a message we give on our website, our social media work and through events like these.

We are also working with our European volunteering partner Freunde Waldorf to see how best we can maintain the flow of volunteers. Freunde travelled from Germany last week to talk with us about how best to address the impact of Brexit and continue to attract volunteers.

We have also been lobbying for legislation that would serve to safeguard the health and social care sector after Brexit.

This legislation would require the UK Government to make arrangements for an independent evaluation of the impact of Brexit upon the health and social care sector across the 4 Nations. We have been joined in this campaign by 101 other organisations.

We continue to work with others to lobby for a future immigration system that understands and facilitates the vital contribution that European volunteers make to the Camphill experience.

At the same time we are working with our members to help them consider how they could manage if Brexit were to impact on the number of volunteers wishing and able to work with them.

Understandably, many communities are reluctant to countenance this as it is such a central part of Camphill identity and they know the value created by the current model.

Inevitably, a reduction in the flow of volunteers would move Camphill towards a much more conventional social care model with employees engaged on a shift basis. This is no substitute for volunteers sharing their lives with people on a more informal and more complete way.

Camphill would continue but some of the vibrancy and depth of community life would be lost. Yet, like everyone else, we must be prudent of course and make contingency plans.

As I said at the start of this piece, at this uncertain and fractious time, it is more important than ever to recognise and celebrate the contribution of EU citizens across Scotland.

In Camphill we recognise the fundamental debt we owe to the Austrian citizens who established the movement in 1939 at a time of division and nationalism across Europe.

Camphill is very proud to be a European movement and our communities remain a vibrant mix of European and other nationalities. We will do everything we can to enable the vulnerable people we look after to benefit from the communities we create together.

Life in Camphill

Environmental Special
- A Residents' Forum Update

By Camphill Milton Keynes

We did it! After almost a year's relentless nagging and poking our noses into other people's rubbish, we finally staged a spectacular recycle contest at the turn of the year. Before announcing our winner, let us give you a quick rundown of events leading to the contest.

Last year, we learned that meats and bones put in our home composting system attracted rats and our compost heaps did not produce enough heat to break down the bones, so we asked the council and had some green wheelie bins delivered. Then some of us recognised that not all community members were clear on what could be recycled as wrong items were often spotted in the clear and pink bags. We thought perhaps the council's recycle leaflets were not visual enough, so we put our heads down and came up with some really eye catching pictorial guides, which we distributed to all the houses. Then someone had a flash of inspiration and thought why not organise some fun and educational activities for the residents and co-workers etc., so we ended up spending two afternoons talking nothing but rubbish – strictly speaking, how to reduce our rubbish by recycling and reusing more. We were lucky to be supported by Louise, the Education Manager from MK Waste Recovery Park, who came to talk to our community members about what happens in the recovery park. Then in November, we did a charity bric-a-brac sale and raised some money, part of which was used as prize money for a recycle contest. (By Andrew M, Chloe A and Alison F)

On Tuesday 8th January, the Recycle Contest finally went ahead at the Chrysalis Theatre in Camphill Milton Keynes. Each house was invited to enter as a team with one full clear bag of recycling items.

To win, one point was deducted for each wrong item in each house's clear bag. Each team also answered a quiz. Points were rewarded to the clear bags and the quiz was added up at the end. (By Alex F)

Whitethorn was thrilled to learn that they scored the highest in the contest. The whole house came up in the community assembly after the contest to receive the certificate. We are happy to learn that the prize money will be used to purchase a water dispenser, as this reduces the need to buy bottled water and could save a whopping 2800 plastic bottles per year for the whole house, costing £400!

Thumbs up for you Whitethorn, you are the champion! (by Amy P, Anna D and Tamsin A)

Clockwise from top: Team Whitehorn, Team Woods and Team Soltare.

A Visit to the Kaspar Hauser Festival in Ansbach

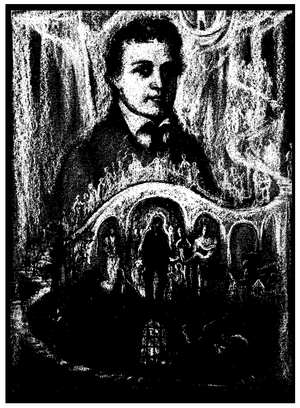
By Christoph Hanni.
Summer 2018 Kasper Hauser article

This year the Bavarian town of Ansbach hosted the 11th Kaspar Hauser Festival, a biannual 8-day event around the personality of Kaspar Hauser, who lived and died there in the early 19th Century. Eckhart Bohmer, the founder and intendant of the Festival received on the opening day of the Festival, the Culture Prize of Ansbach as a recognition for his sustained efforts over 20 years to enhance the cultural life of the town by stimulating again our interest in Ansbach's most famous resident.

This year our holidays coincided with the dates of the festival, and Ansbach not being that far from Switzerland, Irene and I decided to experience at least a part of it. The programme listed the numerous events, lectures, concerts, exhibitions and films, and we were most keen to hear the lectures of Peter SeIg and Eckhart Bohmer at the beginning of the week.

Ansbach's historical centre evokes the time of Kaspar Hauser, and the places important in his life are all close together: the House of teacher Mayer, where he lived and died; the Gumbertus church with the chapel of the Swan Knights, where he was confirmed; the court house were he worked as a clerk; the Royal Court gardens, where he often strolled and where he was stabbed fatally; and finally the graveyard where he is buried.

Also very close by is the cultural centre with the Karl Hall, where the daily lectures were held and the Kaspar Hauser paintings by Greg Tricker could be marvelled at; and where, for the first time, the little wooden toy horse, that was Kaspar's sole companion in his captivity, was exhibited. The opening lecture of the Kaspar Hauser Week on Sunday was by Eckhart Bohmer on 'Kaspar Hauser and the question of his identity'. He started by breaking five centimetres off a wooden foldable measuring stick to show how little of Kaspar's life is known, the mere five years from the moment he appeared in Nuremberg on Whitsun 1828, to the moment he died of a stab wound in his bed



in Ansbach on December 17 in 1833. Who was he? Where did he come from?
In the evening a large crowd enjoyed the performance of a big orchestra and choir, 'Kaspar Hauser Aenigma eterna', composed and directed by Walter Kiesbauer.

On Monday we had much time to hang about, visit the Markgrafen Museum with much history about Ansbach, but also about Kaspar Hauser. There are his drawing exercises, depicting lilies, plums and grapes, and a poem, but also the clothes he wore on the day he was mortally wounded, and a lock of his hair. In the evening Peter Selg described the Confirmation of Kaspar Hauser through pastor Heinrich Fuhrmann, who wrote a diary and documented in detail his observations of Kaspar and how he responded to his instructions, up to the Confirmation, but also afterwards until Kaspar passed away in his presence. Later on that evening the audience walked after Peter Selg's lecture to the Gumbertus church and listened in the candle-lit Swan Knights chapel, the place where Kaspar Hauser was confirmed, to an organ recital. At the end of the last day of our stay in Ansbach, which we spent in sweltering heat in nearby Wolfram's Eschenbach, we listened to a lecture by Richard Steel, who is well known also in the Phoenix Centre in Newton Dee, about how a spiritual understanding of the human was being lost in Europe a few years after the death of Kaspar Hauser, 'the Child of Europe', and how 100 years later Karl Konig tried to found a social impulse that puts the human being at the centre of healing activity - Camphill!

From Newton Dee Blether

Kasper Hauser House, Ansbach.

New Aberdeen By Pass
- A Long Time Coming

By The Editor

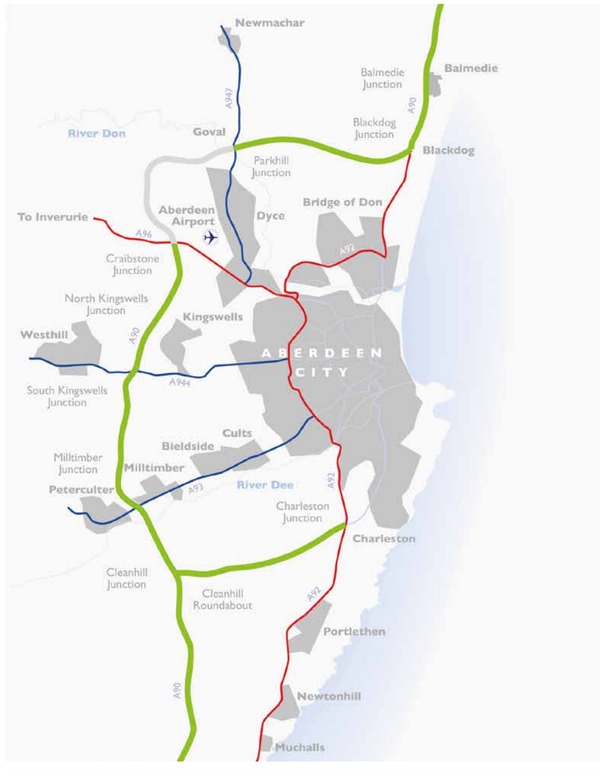
It has been a long time coming - a decade or more behind schedule and the by pass route had to be completely redrawn - because of Camphill. Yet amongst the cries of relief that it finally opened and guilty admissions that it now only takes 10 minutes to get to the Airport (!), The new Aberdeen Relief Road from Stonehaven in the south to the new Don bridge to the north is finally fully operational.

The crossing the Dee near the Camphill Estate is a mighty bridge dominating the landscape as the road carves a new path up from the A9 at Stonehaven and it divides Camphill from its downstream neighbour Myrtle Estate. Yet it could have been much worse as the proposed road would have ploughed through land on Newton Dee's western boundary and this issue became a campaign master minded by an Aberdeen PR group to resist this threat of disruption between Newton Dee and Myrtle Estates which much to the surprise of many was ultimately successful.

Now the road is opened and with wrangling over its price and delivery time being sorted

A view of the new bridge over the River Dee at Milltimber looking north with The Camphill Estate in the middle distance.

out the road designed in the days when oil was king and road transport the main way to travel, completes a story that has had Camphill as its major contributor in deciding the route. The local paper, the Aberdeen Press and Journal carried the Camphill element in the design history and comments about who benefits seem to suggest the building developers happy at a wider swing of the road as it skirted the western suburbs and consequently left large swaths of land ripe for building commercial and residential property!



BBC News Article from 2009, since this was written the costs trebled!

The new Aberdeen bypass will not cut through land used by a community for people with special needs.

The transport minister has unveiled the route, which could cost up to £395m.

Tavish Scott rejected the five original options in favour of a compromise route through Milltimber Brae, with a new fast link via Netherley to Stonehaven.

Campaigners welcomed the news that the Camphill community's Newton Dee site would be spared - but the decision stunned those in the Milltimber suburb. Residents expressed shock and said they would be organising a protest meeting about the plans.

However, Camphill's leader, Dr Stefan Geider, said he was delighted that ministers had listened to sense.

"I think everyone out here has heaved a huge sigh of relief," he said.

"Having said that, it is not a time to celebrate because we are well aware that other people are going to be affected by this.

"We are now looking forward to life returning to normal."

Mr Scott said the bypass would be an integral part of the north east's transport network.

"This bypass is more than a road. As well as cutting congestion and reducing pollution, it will provide a significant boost to the local economy and bring welcome benefits to businesses in the area.

Cost estimates

"It was therefore extremely important that very careful consideration was given to the planned route."

The cost of the road has been estimated at between £295m and £395m, with completion by 2011.

The Scottish Executive said it thought the final price tag would be at the lower end of the cost estimates.

The cheaper Murtle option, which would have split the two Camphill communities for adults and children with special needs, was Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire councils' preferred route.

However, ministers rejected the proposal in favour of one combining the Milltimber Brae section with a new fast link from the north of Stonehaven to take traffic away from the congested A90.

Ian Yuill, deputy leader of Aberdeen Council, said: *"We appreciate this has been a very difficult decision for the minister to make with some difficult choices, but the important thing is that this uncertainty is now over and the people living on the routes that have not been chosen can get on with their lives."*

Aberdeenshire Council leader Audrey Findley said: *"We have waited some time to hear this and I think this route meets all the requirements for the traffic management and the whole transport system for the north east of Scotland."*

Environmental damage

However, Friends of the Earth Scotland dubbed the process a "sham".

Chief executive Duncan McLaren said: *"There was no examination of alternatives and the so-called consultation failed to offer a single option that does not include new road-building.*

"The executive has simply bulldozed over due process. To now add in a second brand new road means even greater environmental damage.

"The plan must now be subjected to full public inquiry and environmental impact assessment, including genuine assessment of the need for the road, in the face of alternatives that do not involve new road building."

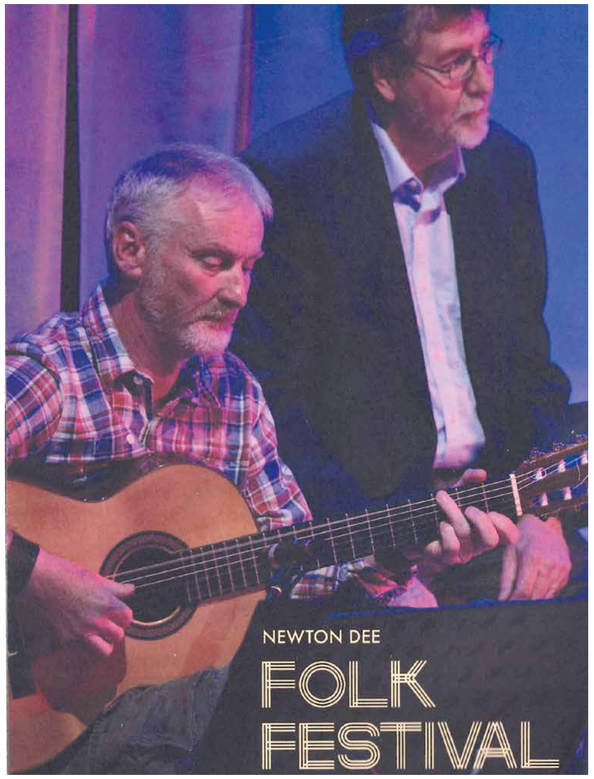
Economic progress

The Scottish Greens also urged ministers to scrap the bypass altogether, warning that more roads generated more traffic.

Shiona Baird, Green North East MSP, said: *"The bypass will only reduce congestion in Aberdeen by up to 2.5% - this hardly justifies spending nearly £400m.*

"Congestion costs the UK economy £20bn per year. The executive's attachment to building roads is stifling economic progress.

"More regular and accessible bus services, a renewed commitment to the seemingly abandoned cross-rail project and the re-opening of 'commuter' stations into Aberdeen would all help cut car use."



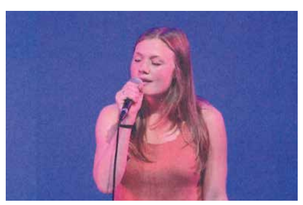
My Experiences at Newton Dee Folk Festival

By Katy Fusco

Friday evening at the Festival was amazing. The musicians were very good. The first of the seven acts were Stefan & friends (formaly known as Camphill Flowers), a band of our very own co-workers. They were brilliant. I liked the duets but specially the solo by Fynn. Everyone was really excited and liked all the musicians. It was an enjoyable concert.

Everybody in the village was very busy all day on Saturday, working hard to look afterall the people who came. On the Village Green there were lots of musicians. I liked the contestants for the Chorus Cup. I would like to win that one day.

The World Music performance was brilliant. I would like to interview the musicians for The Blether next year in 2019 when they come.



Newton Dee Folk Festival

My Passion for Music

By Emma Millar

Music has always been a passion of mine. I come from a musical family.

If I ever start my own band, I would be the guitarist. I would also love a percussionist and some backing vocals. I would love to get my own guitar in the future.

I was not a natural musician at first. Music grew on me. I think Newton Dee needs someone to write songs that we can perform.

I wrote my own Chorus Cup song for the Folk Festival this year. It was a very personal song. It was called A New Star Man. The original was written by David Bowie. He is a person I love very much.

I would also love to start an all-girl band with other villagers, with someone to be responsible as manager. Hopefully, my dream will come true.

Camphill Literature Services "the end of a chapter"

By The Editor

For the past 15 years Camphill Literature Services firstly in Stourbridge in association with Robinswood Press and then in Cumbria took on the distribution of books and leaflets, DVDs and publicity material from The Association of Camphill Communities. These included the remarkable celebration book Shaping the Flame tracing the festival social and working life of Camphill Communities throughout the yearly seasons in poetry and prose photograph and drawing. There were lists of Association Members in Great Britain and Ireland the final version a map of all the Association contacts published in 2014, Leaflets, a Guide to all the Camphills in the Association and a special set of DVDs majoring on the films of Jonathan Stedall.

With much of the material now superceded and new forms of communication such as social media and website sources, the days for the very few publications carried are coming to an end.

At the Association Festival copies of the Shaping the Flame and the DvDs were made available before the operations finally ceased trading.

If however you have any enquiries on Association Publications please email ***viviangriffiths@talktalk.net***

Pages distribution is not affected in this senerio!

The cover of 'Shaping the Flame' book

Alliance of Camphill Communities has a new website

The charity set up to speak up for Camphill International Communities and support the possibility of a completely new Camphill adult Community has updated its website!

A new fully integrated site with easy access to a number of topics related to learning disability in the Alliance role as campaigner for better services and an end to the cuts and discrimination towards disability makes the website a go to place to keep up to date with what is happening in the wider news and with Alliance's own project.

Last October a Gathering of interested parties held a Conference in Bristol where much exploring was done to build the necessary trust and trusts to begin the process that would result in a brand new Camphill Community.

Alliance of Camphill Bristol Conference. A Personal Impression

By The Editor

The title for this Conference last October was Reimagining Camphill Communities and in the setting of a Bristol Theological College where a Camphill Coworker had once trained before he came to spend the rest of his life in Botton Village. We spent a fruitful and challenging weekend working in response to The Alliance of Camphill's request how if it was possible to initiate a new Camphill Community no less!
What follows is a personal impression, it must be emphasised, of the weekend as an honoured guest and it is written in gratitude to The Alliance of Camphill who as a body of parents and supporters want to see the essence of Camphill as part of a new project after all the changes in recent years and were enquiring how that could manifest itself.

I think it is fair to say we went through a grief stage in the first period of the Conference reflecting on the perceived loss of community as it was beforehand but perhaps it was a wider loss than just community specific, what had happened to the Islands of Healing which Dr Konig had so idealistcaly crafted in the village communities. How had The Three Great Errors, the subject of one of his lectures, where human beings had forgotten the Divine through the concepts of The Survival of the Fittest and the Measurable Intelligence distortions, how much or not had Camphill stemmed this influence, how had the sense of community been thwarted bearing in mind that Camphill wishes to be present where the human being is being under threat and where that Image of the human being is being distorted.

Once the grief had been touched, perhaps it was the turn of a new vision to be aired, the new Camphill, a much more individually influenced place it was described, where professional care, a solution towards the problem of loneliness and a place in society for healing was striven for. The transformation no less of the original ideals of Camphill Communities. It was also noted in this context that once upon a time some types of Communities turned their back on a perceived misguided society - now it was seen from Professor Dan McKanan's work on 20th century communal living situations like Camphill that integration into society was much more a feature especially as communities grew and diversified.

The last day provided much food for thought. A modern Camphill it was suggested should have three elements to its structure, that is Personal Care, Social Enterprise and Community.

The first is an unwavering care and support of the individual of everyone not just the client it was noted, the second an importance to meet society through projects that are wanted and needed from craft bakeries to coffee bars and restaurants, to the making of beautiful products. The third is something more elusive and yet very identifiable in a Camphill place, the sense of community which honours the individual and the work and worth of the community endeavour and that can be expressed in a number of ways but can show itself in festivals and plays through the seasons of the year. As well as a commitment to an inner striving of transformative work on the individual in service to another.
We were very fortunate to have representatives where these three elements are apparent and we looked at the examples of Camphill's such as KCAT in Callan in Ireland, the new Esk Valley Camphill in North Yorkshire and Sturt's in Dorset. It was special to have both young and older representatives, resident and Co worker, parent and sibling all present and all making a contribution to proceedings. We also touched on the work of the Camphill Community itself.

It was a remarkable coming together that gives the Alliance a huge challenge to translate the discussions into the reality of creating a Camphill place. In a challenging social care environment that does not approve of congregate care situations new forms of Camphill are the order of the day. Through Shared Lives maybe or running a village post office, garage and store! A farm on community supported agriculture principles, a plant nursery, an extended household in a street to celebrate the 50th year of Camphill's first 'urban' community, Stourbridge Houses begun in 1969. Someone even suggested in a submission running a motorway service station! Oh dear! Good fortune to those in The Alliance who have worked tirelessly to support Camphill and its members in the last several years - it has not gone unnoticed.

Bristol Theological College

Chartering for Involvement!

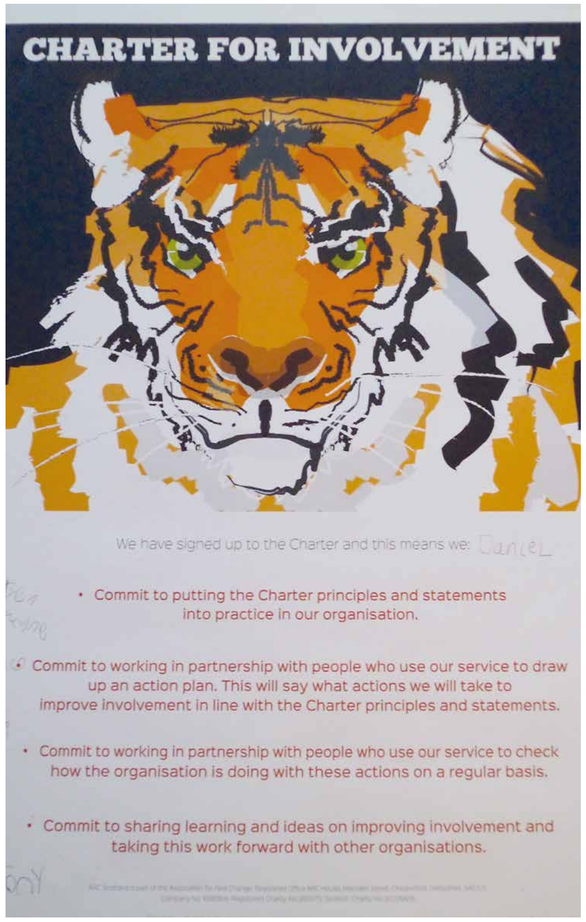
By Ben Payne

My name is Ben Payne and I live at Milltown Community in Aberdeenshire. I like getting involved in campaigns and meetings to give those with intellectual disabilites a voice. At my community we have Inclusive Meetings which are meetings where the tenants can speak out about things that are important to them or the community.

In early 2018 I went to a Keys To Life Refresher meeting in Inverurie. At the meeting I found out a little bit about something called The Charter for Involvement and was really interested. The Charter for Involvement was written by the National Involvement Network under ARC Scotland. The Charter has 12 statements that say how people who use support services want to be involved, treated and respected. Lots of organisations have already signed up to the Charter to say they would make involvement better for the people they support. I wanted to do that at Milltown so I told co-worker, Kirsty, about it and asked if she could arrange an Inclusive Meeting to see if our community liked the idea of signing up also.

Kirsty and I worked together to make a power point presentation to explain the Charter in an easy way to all the tenants and workers. At the end of each meeting I asked if everyone wanted to join. Everyone agreed and said 'yes'!

We then wrote up an Action Plan to detail what we were going to do to improve certain things in line with the 12 statements. We also wrote down the things we were already doing well at. At the community council meeting in August I presented The Charter once more to get their go ahead to officially sign up. They were very impressed and agreed with all of The Charter's principles. David Nicoll, the chairman signed the Charter for Involvement Certificate which Kirsty sent to ARC Scotland along with the action plan. ARC Scotland's response said we are now officially signed up and told us that we are the 70th organisation to do so. I am very pleased that we have signed up and hope to complete our action plan by next year!



Signed ' Charter for Involvement'

Pennine Camphill Community Name Change

We are happy to announce that we have changed our name to Camphill Wakefield. This is to reflect our pride at being part of Wakefield's local offer for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) delivery and to ensure that our innovative approach becomes better known locally and identified as a Wakefield and Camphill success.

We have launched a new and more informative website ***camphill.ac.uk***

Camphill WAKEFIELD

Pericles Theatre Company

By Paulamaria Blaxland-de Lange

Dear friends and colleagues, Pericles Theatre Company is at an exciting stage in its development.

Several shows are running and in development and it is getting more widely known and respected.

The Theatre Company is being asked to perform for conferences in our movement, in Dornach for the international Curative Education and Social Therapy Conference, at Emerson for the Alumni Conference, at the inclusive Acesta Conference at Emerson and at local Festivals and venues in the South of England.

For the next performance they are including eurythmy, newly composed music, fine musicians and a choir.

Pericles is fundraising but would like to ask friends to support them to start this larger process. Although I am not involved in the daily running any longer, I am committed to their work and have offered to help by contacting you all to tell you their good news and to ask you if you would like to support them.

Even £1 a month or a single donation would be most welcome. They would like to have a wide group of friends for this project and every little bit helps.

Below is the link if you would like to support this.
www.localgiving.org/charity periclestheatrecompany

Performing The Tale of the Pig

Wills & Trusts - thinking ahead

Camphill Families and Friends Meeting in April.
By Nikki Ferguson

The April Camphill Families and Friends open meeting in London focussed on wills and trusts. We were lucky to have as our speaker Ann Pickering, who currently works for Austen Jones Solicitors. Ann has worked as a solicitor and trust and estate practitioner for fourteen years, specialising in wills and estate planning. Prior to this, she worked for the NHS.

Many families with a learning disabled relative would like to make provision for them for the future, but well-meant gifts and legacies may compromise any benefits they may receive. Yet the law and practicalities concerning wills and trusts can sometimes seem daunting. It's important to get professional advice from someone with experience of working with people with learning disabilities. We need to know how to structure trusts to provide the most positive financial future for our learning disabled relatives and of course the pitfalls to be avoided along the way.

Some relatives would also like to recognise the important role played in the life of their relative by the Camphill community where they live, either with a gift in their lifetime or a bequest in their wills. But again this may not be as simple as it first appears – just knowing the right organisation to give to might be the first hurdle – and a trust may be one way of achieving your desired result.

Trusts can be created and used during your lifetime or as part of your will so that they are only created when you die. Trusts are particularly suitable for "vulnerable people" – defined as anyone who for any reason should not be given or left a gift of money or property outright. Only a sub group "disabled people" get preferential tax treatment from HMRC via disabled persons trusts.

Ann discussed the differences between a discretionary trust and a disabled persons trust, in terms of security, tax and benefits treatment. We also had a brief discussion about lasting power of attorney and deputyship, the suitability, advantages and possible cost implications of each.
To help us unpick and understand some of the legal terms, we looked at the intended purpose of a simple trust, giving examples. We then all did a practical exercise, drawing up a draft small trust ourselves and discussing the many and varied issues arising from different people's circumstances, and comparing different ways of protecting assets.

Ann went on to talk about gifts or bequests to charities, the possible IHT advantages and implications and steps to take if you have requests for the gift to be used in particular ways. We also talked about people with learning disabilities themselves making a will and steps to take if they do not have the capacity to understand what making a will means.

Several people emphasised how "capacity" is defined according to the task at hand. Many of us, whatever our abilities, understand what making a will means but prefer to get an expert to draw it up. Similarly, a person with learning disabilities if supported well through the process, may well have the capacity to understand that they would prefer their relative to manage their finances and property (and act for them with a lasting power of attorney) without necessarily having the capacity to understand financial complexity or the complexities of a power of attorney application form.

We also touched on the use of trusts and power of attorney to help a person with learning disability to manage their assets. The excellent session was extended with many questions from the floor and a general discussion. Ann also kindly answered individuals' queries over lunch.

In the afternoon, we had a short presentation on the Camphill Foundation and also a talk on the recent File on Four programme highlighting worrying deficiencies in some supported living placements and the shortcomings in the inspection of such "ordinary house in the ordinary street" arrangements which in the words of one interviewee had merely imported the worst aspects of institutional malpractice and neglect from large settings to small.

You can find an account of the meeting with links to slides and other resources at: **www.camphillfamiliesandfriends.com**

Later this year, Camphill Families and Friends will be producing an online guide and directory pointing families to places to get advice on wills and trusts – and also pointing to up to date contact information on all UK Camphill communities, the charities that run them and the Camphill Foundation. We hope that communities and families will welcome and support this effort.

Group meeting

Ochil Tower

By Nicola Hart

Ochil Tower is a Camphill Community school where we live and work together to support and develop children with a variety of disabilities.

The school is in Auchterarder, Scotland, in the centre of a small town, but is surrounded by seven acres of land with gardens, lawn and woodlands which give it a rural feel. We currently have 3-4 classes in which the young people are grouped according to their individual needs rather than age. Across the curriculum there's a strong emphasis on crafts, music, drama and practical skills, and we make full use of the school grounds and our location to maximise opportunities for learning.

Volunteers have time off each week to relax, explore the local surroundings and visit the nearby cities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirling or Perth.

We would welcome applications from volunteers looking for something meaningful to do during their gap year, or from volunteers requiring a Tier 5 visa who have previous Camphill experience.

For more information please refer to our website: ***www.ochiltowerschool.org.uk/join-us/volunteer*** or send an email to ***office@ochiltowerschool.org***.

Camphill Clanabogan: St. Brigid's Day In Pictures

The beautiful church stained glass window and small crosses woven from rushes

Some of Botton's pioneers in the late 1950s, including Alan 'Hendy' Henderson driving the tractor and Angus Elliot.

Camphill Values In Practice

By Bernhard Menzinger. Camphill School Aberdeen.

It was in 2016 that the idea of a Scotland wide training based on anthroposophical/curative educational/social pedagogical approaches for co-workers and employees from Camphill Communities arose.
I shared this idea in various meetings including the Liaison Group in the north east of Scotland communities and the Scottish Neighbourhood meeting. I was surprised by the positive responses not only from places in the north east but also from further afield in Scotland. Andrew Plant, who had been involved with Discovering Camphill was enthusiastic about the idea of such a training course and together we organised the first meeting in Corbenic in October 2017.

Representatives from all but one Camphill Communities in Scotland were present and the overall response to such a training was very positive indeed. It was very clear to all of us that what we wanted to bring about was the next step in continuing the work of the Discovering Camphill Course that had been running for the previous three years in Scotland.

This 2-year course is taking shape and we are in the midst of delivering the first Module. The first four Modules have been or are being designed and we are in the process of adding four more for the second year. The first four modules are:

- Camphill, Anthroposophy and the Understanding of the Human being
- The Festivals
- The Senses and Life Processes
- The Individual and the Community

We also anticipate that we will invite some guest speakers who will give talks/workshops on themes such as the different philosophies and principles of care, Scottish legislation and leadership.

It is envisaged that in the future we might make contact with one or the other university in Scotland in order to explore the possibility of a partnership. So far one or two people have offered their support in this respect notably Angelika Monteux who is the consultant to the Course Faculty and who was centrally involved with the BASP at Aberdeen University. At the moment nothing is 'set in stone' and the Course Faculty is having ongoing meetings to see how this course should develop.

The course is for people who have been in a Camphill Community for at least 2 years and participants are expected to commit to attend all the modules of the course.
37 people from 7 Camphill Communities in Scotland have signed up for the course.
The course has just begun and the same content is being delivered in the Central Belt and in the North East of Scotland.
In the Central Belt it is a 2-day session and in the North East of Scotland it is being delivered over 4 half days.

It's early days in what looks set to be another new and exciting training initiative among the Scottish communities.

A farewell ...

By Jonathan Reid, Esk Valley Camphill Community

On Sunday 7th April, in Honey Bee Hall, the community said farewell to Alan and Kitty Henderson, its last two founding members this side of glory. Appropriately, tea of the English variety was served in white china, with crust-free cucumber sandwiches and a stupendous lemon drizzle cake that took up most of the small hatchback it was delivered in. Poetry and song were also served and even an interruption by two passing hikers (who were barely twinkles in their grandparents' eyes when Botton began) was absorbed into the proceedings.

For two such self-effacing people as Kitty and Hendy, the hour-long tributes may have felt a bit overdone (and tea a bit overdue) but they were still only a fraction of what was deserved.

You could, if your fancy roamed the room, count the links in a generational chain from Hendy to Penelope and tot up the sum to not far short of a century. For two brief hours the hall held our whole community in its hands and hummed, like the hive it is named for, with talk of what has passed, what is, and what might be.

Our community is both young and old. Like a snake, it has sloughed off an old skin and emerged feeling raw, fragile and exposed. But its colours are fresh and bold again and, I hope, we can discern those distinctive markings that show it is faithful to the original design.

...and a thank you

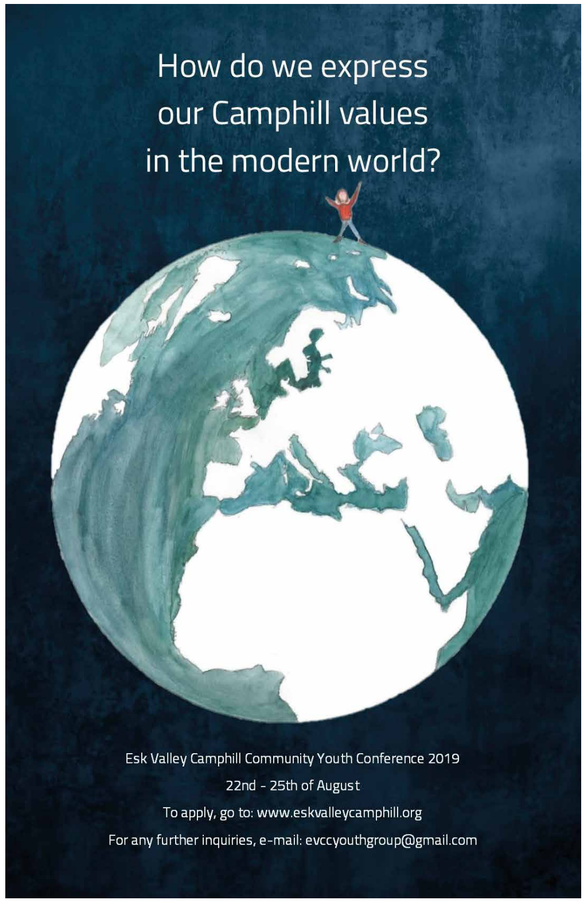
By Kitty and Hendy, Esk Valley Camphill Community

We thank you all for a wonderful "Tea party send-off". The beautiful cakes, the cucumber sandwiches. From now on cucumber sandwiches will always remind us of the tea party. Thank you for all the gifts and artistic contributions, drawings, poems and singing etc. etc. and, of course, the amazing table-chair-umbrella complex (the card is pretty amazing too).

After breakfast on a bright sunny morning earlier this week your present arrived.
It looks fine and sits snuggly in our quiet small garden. We have already been able to make good use of it as the weather has been glorious. Thank you all very much for this wonderful and thoughtful present.

Love and thanks

Karl König (front right) on a visit to Botton in 1959 with (left to right) Kitty, Alan and Johnny Henderson, John Stephenson, Peter Roth and Carl Alexander Mier



Community Youth Conference 2019

By Emilija Alma Legzdina

This coming summer, the Esk Valley Camphill Community is holding its first international youth conference where the theme will be "How do we express our Camphill values in the modern world?" All those with a young heart and an interest in the future of Camphill are welcome.

Last year, members of our community attended a youth conference in Clanabogan, Ireland, which was an extremely inspiring experience; meeting other young people living in Camphill and visiting another community. The whole weekend was educational, inspiring, and a lot of fun.

Our question leads on from the theme in Ireland which was 'How do we carry the Camphill flame into the future?' These questions are always relevant to the Camphill vision, particularly now as our movement and the wider world face such uncertain times.

During the conference we will explore how the values, lifestyle and traditions within a Camphill community can live on in a world continuously unsettled by social issues and concerns. How do we as youth, when confronted daily with the allure of consumerism and material gain, find the balance in ourselves to lead lives where such things do not dominate but we aren't denying ourselves their benefits either?

How do we carry our beliefs of community and meaningful work into the world in a way that can inspire, help, and heal wider humanity? What are the biggest obstacles we face when connecting and relating to these Camphill values? Are we enacting a true development of Self and of the wider world, or maintaining preexisting impulses and traditions?

We know there are many more questions that we might ask ourselves and that is why, this summer, we are glad to create this space to look for the answers.

The conference will take place from Thursday 22nd until Sunday 25th of August and will be filled with talks, discussions, workshops and activities.

We are able to host up to 40 people, so if you are interested we suggest you book soon so we can guarantee a place for you. The application form can be filled in online via our website: www.eskvalleycamphill.org.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us at ***evccyouthgroup@gmail.com.***

We look forward to hearing from you,
The Esk Valley Camphill Youth Group

New Christian Community Church in Stroud Shows Unique Construction

By The Editor

Rising from the site on Cainscross Road next to The Gannicox Camphill Community is the new church of The Stroud Christian Community. Its special cross laminated wooden structure has provided a truly beautiful cathedral like space for the congregation which has among its members the Gannicox Community as well as many retired Camphill Coworkers and Residents. The Consecration is due to be held on 20th October and the builders will complete by mid August. Details of the unique construction can be seen on the Christian Community Stroud website.

There are not many new churches being built at the present time and this building celebrates a remarkable combination of interest from a wide range of citizens that includes Camphill members in this uniquely environmentally aware town.

Postscript - Many Camphill Friends know members of the climate change group that originates from the town which has been in the news as well as knowing Polly Higgins who campaigned tirelessly for the United Nations to recognise the crime of Ecocide where a landscape is deliberately destroyed. Her early death on Easter Sunday was marked with a memorial gathering at Hawkwood Colege the Anthroposophical based adult education centre near the town.

Buiding work in progress

STOP PRESS

Many have been made aware in Obituaries of John Vanier who died this spring aged 90 how he transformed lives by creating the L' Arche Communities but it is not generally known that he visited Botton Village in 1964 and met Rev Peter Roth who showed him around the community. This visit confirmed his approach of the mutual benefits accrued by living and working together with those with special needs and we send our very special wishes to L' Arche in memory of this remarkable man.

NEXT ISSUE

Vol. 29: Autumn/Winter 2019

We shall report on The ICSA Conference in the USA, ask just how Camphill Communities are managing with the reduced number of young coworkers coming from abroad. Betty Marx has another in her series of Portraits of Camphill and there will be a piece on the Second Camphill International Youth Conference. Plus news from around the communities of Fairs and Fetes in rain and shine! Why not send a photo on any Camphill related subjects?! Please email the editor's address below and we shall print if at all possible!

t Swerling, one of the e managers, with David Craib and Chirpy

LE HASLAM
AMIE HALL

Go quackers fo feathered pals

ith learning are bonding lock of ducks. rom the Care atchdog visited n care home in October 29 and t of the birds on le living at the port, which has d.

ook after up to s to help them otential and

d to show us on the patio had enjoyed and activities r," said the

ere resident ad a shared for and to

f the home for it." ome "very best of

One service user told them: "The home has been very good for me.
"I have learned new skills and have become very independent.
"Anyone looking to learn to live independently would do well to come here."
Residents share responsibility for caring for the animals, keeping them safe and collecting eggs, and bosses believe it can help them go on to achieve their potential.
Tom Marx, one of the centre's managers, said: "The ducks are part of us trying to help people learn how to be responsible.
"They are also a really good icebreaker.

we had the ducks then, so they have been here for a long time.
"My colleague started hand-rearing them from eggs two years ago so they have become very used to people.
"They are quite friendly. Some of the people here have autism and it is really important that their environment feels secure.
"Dogs are great in a lot of situations, but some of the time they can seem quite threatening.
"Because they are used to people the ducks don't appear threat

animals have also proved a u addition when it comes to the of keeping the garden tidy.
"Part of making peo responsible is challenging then take care of their surroundin and the ducks help with tha Tom said.
"It gives people a level of cont that they might feel they don have.
"It also helps them feel mo confident. A really go

Article in the Evening Express

Clockwise from top: Ducklings take a bath; Chirpy and the ducklings; Safe and warm

The Tigh a'Chomainn Ducks

By Tom Marx

One of the first things I can remember on arriving at Tigh a'Chomainn was the ducks. There they were wandering around the garden keeping the plants free of slugs. Many of the people who visit us or come to live with us will see our ducks first. All take great pleasure in them. It is a joy to see tired faces breakout in smiles as Chirpy, our Indian runner, comes over to investigate. One of the challenges of being an urban community were everyone goes out to work is connecting with nature. Over the years Margaret, ably assisted by David, have taken care of our ducks and bred new ducks from eggs so that we can all maintain our connection with the natural world and the cycle of life.

Earlier this year the Evening Express (our local paper) asked if they could do a feature on our ducks. David and Margaret were interviewed and you can see the interview and the picture here ***www.camphilltac.org.uk/ducks***

Recently 5 new ducklings were successfully hatched with help from everyone living at Tigh a'Chomainn. The incubator was observed and kept topped up with water, the newly hatched chicks were kept bathed and fed and kept warm in a temporary home. As I write this the ducklings are experiencing the big outdoors in a temporary enclosure before they learn all about our garden from our three mother ducks – Chirpy, Gemima and Gwen.

CAMPHILL PAGES EDITORIAL GROUP REPRESENTATIVES:

Michael Hilary (Southern Ireland), Colm Greene (Northern Ireland), Tom Marx (Scotland), Tim Davies (England and Wales) and Vivian Griffiths (Pages Editorial Coordinator)

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