

Camphill Pages

Camphill



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

Winter 2009/10



Sandra enjoys knitting in the weavery at the Croft Community. She knitted the squares that make up these delightful Christmas decorations.

Welcome

IT'S GOOD to be back with you again with another edition of Camphill Pages. And I'm delighted that, once more, we can highlight so many success stories from Camphill communities in the UK and Ireland.

Our main story on this page highlights how the people our communities support are involved in highly successful enterprises. So well done again to all at Loch Arthur and may your successes continue.

Congratulations, too, to KCAT on celebrating their 10th anniversary. There always seems to be a buzz of excitement about everything they do and their birthday spectacular was no exception.

Our Camphill communities are always developing and changing and sometimes these changes go unnoticed. So you may be surprised read our story overleaf telling of how the number of communities in the UK and Ireland has grown by 25 per cent over the past 10 years or so.

The last year has also seen two highly successful inclusive conferences, with the Camphill residents self-advocacy conference sowing ambitious plans for the future. I'm sure such events will guide us into becoming a much more 'user-led' organisation with even stronger foundations for Camphill's future.

With best wishes for 2010,

Andy



Community members are Britain's best organic cheesemakers

"IT MADE me smile," says Vicky, explaining how she felt when she heard that the Loch Arthur Creamery team had achieved one of the highest awards in the cheese industry – the Best Organic Cheese.

Vicky is one of a number of Loch Arthur community members with special needs who are an integral part of the team which produces an annual total of 15 tonnes of hand-made organic cheeses plus yoghurt and butter. Since 1991, their cheeses have won major awards every year, but the latest one was very special.

At the 2009 British Cheese Awards, their Criffel semi-soft organic cheese was one of just 66 out of the total of 900

entries to be awarded a gold medal. It was then judged to be the best of the 102 organic cheeses.

Alistair, another member of the creamery team, was also delighted with the award. "I couldn't believe it when I heard we had won," he says.

Michael has worked in the creamery for a long time and enjoys being involved in an award-winning enterprise. "I've been in magazines and newspapers and on radio and television," he says. "Sometimes the cameras come here."

Loch Arthur is a rural Camphill community at Beeswing, Dumfriesshire, in south west Scotland, which includes men and women with learning disabilities. A total of about 70 people live there including 28 in supported tenancies.

The community's 650 acres are farmed according to bio-



Alistair and Michael are established members of the creamery team and enjoy their part in its success.



These members of the Loch Arthur creamery team are delighted with their latest success.

dynamic principles and the dairy herd provides 60 per cent of the milk used by the creamery. The remainder is bought from local organic farms. Cheese-making takes place on three days each week and the community members on the team have all been involved for some time.

"All are very skilled in their work areas and we really miss someone if they are off sick or away on holiday," says co-worker Barry Graham. "There is no notion here of just giving people something to do. Everyone fulfils an important role in the production of our end products."

Those include Loch Arthur Farmhouse, Crannog and Keibuck, as well as the Criffel cheese. The creamery also produces Ricotta, butter and yoghurt. Ten years ago their Keibuck was judged the Best Scottish Cheese at the British Cheese Awards where they have won numerous other medals. The cheeses are regular award winners at the Royal Highland Show and there are numerous medal cards on display in the Loch Arthur farm shop, which has also received many accolades.

Last year, the farm shop was listed by both the *Independent* and the *Daily Telegraph* as one of the best farm shops in Britain. More recently, in November, a *Scottish Homes & Interiors* magazine food columnist rated it as the best all-round farm shop.

Congratulations to Loch Arthur Community. You can visit and buy their award winning cheeses on line at www.locharthur.org.uk.



There's always a smile from Vicky as she goes about her work.

Camphill gets personal

PERSONALISATION offers Camphill communities the opportunity to think creatively about what they do, how support is delivered and the differences it makes to people's lives.

Now Camphill in England and Wales is developing a personalisation project to help communities have a deeper understanding of personalisation and develop the support they offer to people with learning disabilities to meet individual's needs and government and local authority targets.

Representatives of communities held two meetings in the autumn to initiate the personalisation project. As a result, Phil Gibson has been seconded from the Camphill Social Work Advisory Team to work full-time as the personalisation project manager.

"The important thing to realise," he says, "is that personalisation is not just about individual budgets. It is about transforming the way that support ser-

VICES are offered and provided. For Camphill communities it is about offering flexible and creative support designed around the expressed needs of the people we support.

"There is already a great deal of flexibility in what Camphill offers to meet people's different needs. The project will aim to develop this further so that those working in our communities are able to respond to people's needs and preferences."

Phil says that staff training and development will be one area of the project. Another will be helping communities to build open relationships with commissioners, local authority care managers and the wider community.

The government has set targets for local authorities so that by October

2010 all new and reviewed service users should be offered a personal budget. By April 2011, 30 per cent of all service users should be funded through a personal budget.

"We must ensure that people know about the opportunities available to individuals through the positive lifestyle choices that Camphill communities offer," adds Phil, "and provide the information that will be needed by new applicants and existing supported tenants to manage their budgets."

"The government sees personalisation as a way of re-directing support money to 'good providers'. The Department of Health has stated that there is little future for those who do not offer personalised support.

"I believe that Camphill communities are very good providers and the diverse nature of the communities will allow Camphill to meet the support needs and preferences of a wide range of people."



Phil Gibson.



Students and parents challenge funding decision

STUDENTS WITH learning disabilities at Coleg Elidyr and their parents have successfully challenged a decision of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to end its contract with the college which would have left most of those affected without a suitable or any further education placement.

The Camphill specialist college of further education in Carmarthenshire was stunned in late July when informed by LSC officials that they were ending their contract in three months for existing students and students planning to go to the college in September. No reason was given at the time for ending the contract.

However, following an application to the High Court by a group of students for a Judicial Review of the LSC's decision, the LSC made an out-of-court

settlement in which it agreed to reinstate their funding and the contract with Coleg Elidyr.

In early November, students and parents took their fight for fairness to the House of Commons where they met with MPs from all the major parties and held a press conference. In addition to the LSC's action, they discussed wider problems encountered in seeking residential education places for students with learning disabilities and out-of-county placements.

They met Deputy Speaker Sir Michael Lord (Cons), Julie Kirkbride (Cons), Claire Curtis-Thomas (Lab), and Conservative spokesman on disability Mark Harper. A letter of support was received from Paul Keetch (Lib Dem) and Dawn Primarola (Lab) promised to take up the case of one of

her constituents. Mary Pearson, on behalf of Camphill Families & Friends, reminded attendees that "these vulnerable young people are not sacks of sugar to be moved around carelessly."

Human rights lawyer Gwendolen Morgan of Bindmans LLP, who represented the group of students in their Judicial Review application said: "The LSC's decision to terminate the contract with the claimants' residential college at such short notice was wholly unfair and in flagrant breach of the students' human rights, the LSC's own policy and its statutory duties in relation to disability equality.

"In the settlement, the LSC agreed to set aside its decision to terminate its contract with Coleg Elidyr and will review the position following a proper inspection in early December - the first full inspection in six years. The LSC has agreed to consult with the college, students, parents, Social Services and Connexions before determining any course of action."

The parents of the affected students, while pleased that their legal action was effective in allowing the students to continue at Coleg, are concerned about what future decisions the LSC may make.



Sir Michael Lord MP with constituent Jane Scott, whose son is one of the affected Coleg students.

"What concerns me is that the LSC has said that a college graded as satisfactory is no longer satisfactory, and they need good or outstanding ratings - which is ludicrous," said a parent whose son is one of the students affected. "My son has made good progress at Coleg. Compared with other colleges, it is totally different. It is not judgmental and is a place of acceptance - and when people are accepted for who they are, you get learning."

Camphill grows to meet changing needs

CAMPBILL communities in the UK and Ireland continue to grow, offering an ever increasing network of support for people of all ages with learning disabilities. The latest 'Introduction to Camphill Communities' booklet lists a total of 61 community initiatives compared with 48 just 10 years ago.

The continuing growth of Camphill demonstrates how new forms of community are developing to meet the changing needs and expectations of those with learning disabilities and other special

centres have developed considerably since their establishment and become recognised resources for their localities, others are in their early stages and still seeking funds to develop for the future.

The newest member of the Association of Camphill Communities (AoCC) is Camphill Community Mountshannon in Co Clare. It began life as the Clare Camphill Project in 2006 and now consists of three households in and around Mountshannon. It offers supported life-sharing opportunities for adults through residential and day places and is very much integrated into the local community.

The longest-established of the new projects is the Kilkenny Collective for Arts Talent (KCAT) which set up its art and study centre in a former sausage factory in the town of Callan. It celebrated its 10th birthday last summer when the new KCAT building, replacing the old sausage factory, was formally opened. (See KCAT story opposite).

At Carrick-on-Suir, the Journeyman Programme is developing as a training initiative for young people with learning and physical disabilities. The economic recession has meant that plans for a permanent centre on the edge of the town have had to be put on hold but a new residential programme for older students with high needs began in August.

In addition, new Camphill residential projects for adults have been established at Ballymoney, Co Wexford; Dunlavin, Co Kildare; Callan, Co Kilkenny; Dingle, Co Kerry; Dundrum, Dublin and Thomastown, Co Kilkenny. Some have developed as offshoots of existing communities while others are entirely new communities. All aim to meet the needs and aspirations of local people.

In Scotland, the Pishwanton Project has become a sponsored member of the Association of Camphill Communities.

needs. The most notable changes have taken place in the Republic of Ireland where the number of Camphill centres has doubled over the past decade - from nine to 18.

The new initiatives in Ireland cover a wide spectrum, from education and training for young people and adults to greater integration of those with special needs into their local communities and provision in areas where there has been little available before. While some of these new Camphill

Based on 60 acres in the Borders owned by the Life Science Trust, it is an adult education project based on land work following Biodynamic principles. It is currently non-residential and the intention is to develop a Camphill-style household.

In Wales, Glasallt Fawr Camphill Centre, Carmarthenshire, has developed as an adult residential community on a site formerly part of Coleg Elidyr. Now with five households on a 90-acre farm it also includes semi-independent accommodation as a step towards living independently in the local community.

Nearby, Victoria House in the village of Llangadog provides an environment where former students of Coleg Elidyr may develop and practice social and life skills and become more independent while still getting the support they need.

In England, Gannicox Community, Stroud, Gloucestershire, has become firmly established as part of Camphill. This small community, supporting eight adults with special needs in two households, is part of St Luke's Trust which also includes the St Luke's Medical Practice and Whittingham House for the elderly.

All these new Camphill communities represent only a proportion of the growth in Camphill in the UK & Ireland over recent years. All communities continue to develop to meet changing needs and aspirations. At Taurus Crafts in Gloucestershire, for instance, what began as a non-residential project to provide training and work experience for people with special needs and social disadvantage now includes independent supported living in the town of Lydney. Camphill Community Glencraig, just outside Belfast, opened a new training college for young people with learning disabilities, while Clanabogan Camphill Community, Co Tyrone, now includes a centre for renewable energy.

Many communities have developed new supported living, educational and work opportunities. One of the newest developments is the new household at Milltown Community in Scotland.

An Introduction to Camphill Communities in the UK & Ireland is available from Camphill communities or by post from the Camphill Literature Service, Hazelseat, Graythwaite, Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 8BB. Please enclose a stamped addressed DL or A5 envelope.

Since printing, a few contact details have changed, so the updated booklet is now available as an internet download from www.camphill.org.uk/publications. To update your printed brochure, download the update page from the same web address.



Andrew and Ben (above) enjoying their day at Whitby. Maria's smile (right) says she enjoyed it as did all the group who assembled for a photo on the pier.



Kingfisher's Big Day Out

EVERYONE works so hard in the Kingfisher Cafe in Malton, Yorkshire, that sometimes they need a day off for a trip to the seaside. So in glorious May sunshine, the staff from this cafe, which is part of The Croft Camphill community, did just that and headed for Whitby for some 'quality control' of the local fish and chips.

Andrew, who also works in a local Tofu shop in Malton, was fulsome in his praise of the Whitby cod. "This is the best fish and chips in the world. I could eat two lots!"

Maria and Charlotte also proved to be experts in the art of making fish and chips disappear.

Sandra, Ben, Jamie, Larry, Mark and Katie also enjoyed the trip with Jamie and Mark even climbing to the top of the old lighthouse.

The Kingfisher cafe is an enormous success. It provides a supportive work and training environment where Croft community members can develop work and social skills, with many customers becoming friends.

Laying a new path at Mountshannon made of mosaic panels created by community members.



Celebrating St John's Day at Mountshannon Camphill Community.



A dramatic decade celebrated

IT'S BEEN a hectic year of activity at KCAT, the Camphill art and study centre at Callan, Co Kilkenny. This creative educational enterprise, which welcomes people of all abilities in its artistic embrace, has officially opened the new KCAT building as well as celebrating its 10th birthday with a spectacular night of theatre and fireworks.

The official opening of the KCAT building, conducted by Mary Cloake, Director of the Arts Council and Dorothy Kilroy for the Kilroy family, also heralded the opening of the 2009 End of Year Exhibition. On show were selected works by KCAT students who include people with and without special needs. The courses they followed, which required no previous experience, aim to allow the students to develop artistically through a variety of media including painting, drawing, sculpture and photography.

The opening gave visitors the opportunity to see the newly completed entrance arch to the KCAT building. Designs by a number of KCAT studio artists were translated into stone carvings from local

Kilkenny limestone. Over 100 individually carved stones make up three interlocking arches standing as a hopeful testament to the wonders to be discovered on passing through.

There were wonders too in August when KCAT's 10th birthday was celebrated against the backdrop of Callan Abbey. Before the dramatic KTEN spectacle began there was a book launch and an exhibition opening. The book, 'Art & Inclusion - the Story of KCAT', documents a broad cross-section of work and people at the KCAT Art & Study Centre over the past ten years. It reflects the vibrancy and inclusiveness of KCAT as an arts community, emphasising the working process.

Following the book launch was the opening of KCAT's 'Decade' exhibition, featuring work from the past 10 years. Finally, with drama, drumming, puppetry and pyrotechnics, came the spectacular birthday celebration in true KCAT style.

Over 10 years KCAT has grown from a small group of eight participants to over 100, plus nine employees. The former sausage-factory premises have been replaced with purpose-built accommodation for the inclusive full- and part-time art and theatre courses, alongside a professional Studio and Theatre Company programme that combine artists with learning disabilities and other disadvantages with professional arts practitioners.

● 'Art & Inclusion - The Story of KCAT' with an accompanying DVD is available price 25 Euros. To order contact barbara@kcat.ie Visit KCAT at www.camphill.ie/kcat



At the official opening Noortje van Deursen, KCAT, introduces benefactor Dorothy Kilroy and Mary Cloake, Arts Council.



The dramatic limestone entrance arch to the KCAT building includes carvings of designs by KCAT studio artists.



Fire and lighting were used to dramatic effect (below and right) in the KTEN spectacle at Callan Abbey that included drama, drumming and puppetry too.



AN AMBITIOUS four-year programme of self advocacy conferences is being planned by Camphill in England and Wales following the success of last year's conference held at Hartington Hall, Derbyshire.

Organised by Camphill residents for Camphill residents, last year's conference brought together more than 100 people from 18 communities in England and Wales plus guests from a similar community in Iceland. Those attending said they wanted more conferences where they could exchange experiences and ideas, and discuss topics relating to their lives as members of Camphill communities.

The conference, titled 'Our Lives, Past, Present and Future', was supported by Camphill Families & Friends which is now making an application to the Big Lottery Fund's Reaching Communities programme. If successful it will allow a programme to go ahead which will include two national Camphill residents conferences, a number of regional day conferences and weekend retreats, and a national seminar/study group meeting regularly in different regions.

The Lottery grant application is being prepared by Julie Woods who has led the Camphill Families & Friends person-centred-planning pro-

Those participating in the singing group at last year's conference certainly had no difficulty in finding their voices.



More self advocacy conferences planned



The 'Keep, Drop, Create' working group (left) wanted to keep Camphill festivals, work opportunities and good support and create more flexibility and more conferences.

ject. She supported the planning group of Camphill residents in the organisation of last year's conference. Preparation work for the bid, including a major consultation exercise with all Camphill communities in England &

Wales, is being supported financially by the Camphill Village Trust following a presentation to the trustees earlier this year by members of the Hartington Hall conference planning group.

"Those attending last year's conference made a specific request for more conferences in the future," explained Julie. "We are applying for funding from the Reaching Communities programme because we believe this project meets its criteria of improving people's life chances and helping people work together to solve their problems. The grant

will allow us to employ a national co-ordinator and regional co-ordinators to support Camphill residents in organising the programme of conferences, retreats and seminars."

Last year's self advocacy conference was the most recent in a series that grew out of the Camphill self advocacy

Working in clay was one of the popular activities at the conference.



Magic on the pitch!

SPORTS FANS had the opportunity to discover more about Camphill through the summer and autumn when the website address of Camphill England & Wales was advertised at major rugby league fixtures.

Earlier this year, World Sports Corporation, the company which markets sports ground advertising at major events, offered Camphill the opportunity to put its name before the sporting public after an advertiser dropped out at the last minute. Advertising valued at £25,000 was offered free of charge with the only cost being the production of the advertising boards.

The Camphill Village Trust took up the offer and throughout the summer and autumn the camphill.org.uk web address was seen by spectators and TV viewers following the Rugby Super League games. The ad had its first outing in June at the France vs. England International Rugby League Test Match and was seen at 10 televised matches through to the Super League Final in October.

Thanks to the generosity of World Sports Corporation's Michael Taylor, five Camphill guests attended the Final and a gala reception and dinner, with the opportunity to put over a Camphill message to 600 corporate guests.



The drama workshop (above) and the clowning workshop (left) both enjoyed presenting their work to the whole conference.



project and was then taken forward as part of the Camphill Families & Friends person-centred-planning project. It was the first in which the whole conference, including the programme of discussion groups, workshops, outings, evening activities, meal choices and conference venue, was organised by a planning group of Camphill residents.

Their aims for the conference were to enable people with special needs living in Camphill communities to meet and make friends, exchange news, exchange experiences, to have a variety of activities to suit all tastes, to learn new things, to talk about important issues and to have fun. They achieved this through a busy and vibrant conference with an atmosphere of energy and enthusiasm. Delegates left the conference looking forward to including more of their fellow community members in future events, which is exactly what the planned programme aims to achieve.



Creating Community at New Lanark

THE IDEALS of Robert Owen, who pioneered new social forms at New Lanark, inspired Camphill's founders and today inspire the New Lanark Inclusive Conference on Community Building and Social Renewal. The 2009 conference was entitled 'Creating Community Today'.



Those attending the 2009 conference came from Camphill communities all over Britain and Ireland and from as far afield as the USA. The Garvald communities in Scotland also take a leading role and people attended from other like-minded community initiatives too.



In addition to conference sessions there were discussion groups and artistic groups. Here, those participating in the drama workshop begin to get into the spirit of things.



In his talk on Community Building & Social Renewal, Cornelius Pietzner challenged conference delegates to see their vision of community with new eyes and to become social 'artists', recognising what they could each individually contribute to that vision.



Artistic workshops included music, painting, drama, clay work, clowning and dancing. Here members of the group working on festival dances get creative.



Speaking on Communities in Transition, Andy Plant from Milltown Community said that communities must continue to change if they are to continue into the future. "The mission of communities is not to serve their members but to serve the world as a whole," he said.



The evening programme included a ceillidh with music from the Columille Ceilidh Band, an inclusive group of musicians with and without learning disabilities, based in Edinburgh.



Thanks to the fine weather, the discussion group looking at 'Growing Old in Community' met outside. Participants discussed how the vision of people remaining in their communities throughout old age could be realised.



Many groups contributed to a social evening including these masked actors.



Making music in Dingle

AN INCLUSIVE orchestra of 70 musicians from Camphill communities in Ireland, under the baton of conductor John Billing, made the Blasket Centre on the Dingle Peninsula resound with music during the first week of November. Claudia Brave relates her experience.

The orchestra was unique. It was an ad-hoc orchestra made up of the talents and abilities of the people present at any given time. Some were accomplished players, some humble beginners. There were hand bells, drums and percussion instruments, polychords, lyres, violins, a cello, flutes, and even a saxophone and a trumpet. Each instrument had an important part to play and each voice contributed to the sound of the whole; a true and wonderful experience of Community.

The members of the "Camphill Orchestra" stayed in courtyard cottages providing a great opportunity to meet old friends and to make new ones. We went out together for meals, listened to music in the pub and danced together at a ceillidh.

The Camphill community in Dingle and all their friends, looked after us so well. Tea breaks with delicious homemade cakes appeared miraculously just at the right moments, and a local chef cooked our lunches for us in the local youth hostel.

We all had the opportunity to do some singing, drumming, dancing and bell ringing. Some of us discovered our talent in salsa dancing!

At the end we performed the fruits of all our hard rehearsing at a fundraising concert organised by the Dingle community. The sound of the music, the memory of the wonderful time spent with new and old friends, and the sound of the waves on Dingle Peninsula will live on in me.

Thank You to all who helped bring about such a truly inspiring week!

Training brings unexpected awards



WHEN Mournie Grange co-worker Hayley Sargent set out to gain her NVQ Level 3 in Health and Social Care, she never dreamt that it would lead to her attending not just one award ceremony, but three!

Hayley had already gained her NVQ Level 1 and 2 when she began her Level 3 course with Northern Ireland's Southern Regional College. After completing the course and gaining the new qualification she began putting her skills to use in her work at Mournie Grange. Then she learned that she was to be awarded one of only five City & Guilds Medals for Excellence to be awarded to learners in Northern Ireland in 2009 in recognition of her work throughout the course. Her lecturers described her as 'a mentor for staff, motivational and fully committed to this level of work'.

Hayley was awarded her medal by Sir Reg Empey, NI Department of Employment and Learning

Minister. Then she was invited to the City & Guilds Lion Awards dinner in London which celebrates the achievements of the Medals for Excellence winners and where the winners of the nine prestigious Lion Awards are announced. There Hayley received the Community Supporter of the Year award which recognises an individual who has done the most to encourage new knowledge, experience and training in a community. She also received a Tallow Chandlers Award which recognises the achievements of successful NVQ students in the care sector.

Then, in June, Hayley was nominated in the Northern Ireland Learner of the Year category at the VQ Hero awards held in Belfast's Waterfront Hall.

"It's been a wonderful year and great to be celebrated for what you do," says Hayley. "Going back into learning has been a very positive experience. The City & Guilds vocational qualifications allow everyone to achieve, including those with special needs."

Hayley has been a house co-ordinator at Mournie Grange for the past 12 years where she life-shares with a household including six people with special needs. She's also involved in the management of the community, a member of the Camphill Communities Trust (NI) and involved with community finances. Her training now helps her contribute in all these areas.

"Training is really about interfacing with others," she says. "The health and social care sector has something to teach Camphill and others on the course were able to learn from our Camphill experience."



Heavenly home for Bridge birds

IS THIS the smartest Camphill chicken house in any community in the UK and Ireland?

When The Bridge Community, Kilcullen, brought their chickens in from the field to the centre of their garden, the old chicken house looked rather out of place. Something with more style was needed as it will be seen by lots of visitors to the farm and nature trail the community is developing.

Out of a brainstorming session came an idea to build a chicken house based on the design of some of the beautiful old wooden stave churches of Norway. So the community's creation includes gargoyles of chickens and is topped off, of course, with a weather cock.

Developing the farm and nature trail will probably take a year or two and will include the banks of the River Liffey which forms one boundary of The Bridge Community's land. With wetland and lots of old trees, it's a nature paradise, and the aim is to make it accessible to school groups and other visitors. Some of the community's members with special needs may become guides to take people around the trail.

Does your community have a chicken house or other livestock building with a difference? If so, send us a picture.

Hayley was presented with her award by Michael Howell, chairman of City & Guilds and top Michelin-starred chef Marcus Wareing, a former City & Guilds award winner.



CORBENIC COMMUNITY

Spacious new craft and estate workshops opened at Corbenic during the summer. The purpose-built workshops were officially opened by John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Sustainable Growth in the Scottish Government. With much more space, the craft workshop is able to work in larger groups and also offer new craft activities such as pottery, willow weaving and loom weaving. The estate workshop now has space for all its tools, machinery and work benches and the long canopy along the front of the building allows work to be done outside whatever the weather. Visit www.corbeniccamphill.co.uk

CAMPBILL SCHOOL

Camphill School Aberdeen is the new name for Camphill Rudolf Steiner Schools. The school has had considerable success recently in establishing an appreciation of its professional standards and felt it appropriate to adopt a name that was simpler, more memorable and also recognised the importance of its home in Aberdeen. It also has a new logo incorporating the Camphill symbol and showing how the individual is at the heart of everything it does. Visit www.camphillschools.org.uk

NEW IRELAND WEBSITE

Camphill Communities of Ireland have a new website at www.camphill.ie. It provides comprehensive information about Camphill in the Republic of Ireland and includes individual websites for each of the communities.

CELEBRATIONS

Camphill is 70 years old in 2010 and plans are underway to celebrate this special anniversary. Individual communities, too, are celebrating reaching their own particular milestones. Camphill Houses Stourbridge, the first urban Camphill community, marked its recent 40th birthday by celebrating at a medieval banquet at Warwick Castle. And during 2010, Newton Dee will be celebrating its Golden Anniversary to mark its 50 years.

PR AND FUNDRAISING IN NI

The Camphill Communities Trust (NI) has appointed Glenn Aiken as its PR & Marketing Officer and Maria Kinney as its Fundraising Officer. Glenn has a background in education having taught in an international school in Malawi before moving to head of physical education at Bangor Grammar School and vice principal at Beechlaw School, Hillsborough. He has also worked with the Health Promotion Agency promoting the Healthy Schools programme.

Maria joined Camphill in November. She has more than 13 years experience working in the voluntary sector in Northern Ireland, mainly in fundraising and marketing. She previously worked with The HIV Support Centre as fundraising manager and prior to that as head of marketing with The MS Society, NI.

CAMPBILL IN RUSSIA

There are two new Camphill communities in Russia. Chistye Klyuchi Village Community is a curative and social-therapeutic centre for adults in need of special care situated at Kardymovo, in the province of Smolensk, some 930 miles (1,500km) west of Moscow. The second centre is in the Russian capital itself. The Tourmalin day centre is not yet a full member of the Camphill Movement but has been accepted as an affiliated member of the Camphill Northern Region Association. It is based about 5 miles north of Moscow city centre. Visit www.camphill.net and click on the 'Where we are' section for links to both centres' websites.

We'd like to hear from you

The next issue of 'Pages' is due out after Easter time. Please contact us with your news and pictures by early March.

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"Finding our way for the future"

"WHAT I like about Beannachar and other Camphills, is that we work together," says Frankie. "I decided to come to Beannachar and haven't regretted it."

We are chatting over a cup of tea in the herb workshop at the end of our afternoon visit to this Camphill community on the edge of Aberdeen, which offers training to young adults with special needs. Frankie and fellow students Emma, Paul and Stephen have been our guides, showing us the workshops and houses, and telling us something of their lives at Beannachar.

Emma and Frankie have both lived at Beannachar for about four years while for Paul and Stephen it's been home for a little longer. As they show us around and chat, it's obvious that they enjoy being part of this Camphill community and are proud of what they do and where they live. There's confidence in the way they tell us about their daily lives and how they are learning to take steps forward despite their various disabilities.

"This is a training centre, getting students ready to face the adult world," says Frankie. "Some go on to other Camphill places and some to supported accommodation, and we are getting ready for that. We can't live here forever - just until we are ready to move forward."

Stephen is already making plans. "My house co-ordinator, is helping me look for a flat for when I leave in 2010," he says. "That's my aim. I've accomplished many things here, more than I thought I would."



Frankie, Stephen, Paul and Emma have enjoyed their time at Beannachar.



Above top: Emma. Above: Frankie.

Recently he's got to grips with measurements through working in the wood workshop. "It's something I wasn't very good at, but now it's something I've really accomplished."

"We do a lot in the workshops. You can pick which ones you want to work in and every six months you can change. There are the herbs, the wood and weaving workshops, candle making, farm, estate, garden, laundry and kitchen. I'm in the wood workshop in the morning and the garden in the afternoon."

Emma enjoys working in Rose House kitchen and the herb workshop. "Things I'm good at," she says, "are loading and unloading the dishwasher and setting the table. I'm working towards taking a step up by learning to cook on my own."

"In the afternoon I'm in the herb workshop, which is pretty nice. I'm good at picking herbs. We make herb teas and tinctures for treating people. Yesterday we were cutting sage for making sage tea, which is good for colds."

After visiting the woodwork shop and the herb garden, we are taken to the laundry where Paul tells us how students and co-workers bring their laundry in, how it's sorted into colours and whites, and washed in different machines.

"Then they go into the tumble dryer," he explains. "I shake them and put them in the dryer so they don't need much ironing. Every other week we give a report to the work meeting so that everybody knows what's happening."

In the weavery, Frankie shows us the weaving project he's been working on. It's something that will take several weeks to complete from the designs to the finished weaving.

"In this workshop, I discovered I was colour blind. As well as red and green it's also the browns."

So supervisor Karen devised a project to help Frankie. He selected wools of different reds, greens and browns and created a weaving using the different tones.

After the craft workshops, gardens and farm, our student guides were keen to show us two recent developments - the games room and the community's new house, Linden. The games room appears a perfectly normal building but underneath the render, the walls are made of straw bales. It's a place where students can get together and play table tennis, pool, boule and chess. There's an exercise bike and piano too. The adjoining kitchen provides somewhere to learn independent living skills as well as its use for functions or meetings in the games room.

Then Frankie invites us to Linden where he lives with two other student residents and two house co-ordinators. In all, the community's five households are home to 22 resident students and support a further 10 day students. Despite their busy schedules, the students say there's a relaxed atmosphere at the community which helps them develop.

"We're finding our way for the future," says Emma. Judging by the enthusiasm of our four guides, they are doing it very successfully.

● Since our visit, Frankie has moved on to Newton Dee community.

Sandy Cox.



School principal Paula Kirk (2nd from right) and chair of the school council Pam Henderson with students George and Bruce.

SHEILING SCHOOL LISTED 'OUTSTANDING'

THE SHEILING School, Ringwood, has achieved Ofsted 'Outstanding Provider' status.

The Camphill school for children with severe, moderate or complex learning difficulties - part of the Sheiling Trust, which also includes the Lantern and Sturt's Farm communities and the Ringwood Waldorf School - was awarded the rating as a result of an Ofsted inspection which classified the school's performance as 'outstanding' in three categories and 'good' in the remaining two.

Now the latest Ofsted inspection reports 'outstanding' in 4 out of 6 categories and 'good' performance in the remaining two.

During the autumn the school embarked on a new project by offering activity breaks to local children with special educational needs. The school was awarded a contract by East Dorset Council to provide day activities during half term and also offered a residential camp for its own pupils. Now the school has secured a further contract to provide weekend activities too.

Paula Kirk, who joined the Sheiling School as Principal a year ago, says the new schemes are part of a move by the school to offer flexible provision for children with special needs up to 52 weeks a year. They will also help balance lower boarding pupil numbers resulting from national education policy and the current economic recession.

A holiday in France



Adriaan, Keith, Gilly, James, Helen and Stephen take time out for a holiday photo.

waiters in the restaurants and bars. And Stephen? He enjoyed making new friends and telling jokes with all his friends, and cooking on the barbecue, and doing jigsaws, and did I mention that he liked to tell jokes and make everyone laugh?

As for me - I was thinking that I would be working hard because it isn't always the easiest of times trying to help such a diverse group of individuals to fulfil all their hopes and desires on a holiday. But Adriaan was so well organised and prepared that this was one of the easiest holidays that I have accompanied.

You can find out more about the holidays that Adriaan organises at his website at www.supportedholiday.com

KEITH'S HOLIDAY DIARY

Six people, plus one support worker as well, fly from Bristol airport to Toulouse airport in France. Adriaan picked up group from Toulouse airport. Weather hot every day, only one day rain, one day mist on mountainside.

Some people swim in the sea and I walked to castle at 1200 metres. We walked a lot.

Stayed in rented houses. In Aude first week, second week Pyrenees. Drink a lot of water every day. Next year I am going to France.



Keith Thomas, Larchfield.

VIV NUTT, Oaklands Park community's finance secretary has accompanied a number of residents' group holidays. Here she shares her experience from last summer.

After years hearing glowing reports from young co-workers who have accompanied holidays to France, I decided I should see for myself. I accompanied a group of six people from Camphill centres in England. We all had diverse needs and expectations and I felt it would be quite a challenge for holiday organiser Adriaan Luijk, a former Camphill co-worker now living in France, to provide something for everyone. But somehow he managed it.

Gilly loves horses so we went for a memorable trip to visit and touch horses in the mountains of the Pyrenees. James loves the water so we went swimming in the Mediterranean, in lakes and in rivers where he was able to feel the freedom of the water in a safe environment. Keith loved walking and we trekked on beautiful paths in the mountains and hills.

John wanted to visit the beach and he loved the sandy ones near Narbonne on the Mediterranean. Helen just liked to have a laugh and enjoyed having meals out and talking a bit of French with the

Stephen is elected co-chairman

STEPHEN McGechan, who lives at Larchfield Community, Middlesbrough, has been elected as co-chairman of Middlesbrough Learning Disability Open Partnership Board.

"I started going to meetings more than a year ago," he says. "We talk about budgeting and transport and changing places. There's a new scheme to make toilets accessible at Middlesbrough bus station. And there's the bus buddies scheme. That's to allow people with disabilities to sit down before the bus goes. There will be a card to show to the bus driver so he knows if someone has disabilities and can give them time to get in their seat before the bus moves."

When there was to be an election for the post of co-chairman, Stephen put his name down. There were four people in the election and they visited day centres and places where people with learning disabilities live to say why they wanted



Stephen.

the job. On polling day – 28th July – Stephen came top of the vote.

He has been elected for a two-year term which involves quite a lot of work. There's a Partnership Board meeting every six weeks, meetings in between to discuss things, and Lead Officers meet-

ings to attend too. He's also involved in training days and making presentations.

"There are 40 to 50 people from different organisations who attend the Partnership Board meetings," says Stephen. "There are people in social care, social services and support workers. I hope to get people from outside to come to meetings to see what we do at our Partnership Board and see that it is well run."

One of the things that Stephen is passionate about is making sure that people know what is going on. "I want to make sure that people don't use long words. People don't understand what some big words mean."

Stephen fits his new role around his busy life at Larchfield where he works in maintenance and the weavery. He also goes to college where he's doing courses on English in IT and maths.

"I quite enjoy using my computer," he says. "I like music and shopping and talking to friends on my mobile and holidays in France. I am enjoying life at the moment to the full. I've got a bit of independence and in a fortnight's time I'm going on the coach on my own for the first time, to Manchester to visit my family."

A FIRM FOUNDATION

THE Camphill Foundation supports innovative and new projects in Camphill communities, often in the form of seed funding to get projects off the ground.

The Foundation's work is increasingly vital in this changing world and the range of projects with which it gets involved is enormously diverse. Recent projects have included a loan to help one of the smaller Camphill communities build a new house, a grant to assist with the development of an accredited training programme of Camphill courses, and assistance to the establishment, development and ongoing work of the Karl König Archive in making the works of Karl König widely available.

The Camphill Foundation has limited funds which limits the number of projects it can assist. There is a continuing need to support and help the work of Camphill and the Camphill Foundation need your support.

If you would like to help, either by making a donation or bequest, or would like more information, please contact: The Camphill Foundation, Newton Dee, Bieldside, Aberdeen AB15 9DX. Telephone 01224 868701.

Email camphill.foundation@camphill.net

CROFT'S FUTURE VISION

FOR THREE days in June, members of The Croft community engaged in a series of activities designed to help plan the community's way forward for the future.

Jaquie Spencer from the Camphill Social Work Advisory Team and consultant George Perry helped prepare a special day where residents and co-workers discussed what they valued about the Croft and their thoughts for future developments. Each resident helped compose a profile of themselves and everyone worked on creating a "Timeline" depicting the 33 years of the Croft's existence. Old friends were remembered and memorable events over the years were illustrated. This caused much fun, mirth, merriment and even a few sad moments as those no longer with us who had contributed to the community were remembered.

Looking at dreams for the future led into a "Keep/ Drop /Create" session. Day



Croft community members get down to developing their ideas for the future.

activities were felt to be important features of life and definitely worth keeping, as were recycling and house meetings. Things to be dropped included people being grumpy. There were many ideas for new initiatives including developing new skills, especially in woodworking and computers. There was also a considerable appetite for sports and keeping fit, which bodes well for the future.

Underpinning all discussions was a recognition that the Croft is a community based on strong human relationships, not only between those living and working there, but also with the many others who take such an interest in helping and supporting the community.

Now Officially Open

LOOK AWAY from any Camphill community and, it seems, as soon as you look back something has changed. And when there's something new, there has to be an official opening! So to keep you up-to-date, here's a brief round up of some recent events.

At Camphill Holywood, a beautiful summer's day heralded the official opening of Riverside House. This small urban community in Northern Ireland had long dreamed of including a Camphill household as well as its thriving cafe, bakery and organic shop.

Now, just up the hill from the cafe, Riverside House provides a wonderful home in the town for a number of adults with special needs and those who support them.

After the official opening by Gaile Morton, chairperson of the Camphill Communities Trust (NI), the Holywood community and their guests celebrated with a Midsummer Festival full of fun.

At The Croft community there was fun too when, with family and friends, they celebrated the opening of their new Peter Roth Hall which offers light filled spaces where the community can meet and join in a range of artistic activities.

It was a joyous occasion, not least

due to the humour and sense of fun of the official openers, Barnsley poet and raconteur Ian McMillan and his friend Tony Husband, the award-winning cartoonist. Composing a poem on the spot, Ian kept the crowd entertained.

At Mourne Grange, the community's new health and therapy centre, Helios, was opened by Fionnuala Cooke OBE, chairwoman of the Southern Health and Social Services Board.

"The Board and this community share a joint aim in bettering the lives of people in this area and Mourne Grange is a very positive way in which people can be cared for," she said. "I marvel at the work of all members of this energetic community."

Ian McMillan enjoyed the cake and a joke with Charlotte after officially opening The Croft's new hall.



An intense experience

MEMBERS of Botton and Larchfield communities performed Rudolf Steiner's first mystery play 'The Portal of Initiation' earlier in the year. Neil Shearer, one of Botton's farmers, performed the part of Doctor Strader, and is seated in our picture of one of the play's scenes. Before the performance he wrote about his experience of being in the play:

"We started the long road to performing the play way back, and here we are just three days to the performance after seven long, hard months. But I have enjoyed being part of a great effort with the directors, Alexander Gifford and Adrian Locher, two very great men in their work with theatre.

"It has been a very interesting and intense experience."

Books from the König Archive

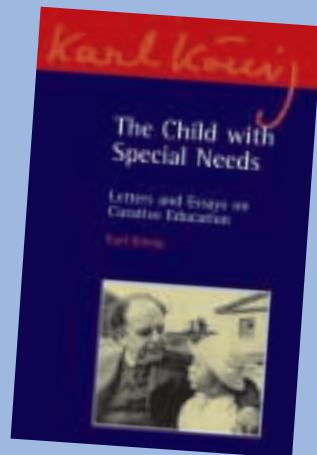
FIVE NEW books are now available in a series of writings from the Karl König Archive. Published in paperback by Floris Books they are the first fruits of a planned programme to make the writings of Camphill's founder widely available.

All the books are based on original material by Dr König held in the Karl König Archive at Camphill House, Aberdeen. In recent years, König's entire literary estate, including his books, essays, manuscripts, lectures, diaries, notebooks, correspondence and artistic works, has been copied onto microfilm and in digital format so it may be far more accessible for research, study and publication.

The Child with Special Needs: Letters and Essays on Curative Education, by Karl König, edited by Peter Selg. ISBN 9780863156939:

This is a remarkable collection in which the writer considers and discusses the fundamentals of special needs education and the three core aspects to a successful holistic education and healing approach.

Seeds for Social Renewal: the Camphill Village Conferences, by Karl



König, edited by Wanda Root. ISBN 9780863157042:

In these lectures König explores the human being and social life, the individual and community, from an imaginative and often radical perspective. This is a revised and expanded edition of his work previously published as 'In Need of Special Understanding'.

Karl König: My Task: Autobiography and Biographies, by Karl König, edited by Peter Selg. ISBN 9780863156281:

This is König's journey from growing up in Vienna, founding a home for chil-

dren with special needs in Germany, returning to Austria before fleeing to Britain and becoming the founder of Camphill. A fascinating insight.

Karl König's Path into Anthroposophy: Reflections from his Diaries, by Peter Selg and Karl König. ISBN 9780863156298:

This book follows Karl König's spiritual journey through the words of his diaries, in which his battles with health and his impatient temperament are recorded with merciless honesty, allowing us to follow his inner path that led to profound insights into the nature of children with special needs.

Ita Wegman and Karl König: Letters and Documents, by Peter Selg, Karl König and Ita Wegman. ISBN 9780863156618:

Ita Wegman founded the first anthroposophical medical clinic in 1921 and when she met the young medical graduate Karl König in 1927, she recognised his great potential and invited him to work as her assistant. She encouraged and advised him in his medical work, and this book includes the complete correspondence between König and Wegman.

Visit www.karl-koenig-archive.net