



Scottish Region



Northern Ireland Region



Southern Ireland Region



English/Welsh Region

CAMPHILL



PAGES

VOLUME 19 SUMMER 2014

Welcome



James Pinkerton's holding of The Queen's Baton at its final resting place from its world tour for The 20th Commonwealth Games is seen at Scotland House in the heart of the Merchant City, Glasgow. He was on holiday from Tich á Chomainn and made a visit to The City in July during The Games and this photograph introduces this Camphill Pages with a focus on The Scottish Region.

We have news and features on the Foundation Stone Laying for Simeon Care for The Elderly, Aberdeen, Pishwanton's Award at The Royal Highland Show and a Day in The Life of Milltown's Workshops near Stonehaven. The Association of Camphill Communities held its Annual Congress in Camphill Blair Drummond near Stirling in March, the 6th New Lanark Conference took place at Robert Owen's famous mill site by The River Clyde waterfalls in May. The Camphill Schools have been commended by Scotland's Chief Social Worker and we have a guest writer, Jack Reed, who looks at Garvald at 70, a sister organisation to Camphill in Scotland. This does not preclude the rest of the regions of The Association also having a busy spring and summer and many came from England, Ireland and Wales to New Lanark for The Conference, as you can see in the photographs.

Did you know that Camphill Community Glencraig is celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year? That there was an International Dialogue of world Camphill Communities in America from which many delegates from the British Isles attended and that looking forward, preparations for Camphill Foundation's World Wide Weave are well under way and could be coming your way, as can be seen in the article in the Association Matters section.

Many of you dear readers have asked for Pages by email and we have set up this possibility. If you have a friend who would like to see Pages online or have missed this possibility, please email me, Vivian Griffiths, the Editorial Coordinator on viviangriffiths@talktalk.net

Have a good read and thank you for your interest in these important and decisive times for Camphill Communities.

Vivian Griffiths.



ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW AWARD

Pishwanton Wood receives one of Scotland's Community Woodlands 'Highly Commended' Awards.



On Friday 20th June, The Life Science Trust was given an award for Pishwanton in the category of Community Woodland. We were Highly Commended for promoting health. The organisation acknowledged our work in the restoration of native woodland, the educational value of the project, and our dedication to people with special needs.

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The judges' summary stated: "Pishwanton Wood, Long Yester, East Lothian... is a beautiful and peaceful mixed woodland, yet it is filled with harmonious activity. Driven by a philosophy which works to reconnect people facing mental and physical health issues to the natural environment, Pishwanton incorporates imaginative and unique sustainable buildings to provide a place for the community to work and recreate in the wood. The majority of work is carried out using only hand tools and horse power. A valuable and sensitively managed project that deserves wider recognition".

Now we are fundraising to build student chalets so people can sleep in the woods all of them made from our own timber!

For more details visit www.pishwanton.org



NEW LANARK CONFERENCE REPORT

Jennifer Leiper is the Administration Finance Officer for Camphill Scotland. She writes of her experiences of the New Lanark Conference.

Camphill Scotland were delighted that over 170 people from around the globe attended the 2014 New Lanark conference for a few sunny days in May. The conference is held in the New Lanark World Heritage Village to recognise the special place that Robert Owen and New Lanark have in the history of community building. Both Karl König and Rudolf Steiner found inspiration in Owen's efforts to create a more equitable and just society. Since its inauguration in 2003 the New Lanark conference convenes every two years to rekindle that same fire of enthusiasm in community building and social renewal.

This year's conference theme was 'Communities of the future'. This was explored in many dynamic and creative ways including plenary sessions, interactive discussions and artistic workshops. Our plenary speakers were Tom Ravetz of the Christian Community, Dorota Owen of the Global Eco-communities Network, Robert Peat of the Care Inspectorate, Peter Macdonald of the Iona Community and Jasmine Sutherland and Jeanette Cochrane

from Garvald. In the evening our conference community gathered to enjoy some story telling from Donald Ker and Eric Fleming and a very lively ceilidh with the Collumcille ceilidh band!

The ever popular painting and Eurythmy workshops were once again expressive, colourful and thought provoking and new workshops in jewellery making and film making produced delightful results as well, with one jewellery maker happily exclaiming 'I never knew I could do this!'. We were also fortunate this year to be well supported by other eco and intentional communities, and the talks from Garvald, Findhorn and Iona communities highlighted how much our communities share in common. One delegate told us they found it 'inspiring to hear about so many wonderful communities around the world', whilst another reported that the conference 'gives me the space to think more about things'. This year we also had the benefit of a professional photographer to capture the final day of the conference and some of her images accompany this article.

Whilst the conference has always been inclusive, in order to develop this most important element, the organising team produced Easy Read materials, which were well received. We also asked contributors to make their talks and workshops accessible to people with a disparate range of abilities. Feedback suggests that people noticed and welcomed our attempts to increase levels of inclusiveness and equality throughout the conference.

One person commented that 'the presentations that worked the best were those that were shorter, more informal and more interactive'. We will continue to build the accessibility and inclusiveness of the conference for the future but for now we are delighted that delegates had a great time forming 'instant but heart felt community' and took away ideas such as becoming 'more connected to other communities'. Thank you to everyone who participated and made this once more a very special conference - we look forward to seeing you again in 2016!

By Jennifer Leiper.



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE IN SIMEON'S LANDMARK YEAR



The early summer months brought a flurry of activity on and off site as the new Simeon Care for the Elderly development takes shape in Bieldside.

With the frame of the 23 bedroom facility now in pride of place in the grounds of the existing Simeon care home, a symbolic event took place in June to mark the 30th birthday of the organisation, which is being celebrated throughout 2014, and also to look to the future.

Family and friends were invited to send stones to build a small cairn which was placed within the foundations of the new building during an uplifting ceremony.

As construction gathers pace, so too does the fundraising effort - with Simeon's New Lease of Life appeal now approaching a total of £1.2million raised to date. The aim is to meet the ambitious target of £2m.

Corporate donations and grant funding have contributed significantly to the tally but community fundraising efforts continue to play a major part - with the recent Run Balmoral providing a welcome boost. Athletes representing Simeon at the Deeside event raised more than £6,000 in sponsorship, ensuring the appeal's progress shows no sign of slowing.

Further details on the appeal and fundraising opportunities can be found at www.simeoncare.org.uk

CHIEF SOCIAL WORKER TALKS TO CAMPHILL SCHOOLS

On 6th May we hosted a visit of Alan Baird, Chief Social Work Adviser to the Scottish Government, who wrote afterwards:

“It had been many years since I had visited any of the Camphill resources and I was therefore interested in how the school reflected the pace of change which everyone in the care and education sectors has experienced in recent years. Whilst much has evolved and will continue to do so, what struck me was the importance of the underpinning philosophy of care and what we might today describe as an asset-based model where the emphasis is in ‘creating an environment to identify what everyone has to offer’ – despite the significant challenging behaviour of some of the children, I was struck by the phrase ‘children are the teachers who help you develop your humanity’. In other words, whatever the challenges, the children would always know that Camphill was their home. It therefore struck me that two words I have heard too often were seldom applied in Camphill – placement breakdown.

I was impressed not only by the skills of individual members of staff but how their talent helps create some wonderful opportunities through sculpture, crafts and outdoor activities including the gardens, farm, horse riding and, for the more adventurous, Duke of Edinburgh Awards with 4 young people hoping to achieve gold this year.

I was impressed with the outward-looking approach including the ‘nature and nurture’ work with younger children from Aberdeen City and the partnership with Aberdeenshire Council through the St. Andrew’s Project providing individualised therapeutic programmes and flexible respite care.

The school rightly prides itself on the importance of evidenced based practice and I will read with interest the evaluative work currently being carried out by CELCIS.

Finally I was delighted to meet up with members of the Pupil Council who have an important role in ensuring the views of children and young people help shape and develop Camphill in the future.

I am very grateful to everyone who gave me a valuable insight to life, challenges and, most importantly, opportunities in meeting the needs of some very special children and young people”.

MARKING THE END OF THE BA IN SOCIAL PEDAGOGY...

This summer marks the end of the BA in Social Pedagogy which we have run in partnership with the University of Aberdeen for the last 17 years; eleven students in total will graduate, including three from Camphill School. It has been a wonderful partnership which has developed some talented co-workers who have gone on to become experienced practitioners, enhancing both our work and similar work across the world. The students and graduates will be missed, but we hope that our explorations with Robert Gordon University will bear fruit and that a professional collaboration begins around a new BA Social Pedagogy.

Before finishing, I can give you advanced notice of our Open Day on Saturday 20th September from 2-5 pm on Camphill Estate.

Please also check our website and Facebook page for regular news updates...

With this I would like to wish you all a relaxing, sun-filled summer holiday and thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

Laurence Alfred.



TONY - MY LIFE IN MILLTOWN

30 miles South of Aberdeen near Stonehaven is the rural community of Milltown, with its famous day workshop project.

I am Tony Greene and I live in the Camphill Community of Milltown in Arbuthnott. I came here in 2007. Before that, I lived with my family in Glasgow. I have two sisters and a brother and six nieces and nephews. My mother has a holiday house in Johnshaven so she can come and visit me regularly when she stays there.

I am living in Milltown house with Diane and Duncan and Andy, our house parent and two volunteer co-workers, Odilia and Josephine. Marian and Kathryn come in every working day of the week to run the house. I like to do different jobs around the house like setting the table and sweeping the kitchen floor after meals. I also like to help tidy up and dry dishes. The use of Makaton helps me communicate. I learnt most of it at school in Glasgow. I also keep a communication book.

In Milltown we also have a workshop where we work on old tools and polish them and make them look like new. I work there on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. I like to do



special things on special days.

On a Monday in the workshop, I usually work on garden tools like spades and I use sand paper to make them all shiny again. Martin in the workshop helps me with it. We then sell them in our little shop or send them to countries overseas. I also like playing games. I play Snakes and Ladders on a Monday night and Shuffle board on a Tuesday. So after my workshop day on a Tuesday after I have helped dry up the dishes, I am always looking forward to play shuffleboard.

On a Wednesday, Andy, Marian or Kathryn give me a lift to Forest View. I also like that very much. I already went to different classes there, like painting and drawing. Andy also helped me to get some new colours, so I can paint my canvas at home. I sometimes do that on a Saturday or Sunday in our front room. Another one of my favourites is music. I especially like ABBA and pan pipes. I listen to them in my room every Wednesday night.

I usually spend my Thursdays at home. After breakfast, I change my sheets and clean my room. I do the hovering and dusting. Josephine helps me. Then I spend my time writing my diary and working on my laptop. Another thing I have learnt at Forest View is to use a computer. My mother got the laptop for me. I sit down in the kitchen and Josephine helps me to send photographs I took with my digital camera to Alfred in Glasgow, who puts them on my homepage where I also keep a diary. So now I can send emails and skype my family. I also enjoy doing jig saw puzzles and memory games on my laptop. After that I always like my baked beans on toast. In the evening I like listening to music again.

On a Friday, I work in the garden and help Sheena to plant flowers and vegetables. Friday is also my DVD night. I sometimes invite Michelle from the other house at Peesie's Knapp to come and join me and sometimes she invites me to come up and watch a DVD with her. Sometimes I also just

want to watch TV and my favourite is gameshows.

I have jobs I like to do on a Saturday morning like sorting out the recycling, putting clean napkins in our napkin rings and going on a shopping trip to Stonehaven or sometimes Laurencekirk or Inverbervie to buy a TV times magazine and buns for the weekend.

On a weekend, everybody in the house usually goes on an outing, especially in the summertime. We go and see Highland Games or circuses. I also like to go for walks up to the farmyard of Arbuthnott house. I also enjoy skiing very much, so over the winter months I can go to my skiing classes in Aberdeen. I sometimes go on trips to Austria or Switzerland with my skiing group from Aberdeen or I go there with my family. I have won skiing certificates. I keep them in a folder in my room. Other sports I like is tennis and basketball. I can play basketball on a sunny day with one of the co-workers in our yard here in Milltown and Andy also puts up the tennis net when I want to play tennis. Sometimes I play table football with Odilia.

We also do special things, like going to a Ceilidh, Highland Games, walks on St. Cyrus beach or the LARC Club at Forest View. At the LARC Club we sometimes have a disco or a cinema night. So there is always something to do. I really like it when it's a lot of fun because I like being funny and laugh a lot. That's me, Tony!

Thank you Josephine for helping me to write this!

Written by Anthony Greene (Tony), one of the residents at Milltown Community in Arbuthnott.

SCOTTISH REGION

GARVALD AT 70

Jack Reed writes about a special anniversary.

Garvald is a magical place - and a remarkable achievement - where those with special needs are always at the centre. The name has changed over the decades - from Garvald School to Garvald West Linton - in response to changing needs. However, the vigorous and committed sense of community shown from the outset in 1944 continues as strongly as ever today. The first tender shoots have certainly flourished.

Now Garvald encompasses six dynamic, striving endeavours in the Borders, Edinburgh and the Lothians. Each works in creative and effective ways with and for people with special needs. There is real significance in the way in which each Garvald initiative has come about through another: Garvald School/West Linton leading to Garvald Training Centrel/Garvald Edinburgh; Garvald Home Farm; the Engine Shed/Garvald Community Enterprises; Columcille; and Garvald Glenesk. All are inspired by the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner. Opportunities are fostered for everyone involved to meet and to share experiences through festivals, training and conferences - as well as participating in the wider community. Anthroposophically based events are supported by the Garvald Trust. The Trust also holds many of the properties, and supports development too.

A golden thread runs unbroken through the history of Garvald.

This began many years before it was taken up by the idealistic, dedicated group of pioneers who started Garvald School. In the words of Aletta Adler, co-founder and principal in the first decades:

“...perhaps we may start by looking back to the very beginning, to a day at the end of September 1944, when a single-decker bus and a large furniture van unloaded themselves before a very large and almost entirely empty house. The huge bare hall simply took one’s breath away. The house seemed to have been painted a dull greyish khaki throughout. Marks of damp were on the walls. The neglected grounds - of nearly sixty acres - stretched away in the grey of the late afternoon. The six people who got out, accompanied by a little group of children of various ages, had plenty to do before evening; beds and cots to be erected, supper, laundry and much unpacking. Still, we felt like a very small kernel rattling about in a very large nut!

The next day was Michaelmas. We were in full possession, and celebrated the festival by a procession of one and all around the boundaries of our new home.”

Later she continues: *“The house might be bare, and the grounds neglected, but they were full of possibilities. Very soon rehearsals began for the Paradise and Nativity plays, which have been performed in Garvald every Christmas ever since.”*

The guiding vision can perhaps be encapsulated in the following two phrases:

firstly, when three young men approached Rudolf Steiner in 1924 for advice, he created the term to characterise the children with whom they wished to work as *“in need of special care of the soul”* (in German *“seelenpflege bedurftig”*); the second, in harmony with this understanding, describes such special places as Garvald: *“places of the soul”*. The unique setting and environment of Garvald - for the founders showed wonderful insight in their choice of location - enhance this. The recognition of the soul - and the destiny of each individual - underlie and inform the holistic and healing approach to the individual in community. Here such fundamental and integral aspects as therapies and crafts, healthy nutrition and celebration of festivals, allied with recognised good practice and enlightened care, can flourish. Interdependence too can be a further beneficial and transformative experience. The sincere human encounter, healing conversation, shared tasks, the circle of support around an individual - these are at the heart of community and community building.

Significant further dates & developments:

- September 1969: Garvald Training Centre, later Garvald Edinburgh, founded. The first 2 community houses in Merchiston, Edinburgh, funded by a loan from the Liddiard family, whose daughter Penny was a pupil at Garvald School. This was in response to an appeal by Rev. Adam Bittleston, Chair of the Advisory Committee and Trustee, to help start a new initiative, at the Summer Fair at Garvald in 1968. Most of the first 7 residents in autumn 1969 came from Garvald and Camphill communities as school leavers. The first day trainees came at that time through Dr Sula Wolff, child psychiatrist at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh. Craft workshops were central to the activities from the beginning, with the bakery being the first to be established, as well as therapies.

Garvald in Edinburgh was to be a new urban initiative in social therapy, following on from the curative education at Garvald School.

- 1990: The Engine Shed/Garvald Community Enterprises opens at St Leonard’s in Edinburgh, offering work training and preparation for open employment;

- 1996: Columcille, in Morningside, Edinburgh; the name relates to Iona and St Columba, and especially the former Columcille School, which had been founded by Luise and Guenther Turetschek independently in Edinburgh after a period at Garvald School. Day attenders at Columcille came with the closure of Gogarburn Hospital as did residents of the following:

- 1999: Garvald Glenesk at Eskbank, Midlothian: 2 houses for residents in a garden setting, with workshop activities organised as part of Columcille on site.

The writer has been involved with all 6 Garvald organisations in various capacities, as well as a Garvald Trustee. Started in Camphill in 1959, encountering Botton Village in Yorkshire as an archetype of community, and involved with Garvald for nearly 50 years. Had the great good fortune to get to know most of the Vienna Youth Group who became leading figures in the Camphill movement and at Garvald. Their legacy, and that of those who came before and after them, continues in good hands, with commitment, integrity and resilience, auguring well for the future.

NEW LANARK CAMPHILL CONFERENCE 2014

Jan Martin Bang came to the conference as a guest from Camphill in Norway.

Between Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd May nearly 200 people gathered at New Lanark to celebrate the 6th New Lanark Camphill Conference. With participants from many countries this was an ideal opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. The conference consisted of several keynote plenum presentations, a series of workshops meeting every day over the 3 days, and a number of parallel seminars that were open to anyone who wanted.

In the opening presentation Tom Ravetz asked the question: **How can community unlock our deepest potential?**

He pointed out that there were both positive and negative aspects to living in community and wondered if our increasing individualisation threatens the future of community? It’s a challenge to maintain the balance between wanting community and retaining individual freedom. Working with this tension is our task for the 21st century.

Tom quoted T. S. Eliot: *“We dream of systems so perfect, that people don’t need to be good.”* He carried on to suggest that maybe we will not be able to complete the job of creating utopia, but that we are the preparers of the preparers.

Tom ended by mentioning two aspects of community that set the tone of the 3 days we were together, and that cropped up in the workshop discussions I was involved in:

- When community happens, an angel is drawn in.
- Interest in the other human being opens community building.

Dorota Owen from the Findhorn Community presented the story of Findhorn, now over 50 years old, and of the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN), which was established there in 1995. GEN now has 55,000 members. She presented some of the larger and more established ones in pictures, and mentioned that there are 15,000 traditional villages in Senegal now transitioning to Ecovillages, with a Minister for Ecovillages in the government.

As a suitable follow up to this conference it would be positive to see more Camphill villages registering themselves with GEN.

Peter Macdonald presented the Iona Community. Started in the 1930’s, today it has spread around the world, and meet in local family prayer groups, as well as holding large international meetings on Iona. He described their aims and principles:

- Otherness and intimacy
- Stewardship and sustainability
- Participation and democracy
- Inclusiveness and empowerment
- Spiritual bravery and generosity

He didn’t mention the close relationship between the founder of Iona, George MacCloud and Karl König in the early 1940’s when Camphill was consolidating its network around Aberdeen, something I feel would have been appropriate at a conference such as this.

Robert Peat works with the Care Inspectorate, and they inspect and help 14,000 care services in Scotland, including the Camphill places. Their aim is to promote accessible, excellent services tailored to individual needs. His presence at the conference was an important connection, and a good opportunity for us in Camphill to show him the diversity of our culture.

Jasmine Sutherland and Jeanette Cochrane from Garvald presented the Waterside Workshops that are just 8 weeks old. Garvald was set up as a Camphill place in 1944 at West Linton, just south of Edinburgh. It later split from Camphill, but carried on as an independent centre, also with residents. It now has several workshops and day centres, both in the city of Edinburgh and around. Despite continuous growth, they still have a waiting list of people wanting to join.

The New Lanark Conferences have been a joint venture between Camphill and Garvald, showing how, despite them being separate institutions, there is a strong sense of shared fellowship.

Andrew Plant from Camphill Milltown presented a seminar discussion on the theme: *“From co-workers to co-housing.”* He opened by talking about change in community, how the pioneer phase has led to the big change; individualisation and specialisation. Regulations and employment have further complicated the issue. There is anxiety amongst co-workers about the future and about change. There are changes from the outside in the form of more regulations and bureaucracy while more changes are generated from within the community. New forms of community are emerging, more open and more flexible.

After spending some time responding to these ideas Andrew ended the discussion by asking if co-housing might be a viable option for Camphill. This is a legal framework developed first in Denmark over 20 years ago, and now becoming increasingly popular throughout North America and the United Kingdom. Essentially it gives individual homeowners the opportunity to buy their own homes within a larger community structure which includes common elements like a Common House, shared laundry and workshops, and district heating and other shared services.

Overall the conference demonstrated how Camphill is actively reaching out to establish partners in other spheres. This is a very positive development, and impulses can flow both ways, mutually benefitting both. I look forward to the 7th New Lanark Conference with eagerness.

NEW LANARK PHOTO MONTAGE

Photographs by Jacqui Dunbar



Audience Singing



Bell ringing performance

Eurythmy Workshop

Film Making



Felting Group

Jewellery workshop Group

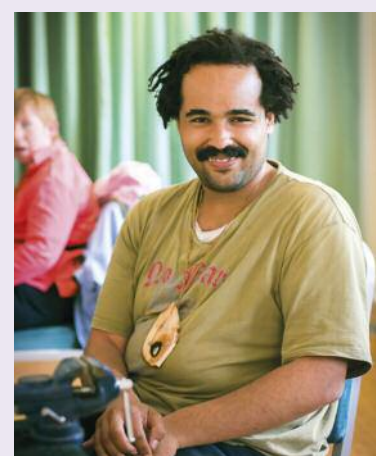
Milltown Community



New Lanark Arche

New Lanark Landscape

Painting Exhibition



Painting Workshop

Jewellery

Jewellery

NORTHERN IRELAND REGION

1924

The last active year of Rudolf Steiner.



1924 was the last active year of Rudolf Steiner's life before his death in March 1925. He travelled widely, gave courses of lectures, established the structure of the Anthroposophical Society and worked on the rebuilding of the Goetheanum, the centre for Anthroposophy which had been built in Dornach Switzerland, and which had been destroyed by fire at New Year 1922/23.

While everything in Steiner's body of work is important for us a couple of lecture cycles delivered in 1924 are particularly relevant for Camphill.

Work with children and adults with learning disabilities was poorly developed in the early twentieth century. A few young people asked Steiner for knowledge and guidance as they wished to take up this task. This resulted in what is called The Curative Course, given in June 1924, and the term Curative Education. This is the English translation of a German word and is not so appropriate today, but it had proved difficult to find an alternative for it. Likewise for the term Social Therapy which designates the work with adults done out of Anthroposophical insights. Whatever it is called, this work has spread throughout the world since 1924, touching thousands of lives and developing treatments, attitudes and life styles which exemplify Rudolf Steiner's approach.

Another hugely significant series of lectures known as the Agriculture Course was also given in June 1924. Biodynamic agriculture and horticulture were taken up in Camphill from the early days out of recognition of the necessity for holistic methods to keep Nature healthy, the importance of good quality food and the therapeutic benefits for people who work on the land.

Other courses in 1924 were given to doctors, teachers and curative eurythmists among others, as well as lectures containing deep esoteric insights, and again these impulses are at the heart of Camphill.

Although the world is very different now from when Rudolf Steiner spoke 90 years ago, and from when Camphill began 74 years ago, the truth of Steiner's insights, practical advice, inspirational images and appeal to the human conscience remains the source of help and strength out of which we do our work.

Cherry How (Camphill Clanabogan)



GLENCRAIG MARKS 60 YEARS

North Down Mayor, Andrew Muir hosted a civic reception for the 60th Anniversary of Camphill Community Glencraig. The special evening literally marked a diamond of a day for Glencraig, the local community, a wide range of stakeholders, co-workers past and present and of course, children, young people and adults with learning disability.

In his address the Mayor commended the invaluable support Glencraig provides for people with learning disabilities. He highlighted the fact that Glencraig is also actively involved in the local community through a range of innovative educational and sustainable initiatives as well as the immensely popular Camphill Café in Holywood.

The Mayor had chosen Camphill as one of his adopted charities this year, for which a

considerable amount of funds had been raised along with the YMCA and the Mark Pollock Trust. He said, *"I was thrilled to have the opportunity to celebrate the tremendous work carried out by everyone at Glencraig and Holywood"*.

Vincent Reynolds responded on behalf of Glencraig and gave the assembled audience a most interesting overview of the time from when Glencraig was established right through to the present day. It is amazing the rich and colourful life that a Camphill Community develops over 60 years, it was so nice to reflect on that with all the people who contributed to it.

During the evening, the Mayor presented members of the Community with a picture of Church Road in Holywood.



From left to right: The Mayor, Andrew Muir, Mary Balmer, Lady Sylvia Hermon MP, Rebecca Ferran, Vincent Reynolds and Colin Forrest.

ARTISTIC PROJECT - SENSORY PATHWAY

By Elischa M Skuplik
Co-Worker in the Camphill
Community Glencraig



In today's society there are many different views about the different senses we perceive every day. Some fields, philosophy of perception, neuroscience, cognitive psychology and anthroposophy (to only name a few) recognise different senses but all have in common that they share the existence of 5 senses - Hearing, Sight, Taste, Smell and Touch – and some areas started to recognise a 6th sense, the sense of perceiving one's own body, also called proprioception. Still, there is no common concept about how many senses the human being has.

We perceive with the senses every day. This I took as the foundation for my Artistic Project, which is part of the third year Seminar. The establishing of a sensory integrated pathway includes aspects of the twelve senses described by Rudolf Steiner, Karl König and Albert Soesmann.

The artistic project includes collecting different ideas, planning of the project and project management, and physical building of the pathway.

The project included choosing the site for the sensory pathway, physical building of the pathway and sitting area, building of a willow fence, different banks and bringing in additional sensory components (bamboo and metal wind chime).

Within the establishing of the sensory integrated pathway I consciously tried to bring in visual effects. These effects find

their impression in the unconscious perception of the whole pathway and in particular the sitting area.

The sitting area is contained by the natural stonewall to the one side and a willow stone fence combination to the other side. In the back there is the natural rock holding a tree trunk above. This forms a little cave. Also the willow stone fence includes three windows each formed by two willow branches. This can be brought into direct connection with the approach to the twelve senses given by Rudolf Steiner who describes the different senses and connects a specific organ to each sense which can be seen as a form of window through which we perceive the sense perception of the specific sense. This image is mirrored within the sitting area.

Another visual effect I formed through building banks along the roadside. This catches the flow of the building site and holds the sitting area, which lies behind the banks. With this the sitting area visually seems higher up than without those banks; without the banks the sitting area seems to flow down and away. At the same time my thoughts behind it were that those who are hypersensitive are extremely challenged with the over stimulation of the senses or a specific sense. Through bringing up the sitting area visually I would like to give the impression of the opportunity to reach out towards the hypersensitive perception and create a balance. The balance is also given through

the cave like surrounding which gives protection and security. The sense perceptions within the sitting area are kept naturally. There is the sound of the stream and sea, the smell of the fresh salty sea and seaweed as well as the beautiful view over the lough of Belfast.

Also, the form and shape of the willow fence brings a visual effect with it. Through the flow, which goes from the higher up down, slightly up and then down again the visual impression of the fence flow is balanced and not flowing away; it is held together by its shape. Though the fence is not very high the effect gives a physical boundary supporting the perception. The effect of the fence through its place causes that the pathway is bringing things together towards the sitting area; if the willow fence would not be present the space of the building site would be left open and the sense perception can go further beyond. To avoid this and to help the hypersensitive person I brought in this natural element as a boundary.

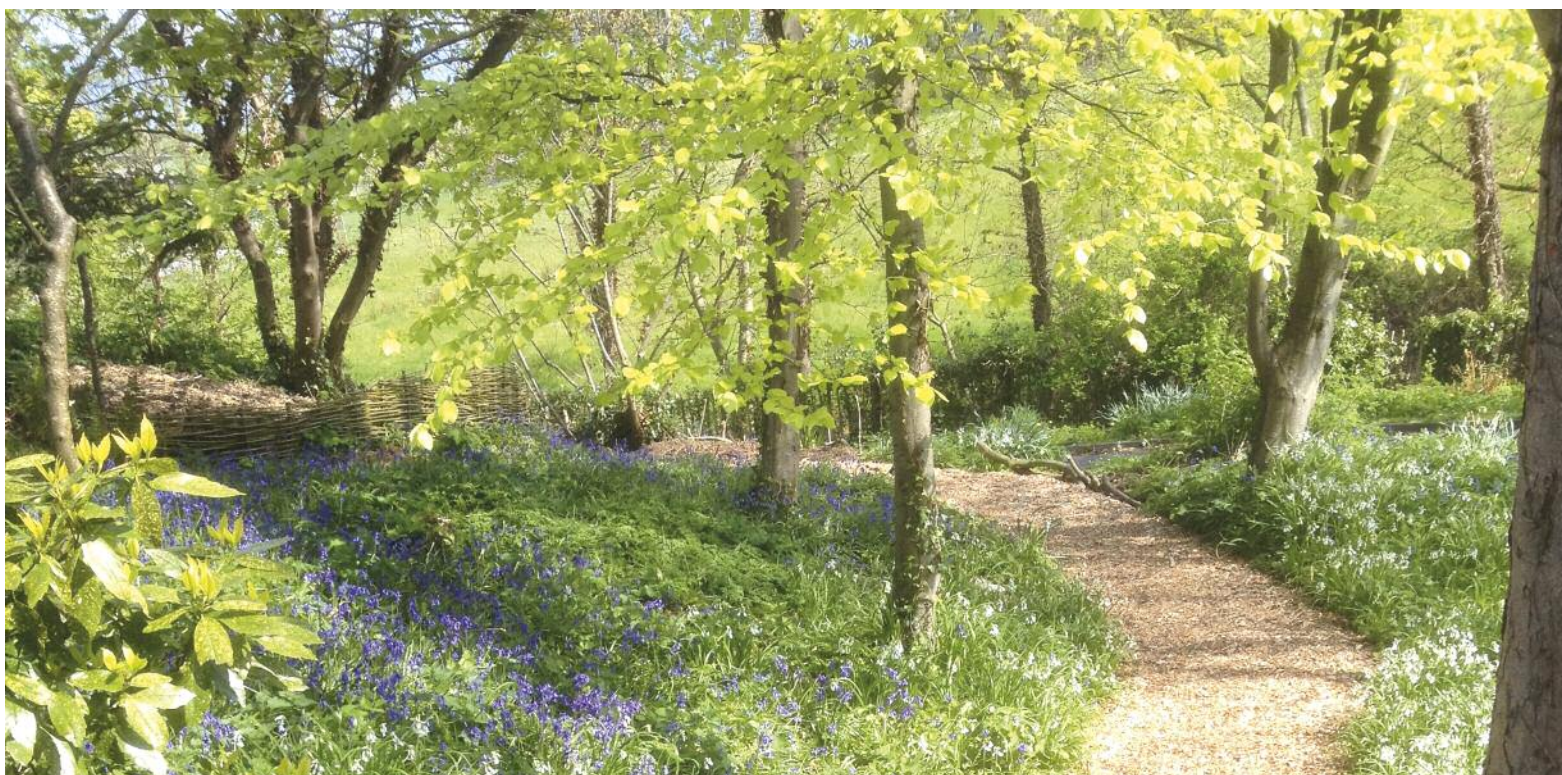
Through the sensory pathway and the sitting area I would like to bring a therapeutic element into our community and create a space to perceiving the different senses through nature.

In the process of building the pathway I had the opportunity to take my house community including young people with complex needs into a natural environment to cut lots of willow and bring those to the pathway site. Also with weaving the willow

fence I had great help from two young people. During the process the different individuals seemed to enjoy the process and the opportunity to help, to do something practical and especially to see the positive results. With one individual the willow weaving was a very long activity of showing happiness, engaging in following the process and at the same time being more relaxed and calm, compared to other activities which might only last very few minutes. To see this brought great joy and happiness to me. Another time this particular individual helped to put stones into a wheelbarrow and take the stones to the entrance to put them alongside the pathway. The young person handed each stone to me, one after another. Again, the person seemed focused on the activity and also showed joy and enthusiasm to the task.

Some other time I went with an individual to the site to continue the building process. The individual chose to walk along the path, remain in the sitting area for a while and then come and help for a bit. With this I could really observe that the space helped the person to relax and be more balanced. Though the helping was only for a very short period it was very nice to observe the effect the site had on the person.

During the whole period of my Artistic Project I received many (and only) positive comments, expressing the happiness and joy others experienced because of the sensory pathway.



LIFE AS A CO-WORKER IN CAMPHILL COMMUNITY MOURNE GRANGE

“I work in the weavery and I am doing different kinds of things I have never done before”.

- Jens Lemke

Before I came to Mourne Grange, I didn't have much experience of adults with a learning disability.

There was a special school near me and I knew that some of these children were quite independent and would be able to live a fairly normal life with a little support once they left school. I didn't have any idea what the other children might do, but I just presumed that they would have to live with their families and get a lot of help to manage their lives.

When I applied to Mourne Grange, I read the information but it's very difficult to get a real picture of what the community is like from reading a leaflet. I expected to live in a house with some residents, and thought that I would have to help them a lot. There is certainly always plenty to do, but what surprised me most was that everybody does it together. When the meal is finished, everybody knows how they can help, and does their best. If somebody is on holiday, someone else often just does their task without even being asked! Sometimes if I'm cooking or baking in the kitchen one of the residents comes along and starts to help!

I was really surprised at how independent everybody is, and the interest they take in everything that's happening. All the residents have their own interests and hobbies too. In my house people's hobbies include bird-watching and feeding, being an expert on cars, hand-crafts, playing drums and reading endless newspapers. When there's free-time they always have something to do.

Something I didn't expect was the amount of work opportunities in Mourne Grange. During the week everybody goes to work. Some people like to work in the same work-shop all day, while others like to work somewhere different in the afternoons. There is a lot of choice and all the residents really contribute to their

work-shop and get involved in whatever way they can. I work in the wood-work shop all day and I've learned a lot here. I've learned how to support people to do things by themselves, rather than just do it for them. I've learned that it's really good fun to be part of a team with everybody – new co-workers, work co-ordinator and adults with a learning disability.

Before I came, I knew nothing about wood-work. Now I've learned how to make shelves, wooden pictures, boxes, chopping boards and lots of other things too. I think that coming to a Camphill Community helped me realise how much people with a learning disability can enjoy their lives and contribute in lots of different ways. In my work-shop, two people work quite independently on carving projects, some love to sit around the table and sing while they sand, one person makes sure that tea-break is always on time and another man likes to oil the wooden boards and make they sure they get over to the craft shop to be sold!

It would be great if young people learned about Camphill at school in social studies. If everybody had a better understanding of what a great life people with learning difficulties can have, they might not get too anxious if they discover that their own child might have special needs. They might not feel they have to abort their baby just because a scan shows up some physical defects. All the young co-workers who came to Mourne Grange really enjoyed living and working alongside the residents. We all feel we've very good life-long friends. Sometimes it was difficult, but most of the time it was good fun. We all agree that we learned a lot while we were here – how to be responsible, how to be just a little bit patient and let people do things by themselves, and lots of useful new skills.

Laura Disse



“I learned lots of new stuff about sewing machines here in Mourne Grange”

Norman Birdard



“I never worked so much on a field with the tractor like here in Mourne Grange”.

Franzi



“I have never held a chicken before”.

Jorinka



“I work in the food processing and I made juice for the first time”.

Magdalene Platow



“I work in the weavery and I am doing different kinds of things I have never done before”.

Jens Lemke



“I work in the craft shop and I even sell the things I made myself in the weavery”.

Kirstin Schwerger



“I work in the garden and I never did that much weeding before”.

Nanine Kaven



“We are working in the woodwork shop and we enjoy to produce things out of wood”.

Laura and Siwon

“I worked in the food processing and I have made juice for the first time” - Magdalene Platow

SOUTHERN IRELAND REGION

CAMPHILL COMMUNITIES OF IRELAND PUBLISH NEW LEAFLET.

The leaflet can be obtained from the Head Office of Camphill Communities of Ireland, Dunshane Community, Brannockstown, Naas, Co. Kildare. Phone 087 2568810

Michael Hilary sent the editor a copy of the New Camphill leaflet.

To emphasise the common endeavour of Camphill in the Republic of Ireland, a new leaflet, whose photos we reproduce here, highlighting the 18 communities throughout the country, trying to create a life of accomplishment, celebration and meaning for those with learning disabilities, mental health problems and other support needs.

It goes on to say that after pioneering methods of mutual support and respect Camphill continues to innovate today and offers a variety of work activities, educational opportunities and creative arts projects.

Under the headings, Social Farming, Healthy Lifestyle and Living Support the leaflet shows how 500 people altogether with up to 200 day placements work in 16 communities in rural and some urban situations in farms, gardens, craft workshops and organic based cafes. Volunteering from all over the world is emphasised and a resounding vote of confidence from the parents of children and adults in Camphill is mentioned!

The leaflet profiles 3 Camphill Communities.

The Bridge with its integrated community life for people with special needs in the village of Kilcullen through the An Teamann Cafe Craft Shop and Nature Trail.

Camphill Jerpoint with its new Care Farm and close to Thomastown with its famous Water Garden Cafe and Garden Centre which is part of the Thomastown Food Initiative.

KCAT- The Kilkenny Collective for Arts and Talent set in Callan creating an environment in which artists and students from different backgrounds and disabilities can work and create together and in which life long learning is an opportunity for everyone. The leaflet highlights RTE's documentary "Living Colour" see www.kcat.ie



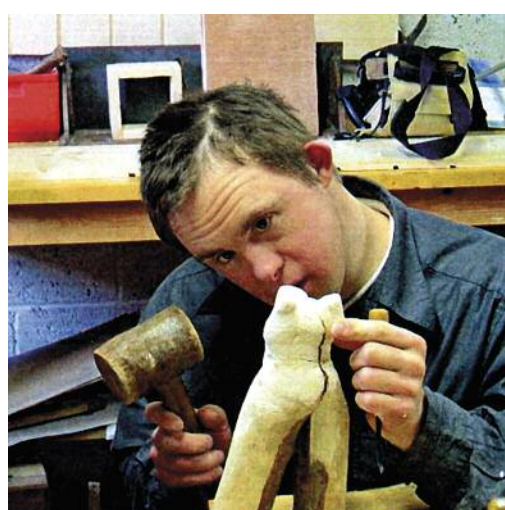
The Water Garden Café, Thomastown, Co Kilkenny.



An Tearmann, at The Bridge, beloved by the locals.



The Bridge Gift Shop.



Finton in the Journeyman Workshop.



Meals on Wheels in Dingle.



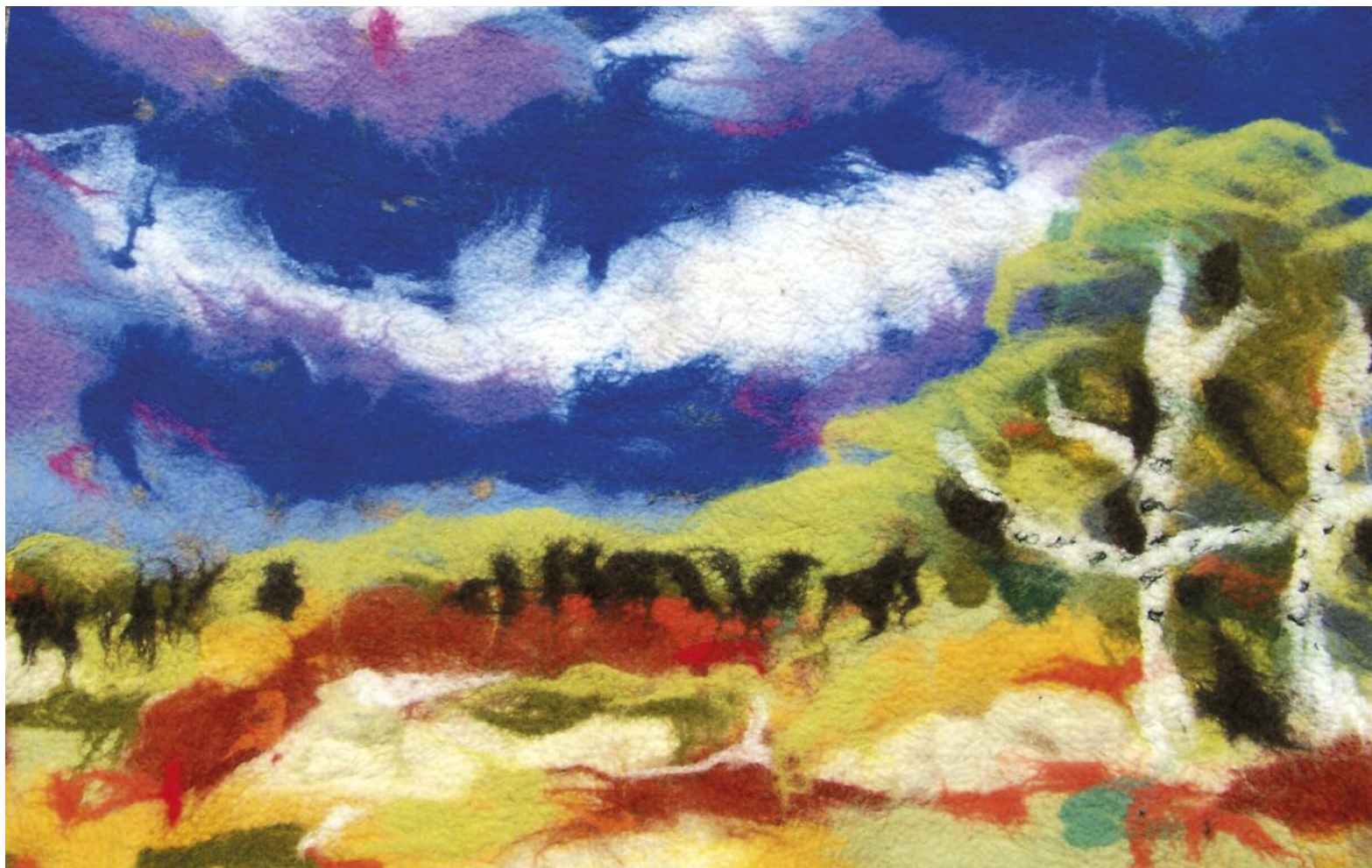
CYCLING SIX RAISE FUNDS FOR CAMPHILL

As the Giro cycle headed for Dublin on 11 May, 6 intrepid cyclists headed in the opposite direction from Dublin to Ballybay to raise much needed funds for Camphill Ballybay.

They received a great reception when they arrived! - pictured outside the hall.

They raised over €5,000!

ASSOCIATION MATTERS



CAMPHILL'S INTER-REGIONAL INTERWEAVING

Camphill Foundation Exhibition “World Wide Weave - Extraordinary Lives” for the 75th Anniversary of the Camphill Movement 1940 - 2015

Camphill Foundation's new project is well under way, with many weavers and other craftspeople actively and enthusiastically engaged all around the world. The project brings together adults, young people and children from 67 communities in 19 countries to celebrate their creative and artistic skills in the craft of weaving, tapestry-making, felting and multi-media textile design. The exhibition will comprise 75 panels depicting each participating community's relationship to its physical and social environment. Photos and text will appear alongside the panels, showing the weavers themselves and giving their own description of how they approached the task. An 80 page A5 colour brochure will accompany the exhibition, with photos of all the panels and weavers and the descriptive text, forming a complete and permanent record of the entire project.

Whilst the World Wide Weave is first and foremost an artistic endeavour, it carries a fundamental statement of equality and principle about the potential and creative stature of people with learning disabilities. The craft work in the project is not just something that merely fills in the time or has value only for its therapeutic or educational aspects. The weavers and tapestry-makers can place their work alongside that of mainstream artists and

craftspeople. They don't really need any special concessions in this regard – apart from open-mindedness and genuine interest. They are artists and artisans in their own right and deserve to be recognised as such. This is the crucial step in perception and imagination that we would hope to foster widely through our travelling exhibition which will take place in a number of prominent venues in the UK and Ireland and possibly the United States during 2015-2016.

Residents and students of all ages with learning disabilities in Camphill communities all over the world are enthusiastically involved in the project, which gives it a truly inclusive, international and multicultural quality. The farthest west is Camphill California on Monterey Bay near San Francisco. The farthest east is the Peaceful Bamboo Family in the city of Hue, Vietnam. The farthest north is Vallersund Gård on the rugged seacoast of Norway, north of Trondheim. The farthest south is Camphill Farm at Hermanus on the coast near the southern tip of Africa.

Textile panels are being designed and created for the exhibition by communities in England, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Netherlands, Germany,

Switzerland, Austria, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Russia, Canada, USA, South Africa, India and Vietnam. What unites them in their diversity, across geographical and cultural boundaries, is their commitment to the Camphill ethos and the celebration of the unique flame of creativity that lives in every human being.

The overall artistic concept for the project is **Diversity in Unity**. Each Camphill community is unique – no two in the world are the same – yet wherever in the world you might be you can experience that they are all united by the core values of the Camphill Movement, and this shows in the quality of the environment and the quality of social relationships. The project will therefore depict how all the wonderfully varied and diverse characteristics of single communities come together in one great artistic panorama of Camphill. The working theme is **‘Our community's integration with its physical environment and social environment’**. Some communities are doing two panels and will devote one to each aspect of this theme, whilst others are ingeniously and imaginatively combining the two in one image.

The first firm bookings for exhibition venues have been agreed at the Leeds Corn Exchange Gallery, the Scottish Parliament

Building, Belfast City Hall, Omagh Library and Winchester Cathedral. Stroud Museum in the Park and the National Wool Museum of Wales are also close to being finalised. Discussions are ongoing with venues in London, Aberdeen, New Lanark Heritage Centre near Glasgow, Oxford North Wall Gallery, York Art Gallery and other prestigious venues in Bristol, Cambridge, Exeter, Milton Keynes, Birmingham, Dublin and Kilkenny.

Groups of weavers will be in attendance to support the exhibition in some of the different venues, to enhance the visitors' experience through direct personal engagement. Other volunteers will also be needed to ensure that the exhibition is properly manned. Please contact peter@camphillfoundation.net if you would like to help. There will be extensive publicity and press coverage and a series of articles will appear in textile-related magazines, written by Alison Delaney, an experienced weaver and tapestry-maker who is also a Camphill parent, Chair of the Board of Ochil Tower School and involved in Camphill Scotland. She has already helped and supported the development of the project in many ways.

The trustees of Camphill Foundation hold the view that within the overall holistic and integrated environment of a Camphill community people are able to lead not only good lives but **extraordinary lives**. They have always been co-responsible for their communities and able to carry on regular, useful, creative and satisfying work which gives them fulfilment and is of great value to others. They also have many gifts and talents, both artistic and social. Their special gifts in the craft realm, and in this case specifically weaving, will be channelled directly into the

Left: Felted panel from Turmalin, Moscow
Below: Tapestry from Tapola, Finland



World Wide Weave for all to see and appreciate.

Although the completion date is Michaelmas, the first four panels have already been delivered, from Copake (USA), Turmalin (Moscow), Tapola (Finland) and Maartenhuis (Netherlands). Copake’s weaving is deceptively simple in appearance but with a richly coloured weave and every molecule is home-produced – wool, dyes etc. About fifteen people were directly involved and many more in the associated sourcing and processing of materials. It includes an appliqué leaf of woven peat-fibre with a fascinating explanation of its own about innovative peat-fibre technology. The felting panel from Moscow is a stunningly beautiful depiction of the Russian landscape and the vast open Russian sky. The tapestry from Tapola is a magical and detailed ‘picture-map’ of the whole village, with the clearly recognisable old pale-yellow mansion house, red barn and track through the fields leading to the newer houses grouped on three sides of a courtyard – and animals galore! The piece from Maartenhuis is like a great soft, transparent, fluffy cloud using the ‘Wolwaeren’ technique. Judging by these first contributions the exhibition promises to be a magnificent spectacle!

For further details and updates see: **www.camphillfoundation.net** section entitled World Wide Weave. To offer help with stewarding the exhibition or in any other way please contact **peter@camphillfoundation.net**

Peter Bateson
Development Coordinator



THE STORY OF CURATIVE EDUCATION

By Jack Reed

The following timeline indicates some of the outstanding milestones in the story of the work of Curative Education and Social Therapy of which Garvald, along with Camphill, has played a significant part.

- 27th February 1861, Kraljevic: Rudolf Steiner born in a village on border of Austro-Hungarian empire, where his father was stationmaster;

- 1884, Vienna: Rudolf Steiner studying PhD whilst in his 20s and tutoring 4 sons of Specht family for a number of years. One of these, Otto, had special needs, who he taught with great care and dedication. For Steiner, these tasks had profound significance as regards recognition of disability and our essential humanity;

- 1919, Stuttgart: first Waldorf School founded here through Rudolf Steiner, with the financial support of Emil Molt. He appointed Karl Schubert to take a special class, recognising the needs of particular pupils. Schubert continued in this capacity for many years;

- June 1924 Dornach, Switzerland: during an exceptionally demanding period, Rudolf Steiner responded to the request by 3 young men - Franz Löffler, Siegfried Pickert and Albrecht Strohschein - and held a series of 12 lectures, comprehensive and full of deep insight, and known as the Curative Course. These took place in a wooden joinery building, still standing today, adjacent to the Goetheanum, headquarters of the Anthroposophical Society. Along with the 3 young educators were some 20 participants. These included Dr Ita Wegman, a close colleague of Rudolf Steiner and leader of the Medical Section, and a number of other doctors. Ita Wegman was to play an extensive and important role in the encouragement and development of the curative and anthroposophical medical work.

Immediately prior to these lectures, on 17th June 1924, Rudolf Steiner saw and advised on the treatment of children at the Lauenstein Home. This was to become one of the first curative homes, along with the Sonnenhof in Arlesheim, which is still running today.

From such small beginnings sprang the international movement for curative education and social therapy;

- 1st Advent Sunday 1927, Sonnenhof: Dr Karl König was engaged at the home in Arlesheim as 25 year old physician, at the invitation of Ita Wegman. Here he

experienced the Advent Garden for the first time. His profound existential and spiritual experience of the children with special needs at this celebration can be understood as a personal turning point, which would lead later to the birth of the Camphill movement on Deeside;

- July 1928, Friends’ House, London: successful, well attended “World Conference on the Spiritual Science of Rudolf Steiner”, came about through a conversation between Rudolf Steiner and Daniel Dunlop in 1924. The conference included presentations on Curative Education by leading figures in the fledgling movement as well as at the following one, including Ita Wegman;

- June 1929, Rudolf Steiner Hall, London: another much appreciated conference, fully devoted to Curative Education; following this, a Curative Education Council was formed, succeeded by other associations to the present day;

- November 1930, Edinburgh New Town; a smaller curative conference, again involving Ita Wegman and key personalities. Fried Geuter lectured on “The Teaching of Rudolf Steiner: the Place of the Backward Child in the Life of Today”;

- 1931, Sunfield, Clent: Michael Wilson had contributed to the above conferences, and he and Fried Geuter started this new home as one of the first in Britain. Ita Wegman was present at the laying of the foundation stone, as was Adam Bittleston, later to play an important role in the development of Garvald;

- 1920s/1930s, Vienna: the next crucial steps come about through a number of school pupils and university students meeting as friends and then as a Youth Group around Karl König, at that time a medical practitioner in the city. They studied Anthroposophy together and discussed many questions of the day, later amidst the gathering storm clouds across Europe. Remarkably, they included the core of those who were to become co-founders of Camphill and Garvald;

- 1939/40 Deeside, Aberdeen: most of the Youth Group, although assimilated, came from a Jewish background. With the rise of Nazism and the increasing threats of violence they needed to try to escape the coming Holocaust. Fortunately, most were able to do so. Through connections which both Liesl Schauder and Ita Wegman had earlier formed with Theodore and Emily Haughton on Deeside, the future founders of Camphill were invited to start their curative endeavours in community, as they had wished to, in Scotland. A new way

2014 is the 90th birthday of the Curative Education Course, given by Rudolf Steiner at Dornach near Basel in Switzerland.

forward began, requiring courage, determination and hard work to succeed;

- 1944, Garvald: differences in approach and personality, and a wish to branch out independently, led to a search for a new property. Aletta Adler had become involved, together with Hans and Liesl Schauder and Willi Amann from Vienna and Camphill, as well as a few others. Garvald, an estate of some 65 acres, was found and purchased with a loan from Aletta’s mother. The founder members were soon joined by Renate Amann, who was to continue for many years, and later on by Lore Richter, whose stature and insight as a curative educator and then as Principal had a positive influence at Garvald for a lengthy period.

The name Garvald can be traced back to the 13th Century. Locally this was an ancient crossing point - including too old drove roads across Scotland and through the Borders with a long history of human habitation. The earliest part of Garvald House dates from 1827.

So Garvald is located in a special setting with its place in history, and brought to new life 70 years ago as a healing impulse, originating especially in Dornach, Vienna and on Deeside.

For further reading the following are especially recommended:

- “The Birth of Curative Education” by Albrecht Strohschein in “A Man Before Others - Rudolf Steiner Remembered” - Rudolf Steiner Press
- “The Youth Group in Vienna” by John Baum in “The Builders of Camphill - Lives and Destinies of the Founders”. Edited by Friedwart Bock. Floris Books
- “Reflections on 50 years - Garvald West Linton - 1944 to 1994” Compiled by Martin Dawson, manager then at Garvald West Linton and now at Columcille, contains a wide range of lively and vivid accounts by many involved over the years.
- For up-to-date information there are very good Garvald websites as well as individual leaflets and newsletters.
- “Point and Circle” and “Camphill Correspondence” are both regular magazines giving a wider perspective in the curative movement.
- Representative organisations: ACESTA (Association for Curative Education and Social Therapy); AoCC (Association of Camphill Communities); International Council, Dornach.

ENGLISH / WELSH REGION

THE PURSUIT OF DARLEEN FYLES RADIO 4 DRAMA

Features visit to village community.

Every weekday evening (as well as on Woman's Hour) for 15 minutes from 21st July listeners to Radio 4 heard a remarkable drama unfold about a person with a learning disability - Darleen Fyles - going to live and work in a village community for the disabled.

Feisty and a bit lost Darleen misses morning gathering and a very patient key worker explains how important this meeting is to divi out the work and rotas for the day!

Inputs from the scriptwriters had elements of both Larchfield Community and Bolton Village, the former has a riding school nearby, the latter is in the countryside - something Darleen coming from Leeds has to get used to!

The actors who have special needs were able to portray this adventure with clarity and professionalism and the series has had many installments.



Darleen played by Donna Lavin and her partner by Edmund Davies.
Written by Esther Wilson.

CVT CAFÉ NUMBER 1 ON TRIP ADVISOR

The Kingfisher Café run by the Croft Camphill Community has climbed to number 1 of the 59 restaurants in Malton North Yorkshire on the tripadvisor website.

Everyone who works at the Kingfisher is bubbling with excitement at the news.

"I'm really pleased", says Tom. It makes me really proud to work in the café. "I've been baking bread for along time" says Joseph with a grin. "I know the customers like it as they keep coming back to buy more".

The quotes and testimonials are effusive:

"Favourite place for lunch in Malton".

"Service is excellent and the cafe itself is lovely. It is run from Camphill Village Trust and the staff are a credit to the Trust. Go! You won't be disappointed".

"An absolutely must visit! Family friendly and perfect for a catch up with friends too"

"Simply Fabulous - We where struggling too find a place too eat in Malton, and this place shocked us with its brilliance, the staff, surroundings and food where all stunning. Thank You".

"Great for cyclists"

"Toasties were substantial and tasty. Just disappointed we didn't have time for the cakes. Exceptional friendly staff, and thanks for filling up the water bottles!".

"I love this little cafe and have visited many times now. The staff are so friendly and helpful. The food is absolutely scrummy".

"Bread how bread should taste - a taste I had forgotten - and generous fillings, delicious soup, cakes very hard to resist.

Staff courteous, attentive, helpful, cheerful and, most importantly, enjoying rewarding employment".

"Quaint with gorgeous homemade food."

Started in 1978 as the Camphill Book and Coffee shop the café changed its name to the Kingfisher in 1992. The menu includes a range of homemade cakes, organic bread and nourishing soups and snacks. There is also a range of arts and craft products (some made in other Camphill centres) as well as a selection of books for adults and children.

Sandra who supports adults to develop their kitchen and service skills says "The trip advisor news has given everyone a real lift. Its nice to know that customers appreciate the effort everyone makes and that they enjoy both the quality of the food and the service."



LARCHFIELD DAFFODIL HOUSE

We are delighted to report that work is now underway at Larchfield to build much needed new accommodation.

Work started with a 'turf cutting' ceremony and there were cheers as Jeremy and other future residents broke the ground for their new home, which we have decided to call Daffodil House.

Nine lovely new flats

That was in February and now Daffodil House has grown from a hole in the ground to a recognisable structure. When finished, there will be nine lovely new flats arranged

in a horseshoe shape around a central courtyard. 'Probably after October we'll move in', says Jeremy. 'Daffodil House will create a transformation from only being able to offer shared living, to having a whole range of options', adds manager Mike English. Since he joined the community last year Mike has been working to make it possible for more people to come to live in Larchfield.



FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

ASSOCIATION OF CAMPHILL COMMUNITIES - AGM AND ASSEMBLY

A report by trustee of Camphill Families & Friends Godfrey Davey
(AGM 22nd March 2014 - held at Camphill Blair Drummond - Scotland)

Theme - Better together

The Future of Associative Working between Camphill Communities in the United Kingdom.

Introductory Comments.

Mary Pearson and Godfrey Davey attended on behalf of CFF. We were warmly welcomed. We made clear that we wished to be very supportive as we saw, in the lives of our family members, the great benefits of the Camphill way of life.

Presentation from Blair Drummond

We were given a heartening presentation on progress at Blair Drummond. Some years ago it had a range of very serious problems. It had managed change effectively which was aided by two outsiders who came in and were committed to the Camphill philosophy. Now it is a thriving community with some of the best facilities I have seen anywhere (we were shown round after the meeting).

Chairman's Report (David Mitchell)

1. Dave reported that the Aims and Objectives of the AoCC had been redrawn but the main objective remained "to promote community living as a shared way of life, in which the social and therapeutic impulses of the founding group led by Dr.Karl Konig are of special importance"
2. Member Communities are expected to strive to uphold the principles set out in the memorandum. These are:-
 - a) To develop social forms based upon the threefold principles outlined by Rudolf Steiner. To endeavour to order their internal dealings according to the "Fundamental Social Law" as formulated by Rudolf Steiner.
 - b) To uphold the image of the human as described in Rudolf Steiner's Anthroposophy.
 - c) To be based on a Christian way of life and to celebrate Christian festivals.
 - d) To maintain and develop relationships with other Camphill communities within their regions and an interest in the wider Camphill Movement.
 - e) To seek to support the personal development of all members of the community.

3. Dave referred to the ongoing work of the AoCC and listed the following:-
 - a) Camphill Insurance Agency.
 - b) "Co-ordinating public presence and public relations, negotiations with HMRC on tax and status of co-workers, older age provision for co-workers and dialogue with Camphill worldwide."
- Dave chaired the assembly very well and is particularly welcoming to family members.

Activities Plan

The estimated budget under this heading is for £83,000. It is anticipated that there will be a deficit this year in the region of £30,000 "primarily due to professional advice surrounding the co-worker legal taxation status"

Other activities include administrative support, meetings of co-ordinators, accountants fees, PR and Marketing Group, Camphill Pages (estimated cost £18.000) and the Camphill Literature Services workshop.

PR Group Report

This group has a budget of £26,000. It looks after Camphill Pages, the Introduction to Camphill leaflet map (published Easter 2014 - Ed) and the International Directory (Due December 2014 - Ed), the website and the group is discussing crisis management. I give in full the conclusion to the report:-

"We are in an era of communicating in a meaningful way with our audiences both internal and external. We have to rise to the challenge and the existence of this group is vital going forward. Producing updated, relevant and engaging literature on a regular basis is essential. Letting the general public as well as our Communities know how we are adapting to the changing landscape but at the same time holding on to our basic principles and values is the key to strengthening Camphill Communities throughout the UK and Ireland"

Final Comments

- In my last report (after AoCC Conference March 2012) that Families and Friends need to send a representative e to Annual Assembly each year as CFF should be seen as a body that is automatically invited to such meetings.

AGM OF FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

Birmingham June 2014

Camphill Families and Friends held their AGM and a major open meeting at Carrs Lane Centre, Birmingham which is a convenient place for members to meet as it is a very central location. After the business meeting, the topic at our open meeting was the new Care Act and our main speaker was Karen Ashton, a leading lawyer in the field of learning disability. The Act has already been passed but the consultation period for the regulations and guidance was, at that point, currently being held. The Act rescinds completely all previous legislation and sets new standards for all people who require services from local authorities, including people with learning disabilities. The new act needs to be taken in conjunction with the Mental Capacity Act. There are many changes such as the basis of the new provision being well being rather than independence, the introduction of a new national eligibility criteria system, a new definition of carer and a new assessment process allowing authorities to contract out assessment to other agencies. Karen also spent some time telling us about family involvement in assessment and care planning, advocacy and best interests decision making. For a full description of Karen's power point presentation please see CFF's website.

Karen also advised us to respond to the consultation process regarding the new regulations and guidance and gave us some pointers about where improvement is needed. CFF submitted its response in August. Karen's presentation was very greatly appreciated and was accompanied, as usual, by many questions and much discussion of particular points.

After Karen's presentation discussion turned Mary Pearson's account of the cordial meeting that CFF trustees had had on the previous day with CVT trustees and senior management and which would be followed by further meetings to discuss matters of importance to families. In the general discussion which followed there was much concern and many ideas about these important matters, in particular various aspects of shared living, Camphill's spiritual, social and cultural community life and the role of families.



ELAINE'S MBE

Elaine Dowell is seen at Buckingham Palace shortly after Prince Charles had conferred on to her the MBE in June this year.

Elaine who is a Trustee Member of Camphill Family and Friends with a son at Corbenic Camphill helped found The Encephalitis Society in 1994 with her husband Keith after their son Andrew became ill with the disease. Her untiring work with the society was the reason for the award.

Future Meeting Dates for your Diary

For more information visit
camphillfamiliesandfriends.com

Saturday 27th September
Siblings Workshop,
Charity Centre, London

Saturday 15th November
Open Meeting, Birmingham

NEXT TIME IN PAGES...

Camphill Pages Vol 20 Winter 2015

We shall mark the 75th birthday
of the Camphill Movement.
PAGES will be published in February 2015.

STOP PRESS

Camphill Scotland Chair Retires

Much Gratitude was expressed to
Kate Skinner at the Camphill
Scotland AGM on 19th August on
her retirement as Chair after 8 years
faithful and active service.



LANCASTER CO-HOUSING, A VISIT TO FORGEBANK

A guest article by Jan Martin Bang from Camphill Norway

Co-housing is in the air. It has been mentioned in research papers, written about in Camphill Correspondence, and was discussed at the recent New Lanark conference. Is this a model that may be relevant to Camphill? I went to visit a newly formed co-housing group in North West England.

The Lancaster Co-housing (LCH) group was formed several years ago in order to create a community based on cooperation, and with a clear boundary between the private and the common. In the aftermath of the financial crash in 2008 property prices fell and many development companies went bankrupt. It was a buyer's market, and LCH found an old derelict industrial property at Forgebank just 3 miles out of Lancaster on the banks of the river Lune, in the village of Halton.

The group bought the property for £ 600,000 - in 2009 and already had a good deal of the organisational infrastructure in place, including architects, planners and lawyers. The total investment for planning and building the 40 terraced houses and installing the heating, sewage, energy and water systems came to around £ 11 million.

With 40 houses this meant that houses at Forgebank were able to be sold at market prices without any additional charge for the high environmental standards and the communal facilities.

Each family or person buys a house on a 999 year lease, and is free to sell it whenever they want. Any prospective buyer has to be voted in as a member of the co-housing group. Should the buyer not be admitted, Lancaster co-housing can buy the house back after a fair valuation, and so be able to sell it on to others.

Lancaster Co-housing is the owner of the site and the buildings. There is also an old mill, which is being managed by a separate holding, called Green Elephant (GE). This is a management company that rents out space to people needing workshops, office or storage space. GE has been operating for less than a year, but looks to be breaking even already at this early stage.

LCH also have other community enterprises, including a food cooperative and a car pool. The food cooperative is completely informal, run by members volunteering their time to order wholefoods and make them available to other members in a locked

storeroom to which all members have access. With an annual turnover of over £20,000, the food coop will probably have to be formalised soon. Another enterprise is the car pool, which is legally registered, now owning 4 cars, including one electric car. Members pay according to both time and distance driven, and membership is open to people living outside Forgebank.

In addition there is a shared laundry, with 2 washing machines operated by tokens available at the co-housing office. There are communal guest rooms and a bike workshop and storage space. Heating is by a district heating scheme, housed in the GE mill, and running off woodchips. In combination with highly insulated houses the heating costs are cut to an absolute minimum. This also means that the houses can be relatively small, not needing room for big heaters, washing machines or guest rooms.

The common house has a large communal kitchen where members take it in turns to cook evening meals. The community eats together 3 or 4 times a week, and the common house is used often for coffee and just hanging out. Opposite is a children's playground, so the whole family can spend time being with others.

What struck me most significantly at Forgebank was the feeling of easy community. I spent quite a lot of my time in the common house, talking to people, and saw how well used it was, and how well looked after.

When I visited, the Forgebank community was about 60 adults and 15 children, all the houses were filled, but the mill was still half empty. There was still work to be done on landscaping, especially upriver, where there was a steep slope up from the river which could not be built on, but which could be developed as productive open space, a food forest, small gardens and recreational space. A local company, "Halton Hydro" was building a modern micro hydro on the site of an old mill to provide hydro electricity, and solar panels were still being installed. Forgebank reckons to be exporting energy within a year or two. They have started monitoring their carbon footprint, which is already significantly lower than the UK average.

Jan Martin Bang was a kibbutz member for 16 years, has lived in Camphill in Norway, and has written several books on community and ecology. He was chair of the International Communal Study Association between 2010 and 2013.

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Contact and contributions are very welcome and should come through to
viviangriffiths@talktalk.net

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Contact Us: Camphill Pages Editorial Board, c/o Hazelseat, Graythwaite,
Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 8BB
Email: viviangriffiths@talktalk.net

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