

Camphill Pages

Camphill



'Pages' is the newsletter of The Association of Camphill Communities, The Camphill Foundation and Families & Friends of Camphill.

Autumn 2010

President's visit leads 70th anniversary year



CAMPHILL communities in Northern Ireland were the first to celebrate Camphill's 70th Anniversary when the four communities, as well as parents and friends, got together at Glencraig in January to welcome the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese.

During her visit, President McAleese met members of the communities, was presented with gifts to mark her visit and the Camphill anniversary, and heard the Glencraig orchestra play *An Droichead* (The Bridge) a piece originally composed by Liam O'Flynn for her inauguration in 1997.

The President was obviously delighted to

President McAleese (left) received a warm welcome from the Camphill Northern Ireland communities. The Glencraig orchestra (below right) played *An Droichead*.

Among the gifts for the President was a copy of the Icon Calendar featuring artwork created at an icon painting course at Mourne Grange Community.



Matthew enjoys creating linocut prints in the Art Creations studio at Camphill St Albans. The one above is entitled 'Drum Kit'.

hear her special piece of music and felt it fitted the occasion.

"It's lovely to be part of Camphill's 70th Anniversary Celebrations," she said "I've never heard *An Droichead* played better. It means "a bridge" and for so many people, Camphill and what it represents - what the whole Camphill Community right around the world means - is a bridge to the fullness of life.

"It's a bridge to being part of a community that shares each other's burdens and shares its joys. For every parent here, every family here - there is a moment when you realise that your child is going to live its life coping with the challenge of a learning disability. Where there is a worry, there's a fear that descends and that fear comes from the unknown."

She said that what Camphill offered through its philosophy, its sense of community and its sharing, was to transform that fear and worry of the unknown into the mystery and awe of seeing children

.....and Newton Dee reaches 50

THERE WAS a double cause for celebration when Aberdeen City Council invited Newton Dee Community and delegates attending the Association of Camphill Communities' annual assembly to a civic reception in the city's Town House.

The reception was to celebrate the 50th birthday of Newton Dee as a Camphill adult working community and to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of Camphill. Civic leaders paid tribute to Newton Dee and Camphill for their long records of support to people with special needs.

Since the members of the founding group established the first community at Camphill House in 1940, the Camphill Movement has grown to more than 100 communities in some 20 countries. The most recent areas of expansion have been in Eastern Europe and the USA (see

International Pages inside this issue as well as at home in the UK & Ireland.

Newton Dee was originally bought in 1945 by Camphill Schools to provide skills training for older pupils and socially challenged young men. Following the establishment of Botton Village by the Camphill Village Trust (CVT) in 1955 as the first Camphill adult working community, Newton Dee became part of the CVT in 1960 to offer opportunities in Scotland to adults with learning disabilities and other special needs.

During the subsequent 50 years Newton Dee has grown into a thriving Camphill community closely tied in to the life of the surrounding area. Some 200 people now live and work there, with about half having additional support needs. Today the

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Newton Dee's Colin Haldane addresses the guests at the civic reception hosted by Councillor Jackie Dunbar, Depute Provost of the City of Aberdeen.



blossom, flourish and having the fullness of life. The child could be a wonderful member of an orchestra, who has friends, a wonderful life, one who has independence - a child with their own story to tell, on their own terms.

"Camphill exists because people dared to start out with the love of a stranger," she continued. "People commit to this vocation, commit to creating this place, commit to creating all the other Camphill Communities which I have become familiar with over the years. I've had the privilege of visiting so many places now, hearing the stories, where I know many of the families here today."

President McAleese said that she knew from the stories of the families the deep, deep worry and concern of every loving parent for their child. If it was a burden carried alone it made life a tough and lonely journey.

"Everything about Camphill says, actually, the journey is shared, the burden is shared and when it is shared it opens up so many possibilities. It opens up the possibility for such a range of talents and

welcome

AS I WRITE, Michaelmas is fast approaching. Autumn colours and autumn berries are in the hedgerows and there seems an abundance of colourful fruit this year.

There's an abundance of news from our communities too in this the 70th anniversary year of Camphill. In that time Camphill has grown from the original school community with children in need of special care to more than 100 communities today around the world. So as well as news from the UK and Ireland, we thought it fitting to bring you news from further afield. We've given our centre pages an international theme with news of developments in Russia, the USA, Germany, Poland and Belarus.

The simple fact that Camphill has been creating communities for 70 years means that there are now more older community members. So it's vital that we have communities where people can enjoy the autumn of their days. In England, a group exploring the possibility of creating an elder care community at Thornbury would like to hear from anyone interested in being involved (see page 2). And in the USA, site work is starting for Camphill Ghent, an ambitious elder care project in New York State.

It's good to see Camphill still developing new forms of community.

With Best Wishes,

Andy



skills and inputs into the life of the child or a young adult. It meets them on their own terms; they put their talents together with all the other people here and that's where the mystery comes from and where the awe is found.

"This is what allows parents to sleep content at night, knowing that their child is loved and they know that their child is in a loving, caring and good environ-

Continued overleaf.....





Members of the Camphill Hollywood community presented the President with a basket of fresh bread and produce from their organic bakery and store.

President's visit leads 70th anniversary year

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ment, a place to which they can contribute, a place where they truly matter.

"I think the philosophy and existence of Camphill is just marvellous! What would life be like if we didn't have Camphill? What would it be like for so many families, who rely on Camphill and others like it?"

"It would be like switching off the light on a life. Every child and every young adult, whatever their circumstances, is entitled to the fullness of life, to know what their fullness is, to have it revealed to them and to be part of that revelation - Camphill is dedicated to that."

The continuing work of Camphill, said President McAleese, allowed parents the joy to move from the fear of the unknown to the awe and mystery. She said it allowed them to enjoy their children's lives, to sleep easily at night, to be contented because they knew their gorgeous and beloved children were so contented.

"Thank you for allowing me to share this very special day," she added. "I know that when the President visits, it's worse than having your mother visit your bedroom!"



.....and Newton Dee reaches 50

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community offers a wide range of housing to meet people's differing aspirations and needs so that residents can develop the appropriate degree of independence. The community's organic bakery, food store and café are popular with locals and are thriving enterprises in which those with disabilities play vital roles.

In its anniversary year, Newton Dee has embarked on an ambitious project to create the new Phoenix Community Centre (illustrated above) to replace its Phoenix Hall. The Community Centre will be home to the cultural, social, educational and administrative life of the community. It will offer a new auditorium, activity centre, outdoor performance and gathering space, learning centre and offices.

Designed by Camphill Architects to have a small ecological footprint, it will use natural materials wherever possible, a high level of thermal insulation, heat pumps, rainwater harvesting and LED lighting. Following community celebrations at Easter to mark the closure of Phoenix Hall, Newton Dee's joinery workshop team removed many fixtures and fittings, including the floor, before the arrival of the demolition squad, for recycling or re-use by the community. Building work began in the summer and the official opening is being planned for spring 2012.

Newton Dee marked the date of the community's 50th birthday - 4th September - with a ceremony for community members and invited guests for the laying of the foundation stone of the new Phoenix Centre. The following day, friends were welcomed for a Big Picnic.

The community is also creating a book of memories based on photos to prompt recollections of the past 50 years, and a DVD to mark the anniversary.



Four of The Croft's winning growers - Ian, William, Fiona, Maria, with their prize tulips, right.

Sunny Ballymoney

CAMPBILL Ballymoney is the youngest of Ireland's communities. We started here in April 2008 with two houses and people mainly from Camphill Duffcarrig. We are lucky to live close to the beach in the sunny east of Ireland - when it's not raining!

Ballymoney started as an outreach from Camphill Duffcarrig to the locality but within a short time grew to be an independent impulse. We still like to see ourselves as brothers to Duffcarrig which is only 15 minutes walk away. We share our local committee, have a weekly study group and sometimes meet each other socially for festivals and celebrations.

In our two craft workshops - basketry and felting - some friends from Duffcarrig join us for work in the mornings. The crafts are an important aspect of our life and in the future we would like to open our workshops to people outside the com-

Ballymoney community shares life in two houses in the middle of the seaside village.



munity. Our basket maker, Renate, already gives workshops in our basketry and is also invited to give workshops around the area. Our craft items, and Duffcarrig's, are sold in the local farmers market.

During the summer we facilitate workshops open to the public such as boat building, puppetry and music. We also have a small estate team and a small vegetable garden.

We still live in two houses and hope to expand to three in the very near future.

Right now we are seven co-workers and four residents and we would like to welcome new comers to our community.

Our houses are right in the middle of the village of Ballymoney and we see our main task here to "bring" Camphill to our neighbours. It sometimes feels like we are not only life sharing with one another in the community, but with the village itself!

One of our biggest projects is planning and fundraising for a craft and coffee shop which will be built on our land. It will be another way for us to reach out to the people around us and for them to be a part of the life we live. We hope the coffee shop will be a meeting place for our neighbours, seaside visitors and our friends from Duffcarrig. In winter, when there are not many tourists around, we want to facilitate different workshops and lectures, a book club, mothers and toddlers group, etc.

Among the many fundraising events for our coffee shop, the women of our community took part in the Mini Marathon on June Bank holiday in Dublin.

Ballymoney, like all Camphill communities in Southern Ireland, is going through a transition period, finding out what legal structure and human support network we would like to have. As a new community we feel the need to confirm our identity and our aspirations.

We are full of hope for the future.

Noa Besor.

New community for older people planned for Thornbury

THE SUPPORT of people throughout Camphill is being sought for the development of a new community for older people at Camphill Communities Thornbury.

Following a meeting in the Stroud area in June, a carrying group has been formed to move plans forward and seek the funding to make the venture possible. The aim is to create a residential community at Thornbury on the Sheiling School campus catering for older co-workers, Camphill community members with learning disabilities and people from the locality.

The community could consist of around 35 two- and three-bedroomed flats built around a care centre, restaurant and garden. It will be an 'extra-care' community which means people live in their own homes and receive the level of care they need as they grow older without having to leave their home, the community or their friends.

People living in the new community will be able to buy their home, rent it or part buy/part rent in shared ownership. The flats will be of high quality with a kitchen area, living room and bathroom, and most will have verandas.

The cost of a shared ownership flat is estimated at about £97,000 for a 60% share of a 125-year lease. Mortgage interest for retired co-workers over 75 with little income and for people with learning disabilities would be paid by the government with no capital repayment until the flat is sold. Rent for the remaining 40% share

would be covered by housing benefit for those eligible.

So people without assets of their own will be able to buy and live in their own flats. Those with some capital will also be able to buy the flats.

"We are making the space available for the new community but we need the project to be taken up by Camphill as a whole," says Tom Burns of Camphill Communities Thornbury. "We recently had a meeting with trustees of the Wayfarer Trust, set up by Peter Berger who has longstanding ties with Camphill, to discuss funding and he is very strongly behind the venture. Jeannie Carlson from Simeon Care is also helping with input. Our consultant, Andrew Shadrake from Climate Positive, has been researching the financial feasibility of the project."

It will take time to design, obtain funding and build, but the first community members could be arriving in 2-3 years time. The flats will be designed to suit the people who will live in them and at a price they can afford, so the carrying group wants to hear ideas from potential residents about the look of the centre and its facilities.

To support this new Camphill community for older people contact Tom Burns on 01454 423884 or email tom.burns@camphill.net

Croft's top tulip growers

A GROUP of gardeners from The Croft Community has won a first prize at one of the UK's top horticultural shows.

The group of seven, who are studying for a National Proficiency Test Council certificate in hor-



ticulture, won with three tulip flowers at the Harrogate Spring Flower Show in April. Here's their story.

"Last October we decided to grow tulips to show at Harrogate. We chose the varieties Teletubby, which is orangey red, and Toyota which is dark pink with a white edge because they are tall showy tulips with strong stems.

They were planted in rows in the vegetable garden in November. We planted more tulips in deep containers in the courtyard - World's Peace (pink-peach), World's Favourite (reddish with a yellow edge and base) and more Toyota.

The long, cold winter held back the tulips and by the time of the show those in the vegetable garden were not ready. Fortunately the tulips in the containers were, and we selected flowers for the show. We entered Class 10 - three tulips any other colour one variety and Class 13 - three tulips any colour, entries restricted to those who had not previously won a first prize.

The day after staging, Thursday 22 April, we travelled to the show and were delighted to find we had won first prize in Class 10. We enjoyed looking at other exhibits in the show including daffodils, flower arranging and garden design."

JOINING THE SOCIAL WORK ADVISORY TEAM

POLLY Sykes and Maureen Lindsay have joined the Camphill England & Wales Social Work Advisory Team, Northern Region.

Both previously worked for North Yorkshire County Council. Polly was based in Harrogate as a Transitions Manager, helping young people with learning disabilities to find future directions after leaving college. She is also an accomplished beekeeper and plays in her local brass band.

Maureen was a care manager in North Yorkshire for over 10 years and has worked closely with Camphill during that time.

To prepare for working in Camphill she climbed Mount Kilimanjaro last spring!

Their enthusiasm and expertise will be valuable and helpful to communities and to those wishing to join Camphill at this time of transformation as a result of the Personalisation agenda.

You can contact Polly at polly.sykes@camphill.net
Contact Maureen at Maureen.lindsay@camphill.net



Polly Sykes.



Maureen Lindsay.

Renewing community at Chisty Klyuchi

CAMPBILL Village Chisty Klyuchi will open in Russia this autumn. Remco van der Plaats, a member of the founding group, explains how it came into being.

Lubov Grigoryevna met us with a radiant smile. "Well, here it is," she said, with a sweeping gesture of her hand.

Lubov is mother of Lena Pegov, one of the founders of the Waldorf School in Smolensk. What she shows us is the small village of Peresvetovo where she lives. The village's name means something like "Beyond the Light" and it is situated 30km east of the city of Smolensk, near the western border of Russia on the road from Moscow to Berlin.

Peresvetovo is surrounded by gentle hills and small rivers. It is very quiet. The village has its own train station and 20 or so small houses, often with only two rooms. They are spread out with empty spaces between where there used to be

more houses, a school, a chicken factory and a hospital. Through these empty spaces we see farmland that's becoming overgrown with birch trees and bushes - land longing for care and healing.

Here, in 2007, destiny showed us, after a seven-year search, the place where a long-held wish will be fulfilled: the founding of a Camphill village, now called Chisty Klyuchi. This means "Clear Springs", the clear source of inspiration for our striving, which can become a source of life. But "Klyuchi" also means "Keys" - the true key to each person.

At Lubov Grigoryevna's house we are warmly received. She shows us her vegetable garden that she still manages by herself, using the principles of biodynamic agriculture. We drink tea and listen to stories of the past. In World War II there were times when they did not know who was in charge that day, the Russians or the Germans. Even more amazing were the stories of collective farming life during the rule of Stalin and his successors. For their own cow people were only allowed to rip grass by hand, without any tool. During and after the war ploughing had to be done by human power, and as most men were away, women and children pulled the plough. During the 1960s, life became better and the collective farm provided

work and a meaningful life. But after Perestroika, the collective was closed, people left the village and alcoholism developed.

For Russia, a renewal of the community impulse is very important. The high ideals of freedom, equality and brotherhood had been discredited as tools in the hands of a dictatorial system. But the Russian people have a natural ability in the social sphere. At the basis of life there lies a barely conscious awareness that we all depend on one another. Camphill's approach to community could contribute to the healing of social life.

Thanks to Lubov Grigoryevna and her daughter, we were soon well accepted. We were offered land at a low price in the hope that we will have a positive influence on the development of the diminishing village.

So in 2008 we bought 2ha and started building our first house in 2009. In spring we began finishing the house so that it can be furnished, connected to the utilities and ready to receive the first residents in the autumn. The Camphill Northern Region recognised our initiative as belonging to the Camphill Movement in 2009. We have a core group of four - Zinaida Levina and myself, both with experience in Camphill in Scotland and Holland; Olga Dolgova, a psychologist and special pedagogue; and Katya Zjukova, eurythmist and curative



educator.

There is support from parents and potential co-workers and we have a group of young people supporting the work practically by making a website, finding volunteers for building work and so on.

And Lena and her husband Volodya Pegov of the Smolensk Waldorf School give a lot of support and are looking forward to fruitful cooperation.

In Russian society, the position of people with special needs is not yet secure. Many adults live in conditions unworthy for any human - without work, without possibility for further development. With often only two or four staff members for 50-70 people, even physical care is on a low level.

A spiritual understanding of the human being can give a firm foundation for a true recognition of each individual. In Russia there should be places where people can experience this working of the spirit in practical activity. We hope we can make Chisty Klyuchi such a place.

Ready to start work on the new community are Olga Dolgova, Zinaida Levina, Natalya Ovchinnikova, Viktor and Lubov Grigoryevna.

Roofing the community's first house continued despite the winter snow.



The site of the new community in the village of Peresvetovo.

Elder Care initiative takes off in the USA

AN AMBITIOUS \$22 million Camphill project in the USA, to offer community-based care for older people, gets off the ground this year when building work begins at Camphill Ghent, New York



The Camphill Ghent site (left) has plans for lakeside housing (below).

State. When completed, it will become a model for elder care communities around the state and the country.

Camphill Village USA, at Copake, has been planning the new community for several years. It has secured funding of \$9.6 million from the New York State Department of Health as the project will lessen the burden on Medicaid and state taxpayers.

Camphill Ghent may also receive funding from the US federal government - a first for any Camphill project in the USA. New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand has requested \$6.4 million of federal funding for the initiative because it is based on the already successful Camphill model, will allow people to stay out of nursing homes for as long as possible and offers medical and informal care giving in a community that honours elders. Congressman Scott Murphy has also submitted a request for \$250,000.

The new community aims to honour and explore the meaning of ageing within a culture of celebrating life. It will offer a mutually supportive environment to include older people of differing degrees of frailty and ability, together with support and care co-workers and their families. So the community will span the generations.

Plans for the 110-acre site, 25 miles from Copake, include three houses where the most frail members of the community will live

with their care givers, 23 co-housing apartments where residents will actively participate in the operation of their own neighbourhood and support services - including looking out for each other or conducting neighbourly activities on an as-needed basis - and 10 independent housing units for older people who wish to live independently, but who may, over time, need some assistance to remain independent.

It will be a community where those in their elder years may continue to be engaged with community life and maintain their independence for as long as possible. Residents will include people from Camphill Village and other Camphill communities as well as people from the surrounding area. Over the summer the team co-ordinating the project has been bringing the plans and funding streams together so that all the funds are in place for the sitework to begin before the winter.

Contact penny.robertsbaring@camphill.net if you are interested in joining Camphill Ghent as a co-worker.



Poland repairs after flood disaster

THANKS to the help of Camphill supporters in the UK, the Camphill community at Wojtowka (pronounced 'Vo-toof-ka') Poland has been repairing and renewing after a disastrous flood in March 2009.

It was after 10 days of rain and a tremendous thunderstorm that the community's 10 residents and their co-workers became alarmed. "At about half ten at night we heard this tremendous rushing sound, with the sound of rocks smashing together," explained Aleksandra Mossakowska who founded the community with her husband in 1991.

"When we ran outside in the darkness we saw the river bursting its banks and going everywhere. It was terrifying." The result was one house flooded with sewage and filthy water, both bridges to the community badly damaged, damage to the electricity supply so that the community had to rely on candles and torches for light for days on end when it rained or snowed, a contaminated water supply needing every drop of water to be boiled, the mini-bus damaged beyond repair and the village green and vegetable garden washed away and the area covered with rocks and contaminated with sewage.

Now, thanks to their own hard work, help from the Polish authorities and fundraising by the Camphill Family - the fundraising office of the Camphill Village Trust - the damage is being repaired and the Wojtowka community is settling down to normal life again.

Restoring a clean water supply was a priority with all the water pipes cleaned at the community's expense.

The power problem is being rectified by installing a back-up generator so that even if the local supply fails there will still be light in the houses.

One of the damaged bridges has been replaced and work to replace the second one is planned. The community also plans to widen and deepen the riverbed so that in the future it is less likely to flood and a barrier of gabions (rock-filled metal cages) will protect the houses from future floods. The area

used for plays and community social events is being rebuilt, and now that rocks have been cleared from the garden fresh soil will replace contaminated soil the community can have home-grown vegetables again. Finally the flood-damaged mini-bus has been replaced by a new one so that everyone can have group holidays again.

The Camphill Family appeal on behalf of Wojtowka earlier this year brought a tremendous response from supporters.

As well as making donations, they also sent messages of goodwill and support.

"Now we have enough to repair everything properly," said Aleksandra, "and we know we're not alone and people truly care."



Aleksandra: "We know that people truly care."



The flood broke the river banks, made the bridges unsafe, flooded the house and destroyed the vegetable garden.



Now a new bridge has been built and river banks have been repaired.



Tourmaline – from the beginning

OPENED in 2003, the Tourmaline Day Centre, Moscow, is now affiliated to the Camphill northern region. *Rudolf Grigoryan*, the centre's director, tells its story.



Mealttime (left) for Tourmaline's children. Below left: A painting class at the Tourmaline Day Centre, Moscow. Below right: A picnic in the woods.



The founders of Tourmaline were Remco van der Plaats and his wife Zinaida Levina who lived in Camphill communities in Aberdeen, where they met, and later were part of Camphill in Holland. So the basis of Tourmaline is Camphill ideas, but they didn't call it Camphill.

Many of us didn't know Camphill when we came to Tourmaline. Now Tourmaline is affiliated to Camphill.

When Remco and Zinaida came to Moscow in 1993 they worked with curative education bodies and soon organised the



Ita Wegman curative education seminar. After 10 years in Moscow came the opportunity to create Tourmaline.

Initially Tourmaline was for adults but we soon had requests from the parents of severely handicapped children. These children were not accepted anywhere else so we try to give them basic education and prepare them for full school. Nevertheless some of them stay with us.

To begin with, for adults, we had a candle workshop, weavery and pottery – and later started a woodwork shop.

Since opening on April 29, 2003, Tourmaline has been the only anthroposophical centre in Moscow for adults offering the opportunity for work. When we started we had nine participants and seven co-workers; now there are 41 participants - 31 adults and 10 children from 6-17 years old. Everyone comes at 10am and leaves at 5pm. As well as the workshops, we celebrate festivals, create plays, dance, have walks and excursions, and go for outings in the forest. All these contribute considerably to our social life.

Our funding comes from grants from the Moscow government, international foundations and private gifts, including the parents of our participants. Everyone, from the director to the cleaning lady is paid the same daily rate and we have a social fund for co-workers needing extra support.

Our centre occupies part of the ground floor and a basement in a nine-storey block of flats. The basement was not really suitable for our work and used mostly for storage although we organised a woodwork shop there. The building really needed refurbishment but we couldn't get help from its owner, the Moscow government.

After a lot of articles in newspapers, magazines and programmes on TV, and many letters, our problems were recognised by the President of Russia's office. Last October there was a video conference between a counsellor of the President of Russia, the Moscow government and Tourmaline. It was recognised that the work which Tourmaline does is unique and our building is to be refurbished.

So now work has started so that we can use all of the space. We would like to have more workshops so that we can offer participants greater opportunities for work so that they may realise their potential.

WORKING TOGETHER TO MEET LOCAL NEEDS

CAMPBILL communities in the Lake Constance area of Southern Germany are pooling their resources and expertise to meet local needs more effectively.

In the past, each of the centres operated individually. However, in the last five years they have come together as Camphill Schulgemeinschaften e.V. in an association of Camphill schools, communities and services for people with and without disabilities.

Now, instead of offering competing services, their administrative and educational employees, as well as therapists, work together to offer services for children, young people and adults who live, learn and work in the Camphill communities and the locality.

The communities involved are Brachenreutte, Bruckfelden, Föhrenbühl and SKID. Camphill Brachenreutte is focussing its efforts on early

childhood intervention and guidance as well as a kindergarten for about 80 children. Pupils then move on to the community's school and training school where they gain practical experience.

Camphill Bruckfelden works with more than 50 trainees aged 16 to 24 years old. This includes a group of young people who show severe psychiatric symptoms and need special support.

At Camphill Föhrenbühl there are more than 130 pupils in an integrated Waldorf kindergarten and school. The community also offers therapies and support for severely disabled people.

The services offered by the group of communities is completed by SKID which provides supported living and working, as well as integrating adults with special needs into the community. SKID has three houses in Überlingen, where young adults live with the assistance of support workers with the aim of living independently in the future. They learn life skills for home - cooking, cleaning, etc. - and for work, such as getting the right bus.

Because all the communities are part of the association, young people from all of them can get practical experience in their various enterprises including a café, grocery stores, restaurant, art park and studio, mobile catering, painting, gardening, courier service, wood work and art work.

This association of communities aims to share expertise and has launched a training course for future employees in curative education and elder care nursing. Employees also have opportunities for advanced training and those with disabilities in the communities can take courses too.

Employees can also rotate their jobs to widen their experience and gain new skills. And centralising aspects of administration is making the communities more efficient and effective.

However, the main focus remains the well-being of the children, young people and adults who are at the centre of all Camphill Schulgemeinschaften's activities.



Meet some of our participants

WHEN WE started Tourmaline, Sergei was our first participant. He was 14 and had lived most of his life in a state residential home for handicapped children. He had little experience of the world around him and every week with us he discovered something new: the trains, the camping fire, the plants and animals. There were difficulties yet he has become a helpful and lively young man of 21. Sometimes we wonder about his natural inborn dignity and he is also brave! Despite severe epilepsy, he travels alone by public transport, including the underground. He worked in the candle workshop for years and can give good guidance for visitors and new workers.

Our second participant was Petja. As a child he was hyperactive and could study only with his mother who became a curative teacher herself. Petja had spent most of the time with his grandmother while his mother was working as a remedial teacher at the state special school. He watched TV and would call the emergency services to send them

to places shown on TV programmes. As a result he was taken to a police station and then to a mental clinic where he had very drastic experiences. When he came to Tourmaline he didn't want to go home in the evening and hid himself under the tables. Today he is one of the most generous potters.

Artjom was 13 when he came to class 6 in Tourmaline. He could not remember his teacher's name and called himself "you". Now, at 18, he's a lively talker, sings and recites poems. When we celebrated a birthday of a participant with quite

severe conditions, and people didn't know what to say, Artjom said: "I wish you a lot of light!"

How to describe Tourmaline? The students from Moscow pedagogical university who come here say: "From the noisy dangerous rushing city we just cross the threshold of the building and find ourselves in another planet full of love, humour and human understanding."

And... I wish you a lot of light!

Zinaida Levina

Artjom.



Caring hearts in Belarus

WHEN CHRIS Taylor, a co-worker at Camphill Carrick on Suir, and a colleague, Tony Whittle, joined a fact-finding mission to Belarus with the Burren Chernobyl Project, the trip convinced them that there was a great need for the kind of work that Camphill does. This is Chris's story.

In Belarus the orphanages and institutions are overcrowded, badly maintained and severely underfunded. The Burren Chernobyl Project found a huge gap that needed to be filled and became involved in the care of intellectually disabled children, from babies to 18 year olds. After 18, children move on to adult institutions which are very grim places - there is no way out, no education, no stimulation, no therapies and few workshops. People are simply locked away, gradually becoming zombies. They have no personal possessions, not even a pencil. Everything they have comes from humanitarian aid, and even when equipment is donated, there is often no-one with the time or skills to use it. Having seen the need, I felt driven to use my time and skill to help in any way possible.

A visit to Cherwen Orphanage revealed a new building housing 350 children with

disabilities. Although the building is provided by the state, equipment and supplies generally come from humanitarian aid. Cherwen has no teachers for its young people, but there is one physical therapist paid by the Burren Chernobyl Project.

Traditionally, disabled children in Belarus are institutionalised at an early age. Aware of the conditions their children endure, a group of parents from Beresnov looked for another way. They started the Caring Hearts organisation and want to open their own day centre, run by volunteers with help from outside agencies. This will allow them to educate their children while caring for them at home. Phase 1 is to be a therapy and day centre; phase 2 will be a small residential community. The Burren Chernobyl Project and I had found a worthy cause.

Already, a suitable property (pictured below) has been found and co-workers in Camphill Ireland are raising the 25-30,000 Euros needed to buy and refurbish it. As fundraising goes on, we expect to be able to complete the purchase in the near future.

I returned to Belarus in February. Thanks to donations from pharmacies in Carrick on Suir, I was able to

The Cherwen orphanage.



take some essential medical supplies. During the trip we worked with many of the

young people in Cherwen Orphanage, including feeding them, helping with exercise and physical therapy, or just playing and socialising with them - activities that the state workers don't have the time or training to do.

When my colleague, Mike and I took a small group of older children to the market to buy some food, we quickly realised that not only had they never eaten ice-cream before, but they had never even been outside the institution before!

My colleagues and I will be making return trips to work with the children and young adults in the orphanage, as well as helping Caring Hearts to set up their day care centre.

Volunteers and funds are badly needed and vastly appreciated. Donations to help change lives in Belarus, can be sent to Chris Taylor, Camphill Community, Castle Street, Carrick on Suir. Co Tipperary, Ireland.



Mike Hailey helping in the orphanage.



ANY QUESTIONS?

Members of Camphill communities in the south east of England will have the opportunity to put questions to political and business leaders when BBC Radio 4's 'Any Questions?' is broadcast from Camphill Milton Keynes on 17th December. The programme will be held in the community's Chrysalis Theatre and co-hosted with Camphill East Anglia, Camphill St Albans and Delrow Community. The programme, chaired by Jonathan Dimbleby, is part of the celebration of Camphill's 70th anniversary and Camphill Milton Keynes' 30th.

DEGREE CHANGE

The BA (Hons) degree offered by Aberdeen University in association with Camphill School Aberdeen and other Camphill communities has changed its title from BA (Hons) in Curative Education to BA (Hons) in Social Pedagogy. The change has been made because the term 'curative education' has medical, diagnostic and school based connotations resulting in misunderstandings regarding the training offered and the professional capabilities of the graduating students.

Social pedagogy is defined as a holistic professional activity integrating elements of care, education, therapeutic and creative activities in the work with children and adults with complex needs, acknowledging the importance of relationship and social interaction in promoting healthy development and life.

A FILM MAKER WRITES

'Where on Earth is Heaven' is the title of a book about his life by film maker and friend of Camphill, Jonathan Stedall, who has brought subjects to the TV screen as diverse as Camphill, Guardian cartoonist of the liberal middle classes Posy Simmonds, Ghandi, Tolstoy and Michael Portillo. And the book's dedication is to poet John Betjeman and Dr Thomas Weihs, one of Camphill's founders. DVDs of Jonathan's three Camphill films - 'In Need of Special Care' for which he won a British Film Academy award, 'Candle on the Hill' and 'An Independent Life' can be obtained from the Camphill Literature Service, Hazelseat, Graythwaite, Ulverston LA12 8BB or contact by email viviangriffiths@talktalk.net

2010 DIRECTORY

It's 48 pages long, covers countries as far away as Canada and Russia, lists more than 100 communities with all their various initiatives and projects, and has a cover in Post Office red! The new International Camphill Directory includes every Camphill place in the world. It was published in April by the Association of Camphill Communities and sent around the world, with a bit of help from the Botton Bookshop. It is available from the Camphill Literature Service, details above.

GUILD VISIT

Around 30 members and guests from the ancient Burgesses Guild of the City of Aberdeen marked the 70th anniversary of Camphill with an evening visit to Camphill School Aberdeen. They heard about the history of Camphill, the ethos of care and respect for people and the natural environment, and future plans. During a tour of Murtle, accompanied by some of the school's students, the visitors learnt more about the work of this centre for special needs education.

NEW Pages Weblinks

Find out more about the Camphill communities and stories featured in this issue by visiting the new Camphill Pages weblinks page at www.camphill.org.uk/PagesLinks. There are links to and contact details for the communities and stories in this issue.

We'd like to hear from you

Make sure your story is in the next issue of Pages by contacting us with your news and pictures.

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Pennine students' 100% success rate

THE INTRODUCTION of a new range of national qualifications for students with disabilities attending the specialist college of further education at Pennine Camphill Community, Wakefield, has proved so successful that all students received certificates at the end-of-year graduation ceremony in July.

The 37 residential and day students attending the college, gained 36 ASDAN qualifications and 8 NVQs. Pennine Camphill Community, which has a 3 Star Excellent rating from the Care Quality Commission, offers young people with moderate to severe and complex learning disabilities the opportunity to develop skills for the next stages of their lives. It began piloting the ASDAN qualifications with its students three years ago. The programme proved so successful with the initial group that it was decided to offer all students the opportunity to achieve validation of their work through ASDAN.

"The value of these qualifications to our

students is that they allow them to express their levels of achievement by demonstrating interest, competence, understanding and ability without academic work or even reading and writing," explained the college's Catherine Taylor. "As a Camphill college it's something we've always wanted as our aim is to find what interests our students, what they can achieve with support, and then encourage them to develop greater independence so that they need less support.

"Through ASDAN our students can now gain nationally recognised qualifications to show how far they have progressed."

At Pennine, learning is not just a 9am to 5pm activity but takes place in all areas of the students' lives. Most students are residents, so in the houses they gain social and independent living skills. In the college's workshops, garden and on the land, work-related skills are learned including transferable skills such as working as part

of a group and taking responsibility for your own work. Leisure activities also provide learning experiences whether it's taking part in a festival celebration at the college or accessing leisure activities locally and farther afield.

"Introducing the ASDAN qualifications has refocused the way we look at our students' learning plans and is helping them to achieve more," said Catherine. "For example, one student took

A drumming lesson out in the summer sunshine.



First year students made this huge collage.

his portfolio to a Leeds further education college and he has been offered a further course there.

"The qualifications and the way our students are now learning will help them achieve more when they leave us. They also show our funders what the students here are achieving."

Among the success stories is a young man who has moved on to supported accommodation. He was able to sign his own lease and his ASDAN course included subjects such as budgeting and how to use advocacy services. Gaining his qualification contributed to a smooth transition to his new life.

Another student's aim on leaving Pennine was to live in her own home and work in a charity shop. Her course has helped her realise those ambitions and as well as having her own home she has obtained work in two charity shops and is to attend a further education college to gain a Level 2 NVQ.

Farming with the Camphill community at Botton Village, North Yorkshire, was the aim of a third student and his three-year programme at Pennine was designed to equip him with the necessary skills to achieve that.

"Through the introduction of ASDAN qualifications there is a greater focus on learning," Catherine said.

It is an approach that is proving highly successful and with the students achieving a 100% success rate.



Monster help at Dunshane

A MONSTER group of Monster Helpers descended on Camphill Dunshane, Co Kildare, for one day in May and completed a monster amount of work in a very short time.

The 40 members of AOL staff left their computer screens and keyboards to join in the worldwide volunteering day by employees of the internet service company to celebrate its 25th anniversary. At Dunshane, houses were spring-cleaned, window frames were painted, the secret garden was brought back to a civilised state, a poly-tunnel was filled with compost and cultivated, garden walls were de-ivyed and the garden was weeded. All that deserved a good lunch... and a good lunch was had!

The Monster Helpers enjoyed their day and Dunshane enjoyed having them and is very grateful for all the work done. Some of them, it seems, may become regular visitors to the community.



POETRY CORNER

Joanna joined the Croft Community from Pennine Camphill Community earlier in the year. She's a talented writer and wrote a lovely poem for Whitsuntide which she'd like to share with Pages readers.



WHITSUN
White is the sun that shines
White is the dove that carries peace
White is the cloud that carries Christ

Out of the whiteness comes colour
It flies and flutters then it disappears
Then it changes to a flame and chases
around until everything is pastel colours
Then it dies and all is left is the white sun

Families & Friends News

CAMPHILL Families and Friends aims to circulate information and raise awareness of current issues that affect Camphill residents and their families. We exchange information through regional meetings, newsletters and Camphill Pages.

We keep members informed on current funding and policy issues through support from the Camphill Social Work Advisory Team.

As a voluntary organisation, membership is free although a donation of £5 per person or £10 per family will help to cover our administration costs. You can request a membership form from our secretary or download from our web pages. Contact details can be found at the end of this column.

Challenges

AT OUR winter meeting at the Sheiling School, Thornbury, we were fortunate to have as our speaker Andrew Plant, a co-worker from Milltown Community, Aberdeenshire. His subject was Challenges to Camphill in which he reviewed some of his research into how change is affecting Camphill communities.

Society's and the state's attitudes to learning disability had changed greatly, he said, leading to much greater emphasis in Camphill on enablement and on the individual. Amid all the changes it was essential to preserve a balance between the rights of the individual and the responsibilities that come with living in a community, and also to maintain and to foster the mutual relationships, based on sharing and learning from each other, that are such a defining feature of Camphill.

Camphill is 70 this year, very resilient and capable of dealing with its challenges both internal and external, he said. Responses to some of the internal challenges included Community Development Workshops; new guidelines on accountability and good governance, new training opportunities to bring in a new generation of co-workers and managers; and the development of more provision for elder care.

Responses to external challenges could be seen in several Scottish examples: the establishment of Camphill Scotland had opened up communication with the Scottish Executive and other organisations, as well as guiding and informing Camphill communities through the process of adaptation. Other initiatives were publicising social research to raise awareness of Camphill, creating community building and other conferences for Camphill and like-minded groups and developing a range of educational and social initiatives.

Andrew said these responses were an affirmation of transformation and renewal in Camphill showing a commitment to learning new community skills and a more confident collaboration with society and the state.

You can download Andrew's full paper at <http://tiny.cc/onrnf>

Contact

You can contact families and friends by email at family.friends@camphill.net or visit our web page at www.camphill.org.uk/familiesandfriends

Do get in touch soon and help us broaden our efforts in bringing families and friends together to promote and protect the spirit of Camphill.

Dear Camphill Pages,

I just want to tell you about Me – Hannah. I live at Glasallt Fawr in a house with three other residents. I do weaving, farming, cooking, baking, bottle feed the lambs – we have eight of them – and I do arts and craft.

I also go to college in Carmarthen. In college I am doing a computer course. I also attend drama and art therapy as well as type the house shopping list and food menus. I also do a lot of cleaning, such as my room, the Farm House and Community Centre.

Monday night we go to the pub; Tuesday we go to Gateway social club; Wednesday swimming and beauty night for the girls, boys listen to music; Thursday is sports night at Llandovery College or aerobics; Friday is community DVD night and supper; shopping on Saturday and Bible supper, and on Sunday we have the Farm House DVD night and church.

Yours sincerely,
Hannah



Foundation helps build Camphill holiday cottage

IN FEBRUARY, the Camphill Foundation trustees held their meeting at Seahorses, the Camphill guesthouse on the Isle of Wight.

Plans and the beginning of construction work for the new Studio Cottage were viewed. The trustees could see the potential offered by the addition of this self-catering cottage to the guest house and were happy to help financially with this exciting venture.

Boris Moscoff from Seahorses tells the story of Studio Cottage:

"We have just opened a new much-needed self-catering facility named Studio Cottage. Sited between the main house and the art studio, it used to be an old stable block which we used for storage. Building work began in February after

securing funding from various sources, including the Camphill Foundation for which we are very grateful. The Foundation was also very helpful around eight years ago with a loan to help build the art studio.

The self-catering Studio Cottage gives us more flexible accommodation, allowing family and other groups to be more independent. It also offers more single room possibilities, which is a growing need.

Studio Cottage has three bedrooms plus a sofa-bed in the lounge, and is completely self-contained. It got its name not only because it is sited near the art studio, but also because all the paintings and other artwork exhibited in the cottage will be for sale! And holiday makers will be welcome to use the art studio, with or without tuition.

The cottage is ideal for Camphill groups and has its own fenced garden making it suitable for small children and pets. A few minutes walk away is a public footpath which connects to a network of island footpaths."

● Call Brenda and Boris Moscoff at Seahorses on 01983 752574

or visit www.seahorsesisleofwight.com

● To contact the Camphill Foundation for assistance with a community project or to offer a donation or bequest:

call 01224 868701

email camphill.foundation@camphill.net

or visit www.camphill.org.uk/~foundation

At the official opening of Studio Cottage on the Isle of Wight.



Richard Woolrych

WHENEVER A CD arrived in a very recycled envelope with a Hertford postmark, I always knew there would be no shortage of photos for the next issue of the Voices insert in Camphill Pages.

The CD would be from Richard Woolrych containing presentations of photographs taken and voice recordings made by members of Camphill communities. Richard always made sure I had all the photographs available, so the CD might contain hundreds!

Richard passed away on 23 July this year but his work since 2001 with the Camphill Families & Friends advocacy project, then ACT – Advocacy, Consultancy and Training, and more recently in concentrating on Photovoice, helped many people in Camphill find a new voice and new ways of expressing themselves.

A social worker who had previously worked in Salford, Oldham and Hertfordshire, Richard became involved with Camphill through the Families & Friends Advocacy Project.

His role was to provide advice and support for individuals, families and communities, including helping Camphill residents and potential residents and their parents negotiate with local authorities on placements and funding.

Richard had been helping disadvantaged people to use photography as a way of expressing themselves for more than 20 years, and he brought the idea of Photovoice to Camphill. Soon, with Richard's help, one young man who wanted to live at Newton Dee persuaded a reluctant social services department at a case review meeting by presenting photographs he'd taken.

Then photographs taken by Camphill community members in Photovoice workshops

with Richard became the basis for a series of local 'Getting Together' conferences. The photographs helped residents from different communities to exchange views and ideas on community living. A national conference at Oxford in 2003 was followed by others at The Grange in 2004, Milton Keynes in 2006, Ludlow in 2007 and Derbyshire in 2008.

Richard was involved in all of these, often to be found in a corner or side room, with camera, laptop and microphone, recording what the conference participants wanted to say about their pictures.

Richard helped many people to speak with pictures including assisting community residents to express how they wanted their communities to develop. He also guided residents at Newton Dee in creating a Photovoice presentation expressing their opposition to a road plan which would have disrupted their lives.

Richard's invaluable legacy to Camphill can be seen in the way that our community members are now better able to express themselves and make

their voices heard – often in photos.

Richard suffered from pulmonary fibrosis in the year before his death. His funeral was at the Epping Forest woodland burial park.

Sandy Cox.

● A memorial service will be held at the Quaker Meeting House, 50 Railway Street, Hertford SG14 1BA on 16 October at 1.00pm (tea/coffee available from noon). There will be music afterwards followed by refreshments at the Salisbury Arms. Anyone from Camphill is warmly invited. Please contact Richard's niece Emma Rawson so she has an idea of numbers on emma.rawsonlax@btinternet.com

Donations to Médecins sans Frontières, in Richard's memory, can be made to funeral directors Austins of Hertford, tel 01992 582052.



Friedwart Bock

FRIEDWART BOCK dedicated his entire adult life - from the age of 21 to his death on 23 May at the age of 81 - to the work of Camphill and, in particular, to the Camphill Schools in Aberdeen.



During that time he was a house parent and a teacher as well as acting as a tutor on Camphill training courses in many countries. He also became the keeper of Camphill's history and the legacy of material left by Camphill's founder, Dr Karl König.

Friedwart was born in Stuttgart in 1928, the third child of Emil and Grete Bock. His father was a priest and one of the founders of the Christian Community, who also established the School for Social Work with Dr König in Eisenbach in 1932. The Christian Community was banned by the Nazis in 1941 and Emil Bock, by then its leader, was sent to a concentration camp although he was released the following year.

Friedwart was called up for anti-aircraft battery duties in 1944 then sent into the paramilitary work service for almost a year before joining the army only days before the end of the war.

Back in Stuttgart he helped reinstate the burnt-out Waldorf School before resuming his education there. In 1949 he spent a short time at Camphill in Aberdeen and on his return to Stuttgart enrolled at the Technical College to study geology, zoology and biology in order to become a teacher at Camphill.

Working with children in need of special care and living in a Camphill community was Friedwart's chosen path, along which he was accompanied by his wife Nora. They met soon after Friedwart came to Camphill and during their life together they acted as houseparents at all the estates of the Camphill School community. Friedwart was co-founder of the St John's School and a long-standing class teacher who never retired, teaching children and mentoring co-workers until the end of his life.

He was instrumental in the development of the Camphill Schools, Aberdeen, as well as being a central figure in the growth of Camphill internationally throughout his life.

His long involvement made him a living archive of Camphill's history. As a trustee of the Karl König Archive he was committed to ensuring that Camphill's historical legacy should not be ignored. He edited Dr König's biography and *The Builders of Camphill*, and most recently contributed the chapter on the history and development of Camphill for *A Portrait of Camphill*.

All in the Camphill Movement have good cause to celebrate his life and mourn his death.

Books in celebration

TWO BOOKS have been published to celebrate Camphill's 70th year.

Portrait of Camphill: From Founding Seed to Worldwide Movement,

edited Jan Martin Bang, draws together 26 contributors to cover the history, development and future of Camphill. It brings the reader right up to date, exploring today's Camphill communities all around the world. With over 200 photographs, this is a book filled with pictures, ideas, memories and stories that honour the past and look to the future, celebrating the story of Camphill. It is published by Floris Books price £20. ISBN 978-086315-741-7

Bertha König: Recollections of My Life is an English translation by Robin Jackson of a memoir by Karl König's mother. A redoubtable, resourceful and resilient woman whose influence upon her son cannot be underestimated, her writing displays a strong sense of mischief, the ingrained rebellious streak and the high degree of fortitude and resolve shown when confronted by misfortune and danger, particularly during the Nazi regime.

Price £12, it is available from the Camphill Bookshop, 199 North Deeside Road, Bieldside, Aberdeen AB15 9EN. Tel: 01224 867611

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