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CAMPHILL

PAGES



VOLUME 32 SPRING/SUMMER 2022

Welcome

Community is often formed and indeed strengthened out of hardship and challenge.

Camphill's journey has negotiated many challenges over the years and has faced each of them with creativity and resolve to win through. Maintaining our values and principles as we negotiate those challenges or sometimes finding new direction because of them. We are all still on that journey together, and we remember fondly our pathfinders and value their inspiring legacy of clarity and awareness of what Camphill has been and will be as we move together out of the current challenges of pandemics and wars.

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The last year has been very challenging for our tenants at Thornage Hall as COVID:19 impacted on our daily lives when we went into lockdown.

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Tom Bridle reflects upon this unique community's past, present and future.

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Sturts Community Trust

Twin Oaks Co-Housing

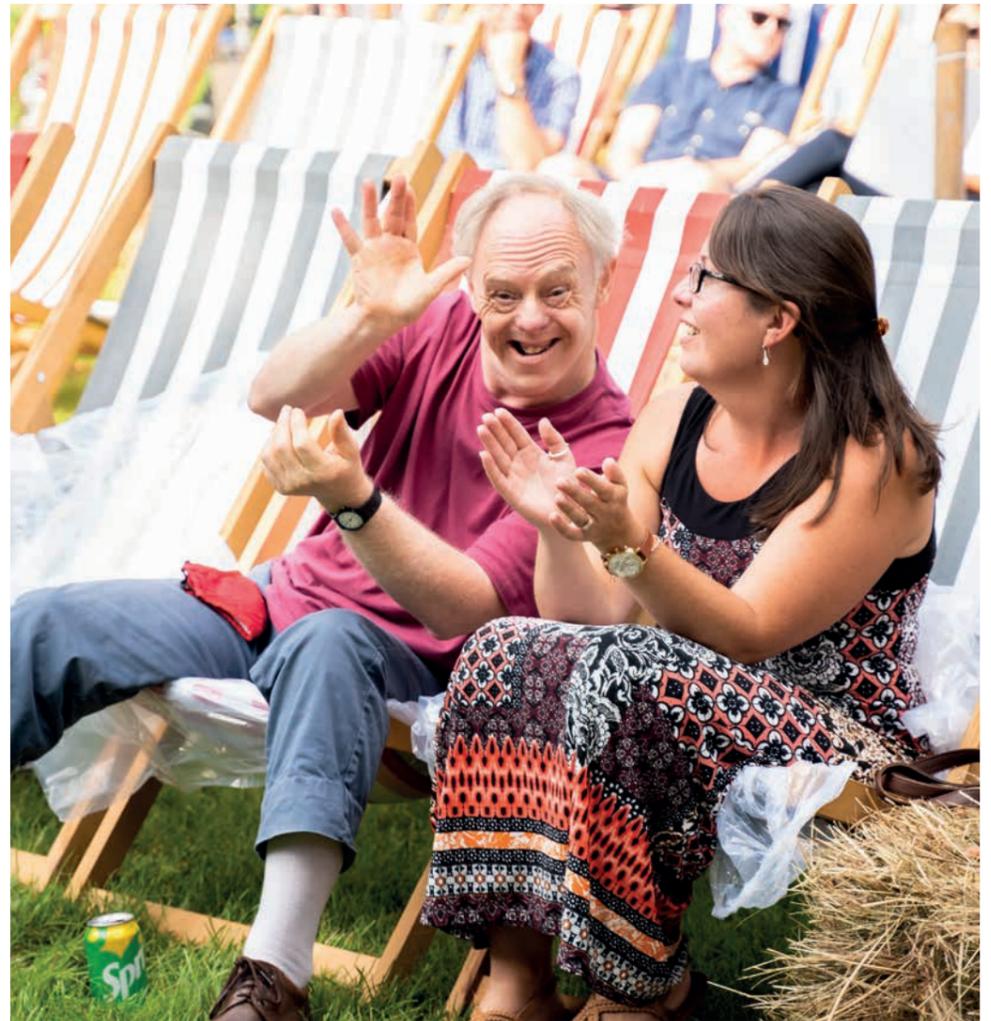
The story of Sturts Community Trust is the story of people of differing abilities living together as, in the words of Dr Konig, "active citizens who will make their own contribution". The same can be used to describe the approach to the design and development of Twin Oaks, from as early as its conceptual stage.

To live out Sturts' GRACCE values (Gratitude, Resilience, Celebration, Citizenship and Encouragement) in the context of building a home together, Twin Oaks had to be and was citizen-led; rather than a building designed, constructed, furnished behind the scenes and then presented to the community in its finished state. Therefore, having the input of all the people who would form the neighbourhood living there was intrinsic to the purpose of the development. This required space for decision making, for diversity and for conversations about what specific aspects would make it feel like a home for the individual and what would create a sense of community between all the individuals living there.

An important aspect is that to truly see each other as neighbours caring together for each other, as opposed to care receivers and care givers, from a legal perspective, the community is

Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme

Elaine Davie



separate from the support provision and the support provision is tailored to the lifestyle of living in community that has been chosen by that person.

With the help of Nimble Spaces, the design element was an arts-led participatory and enabling design process. This facilitated people being able to express what a home means to them and

what their desires for a home environment would be. We would particularly like to mention and thank Patrick Lydon of Nimble Spaces who helped with this project, and proffer our sincere condolences on his passing.

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Fortunately, residents of the Overstrand don't need to go all the way to Scarborough Fair to find these zesty herbs. A short drive down the Hemel en Aarde Valley is a 5000 square-metre well-maintained herb garden nurtured by the intellectually-challenged residents of Camphill Farm which produces these and many other organically-grown plants.

Hand-picked and fresh, the wide diversity of herbs are grown both for culinary and

medicinal purposes. Under the supervision of experienced small-scale organic farmer, Alex Guenther, together with her garden assistant, Takudzwa Gwata ('Taku') and her volunteer assistant, Mbali Fourie, 14 residents work there every weekday morning and are involved in all aspects of the germinating, planting and harvesting of the herbs, as well as the drying and processing of the products. Tasks are

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Externally, Twin Oaks looks out on to a shared courtyard where the celebratory opening event took place with family and friends and importantly, where people can have barbeques together, watch sports events outdoors, exercise or simply sit outside and enjoy each other's company. With the absence of divides such as gates before front doors but the inclusion of some private spaces, self-determination and privacy need not be lost to sharing life and sharing communal spaces. The neighbourhood garden, for example, is a large open space which includes a trampoline for children with chairs and tables on the periphery of the garden for those desiring to be outdoors but in a quiet personal space.

For some people, being able to choose the design of their own blinds/curtains with a specification that means they can open and close these themselves highlighted how, what can appear as minutiae, can enable a layer of independence for someone that contributes to their space feeling like their home. Important aspects of inter-dependence continue to thrive with shared meals, working together within the cohousing context and having neighbourhood meetings to form decisions collectively about the neighbourhood as equals.

Part of the vision for Twin Oaks was that the neighbourhood living there, by being part of the development process of building their own home, would have real connection to and voice within the neighbourhood they belong to.

Pond House - Growing Co-housing at The Mount

Editor

Pond house is a large family home in the village of Wadhurst in East Sussex. It is part of The Mount Camphill Community in East Sussex.

Because Pond house is in a local village it means that there will be more variety of choice for where and how people can live at The Mount.

Pond House was originally bought in 2017 to use as part of the co-housing project at The Mount. It needs to be renovated so that it can be lived in and become a home where people can be supported in their own tenancies.

When it has been renovated six people will be able to live at Pond House with their own tenancies but also be part of The Mount which is in walking distance of Pond House.

For some people it will be a stepping stone to living even more independently.

Co-housing is one way to support people so that they have independence but also have good support and a strong social network. It is a way in which homes can be shared but where people can be sure that their voice and aspirations will be heard and supported. Co-housing encourages mutual support while also celebrating the achievements of each person.

To pay for the building work The Mount is using a type of fundraising called "crowd funding". If you know someone who might like to support this project you can go to The Mount Camphill website at www.mountcamphill.org



Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme continued from Page 01 >

allocated according to the skills and preferences of individual residents.

“We have one resident”, laughs Alex, “who insisted on growing chilli plants, although they weren’t being cultivated in the garden at the time, so he was given half a tunnel in which to experiment, and now, if anyone dares to encroach on his section, beware! He’s not called Mr Chilli Man for nothing! As a result of his passion for these plants, we now produce a chilli paste which, interestingly, is in continuous demand from our Community.”

The edible herbs are grown in the first instance for the residents who live in family-style group homes on the farm. Any excess product is sold to the public. Medicinal herbs are also regularly purchased in bulk by phyto-therapists in Cape Town. Currently about 18 culinary products are packaged and sold, ranging from different herbal teas, to a variety of salts and salad sprinkles. Of course, the products are seasonal, so at certain times of the year, some of them may not be available. Many, like Joel’s Rosemary Salt, are named after the resident who is mainly responsible for their production, giving that person a real sense of pride and achievement.

Because the entire process is organic, making their own compost, with rich manure from the farm dairy, is an important factor. Similarly, to ensure that the plants are healthy and uncontaminated, they consider the germination of seeds, and the propagation of their own seedlings essential. As Alex says, “Most people don’t realise the time and effort it takes to produce plant-based organic products. The harvesting is all done by hand, then the herbs are stripped, if necessary, and placed on individual trays to dry naturally in our drying room. After that, they are processed, again by hand, to meet the requirements of whatever item is being produced.

“From our point of view, of course, the main purpose of this project is to provide our residents with a meaningful occupation, which engages them to the full extent of their ability. Working with plants is incredibly healing, too. We suggested to one of our residents who had been working exclusively with lavender for some time that he might like to move on to something different. Before long, he was back to ask if he could return to the lavender. There was something in that

plant, its scent, its texture, its appearance that met a need in him.”

Mbali confirms that no matter what role they play, the residents who work in the herb garden have an exceptionally happy attitude to life. “There are those who are perfectly contented to complete the same task day after day – the repetition gives them a sense of security – while others are prepared to do whatever is necessary on any particular day. Some of them are so attached to the garden that even on a rainy day they report for duty, and a couple pop in in the afternoons as well to see if there is anything for them to do, although their working day is supposed to be over. In the off-season, when there’s less to do in the garden, we keep them busy with other activities like making eco-bricks, but it’s the garden that really makes them happy.” And, admits Mbali, who previously also volunteered in Camphill’s craft workshop for the residents, she, too, has become totally hooked on the garden and wouldn’t leave for anything.

Alex is constantly experimenting with new products and testing them out on both the residents and the public to determine which are the most popular. One of them, which is neither edible, nor medicinal is their lavender sachets. Whatever else they produce, these are perennial favourites. In between product development, the upkeep and maintenance of a garden that size is a constant challenge to Alex. “Our team simply couldn’t keep up with the weeding and watering on their own, so thank goodness we now have Taku full-time to take care of the gardening aspects of the workshop. He is a godsend and keeps everything together and running smoothly in the garden.”

Since they do not use insecticides or poisons of any kind, four additional, somewhat unusual team members perform another essential service. They are Indian Runner ducks, who can be seen strutting around the garden foraging here and there, with their long necks outstretched. As a result of their carnivorous habits, any snail venturing near the garden is taking its life in its hands.



(From the top:)
Hard at work at the washing, sorting and stripping table in the Camphill Farm workshop are residents, Robyn, Joel and Anet, with Workshop Supervisor, Alex Guenther in the centre.
One of the happiest places on Camphill Farm, with everyone on the team proud of the work they do there.
Most of the year round there is something to pick in the large Camphill Farm Herb Garden.
An array of some of the wholesome and tasty culinary products produced in the Herb Workshop.
It’s a winwin situation for the Herb Garden and its Indian Runner ducks, who consume as many snails as the garden has to offer.



Esk Valley Michaelmas Celebrations 2021

Gabrielle Werth

Well we had our first part of Michaelmas doing special groups. I did the Creative Writing with Lydia, and it was a lovely sunny day, but it was slightly windy. We got a chance to go out, but first Me, Thomas Shacklady, and Jannik, we talked about the "Five Senses" and first of all in the group, we took a big piece of paper, and we drew around your hand. And on each Finger then Thumb, we put "I Taste, I Smell, I Touch, I Hear, I See, and that was the first exercise.

Then we went outside High farm and we collected some beautiful coloured leaves, and we found some Lucifer flower, still flourishing, and we picked up Bracken, and straw, and then we made a poem out of them. It was fun filled, and we found feathers and we did a Haiku - it is a small poem, which is like a small dance, it has three sentences.

And Later on we went to the Joan of Arc Hall, and it was all very good, we sat at tables that were set up around the hall, and it was really nice to celebrate

Michaelmas all together, with ESKVALLEY COMMUNITY, and we did sit together with Dalehead and we ate delicious soup, and we had the bakery buns too. We all had "Fresh Pressed Apple Juice" all this food we ate was made in the Cooking Group, and the Fresh Pressed Apple Juice Making was a group, there was the big Dragon in the centre of the hall, that was done by a group.

We had a small part of the EVCC Occasional Ceilidh Band play on the stage, and it was Jonathan on Drums, Jannik playing the Clarinet, Lena playing the Fiddle, Neele played the Trombone, and Hans played his guitar, and then we clapped to the rhythm.

Later on we had the Choir, it sang "Unconquered Hero of the Skies" and some of us stepped up to be Knights, to do a bit of Eurythmy, and it was so, that we did the "Waterfall in the Eurythmy" some people dropped their rods, but it was part of the fun.

Everybody enjoyed it, later on we heard about the Groups, and they were forging Iron with Ernst, painting pictures with Steffi, waxing the leaves, a beach tidy up, fresh apple pressing, creative Writing, with Lydia, cooking etc with Sara, making cobwebs with conkers, etc. It was a hive of activity, and I would like to thank the Band Musicians on behalf of the Music.

Thank you Lydia for having the four of us in our Group - Creative Writing and it was lovely to say hello to Gaynor and Alan - long time no see, well it was good to be altogether as a community, since Covid 19 struck.

Well I will sign off now.



Transformative Learning to Nurture Life

Emerson College

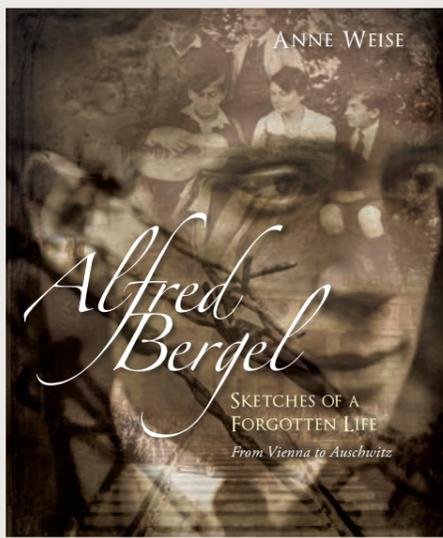
Emerson College is located in Forest Row in the South of England. It offers development programmes or courses for people who are doctors, nurses, teachers, therapists and care practitioners. These courses are unique as they are often based on Anthroposophic principles. Some of the courses are given over several years while others are short courses.

We are all looking for meaningful work and the courses share a common premise; to support professionals and students in reflecting on and developing their own sense of professional purpose. They combine Anthroposophic teaching with contemporary understanding in a

way that is timely and relevant for the challenges we face in the world today.

Many of the Camphill centres in the UK and Ireland used to integrate the kind of courses offered by Emerson College into their training. One of these courses is the Mental Health Seminar which was developed jointly with Camphill. You can find out more about the Mental Health Seminar and the many other learning opportunities that Emerson College has to offer by visiting emerson.org.uk





BOOK REVIEW

Alfred Bergel
Sketches of a Forgotten Life
From Vienna to Auschwitz
 by Anne Weise

This is the story of one man and one family who lived in Vienna in the first half of the twentieth century. But their story is emblematic of the millions of Jewish people who suffered and died under the Nazi rule of the 'Third Reich'.

The Bergels were cultured middle class people. The father, Arnold, was an accountant and there were three children. The elder son, Alfred, studied fine arts and became an art teacher. The second son, Arthur, trained as a doctor and there was a sister, Marianne. Ten members of the extended Bergel family were murdered in Auschwitz/Birkenau.

Anne Weise has devoted herself to researching and documenting these people and it is truly astonishing how many photographs and documents have been found and reproduced here. Significant people, places and works of art come to life through the pictures as Anne Weise's thorough, original and meticulous research reveals the destiny of this family. The book was published in German in 2014 and this is the English edition, published by Temple Lodge in collaboration with the Karl König Archives. The format of short sections breaks up the intense narrative. The amount of German and other foreign names and addresses is rather overwhelming for non-German speakers but the effect of the detailed documentation reinforces the impression of the countless victims and their lives before and after persecution. The book is dedicated to Christof König, the elder son of Dr Karl König who founded the Camphill Movement in Scotland in 1939/40. Christof, with his wife Annemarie, lived in Camphill communities in Northern Ireland and England most of his adult life. He died in 2016 but was aware of the original edition of the book and its story and was very taken by it.

It was Karl König who led Weise to the Bergels because König's surviving diaries frequently mention his dear teenage friend Fredi. Who was Fredi? Anne wondered. We learn about Alfred Bergel through Karl König as Alfred himself did not keep a diary, and the extracts from König's very early diaries included here are of special interest to people who know the Camphill Movement.

The Bergel family were like a second family to Karl König who was an only child with busy working parents. And moreover their cultural, artistic and philosophical interests were nourishment to the searching soul of young Karl. Classical music, opera, poetry entranced him and his connection to all these was to last throughout his life. The father Arnold was a mentor and example to the teenage boy. But life was not serious all the time: there were outings to the woods and countryside and hikes in the nearby mountains, not to mention youthful pranks, falling in love and midnight rambles.

"He is my best friend," wrote Karl of Alfred.

However when the young men were 23 years old a fateful rift developed between them. König had discovered anthroposophy, the Spiritual Scientific world view of Rudolf Steiner, and felt increasingly drawn to it and to Christianity. He tried to share this with Bergel but they could not agree and from then on they were estranged. König left Vienna, each of them married and developed his own career. Even though König returned to Vienna in 1936 he was able to escape Austria after the Nazis took over the country and he entered Britain as a refugee in 1938.

Gradually Nazi oppression restricted the Bergels' lives. Their apartment and belongings were stolen and they had to endure all the oppressive measures, indignities and discrimination forced upon the Jewish population. They were unable to emigrate to Palestine as they wanted to.

The beginning of the end for Alfred was when he and his wife Sophie were transported to Theresienstadt, a ghetto near Prague, in 1942. His mother and his brother with his wife were also sent there. Theresienstadt was not really a concentration camp. It was a large walled off area of a town where Jews were forced to live, but conditions were dreadful: dirty, freezing cold, with only starvation rations and people had to sleep on the floor or in three-tiered bunk dormitories. The process of dehumanising "undesirable" people began and from there regular transports left for Auschwitz, a long journey east.

Eyewitness accounts of survivors and research by historians and strongly motivated people such as Anne Weise have produced detailed accounts of life in Theresienstadt and they also reveal the unusual occupation of a small number of inmates, including Alfred Bergel.

They had to work in workshops where they made drawings, posters, catalogues and such like, colouring them by hand, and also craft items, all for the use of the Nazi leadership and the state.

Less widely known is the art forgery when the artists were forced to copy famous works of art for Nazi enjoyment or for sale in order to raise money for the Reich. These counterfeit copies of masterpieces were sold as originals, as witnesses whose recollections are in the book remember.

This is one of the most interesting things about the biography and Anne Weise herself suggests the necessity of further research into it.

Another falsehood was perpetrated by the sanitised drawings of conditions in the ghetto which were shown to foreign agencies like the International Red Cross to "prove" that conditions were good, "a false, beautified image of the ghetto" (AW).

Thus the prisoners had to invent lies about their own suffering. Some of these works survive and are reproduced in the book.

This artistic role came with slightly better conditions but nevertheless there was the mental and emotional stress caused by loss of freedom and family and the uncertain future. And the workshop was subject to arbitrary inspections and punishment.

The prisoners, including Alfred Bergel, also gave the other inmates lessons in drawing and painting and lectures on artistic techniques and art movements. Professor Bergel was highly appreciated and remembered and the educational events were uplifting and nourishing especially for the younger people there. Touchingly, the artists also made drawings of other inmates which were treasured by their relatives.

Many accounts tell of how the prisoners kept their spirits up by artistic and cultural activities: opera, classical music, study groups, all to a high standard.

Weise includes moving testimonies about how people strove to maintain their humanity through uplifting experiences, supporting each other and feeling part of a community. She points to the redeeming power of the arts and the mutual support which the victims of the Holocaust experienced in many ways. Many individuals are named and their further destiny described, if known.

Anne Weise concludes that Alfred Bergel must have encountered anthroposophy in Theresienstadt because several leading anthroposophists were in his circle and met to study and read works by Steiner which miraculously existed there, and to read the words of the Act of Consecration of Man.

"We felt helping forces to be with us," said Martha Haarbarger about these moments.

Alfred and Sophie Bergel and their six month old daughter Rachel were transported to Auschwitz on 16th October 1944, two years after arriving in Theresienstadt. Alfred and Rachel were murdered almost immediately but Sophie survived. She escaped from a labour camp and later remarried, dying in 1970. Arthur Bergel, his wife and mother were sent to Auschwitz twelve days later. Alfred was 42 years old when he died and his friend Karl was 63 at his death in 1966. Both of their lives carry the rhythm of the seven year cycle of human development.

The last chapters of the book focus on anthroposophy and the help it offers in understanding these kinds of events.

The Bergels "disappeared" into the Holocaust. But through dedicated and painstaking scholarship Anne Weise has rescued them from anonymity and through this book they also represent the millions who suffered the same fate, yet each in an entirely individual and personal way.

That was also Karl König's intention: to dignify apparently unimportant lives. König never knew what had happened to his friend Fredi or the family which had supported him in his teenage years. He lived another 21 years and in that relatively short time he founded the Camphill Movement which has touched thousands of lives through its work with people with disabilities and socially marginalised groups, in communities where each person is an individual, not a number.

One can see how one of the tasks of Camphill, as envisaged futuristically by Karl König, was a direct response to the destruction of human values perpetrated by Nazism. In this way König humbly tried to compensate for what he himself, his immediate family and his friends had been spared.

Anne Weise points out that it was anthroposophy which caused the separation between Karl and Fredi. But just as much it was their youth and headstrong characters, as Karl himself acknowledged. The later realisation of this must have caused both of them immense pain and regret.

One cannot help but perceive that the threads of destiny which connected Alfred Bergel and Karl König must have continued to work after their parting and into the future. Each of the two young men remained true to their youthful impulses and tried to alleviate the suffering of people who were "forgotten". Of course there are, thankfully, many Holocaust memoirs but in a way there can never be enough because each represents an individual experience. Perhaps we may be allowed to feel that our interest in and compassion for the Bergels now is something we can still offer to them, and also to Karl König, and in fact to all who died as well as those who, in spite of everything, lived.

Anne Weise has done an important deed in honouring the Bergels and bringing them to life again.

Cherry How



Top: Self-portrait Alfred Bergel, 1918
 ©Ghetto Fighters Museum Israel

Bottom: Prater in Vienna.
 (Back row from left) Karl König, Alfred Bergel, unknown and Arthur Bergel

Mourne wouldn't be the same without Mourne Grange. The Village within the Town

Margaret Fegan

Mourne Grange celebrated its 50th birthday on the 1st of September. This is an amazing milestone to celebrate and a great achievement for the Mourne Grange family and also all of the support we receive from Kilkeel and the local area.

Camphill Community Glenraig, in Belfast, started in 1954 as a children's community and in 1971 it was decided to establish an adult community. A small group from Glenraig arrived at Mourne Grange in August 1971, led by Karl König's son, Christof, and his wife Annemarie.

From those early days Mourne Grange has continued to develop and grow and we now support 54 people with learning disabilities. We have a beautiful 100 acre estate that offers us a farm and gardens and also a range of other opportunities, including our bakery, weavery, candle workshop, flower workshop, and wood workshop.

Mourne Grange has continued to offer a genuine home from home for people with learning disabilities who contribute as equally as all of our long term Community members and employees.

We still live and breathe the ethos and values of Camphill and have a strong community of life sharing co-workers supporting Mourne Grange. We offer a vibrant community and social life that often connects with the local area and Kilkeel.

COVID has been a difficult time for all of us and meant that a number of our annual events had to be cancelled, for example our open day. We have all worked together as a team to keep everyone in Mourne Grange well and safe.

Mourne Grange plans to continue to do what we do well and also look to the future for new opportunities. For example, establishing a nursing home to offer a unique and person centered approach to caring for elderly people both from Camphill and also the local area.

Mourne Grange has welcomed the opportunity to offer day opportunities to local people who need something meaningful to engage in and contribute to and we hope that this will grow into the future.

We will continue to be open to new ideas and build on the strong foundation of partnership that we have with Kilkeel.

The birthday party on the 1st September was a fabulous event and everyone enjoyed being able to come together and celebrate. The last 50 years are a rich tapestry of contributions from so many real Community builders. We hope to continue to contribute to that rich tapestry into the next 50 years and beyond.



Disability only exists in the eyes of those who judge or exclude

James Sleigh

Five years ago Max and I started the CVWC football team, both driven by a passion we share for football. Max has consistently worked with each player, helping them overcome challenges, building their fitness and skills, and equally importantly, getting each player to understand what it means to be part of a team. We have witnessed each player develop as a player, and also as a person. The skills learnt on the field have been incorporated in their social and daily lives. Max (Madyungu) is an employee at Camphill. He runs the bakery, and coaches the soccer team, and does fitness training in our gym.

As a team, we have had many highlights over the years: we have played matches, won trophies, and equally lost matches. We have had outings, watched football matches in the stadiums, trained through the heat of summer and through the cold winter rains. One highlight was playing side by side with professional players from Cape Town City (one of South Africa's premier league teams) in a friendly game.

The 16th Summer Paralympic Games in Tokyo commenced on 24th August 2021. The #WeThe15 campaign, was used, to promote this, and in the process, promote the message that disability, only exists in the eyes and minds of those who judge and exclude.

A very moving international advertisement was made for the #WeThe15 campaign, and Camphill Village West Coast, South Africa, is really proud that our football team, has been chosen to be part of this international advertisement. Here is a link to this advertisement - link.untoldstudios.tv/e6u

It feels wonderful to have achieved so much over the past five years and to be included in an international advertisement which was beamed around the world.





Hermanus Michaelmas Celebrations

Editor

Camphill School celebrated Michaelmas Festival on the 29th September. A festival of inner strength, courage, hope and expectation. First we had the senior classes perform a short play 'The lady, the knight and the dragon', with a Bible reading and a Eurythmy

performance. The Foundation and Intermediate classes also showed us their Eurythmy skills after. Thank you to Geryl and Julio Laset for another special celebration. Our juniors had a small obstacle course after, symbolizing the challenges in their lives.

Thornage Hall - Our Journey out of COVID

Editor

The last year has been very challenging for our tenants at Thornage Hall as COVID:19 impacted on our daily lives when we went into lockdown. Some of our tenants did not leave site for many months or see their families. Our year started with a funeral for our previous Chair of Trustees, Ted Hare, who sadly passed away at 79 years old.

As time went on and COVID:19 restrictions slowly lifted, our tenants started contributing to a variety of different activities across the Thornage community. The community gathered together to congratulate our Farm Manger, Philip Culley, who has been working at Thornage Hall Independent Living for an impressive 20 years!

It was important to keep the families updated during this unprecedented period and therefore we created social media accounts across all platforms and began uploading a steady stream of content for the wider community to enjoy as well as giving an opportunity for families and day service users to stay connected with the community's developments and events.

A Mailchimp newsletter was also created, allowing each tenant to write a small section about life at Thornage Hall and what has been happening in the community. An online Thornage Shop was

also created to help our fundraising and to promote our amazing products.

Slowly we began to welcome day service users back to Thornage Hall: the Day Service facility closed during lockdown. A Service Provision Committee was formed, allowing family members to voice any concerns which they may have and to share their ideas on how we might improve our service.

We were pleased to welcome Helen to the Thornage community! Helen previously attended Day Services but her passion towards Thornage lead to her moving in fulltime as a tenant.

Our Summer Fair took place on Sunday 5th September but was closed to the wider public, allowing, tenants and day service users to enjoy a delicious barbeque with some fresh cake provided from the bakery workshop with their family and friends. A wide range of Thornage products were also available to purchase. Andrew said

"I worked on the Market Garden stall. We sold lots of vegetables and fruit! Everyone had a good time and it was great to see families."



Shortly after the Summer Fair, Thornage Hall Independent Living were involved in a Golf Day and auction to raise money for us as a charity. Tenants: Georgie, Kim and Hewie provided sausage rolls to the competitors alongside Mary-Ann (Day Services). Hewie also had an important job to fulfil:

"My job was to support Thornage Hall Independent Living and to hand out prizes. I was feeling terrific about this. I had to work hard meeting people this was epic!"

Our local MP Duncan Baker competed in the London Marathon to raise money for 26 charities. Thornage Hall Independent Living were lucky enough to be selected as mile 26. Duncan visited Thornage and received a "mini interview" hosted by our tenants and day service users which can be viewed on our YouTube channel. Overall Duncan raised in excess of £37,000!

In late September, a group of tenants were collected by a mini bus where they travelled to Norwich City Football Club to receive a lovely tour around the stadium. This was described as a brilliant day out as a lot of our tenants are big football fans!

Simon said,

"I found it all very interesting. It was great to see the stadium and the dugout called the snake pit."

Our newest project which has recently been announced is our involvement with Break Charity! We have received a "Breakasaurus" sculpture which will be decorated and designed by the community at Thornage Hall. We are hoping to include lots of elements across many of our workshops to create a unique design.

We currently have plans in place for the remaining festivals this year so please keep updated on our social media to experience these events with us.

(Below left - right:) Local MP Duncan Baker and 2 day service users, Danny and Tom; Helen holding her product; Norwich City Football Club





The development of the Willen site in the 1990s



Morwenna Bucknall in food processing

Camphill Milton Keynes Celebrates its 40th Birthday

Tom Bridle

Camphill Milton Keynes celebrates its 40th birthday this year, and registered manager Tom Bridle reflects upon this unique community's past, present and future.

In the 1960s, the new city of Milton Keynes was earmarked for development by the government, who wanted to help provide more houses to help reduce congestion in London. Milton Keynes was just a small village then, but was planned to become a city of over 250,000 people!

In the late 70s as the city was taking shape, a meeting between the Camphill Parents Association, a consultant doctor from a hospital in nearby Aylesbury, and the Milton Keynes Development Corporation, led to the suggestion that this new city could be home to a brand new Camphill too!

This would be a different kind of Camphill to those that already existed across the

country. Most Camphill Communities were in rural areas, away from big towns, but Camphill Milton Keynes would be based within the new city and part of the local community, with an emphasis on helping people to find work and integrate into society. In 1979, a small group of co-workers formed a steering group and made their proposals to the Development Corporation for housing in the New City. Originally, they were offered a flat above a recycling shop in nearby Olney, where three co-workers and two residents moved in to help provide a local presence.

In 1980, the small group were allocated some houses on the newly built Pennyland Estate, and a new team of co-workers and residents moved in, commencing a Camphill community that was most unusual, being in the centre of a normal housing estate. The residents made a significant contribution to the developing neighbourhood and could often be found planting bulbs for the Development Corporation, or helping their neighbours with gardening. CMKC became pioneering for its approach to supporting people with learning disabilities to be a part of their local community, and not separate from it. This was many years before government initiatives began to focus more on community integration.

The developing community was then offered a large allotment nearby. Co-workers and residents worked together to build a new horticultural barn on the

plot, which would become home to the first workshops and gardens. Morwenna Bucknall joined the community at this time and brought her unique energy, insight and a life of Camphill experience to assist with this growing venture. The community now had a good-sized hall, a bakery, a weaving and pottery operation, as well as a growing local reputation.

In the late 80s, the community were granted a further plot of land by the Development Corporation near Willen Lake, which provided a generous opportunity for the community to begin building new houses, workshops and gardens for residents as part of a self-build project. Nick Jackson, the co-worker who'd originally taken up the impulse to found the Milton Keynes Community, led a team who would slowly develop this new site over the next 20 years, starting with a large house, word-working space and a food processing workshop. This was followed by three new houses, a café and the development of the land, which spread over three paddocks.

The end of the 80s saw the development of the Tools for Self Reliance workshop, spearheaded by resident Freddy Peeters and former co-worker John Halliwell. This workshop accepted donations of old tools from the local community, and the residents would then restore them into a usable condition so they could be sent to developing African nations. This workshop has been going strong ever since and

many tens of thousands of tool kits have been refurbished for the use of those most in need of them.

By the mid-90s, the building of the first phases of the Willen site was complete, and the main hub of community activity had transferred away from Pennyland and onto the new estate. This ushered in a new era for the community and allowed for the expansion of resident numbers, co-workers and enabled the two communities to come together in a newly-built hall below one of the accommodation blocks.

By the mid-nineties the first and second phases of the build were complete and plans were drawn up to build the community's final piece - the theatre which would later become known as the Chrysalis. This theatre bought a new cultural dimension to the community and was built alongside the final house, funded primarily through generous donations from the Margaret Powell foundation, a local trust set up to support social projects in the area. The Chrysalis has been home to a huge variety of events, plays, performances, discos and many, many other wonderful productions by both the immediate community and the wider community. They've even had a few celebrities visit over the years, including Warwick Davis and Priscilla Presley!

During the 2000s the community began to experience some of the changes that



Early CMKC residents in Pennyland in the late 1980s



Residents taking part in a play outside Michael's Akyre 1986



Community Sports Day 2019

were taking place across most Camphill Communities at the time. By the end of this decade a full-time manager had been employed and the developing and building of the community was complete. The community's café received a lot of attention during this time and was developed into one of the top rated establishments in Milton Keynes, serving the rambling public and those tackling the local redways or canal paths for many years. A shop was opened to sell the produce created by the workshops, including honey from our bees, jams from our gardens and the wonderful products created within their weavery and art workshops. While many changes would take place over the following years, the community would continue to grow and become more influential in the area, while the residents would enjoy access to all of the new developments within a uniquely urban setting.

Gradually through the 2010s, having found it harder to find long-term vocational co-workers, the community transitioned over to a staffing-based model. While this changed the complexion of the community, we've also found that it can bring a different dimension to their lives of our residents, who are now supported by support workers who are every bit as committed and dedicated as the volunteers who've traditionally provided their support. The community has changed and evolved and been shaped by those who've chosen to come and give

up their time and energy to devote to the cause, which is as true now as it ever was.

Covid-19 provided a tough challenge to the community in 2020, but as a community we were able to act quickly to put measures in place which protected our residents from harm. The setting enabled us to continue to provide food and sundries from our café and shop and activities within our spaces. Now that we are returning to normal, we have big plans to begin building again, and we have planning permission for another 70 accommodation spaces, new workshop buildings and further improvements to our theatre. This year we also enjoyed watching two of our residents, Andrew and Chloe, get married, the first couple to do so within our community. We celebrated our 40th birthday on the 28th October with an enormous community day and contributions from all of our houses and workshops to the event. The future for this urban, modern community is bright, thanks to the incredible commitment of those who founded, developed and nurtured the community over the previous 40 years.

Happy birthday Camphill MK!



The building of the theatre in the late 90s



Residents and co-workers in the late 00s



St Johns Day Bonfire in Willen 1993



Residents dancing a conga line in the Chrysalis 2014



The wedding of two of our residents in 2021



Harvest

Susanne Salthammer, Loch Arthur

Each year the Community gets together towards the end of September to celebrate our Harvest Festival. It is a time of taking stock and reflecting and of appreciating the bounty of this beautiful place we are lucky enough to call our home as well as the wonder of Community life and the joy of each other.

This year felt very special – last year we were not able to celebrate together due to Covid. Instead, we celebrated in each house individually. To be able to come together as a Community again felt very special and another step in the right direction.

This year we invited everyone in the Community to write, draw or paint something they felt grateful about this year. We then came together in the morning to a display of these pieces of art and appreciation and read some of them

out to each other. It was beautiful seeing and hearing those – it was not the easiest year for anyone in the world but despite all the struggles, we have so much to be grateful for and if anything, the pandemic made us appreciate our Community and its resilience and strength even more.

We then split up into small groups to prepare for the evening meal. All of us, from the smallest children to older members of the Community, took part in gathering those gifts – some of us baked, some made soup, prepared the hall, or collected beautiful berries and mushrooms for a nature table.

Later we all came together to an evening of delicious food, some beautiful contributions of music and storytelling and most of all, to lovely company.



For the Harvest Meal

Áine McGrath

*I'll measure the year in flutter of blackbird's wing.
In sun rays and sets,
And the melodies that children sing.*

*I'll count the daffodils that dared to bloom
And every blossom that had followed.
Every shining star into my room,
Every pumpkin that we hollowed.*

*I'll thank the earth for beeches, firs, and bumblebees
For every rolling hill on the Solway coast
For the smallest wren and the salty seas
For bread made bresh and "just-right" toast.*

*I'll measure in laughter, shared meals and candles lit
In all the ways you can say hello –
In cups of tea and biscuits split*

*And so, I thank you all,
And I thank this ground
For holding me up –
All year round*

Here are a few of the words people wrote down when thinking of gratefulness:

Making new friends. Drying herbs. Harvesting tomatoes. Eating chutney on bakery bread. Making art.

The nature wildlife and the loch we can swim in, boating, canoeing, the trees which shed their leaves in the autumn and new buds and leaves in the spring and the seasons that change. The cultural life in the Community - the Harvest Meal!

Being here

I enjoy being in the Estate team, looking after our surroundings

For the kind and generous people, I meet every day.

Time to do meaningful things like this.

Feeling the strength and resilience of the Community during the pandemic.

I am grateful for new people coming arriving here, undeterred by obstacles and full of enthusiasm.

I went on a steam train. It was just amazing!

For the beauty of the earth. In every season, every weather. Bringing me peace and delight with the rising sun. Never failing to surprise me.

The quietness after a days' work and the different quietness before work starts.

So much kindness.



Skills for Growth Project at Tiphereth

Editor

In early 2020 Tiphereth, Camphill Community in Edinburgh began to launch their Skills for Growth project, a grant funded skills development and accreditation programme. Like many things in 2020 it had to be postponed but in summer of 2021 it was finally launched!

The Skills for Growth project embraces the idea of lifelong and contextual learning and will work alongside the existing community, houses, and workshops to develop learning materials and settings which can be used to support participants to develop essential life skills as well as accredited qualifications.

Funding was secured for three years through the Robertson Trust and the Lottery Community Fund, and a new Skills for Growth Co-Ordinator was appointed to head up the project. Down at Hoyland House, the old golf clubhouse now developed into supported living, workshop, and community spaces, a small back room was turned into the Life Skills office and meeting room.

The project was launched within Tiphereth's supported living houses Kitez and Fairways. At each of these houses the residents have a home making day where they work on life skills such as cooking, cleaning, and gardening.

The Skills for Growth project will allow them to gain accreditation through Borders College for learning these skills. The residents at Kitez have all started the module Cookery 2 - Following a Recipe and have already completed their first assessments. They will have another assessment in a few months time and a final assessment at the end. When they have finished their courses, Tiphereth will hold a graduation ceremony to acknowledge their achievements.

The future plans for the project are for the members in the day service to also be offered the chance to have their skills accredited when they are learning things such as how to use a sewing machine, vehicle maintenance, compost production and much more. We will use our new Life Skills room to hold small group sessions covering topics around personal development such as rights and respect, relationships and sexual education, and online safety. We are planning to renovate the kitchen at Hoyland House to act as a setting for further cookery classes and independent living skills. With the enthusiastic participation from the members and dedicated support from the co-workers we will all benefit at Tiphereth from learning and growing together.



BOOK REVIEW

**The Sheiling Ringwood
Camphill Roots
in Southern England
by Simon Figg**

“Wraxall House, situated in Somerset, 6 miles west of Bristol, was opened as a Camphill venture on the 29th April 1950, as a hostel for St Christopher’s School. Tilla König, Ann Harris, Robin Martin and Ruth Borchart went south together, joined later by Karin Herms and Charlotte Baumert.” “Ursula Glead had shown her family home, The Sheiling in Ringwood, to Karl König in 1948, but it was too early then for Camphill to begin in England. Now the leap, as it must have been experienced, to another country and far, far away from the thriving community on Deeside, had been ventured.”

In these two short extracts from an appendix by John Baum we are transported back 70 years to the very beginning of Camphill in England. To most people the names above will mean little or nothing; to some, mainly much older Camphillers, they are familiar and remind us that the Camphill Movement as we know it today was forged and fashioned from pioneering efforts by so many inspired, committed and hard-working individuals over long periods of time, all of whom were once as young and fresh as any new co-worker arriving today.

One’s first impression of this book is that it is a weighty volume both physically and in its content. It is a visual treat, with exquisite line drawings of plants by Dorette Schwabe, a striking cover painting by Rose Hilton and a great wealth of colour and black-and-white photographs, maps and diagrams charting the entire history of The Sheiling Ringwood. Simon Figg has done a great deed, which was obviously a labour of love, in putting together this sweeping and detailed account of Camphill’s first major community in the south of England. Wraxall House was the temporary footstep which gave rise to the long-term development of both Ringwood and Thornbury as Camphill communities. The book offers a breath-taking panorama through the decades of development of the community in its physical forms and the innumerable stream of people who gave it life. It is in

fact so panoramic, kaleidoscopic and detailed that it could easily become overwhelming, and some readers might prefer to dip into it from time to time to really immerse themselves in the thorough accounts of particular phases of development and specific impulses which were born and thrived in Ringwood. All in all it is a magnificent celebration of Camphill experience, brought to vibrant life by the innumerable individual portraits of children and young people, co-workers, teachers, houseparents, therapists, doctors, nurses, parents, relatives and friends.

The bigger picture chronicles the unfolding and development of major long-term impulses at The Sheiling: the origins with Ursula Glead and her family, the School, the Land, Folly Farm, The Lantern, Sturts Farm, the Sheiling Trust, the Ringwood Waldorf School and not least the Ringwood-Botton Eurythmy School which had such a special character and quality of a training embraced by Camphill community life and helped to bring great artistic riches to many social and community settings.

The beauty of the book is in the constant interplay between the big picture and the small, showing how the fascinating kaleidoscope of lives and personalities weave together into the great fabric of community striving for high ideals and impulses which serve the real and pressing needs of humanity.

For anyone who has had a connection with Ringwood in their life this book is a real joy. Although I never lived in Ringwood, but in Thornbury for over thirty years, I myself have known very many of the people in the book and remember them with great respect and fondness. It was a delightful and moving trip down memory lane and I can only imagine the full impact this marvellous volume would have on someone who actually lived and worked in Ringwood for any length of time. For those who have no connection with Ringwood at all it is an extremely valuable archive resource depicting a whole era of Camphill development which deserves to be documented and remembered in all its beauty and complexity.

To purchase the book and for further information please visit www.thesheilingestatebook.info

**Peter Bateson
Oldbury-on-Severn, England**



Sean in Oklahoma

Imaginary trips have been amazing

Editor

Every Thursday, in the laundry workshop, we have Sean and Alison who are a really good combination and a lot of fun. Every week Alison asks “are you out tonight?” and during this last crazy year we got fed up saying.... No we are staying home tonight. So....

Every Thursday night we started taking a trip....

At first we stayed local and silly like.... We were swimming to Carrickfergus Castle and back or going dancing all night in Belfast. Soon local wasn't enough and we spread our wings. One of our first big trips was to New York. While doing all the work of the laundry we played Frank Sinatra and Alicia Keys songs about New York. We decided to eat bagels and picked a

Broadway show. Sean loves cowboys and we settled on seeing Oklahoma. The next morning we shared our snap shots. You can see how happy they were to visit Times Square and take in a musical.

The next week we enjoyed spicy curry and visited the Taj Mahal. Every week a different destination. This past week we had such a great time in Peru. We trekked to Machu Picchu, rode Llamas and Alison even stopped for marmalade sandwiches with Paddington Bear. All this and still home in time to get the washing machines going on Friday mornings.



May she Rest in Peace

Hayley Sargent
22.12.1963 - 06.03.2022

All in Mourne Grange are devastated to share with you that our friend Hayley Sargent left us on Sunday March 6th 2022.

Born 22.12.1963, Hayley, with her much loved husband and best friend Andy, joined Beannachar Camphill in Scotland in 1988 and later moved to Camphill Community Mourne Grange, exactly 25 years ago this year.

Hayley carried community in every step she took and no detail was ever too small for her touch and gift for creating beauty and form. She carried her house community with love and a steady hand, and it is impossible to describe how much she will be missed by us all and especially by the many people she cared for with complete devotion over the years.

Hayley's role in Camphill in Northern Ireland extended far beyond the boundaries of our community: she carried the role of Chair of Camphill Communities Trust NI for many years, and more recently her responsibilities included chairing and overseeing the Social Fund in Northern Ireland.

Hayley leaves behind Andy, her daughter Grace, son Seth and his wife Valentina and grandsons Albie and Kip, her parents and siblings and extended family.

We find it is too hard to put our sense of loss and sadness into words. May she Rest in Peace

Clockwise from top left: Meeting Paddington Bear in Peru; visiting Machu Picchu; sightseeing in Times Square, New York; and elephant trekking in India.



ARTS AND CONNECTIONS

Life in Camphill Scotland

Editor

These pictures are part of a project by Camphill Scotland to capture life in Camphill. The photographer is Robin Mitchell.

The photos were taken in the summer of 2021. It was hard for Robin to truly capture what life is like at Tigh a'Chomainn because there were still lots of restrictions on what we could do.

As an urban Camphill we were used to getting on the bus in the morning and heading off to work. Many people travelled independently to work at Newton Dee. At the weekend we would typically go to Aberdeen for shopping or to have a meal in a pub. We were also regular users of our local gym.

The restrictions brought by Covid-19 have meant that we have had to create work opportunities around our village in Peterculter and in our garden. Our litter picking and planting in the Peterculter community garden is appreciated and people often stop us to say thank you.



Make a difference to your life and others

Life in a Camphill community is a highly rewarding and challenging experience. There are many opportunities for personal and professional development. Ideally, Camphill communities are not fully formed but rather grow and change with the individuals who live as part of the community, making each experience a highly individual one.

If you would like to find out more about the challenges and rewards of community living please visit www.camphill.org.uk/recruitment

Vocational Co-worker Openings

Gannicox is a life-sharing, co-worker-led Camphill Community in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England. We are currently living with eight individuals with a range of support needs.

The community is embedded in a rich context of related initiatives including St. Luke's Therapy Centre, Sunlands Kindergarten, Whittington House for the elderly and the nearby Christian Community. Stroud is a hub of diverse initiatives in social and economic renewal, environmental sustainability, and with a presence of anthroposophical activities. We would love to hear from people who may be interested in getting to know us and exploring the idea of joining us.

In particular we are looking for live-in senior co-workers who would take on the co-ordination of a household and join the management team.

If this is you, please contact us; if you know someone else who should hear about us, please pass this information on to them.

On behalf of the community:
Arthur Edwards
Gannicox Camphill Community
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www.gannicox.org

ARTS AND CONNECTIONS

The Practise of Digital Drawing

By Georgie

My name is Georgie A, I am the artist behind these digital creations. I live at Thornage Hall Independent Living which is based in North Norfolk. I moved to Thornage Hall back in June 2020 and have been inspired throughout the lockdowns to continue my artistic development as a digital creator. I am inspired by lots of things, from my mother's dog called Apple, animals on the farm at Thornage Hall, as well as everyday items I use, that I curate together to form interesting still-life compositions.

I find Andy Warhol's Pop Art movement inspiring too as a designer, as I learnt about him at school.

I begin my design process by capturing an image using my Canon camera. I learnt how to use my camera back in 2018 as I studied a photography course at my local community centre in Cambridge.

I then design colour reference sheets by extracting colour from my images, this helps me keep the continuity throughout my work and ensures I can reflect back on my process.

To draw digitally I use a free software programme called Krita which is a simpler version of Photoshop which I find really easy to use independently. I use a stylus and tablet to add detailed brush strokes and carefully considered tones of colour to form volume to my work.

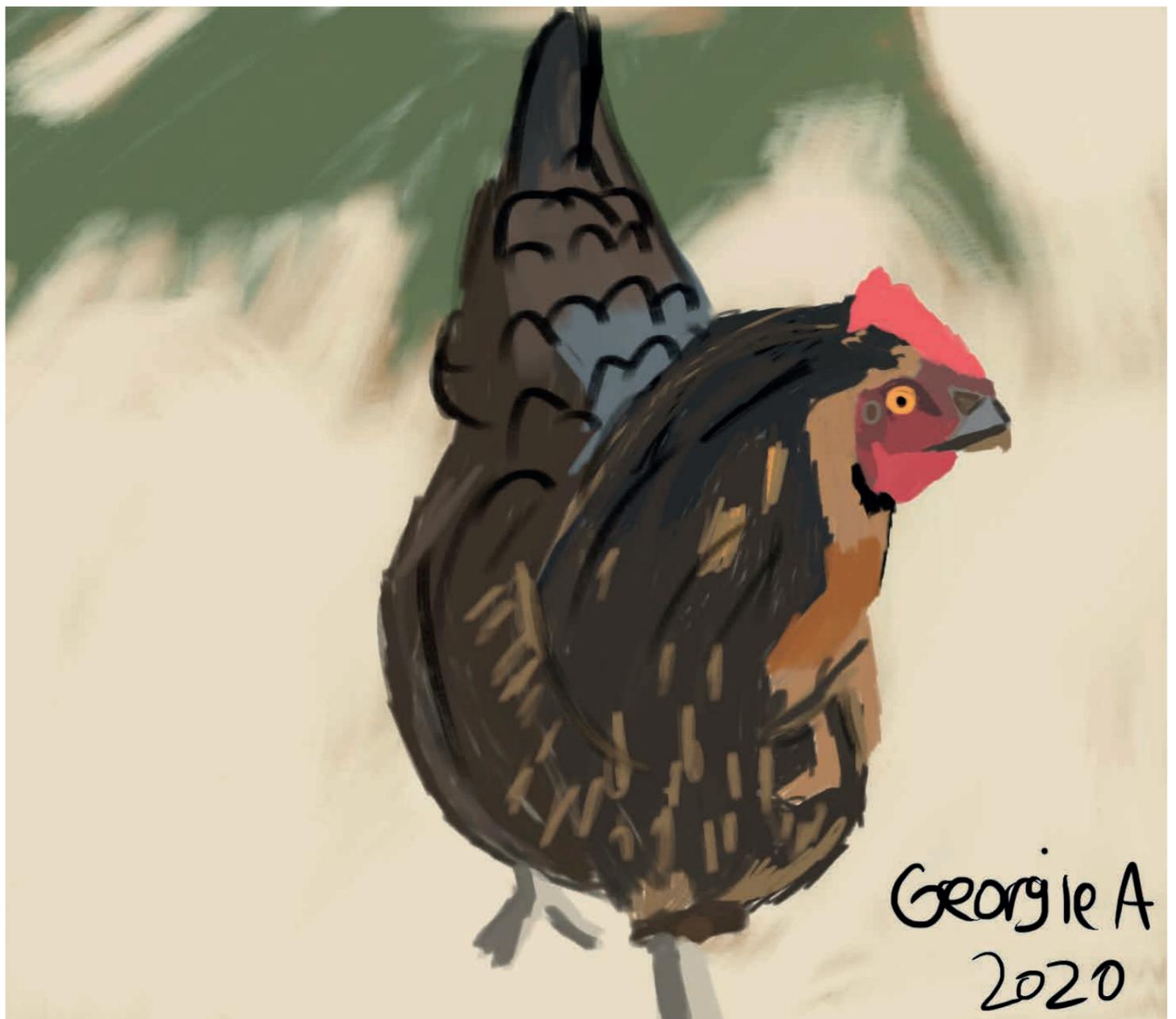
“Digital art wasn't really a thing when I was at school, people just used a programme called Microsoft Paint. I wanted to create digital drawings that were safe with me on my own laptop”.

I am looking forward to the future when I can hopefully share my artistic stories with the wider community and continue my journey of self-development throughout my practise.

I hope to inspire others too.



“I find Andy Warhol's Pop Art movement inspiring too as a designer, as I learnt about him at school”.



ARTS AND CONNECTIONS

Editorial

Vivian Griffiths

Camphill Pages is 25 years old this year! It was hatched in 1996 as the Newsletter of The Association of Camphill Communities along with three initiatives that gave purpose to a newly founded and funded Association of Camphill Communities Public Relations Group.

A leaflet for exhibitions showing Camphill's activity with people with a learning disability in the social, cultural and working realm, A Guide of every Camphill Community in Great Britain and Ireland - each one got two pages to describe their community in text and photograph and last but certainly not least a kind of special 'sacred' manual to celebrate a year in the life of a Camphill in those three realms of festival, social, land and craft workshop. A work of poetry and prose with artistic contributions encompassed in beautiful photos as the seasons progressed. Shaping The Flame was published in collaboration with Robinswood Press to mark the new 21st Century at a Choir Concert in 2000 at St Paul's Cathedral London to launch a new work by Sir Michael Tippett who wrote the dedication for the book and in a ceremony at the occasion signed a copy!

In a sense you could say everything has changed and nothing has changed to Camphill since then. Communities still thrive although the way they operate shows different emphasis. One could venture an observation that the household has come into its own where much happens and people go out to all sorts of activities from workshops to shopping in the local supermarket, the social and cultural life once concentrated in the community's hall and cafe has now spread its wings so to speak and Pages has tried to record these moments where a local festival is partaken and celebrated, an award is given in a hotel venue, an anniversary marked and where lives are honoured.

From marking the birth of a this new Public Relations Initiative in 1996 to try and raise awareness of Camphill all those years ago to covering how the pandemic affected Camphill in the last year and a half, Pages, which was designed to be put on the desk of a Local Authority Social Services Commissioner, a parent's kitchen table, the household of a Camphill Community or a literature rack of a Camphill cafe or gift shop, the large A3 sized news publication has tried to show the life of Camphill in all its many aspects.

It started surprisingly with a photograph of a tractor! Sandy Cox's Northumberland Ideas in Print publication business which included The Massey Ferguson Magazine caught the eye of Andy Paton, the then AoCC PR Secretary (and the author!) when he came to Camphill Houses Ashfield Gardens to photograph a new tractor donated to the community.

Sandy was appointed to work with Andy and put the editions together, often travelled around the country collecting stories from a network of Camphill contacts to create a lively newspaper! Note! He did the travelling! Sometimes there were special issues as when the Founder of Camphill Dr Karl Konig was celebrated in 2002 on his centenary or The New Lanark Conferences (where Robert Owen's mill pioneered his vision of cooperation in the working, social and cultural life) which occurred every other year for a decade.

Then ten years ago the publication went in house for its management under an editorial group headed by Tom Marx up at Tich a'Chomanin and Cactus Creative was approached at their Cumbria base to give the publication a new face! People joked that it had changed from the Daily Express to The Independent (at least they took notice!) but a wish to publish short significant articles describing initiatives like the nature nurture classroom at Camphill Schools gave impetus as well as stories of how Camphill was adapting to the new world of inspections from the Care Quality Commission among others while trying to show its attributes in care of the individual and still reflecting its community credentials.

I was asked as a retiring editorial coordinator to say a few words and I must admit being at a loss for those words at first as Pages has become a dear long time friend and companion and will certainly be missed in my life on the staff so to speak, each issue magically coming together although I know it was actually Cactus Creative's magic from their Kendal offices gathering together all the material we had received and putting it in the right place!

Yet the spirit of Camphill was also helping as well in many diverse ways celebrating this unique community/individual interaction as there were always stories of great endeavour featuring, from residents

making a cake and serving in the cafe or travelling on a bus for the first time to the plucky young volunteer staying on in a Camphill against all the official advice when the pandemic hit so that they could help a community in need.

Of course I owe a great debt of gratitude to not only Nic and Niki at Cactus for putting Pages together, but also for the secretaries of organisations like Camphill Foundation or Families and Friends who provided news and content and to the colleagues on the Pages Coordinators Group of The Association of Camphill Communities most notably Tom Marx, Tim Davies, Geoffrey Weir and Colm Greene for support and encouragement in the publication of this unique Newsletter!

Goodbye Pages, good fortune in showing what a remarkable organisation Camphill can be in this post pandemic world where the qualities of nature and nurture for good mental health and wellbeing shine out as a beacon of hope as community life in a healthy environment always does!

Thank You!

Dave Mitchell, AoCC Chair

I wanted to add a few words of appreciation for all the work that Vivian and all his colleagues who are part of the editorial team for Camphill Pages.

If it wasn't for the commitment and enthusiasm of Vivian, Tom, Tim and Colm, there would be no Camphill Pages for us all to enjoy. These pages provide a real insight into the life of all our Communities and in doing so beautifully illustrate what makes Camphill something "other", and so much more than a provider of Care and Support. I think it is important to say that without Vivian's infectious enthusiasm, drive and persistence in encouraging us all to contribute to Pages for all these years then we would not have this wonderful window into Camphill life.

On behalf of everyone who has an interest in Camphill, I want to say thank you to all who are involved in the production of Pages but extend my particular appreciation and gratitude to Vivian as he steps back from his editorial role after all these years. I suspect knowing Vivian as I do, that his love for all things Camphill will mean that he will always be around, somewhere in the background finding new ways to support the Camphill impulse.

Get involved!

We want to hear from you.
If you have a story to share please email
editor@camphillpages.net



A Big Thank You to Kirkton Ins Brokers Limited (KIBL)

Lizzie Dixon, Chair,
Camphill Insurance Agency Limited

As Chair, and on behalf of the Board of Directors of Camphill Insurance Agency, I think it appropriate at this time that we acknowledge and thank Glen McLellan, Managing Director and his team at KIBL, for all of their ongoing dedication and hard work. In addition, thanks are also extended to Geoffrey Weir, our fellow Camphill Insurance Agency Director, who represents our Board and the interest of Camphill on the KIBL Board.

KIBL has become an essential part of the Camphill UK family and helps to ensure that the Camphill Communities in the UK Region receive a bespoke and person centred tailored insurance service, to meet their needs and attached risks.

Associative working in the spirit of togetherness is at the heart and underpins the Camphill ethos, with KIBL offering an opportunity to express and demonstrate this in a very practical way. The Camphill Communities who engage with KIBL, as members of the Association of Camphill enable it to become something more than the sum of its parts. This means that we support each other during both difficult and positive times and since KIBL was established and incorporated on 1st August 2017, it has successfully generated additional funds that are being utilised for the wellbeing and support of

a number of Camphill initiatives and projects. A vital part of this has involved the UK region being able to continue to support our sister Communities within the Camphill Africa Region (South Africa and Botswana).

In addition, The Camphill Movement celebrated its 80th anniversary last year and it is only through supporting new and developing regions and initiatives that this has been able to be achieved. The ongoing work of both Camphill Insurance Agency and KIBL will ensure that support for Camphill Communities in the UK and in the Camphill Africa Region can be provided on in to the future.

The past 18 months have proven to be an extremely trying and difficult time for all of us, living and working through the global COVID pandemic. Despite the challenges and of course the jurisdictional restrictions, the KIBL team continued to work tirelessly throughout this time, adapting as required, to ensure all its clients were and continue to be serviced and at the same time grow and develop the business.

Thank you again to the KIBL team and Geoffrey for your ongoing hard work on our behalf and that of the AoCC Member Communities.

Never Preachy

*“Ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann:
we shall not see his likes again.
May he rest in peace,”*

Patrick Lydon died at his home surrounded by his family on Tuesday 18th January 2022. He will be remembered by many of us as a “human rights hero”, a person who led by example with his courage, warmth and strength of character: one who has shown us how to help ensure that we respect the inherent dignity of every human being.

Patrick was an Irish-American from Boston. As a young man he wrote for national newspapers covering such major events as Woodstock and the trial of a prominent black panther. In the early 1970s he travelled to Europe settling in Ireland with his wife Gladys who he met in Scotland.

Patrick had many skills, he was a gardener and a farmer easily identified with a piece of bailing twine hanging out of his pocket. But also an artist, he enjoyed singing in the local Callan Parish Choir and was instrumental in setting up and supporting ground breaking projects such as KCAT and Nimble Spaces.

As a farmer it could be said that Patrick’s life was shaped by the seasons and the rhythms of the land. But he also worked tirelessly to shape the world around him to make it a better place, not least for those who are often marginalised. He was a role model to many but he clearly saw in others the innate potential that each life has. His tutor from Exeter said of Patrick.

“Patrick Lydon has dedicated himself to helping young people with disabilities, his own children, and all of us understand that each human life has inherent worth, and that every individual is deserving of the chance to develop their abilities and live a dignified life.”

You can read more about Patrick in this news article:
www.kilkennypeople.ie/news/obituaries/722577/tributes-to-a-man-of-inclusion-and-vision-patrick-lydon-of-callan-who-has-died.html



Patrick Lydon with his wife Gladys

CAMPBILL PAGES EDITORIAL GROUP REPRESENTATIVES:

Colm Greene (Northern Ireland), Republic of Ireland - new Appointee being made, Tom Marx (Scotland), Tim Davies (England and Wales) and Vivian Griffiths (Pages Editorial Coordinator)

Contact and contributions are very welcome and should come through to editor@camphillpages.net

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