



Celebrating 80 Years

Camphill School Aberdeen

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Introduction and key themes

On 1st June 2020, Camphill School celebrated its 80th Birthday. From humble beginnings in 1939/40, the Camphill movement has become a worldwide movement with 127 communities.

The birthday took place at a time when there was a global Coronavirus Pandemic with consequential lockdown in Scotland. The plans that had been made to have a major exhibition of the 80 years, centred on a summer fayre, welcoming past and present students, staff, former co-workers and local dignitaries had to be put on hold. We decided instead to have our services celebrating in social-distancing ways and a Facebook celebration lasting for 7 days.

The key themes for these 7 days were:

1. Birthday Celebrations: Some photos and text about the very early days and developments in the first 10 years; Photos of the cakes, the mandala and general celebrations on the day in Camphill
2. Profiles of students: Photos and stories about the first 2 children to arrive and photos and stories about 2/3 young people, with permission from them and their parents
3. Profiles of co-workers: Photos and pen pictures about a few early pioneers; photo sand stories of 2 /3 staff members
4. Celebrating creative art: examples of paintings and sculptures done in the early days; showcasing creative projects done by contemporary CSA
5. Activities : photos and description of the early activities undertaken; showcasing activities done by Camphill today. Photos and narrative
6. Challenges facing Camphill: early days and internment in Isle of Man

and Canada and today facing the challenge of Covid 19

7. Camphill Globally: description and photos of the expansion of Camphill in UK and the world. Visual map showing where the communities are currently situated; narrative about CSA special links with other Camphill's and the bi-annual Camphill Dialogue

Feedback from those following the week-long celebration of stories was positive and so much so, that we decided to make this publication of the material.

We are also pleased to be able to record some of the messages received on the Facebook pages, which are recorded by first name initial only. This feedback came from a range of stakeholders – past and present students, staff, co-workers, volunteers, parents and general supporters.

**Day 1: June 1st
Camphill 80th Celebration**

80 years ago, today Camphill School Aberdeen was founded; 1st June 1940, by Dr Karl Konig and his early co-workers.



He and a group of Austrian refugees had come Northern Scotland in 1938/39; an escape from a divided Europe, and an Austria on the brink of being annexed to Germany. Escape was a chance too slim for most people and the possibility of severe deprivation and incarceration was looming large for many, but not for Dr Konig and his early co-workers who moved to Kirkton House in Aberdeenshire following their arrival in London This was possible with the generous support of the Houghton family who welcomed the group to live in Kirkton House” .

His profession as a doctor not only enabled him to apply for the visa to bring his family over, but he was also able to continue his medical studies. As he wrote: “Finally in the middle of March 1939 I received a... general permit from the Home Office, which allowed fifteen colleagues to come to Great Britain and work...” This visa was crucial in enabling Dr Konig to work with his trusted colleagues.



The beginnings of Camphill, as it became known in June 1940, was upon the purchase of Camphill House, (Milltimber, Aberdeen). This was possible through an interest Dr Konig’s early work and an act of kindness by a couple Mr and Mrs Will Macmillan. Following this gift,/loan Dr Konig’s work and that of his team started in earnest

Celebrations today in Camphill





Some Facebook comments, day 1 On the birthday:

M: Happy 80th anniversary. I am very proud to have been part of such an amazing place to live, work and learn.

M: All the very best for the 80th anniversary and hope you have a great time most of all stay well and safe to you all at Camphill Rudolf Steiner school Aberdeen lots of love from me to you all

J: Camphill is an amazing and wonderful place so peaceful beautiful and they have contributed so much to the community and as I used to be staying there in Murtle Estate I had learnt so much on so many different languages, cultures, disabilities and I have so many absolutely wonderful fantastic memories of my time there

J: I love walking through Camphill. I call it 'little Sweden' I went there for my Mistletoe treatment too. It is the most healing place, full of calm and serenity.'

A: I went there in 1979 they helps with my ADHD

P: Congratulations on this special anniversary. I spent some of my most fulfilling and enjoyable professional years working alongside co-worker colleagues and students at Camphill.

A: Happy birthday to everyone who works at Camphill school I hope it is a new day you all, I hope do something special for the big day. I wish I could be there to help, but can't, best wishes

H: Happy Anniversary to Camphill Rudolf Steiner School. My best wishes to all, who have given past pupils many happy memories and for many parents, hopes for a brighter future!!

D: My nephew S went here; often we would go and to the Easter egg hunt I loved it He came on leaps and bounds he is nearly 50 now x

D: Happy birthday. Our family have spent the last 45 years involved with Camphill and has had a positive impact on 4 generations and our extended family and friends

L: Happy birthday Camphill. E G was there for 14 years and every one of them happy. I'm pleased to say we are still in contact

with many of E's co-workers and try and visit for open days. Happy 80th birthday.

A: I was at the school as well, my teacher was called Lucy who was a very special person to me, then I had Betty and Bernard. I miss being at the school very much. It help me to become the person I am now.

S: My daughter is there!!! She is a voluntary from Argentina

J: Camphill to me is compassionate innovative magical and an absolutely wonderful place to be; so peaceful and everything is geared towards the single individual which is wonderful. I really enjoyed my time staying there and I have so many wonderful amazing memories of my time

M: Congratulations from Germany....we wish you a nice celebration and greetings to L in Witiko house

M: Happy birthday to all of you at Camphill! You're performing miracles every day. Thank you from the bottom of my heart Have a wonderful day

M: The best place in the world to work and live. Happy 80th anniversary! I

S: Happy Birthday to the beautiful Camphill School Aberdeen, 80 years going strong and many more birthdays to come. I am honoured to work there and call it my second home. Much love

On Karl Konig/founders:

C: What an inspirational man & what amazing work has been done through his work & his colleagues. Well done - keep up this amazing work which to this day still gives help & support for those who need it.... bless you all.

Day 2: June 2nd

Children/Young People profiles

Today we profile the first 2 children to arrive and share photos of others. We also profile some present day young people.

Profile of Peter



Peter was Camphill's very first child arriving in the spring of 1939 at the age of 10 just before the Second World War broke out and is the pioneer child of both Kirkton and later Camphill House (1940).

Anke Weihs, one of the pioneer co-workers recorded this moment in her Fragments from the Story of Camphill (1975):

"...On 10 May, just about six weeks after our move into Kirkton House, the first handicapped child and with him, our chosen vocation advanced to meet us. It was a dramatic encounter...Peter, barely able to speak, incessantly restless, his mind bent obsessively on looking for cigarette cartons, was a disconcerting new element in our lives and collectively, we faced the enigma of his existence..."

Peter stayed in Aberdeen until 1956 boarding and attending the school, and when Botton Village became part of Camphill's expansion he became a pioneer for the second time of his life. This time he was to be one of the first adults to join the adult community/village just established. This is where he stayed for the rest of his life; well known and loved by the community there.

Peter, the last of this line of the Bergel family died at Botton in 2012 and is remembered on his memorial stone as the Camphill's first child.

Profile of Rudi



Rudi was the second child to arrive at Kirkton House in 1939, the first home of Dr Karl Koenig's place of curative therapy in Scotland

He loved to play the accordion. He is also described as a gentle young man who loves animals:

"Rudi – such a nice creature – quite grown up in years – but young – v. kind and v. fond of animals and gentle and good..." *Emily Haughton, letter to Dr Ita Wegman, 1 February 1940*

He was deemed an Enemy Alien by the British Government, and was sent to Canada on 3 July 1940 on the ship, the S.S Ettrick. By December 1943, Rudi had finally been recognised as a Category C refugee. Released from internment in Canada, he made his way from Nova Scotia to Liverpool from where he was sent immediately to the Isle of Man to be interned as an Enemy Alien again This was until 1944 when he was finally, fully released.

He remained in UK until his death in 1977 in Henley Oxfordshire

Photos of other early children





Three present day young people in Camphill

Profile of Brendan



I have been in Camphill School Aberdeen for 4 years, I was 14 then. I am 19 now.

My home is in Elgin. I have 3 sisters who are all older than me. I go home every second weekend and some holidays.

I started off living in Camphill House and in August 2019, I moved to Cherrywood House. When I was in Camphill house I was in school but I have moved to the Young Adult programme in Cherrywood house.

I like living with co-workers and peers (sometimes) and building up close relationships with them so that I can be a part of everything that I want to be involved with. I can also have peace and quiet in my room. That it is normal. I like being able to talk to lots of people and having friends in different houses close by. Doing stuff on

my own and looking after myself, but with help.

It was different and quite hard moving from the school to the Young Adult programme. It was also difficult moving from Camphill estate to Cherrywood because it was different and I didn't know people there very well. I was worried that they wouldn't understand me. But most of the time they do.

My favourite workshop is woodwork with Justin

My house co-ordinators have been Christian, Tanya, Ashley and Mehdi: I change my mind at who I like the most, depending on my mood

There is nothing that I dislike about Camphill.

It is hard to grow up, everyone knows that.

Profile of Jim



Jim came to our house a few months before his seventh birthday. A small boy with big observant eyes. In his first years he spent most of his time outside, climbing trees to escape dinosaurs, going down to the stream to look for mermaids or cooking soups with witches in the forest. He had a rich imagination and loved storytelling. One could often find him dressed up in costumes from his favourite fairy tales, while he was wandering the estate, being carried on the back of his co-worker. Later on he was able to live his creativity and love for music and shows by joining the drama club and performing in the school's many plays and festival activities. Now during the lockdown he took initiative and organized his own Pride Parade in the back garden.

For me Jim's biggest achievement in his time at Camphill has been how he learnt to persevere. He is a young man with many talents and interests and he has learnt to put in the hard work to get to his achievements. In his teenage years he started to go running and has now competed in several 5 and 10k events at Balmoral Castle and Aberdeen City. He achieved the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award and has knitted many blankets for friends and family.

When he graduated from school last year Jim stood in the hall, full of people, and gave a small speech he had prepared himself. In his own words he wanted to thank those who had supported him through his school years for "accepting me just as I am". It was a festive moment with his foster family, former and current co-workers all coming together to celebrate his achievements.

Jim now goes to college four days a week and hopes to improve his hospitality skills. In the house he practices his independent living skills to try new recipes, cook independently and look after his room. But overall, he continues to enjoy having company, to learn words and sentences in different languages, skype and facetime former co-workers, many who have stayed closely in touch with J, listen to music, dance and tell jokes. And he cannot wait for the lockdown restrictions to be lifted to visit town, go back to college and meet with family and friends. In Jim's own words:
"Over these many years I felt always supported at Camphill. I enjoyed many things together: fun things, learning and working- always TOGETHER!!!
I had always two homes and two families 😊"

Profile of Niall (by his parents)

Niall was born in Winchester, Hampshire on 24th September 2000. He is the youngest of three brothers. His oldest brother is called Ronan, he is 26 and works as an economist for DFID. His other brother is called Ciaran, he is 23 and is also an economist. He works for BlackRock

Investments in Edinburgh. His dad, Hilary works for BP and his mum, Aloyise is a lecturer at the University of Aberdeen.

We moved to Aberdeen in 2005, when Niall was 5 and he started school at St Andrew's School, Inverurie. Prior to that we lived in Belfast where Niall attended several nurseries and play groups. Niall left St Andrew's school in 2018 and started the YAP at Camphill.

Niall enjoys all aspects of life at Camphill, especially outdoor work and leading the alpacas. He loves animals and everything to do with water. Swimming is one of his favourite activities, he is very enthusiastic. He has a big smile when he arrives at St Andrew's House each morning and he has formed very positive relationships with his friends. He does specialise in relaxing and watching Pixar movies!

Facebook comments on photos of early and present children/young people:

J: The most nurturing and caring place for those to be able to reach their potential

J: Photos of such love, care and openness

B: Dear Brendan, Jim and Niall, thank you for sharing your stories and pictures. You have brought all sorts of sunshine into the day. I hope you had wonderful cake yesterday! Thank you.

D: Hi Brendan, Jim and Niall. Thank you so much for sharing your stories. I really enjoyed reading them and loved hearing about what things you enjoy whilst at Camphill. Brilliant photos too.

D: Jim should be so proud of his achievements, what lovely words

P: Well done you are coping well on your own (Brendan profile)

Day 3: June 3rd

Co-worker Profiles

Today we profile an early pioneer, a co-worker who has been in Camphill for 51 years and 3 present day co-workers.

Profile of Thomas Weihs, Early Pioneer and Co-worker Camphill



Thomas Johannes Weihs was born in July 1914, the second child of Gertrude and Richard Weihs, who lived in Vienna. During his studies in Medicine at the University of Vienna he met Dr Karl König and became part of a youth group whose members formed the core of what was to become Camphill in Scotland.

Being of Jewish origin, he fled Austria together with his first wife, Helene Stoll, to Switzerland, after which, at the outbreak of World War 11, he joined Dr König and the others on Camphill estate in Aberdeen as one of the first co-workers.

As Camphill grew, so his responsibilities increased, ranging from farming and general handyman to doctor, educator, lecturer and writer. In 1957 he was appointed Superintendent of the Camphill work by Dr König.

He had, by this time, also established a thriving practice as a doctor, including working at Dr König's own London practice. At the same time he travelled widely, lecturing at Camphill centres throughout the world as well as to the general public.

This is how he met BBC film director Jonathan Stedall. Their collaboration led to many films for British television that Stedall made on Camphill such as "Candle on the Hill".

Weihs' best-known work, the book *Children in Need of Special Care*, was published in 1971 and has since been reprinted on several occasions and translated into 14 languages

One of his daughters; Christine Polyblank, founded the Ringwood Waldorf School.

Contemporary Camphill Co-workers

We are delighted to showcase 3 present day co-workers.

Martin Alfred Co-worker (born in Camphill): a Q&A session



Q: Where and when were you born

A: Witiko House, Camphill Estate 1985

Q: Where were you brought up

A: I lived in Witiko House, Camphill Estate for the first 19 years of my life which is unusual as many of my friends that grew up in Camphill moved around a lot.

Q: How many other children were looked after by your parents

A: In the first years there were up to 20 young people living in Witiko House. Before I moved out it was about 10.

Q: What did it feel like growing up in the community

A: I really enjoyed it. It was like growing up in a safe and comfortable bubble. Everything that I needed was on the estate. There were always people to talk to and things to do. I never got frustrated about

living in community or felt that my parents were not there for me.

Q: What prompted you to become a co-worker

A: I never expected this to be my vocation. I started because I was asked to help out and was needed. I then went to Sophia Project in California for a year as a volunteer when I finished school and there I learnt a great deal about Camphill, its values and history. I began to study the Curative course in the US and had a choice of where to finish my studies and choose to do this at Camphill School Aberdeen because of the link to the BA in Social Pedagogy.

Q: Where do you live now

A: Cairnlee House with my family.

Q: What different places have you lived (as a co-worker)

A: Sophia Project, California, Beltane, Camphill Estate, St. Christopher's House Murtle Estate and Cairnlee House, Cairnlee Estate.

Q: What are your key responsibilities

A: I am now the Community Liaison Health and Safety Coordinator, which is a new role. This role comprises of three parts - community liaison and development, health and safety support and guidance and GDPR (general data protection regulations) support and compliance. I am also still the registered manager at Cairnlee House for the time being.

Q: What is the wow! factor of being a co-worker

A: No two days are the same. Life is never boring.

Q: Any downsides of being a co-worker

A: Maintaining a healthy work/life balance and being able to let things go.

Q: Would you recommend the shared way of living to others

A: Yes it is a rewarding way to live for those that have an interest in mutual care and respect and community but it is not for everyone.

Co-Worker Ashley Mildon: a Q&A session



Q: Where do you live now

A: Camphill School Aberdeen on Murtle Estate

Q: What is your role

A: Senior house coordinator

Q: What prompted you to become a co-worker

A: When I was 20 years old I was working in a hotel in Scotland and wanting a change, namely an adventure! I visited a good friend one weekend where she was talking to me about her gap year volunteering in the USA. This was Beaver Run, Camphill Special School in Pennsylvania. I thought why not? That sounds fun, I could see myself doing that for a year...I was there within the month!

The one year thing didn't quite go to plan and I ended up staying for 7 years. While there I joined the study programme and earned my degree in curative education. I ran a house there for four of those years but decided that I wanted to come back home to Scotland and so applied to come to CSA. I have been here for six years now, since 2006, and love that I can continue in another Camphill place which I hold close to my heart.

Q: What different places have you lived and worked (as a co-worker)

A: Pennsylvania USA, CSA Aberdeen

Q: What are your key responsibilities

A: Running one of the residential houses, Cherrywood, on Murtle estate. Although I love that there is also opportunity to become creative and get involved with so many other areas as well

Q: What is the wow! factor of being a co-worker

A: Working with the students and seeing them develop skills and mature over the years. It is so wonderful to work with children and youngsters that you can form strong bonds and connections with.

Q: Would you recommend the shared way of living to others

A: I would definitely recommend the shared way of living to others as it allows you to grow beyond what you thought you could, if you let it! I think it also teaches people great skills in their ability to think not only for themselves but to develop skills to work with all.

Co-worker Philip Hodgkins: a Q&A session



Q: Where you live now

A: Camphill Lodge, Camphill Estate

Q: What is your role

A: Teacher

Q: What prompted you to become a co-worker

A: In August 2003, I was looking for a place to study and wanted to work towards becoming a teacher. I figured if I could learn to work with children and young people with additional support needs I could teach anyone. I liked that the BA in Curative was practice based as I did not fancy learning in a class room full time. I was looking for a place where I could combine work and life.

Q: What different places have you lived and worked (as a co-worker)

A: Camphill School Aberdeen from the start. St Hilda's, Camphill House, Witiko

House and I now live in Camphill Lodge.

Q: What are your key responsibilities

A: I am currently working as a teacher but equally loved the 10 years I spent house co-ordinating.

Q: What is the wow! factor of being a co-worker

A: The work with the pupils and supporting fellow co-workers on their journey.

Q: Any downsides of being a co-worker

A: Many, but the challenge has always been to transform these struggles into positive opportunities. Not always easy but often rewarding if you get it right.

Q: Would you recommend the shared way of living to others

A: Absolutely. I have witnessed and taken part in the miracle of life sharing and that is a huge part of why I am still here. We can learn so much from each other. My four children were born here, it is the place I was married and made many dear friends. My experience has always been that when we share and help each other we become 'richer' through our sacrifice.

Final comment: I am ever so grateful for the experiences I have made and continue to enjoy the challenge of living and working in community.

Finally, we present a profile of a long-term Co-Worker Kahren Ehlen



My name is Kahren Ehlen and I currently live in Murtle House in the Camphill Schools, Aberdeen. I have been lucky to live and worked in Murtle Estate the 51 years I have lived in Scotland, albeit in different House Communities within the over the years. I was born in New York City in the U S A, but now am a British citizen. I grew up as a young child in the States, but then was moved and went to school in Canada, for 1 yr. in Toronto and the rest in Ottawa. Returning to the USA for my final year at school to Sterling, Illinois

At the age of 16yrs (1965), I met the Camphill Community in Copake, N.Y. where I initially lived in the Bungalow where Carlo Pietzner and Renate Sachs lived and afterwards, lived with a Co-worker family at Omaskas House for nearly a year. When not at school I helped in the household with the residents, and worked in the big vegetable garden and on the farm. This was a very important time in my life as it consolidated a lifelong wish to help others which I had already done since being inspired as a young child. This came from my first encounter, at age 4 yrs., with a child carrying a disability (a thalidomide condition), when visiting this little preschool boy 's family. He taught me how to draw using crayons held between his toes, making a picture on paper because he had no arms or hands. I was so impressed and challenged to match his ability.

This led me through life, even though mine was a challenge, to help others less fortunate or able when I had spare time at school and in other situations. Meeting the residents of Omaskas finalised my decision

to help people with mental health and other more physical conditions as a life task.

This encounter with a Copake as a Camphill Community also nourished me as a person and led to my decision to return to this 'Community way of living and working'. I applied and went then to Camphill Schools, Beaver Run in Pennsylvania in 1967 to live, work and do their 3 yr. Seminar to learn about Curative Educational approaches and understanding. Initially I stayed in the flat of Carlo and Ursula Pietzner and their children, but later moved into the various households I was working in. Senior people like Christal Bender, Janet McGavin, the Schwabe's, the Macwilliam, the Hoys, and others taught me the fundamentals of Curative Education and Community living from a Camphill inspired perspective. Though very hard work it was both inspiring and fulfilling to my wish to help others through an empathic and mindfully practiced approach.

To complete the Seminar, I and the other co-worker students had to come to Europe for the final 3rd yr. as at that time it was mainly taught by doctors and Beaver Run had no resident doctor. The plan was to come to Aberdeen for 1 yr. and return to Beaver Run to take on a house. For me the plan changed as I felt deeply connected to this Camphill school and community in Aberdeen, and to Scotland as a place. My 1 year. here starting in August 1969, has turned this year into 51 years living and working here in Murtle Estate.

I completed The Camphill Seminar in 1970 and in later years when we linked to Northern College and later with Aberdeen University I graduated with the BA in Curative Education. Over the years my tasks have been many: initially I was a House Parent (now called house Co-ordinator) which I continued working at from 1971 until stopping in 1996 when my other duties needed more time. In addition to this I helped as a therapist. First, I helped support our physiotherapist (Karin Herms) as I had always had an interest in movement due to being a sports athlete and ballet dancer when younger. Then

under the influence and guidance from Sigrid Hansmann (in the 80's) I became interested in Play Therapy. When she retired from this, she asked me to take the responsibility to keep this therapy going as it was vital to our pupils to have this available. I have kept this promised responsibility until my retirement at the age of 70yrs and passed this now to my colleague Fatima Godinho. Over the years (in the 90's) I was supported to get formal qualifications and Diplomas as a Play Therapist and as a Person-Centred Counsellor. The support to pupils and residents from these two therapeutic fields has been vital to the wellbeing and development of many over the 30 yrs. I have practiced these therapies.

In between I married and had a family. In olden days often co-worker children were sent off to boarding schools, but I and other younger co-worker colleagues didn't wish for our children to leave this environment. So, I together with a few others, in between all other things, established and created the Aberdeen Waldorf School in Aberdeen(1977), which provided Waldorf Education for our co-worker children and others from the surrounding area.

Here in Murtle Estate, I also supported my husband to run the Murtle Workshop which built many important buildings in Murtle - like the schoolhouses-Mica and Tourmaline, but also helped manage the employed workshop team who cared for the repairs in all our estates. At the same time, I helped my husband build up and develop the Riding Therapy work which was so vital to our youngsters over the years. My tasks were more administrative and doing fund raising for this.

Additionally, I became a CRSS Co-ordinator and member of the Camphill Schools Board of Directors (1989). Doing these roles led me to train for and become the 1st Child Protection Officer (1995) which had multiple demands. Since 1988, I also was very involved in many areas of teaching for our Foundation Course, earlier Curative Education Seminars, and later helping to develop and teaching in our BA Course in Curative Education (Social pedagogy). In between I was out lecturing and attending National Conferences

including giving public presentations and conventions to promote Camphill's work.

Why, you may ask? Camphill, and especially Murtle Estate, is for me like a "Spiritual home". In the early days after the Camphill Hall was built we held a conference every 2 yrs. Co-workers from all the newly established Camphill communities world-wide came "home" here to share their developments, knowledge, and learning which included ups and downs. What was important to all was, that the dedicated commitment to build "living shared community life"(some including education and others more work related), was all done to support the needs of those individuals-children or adults to have a life in our Camphill Communities where they would be respected, could develop, flourish and be understood and supported as a genuine person. My whole life has been dedicated to this cause. As a main focus we were not earning a wage/salary, but working in such a way to put those we cared for first and which did not focus on earning money. We made sure to provide all with the remuneration they needed to have their needs met. What this was called by tax people changed over the years from volunteers to non-employed to in the last years being called self-employed.

Many things have changed over the years. My first group of children included 6 girls sharing a room and 1 in a single room. Today that is not possible as each person is allocated their own room. For some when the sharing idea changed, they struggled not to share a room as it was too scary on their own. At that time, we only had a day off in a 7 day week and worked from 6:30 am. until 9:00pm. unless there were official meetings that needed to be attended which took your day up to 10:30-11:00 at night. And of course, we were all on night cover /call as there were no waking night staff at that time. I feel it is a good thing this is different now-a-days. What is also good is, the fear that the community would be damaged by bringing in more externally employed people, was proven as wrong. We have benefitted greatly from extending our working teams to included others who live outside the community grounds but are

as dedicated as those who live within. For them I am truly grateful.

I have been one of those dedicated more than a 100% to our Camphill values and Anthroposophical practices internally, but who has challenged the ways of living and working to bring positive development over time through finding appropriate ways to translate the meaning of ideas and words we use into a language which others can understand. As an Educator, Mentor for staff and as a Play/ Counselling Therapist, it has been important for me to 'Play with an Idea' and also to translate meaning and words through 'Translating what we know into a language another can understand.' Even attuning to the Communication that comes from 'Silence' is vital when helping others. These qualities are part of what makes Camphill a wonderful therapeutic place to live and work. Especially here in Murtle Estate, we can walk within these large beautiful grounds which includes, houses, gardens, farm and woodland, and sits up a knoll looking into the beautiful River Dee valley. Visitors comment as they come down the drive into the main part of the estate, about the peaceful atmosphere they can feel when entering it. The mindfulness and dedication of all who live and work here, creates this special environment. It brings warmth to your heart and peace to your mind.

And to those who come to attend our communities, be they our schools or adult working communities, as residents and on a day basis, I can only thank you for all I and others have learned over the years from you. At a gathering of young adults (former pupils) held in Murtle Hall many years ago, many of you reflected and spoke on what was your best and worst reflections and memories. This was a very touching moment and event, hearing how Camphill life had changed these individuals and helped them in their ongoing adult life. They told how they tried to teach other staff where they currently lived, things that were vital and important to them including daily habits and celebration of festivals which held so much meaning and value for them. But the most important and touching was the relationships they had developed while

in Camphill and how they carried these deep within themselves on their further life journeys.

This is also a most fantastic gift that I and others who have come to work in Camphill communities have also received, namely, the 'true meeting of one person to another.' Camphill does not just signify a place to work, or just an organization that has grown and developed world wide, but it represents a way of life and attitude which is dedicated to serving others and facilitating them to be all that they can become.

Dr. Konig in those early days wrote some words in a verse which we as co-workers were asked to take to heart, which says:
Keep in mind that each of us is special because we are different. We have come together because we have our differences to bring to each other. So, listen to the other, as the other listens to you, and we will hear ourselves grow into the realization of expanding mutual respect.

I thank the many pupils and co-workers I have shared life and work with over my more than 50 years of Camphill life, and would still recommend this workplace to others who wish to help build a creative, understanding world for the future. Many things have changed in Camphill over the years, demanded by the world we live in. But, its core of beliefs, ways of life and community understanding and practices are still strong and they will continue to grow to meet individuals needs into the future.

Facebook Comments on Co-workers Kahren

S: Thank you so much for sharing Kahren. I really enjoyed hearing all about your life , journey to Camphill, and your ongoing commitment to the living learning and loving the anthroposophical way.

*E: You have helped change the life's of so many. I truly am grateful for your help. Helping fix that butterfly wings when they were broke.. So I could fly again. One in a million you are. x
Kahren, you are truly inspiring. Thank you for sharing your story*

Ashley

B: You are brilliant and Brendan thinks the world of you, as we do too

J: She's an amazing young lady I'm very proud of her

Martin

L: Proud of you, Martin, as my godson. You are doing so well

S: Thank you for sharing. So interesting Martin to better understand your life long connection to Camphill Aberdeen. Do many people who grow up in a community return to live and work?

Phil

A: It is lovely to learn more about the co-workers, thank you. My son thinks the world of Philip!

S: Thank you so much for sharing Philip. It is really interesting to better understand the opportunities there are for workers at Camphill to develop build on their skills and take on different roles.



Extract from newspaper in the 1950's: A school where love is the cure

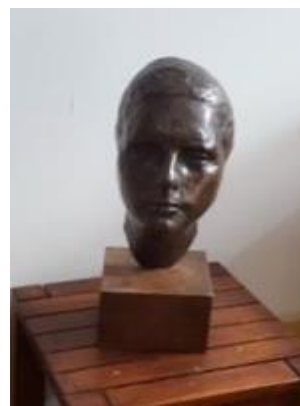
Day 4: June 4th

Art and Creativity

Today, we celebrate art and creativity in Camphill over the 80 years.

Herman Gross

In 1963 Herman Gross arrived in Camphill School as artist in residence.



Herman Gross sculpture self-portrait, held in Camphill School Aberdeen

Herman Gross was born on February 4th 1904 in Lahr in Baden. During the early part of his career he had served a series of apprenticeships with some of the most eminent European practitioners in their respective fields: Paul Haustein (gold and silver-smithing), Waldemar Raemisch (sculpture), Robert Wlérick (sculpture), and Picasso (painting).

Gross rarely talked of the time that he had studied and worked in Picasso's studio along with a number of other art students. He had greatly admired Picasso both for his humanity and for his art. However he did acknowledge that the most important and formative time in his life was when he was in the presence of Picasso.

In 1948 Gross emigrated to the USA with his artist wife—Hildegard Rath—and settled in New York. Two major exhibitions of his work were held at The Macbeth Gallery in New York in 1948 and 1951: both received widespread critical acclaim from New York art critics.

However, Gross never truly settled in the USA and he returned to Germany in 1956.

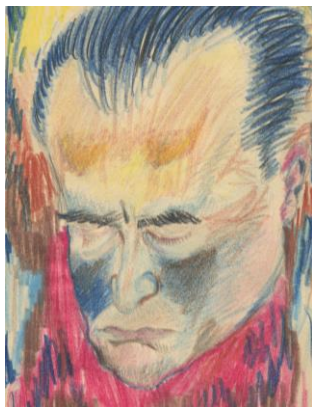
Seven years later decided to leave Germany and go to Scotland where he had

been invited to act as artist-in-residence at Camphill School Aberdeen, set up by Dr Karl Koenig, a distinguished paediatrician who had to flee Nazi-controlled Austria before the outbreak of war.

One of his most productive periods appears to have been when working modestly as the artist-in-residence, remote from the artistic and intellectual heartlands of Paris and Berlin. It was in this Camphill community that Hermann Gross died on 1st September 1988. (Extracted from *Commentary* by Robin Jackson, *Hermann Gross: subversive Luftwaffe artist*

A fantastic collection of his art can be seen by following the link: <https://research.camphill.edu/hermann-gross-art/>

Reverend Peter Roth OBE was one of the early founders of Camphill. He studied medicine but later became a priest. He was interned on Isle of Man, along with Karl König and Thomas Weihs. He was also an artist and here are 3 paintings by him from the Camphill Archives. Peter and his wife, Kate founded Botton Village in 1955. For more information click on this link: <https://www.camphillvillage.org.uk/about-us/our-history/>



Unknown male, possibly Hans Schauder, 1940 at Central Camp, Douglas, Isle of Man. (Coloured chalks on paper,) Peter Roth, Camphill House Archive



Thomas Weihs, 1940 at Central Camp, Douglas, Isle of Man. (Coloured chalks on paper), Peter Roth, Camphill House Archive



Dr Karl König, Peter Roth, Camphill Archive

2 other pieces of art held in Camphill School Aberdeen



Gabor Tallo, architect



Gabor Tallo was born in Breznobanya in Slovakia (then part of Hungary) but trained in Vienna at the High School of Arts and Crafts and received two years of University training (1929-32), five years in all.

In Budapest he made the layout and designed new accommodation for the Royal Hungarian Institute for Child Psychology (1936). He went to South Africa in 1936/1937 and sat the special qualifying examination at the University of the Witwatersrand in 1937.

In 1958 at the invitation of Camphill he moved to Aberdeen to design buildings to fit the needs of children with special needs.

Amongst other buildings, he designed Murtle Hall, Camphill. This is a photo of it being built in the early 60's



Contemporary artist in Camphill: David Newbatt



I am an artist who has lived and worked as a co-worker in Camphill communities for 48 years. I came initially as a young volunteer in 1972 aged 22 with an underpinning drive to become an artist. Being an artist in a community such as Camphill is an art. The art of finding the balance between personal space and time to create and the endless community demands.

Apart from caring duties my artistic abilities were quickly recognized by the class teacher in whose class of children with learning difficulties I was helping and I became very involved in therapeutic approach to education. This awoke a deep interest in education through art.

I have been involved in most aspects of Camphill life and although this could be seen as a great cost to my personal achievements as an artist it has been a huge source of inspiration that has fired up a lot of creativity. A good example is living with the 'breathing' rhythm of the seasons and festivals of the year. This in itself is an endless source of inspiration, I think I have learnt a little about the art of economical use of time and cut the cloth of personal artistic endeavours accordingly during my time as teacher, house parent, family and community activities.

Camphill is a very social place to be and therefore I have been very involved with 'social', community artistic projects, conferences, retreats and workshops.

In 1982 I took a year out to do an art therapy training and was challenged to either be a dedicated therapist or pursue my artistic path. I very clearly chose the artistic

path but living in Camphill which is embedded with a fundamentally therapeutic approach to life it is impossible to put the therapist values in the closet.

Since 1982 I have been living and working with young adults which has opened up a great interest in drama. Between 1983 and 89 I lived in Camphill Blairdummond, a large 19th century castle with very extensive wall spaces. This awoke a love of painting murals and large paintings. Beginning in those years and on into the 31 years in Cairnlee, Camphill School, Aberdeen, I have increasingly been travelling to many different countries, communities and schools doing artistic projects, teaching, social community building, 'artistic' decorating, murals and paintings, often all of these in one visit.

All these out going activities are immensely refuelling. I am often walking into new situations with a blank sheet and try to be open to what I really need to do there; but get an enormous amount back from these experiences which inspire my own work and help keep it in a constant state of development.

Throughout my Camphill career I have kept up an output of more personal work but a majority of what I do is to fulfil somebody's or some community need. But I have really learnt that making the effort to live into someone else's vision, need or request, has helped with an open, understanding conversation that can give one plenty of creative room and opens up new avenues.

Camphill life has been a source of inspirational opportunities, spiritually, socially and practically and for that I have to be grateful.



The Archer



Adoration of the kings – Christmas



The challenge of inner balance

Facebook comments on art

M-M: Wonderful to be reminded of Herman Gross I often shared the evening meal with him and his wife at Murtle estate. Important people in my early 20's.

N: It's wonderful to see these paintings and sculptures as part of our 80th celebrations.

K: David Newbatt, done lovely paintings on K's bedroom walls

J: Beautiful paintings, David, such a wonderful painter

Day 5: June 5th Challenges facing Camphill

The early challenges facing Camphill in the 1940's

First Challenge

When Karl König first came to Scotland, it was to stay in Kirkton House. He wrote in his letters at the time after viewing the house:

“The house is not as small as all that; it has three fairly big rooms on the ground floor, some rooms on the first floor and also on the second. Although there is neither electric light nor central heating and only a single ancient bathroom...” He noticed early on that the wind blew through the windows and doors could not be shut properly. The kitchen range smoked and most of the fireplaces did not work properly. Even this could not dim his enthusiasm for the project and what it could offer:

“...we had the possibility of not merely living there together but of receiving approximately ten children.”

He and his fellow early pioneers moved in on 1st April 1938.

Second Challenge

However, Kirkton House turned out not to be suitable for Karl König's vision and they had to find new premises. On 1st June 1940 they moved to Camphill House, Milltimber, where the movement was started.

Third Challenge

Initially their refugee status enabled work to continue much as usual. But with the advance of the war the British Government increasingly felt threatened by the sheer number of enemy aliens on their shores and a programme of incarceration began. In this instance all the men were removed. Tilla König wrote that: “...my husband and all the other men in our community have been taken away...”

There was utter confusion about what would happen to those taken away. Where would they stay and for how long? Some men were placed as far away as Canada

for years at a time and sometimes up until the end of the war itself.

Karl König, Peter Roth and Thomas Weihs along with their friends Hans Schauder and Ernst Lehrs were somewhat luckier, in that they were interned on the Isle of Man. It was there that they reconnected with many friends and associates from Austria and Germany in the medical and scientific fields, as well as those of the arts and could continue to learn and grow while they waited for repatriation to the UK. A ‘university’ of sorts; in a place of incarceration.



Internment Isle of Man

In the absence of the men, the women carried on with the work in Camphill.

Coronavirus Pandemic: a challenge facing Camphill School Aberdeen

Knowing that there was a pandemic and preparation

As news began to spread across the world about the developing of Covid 19 initially there was disbelief that it would come to our front door and have the effects that it is having.

Soon cases began to develop in Scotland and at CSA, the first steps towards preparedness began. Following the emergency response policy, a CSA response group was set up and began to meet regularly. The first piece of work that was developed was a set of contingency plans across all the services at CSA.

During these early stages the focus was on ensuring that CSA was fully prepared and that staff were kept informed of developments. Each residential house and service at CSA were given an emergency pack and guidance and additional hygiene and infection controls were implemented. Much effort and focus was put into ensuring that developments were closely monitored and new guidance followed.

Safety of residents

The pandemic began to take hold in Scotland and CSA began to make major changes to its provision in order to ensure the safety of children and young people. As lockdown loomed on the horizon the first steps towards safe isolation bubbles began to emerge. Day pupils and students had separate programmes to residents, staff that could were offered to live on site to decrease the movements of people on and off site and the footfall into residential houses was reduced as much as possible. Soon each house became a separate entity with their own programmes. Across the estates social distancing was now observed and personal protective equipment (PPE) became part of daily life.

One of the most significant changes was that children and young people that would go home regularly were no longer able to do so. Many have stayed at CSA and a few went home to stay with their families. This has meant that many have had to get used to seeing friends and family in a new way; via video calling and to experience what CSA is like on the weekends and during the holidays.



Safety of staff

As the pandemic and lockdowns spread across Europe, the German volunteers

who come each year were recalled by their sending organisations. This was very difficult for many of them as they felt compelled to stay and help. Some volunteers returned to Germany and some stayed on. The loss of these volunteers was felt across the community.

In order to support the safety of themselves and their families a small proportion of staff began to shield and no longer came into work. All staff that could work from home were encouraged to do so and the offices all closed.

New guidelines on self-isolation began to impact with some staff being off for up to 14 days due to members of their family having symptoms. At first this was very challenging as testing was not available. As testing became possible it meant that staff could come back to work sooner.

Ensuring that staff had the PPE needed to fulfil their tasks safely and the correct guidance required a significant effort and CSA was very lucky to receive donations of PPE to help with this.

Due to the shortages with staffing in the houses many of the staff from services that were suspended began to support in the houses.

The significant challenges and strain on staff is a real concern and work was done to establish health and wellbeing guidance and support.



Covid 19 strikes

A member of staff and a resident tested positive. This was a new challenge for CSA.

Very quickly the response group set about ensuring that contingency plans were followed and where needed houses went into full lockdown as a precaution with extra hygiene measures and disinfecting in place.

Over the next few days a number of staff developed symptoms and were tested. All the tests came back negative. A great deal of resilience was shown by those directly dealing with and supporting the situation. The staff member and resident both began to get better and soon both were symptom free. After the required amount of days the full lockdown that was imposed could be lifted and CSA was Covid 19 free once more.

Communication the key

Throughout the whole process good communication has been key. Early on a daily bulletin was established that was shared with all staff and was a mix of factual information, guidance and updates on what was happening across CSA. As things have begun to settle the bulletin remains a regular feature, but is no longer daily.

Communication aids for children and young people were developed in order to support them to understand what was going on. Regular letters and photos have been sent out to families to keep them informed of current guidance and for them to be involved with what has been going on at CSA.

Commissioners, local authorities and regulatory bodies have also been kept informed of developments at CSA as well as being given a regular insight into what activities we have been doing and how we have been engaging creatively with children and young people.

Creativity and new activities during the pandemic

A tremendous effort has been put in; in order to establish new routines or a 'new normal' and to keep everyone safe and well.

Across the estates there have been weekly creative projects that have inspired many

and helped to create beauty. On Camphill estate, residents still go to school but they do so in 'house' classes and have much of their education outdoors. The young adult residents on Murtle and Cairnlee estate participate in outdoor 'house' group, workshops and many activities in and around their houses.

Position on 5th June

The restrictions are still very much in place for many and getting used to the 'new normal' is something that everyone is slowly coming to terms with.

The resilience and positivity of everyone in CSA remains remarkable and we are very much looking forward to sometime soon being able to all get together for a big party.

Day 6: June 6th

Activities in Camphill

Today we focussed on activities in the first 2 decades and in contemporary Camphill.

Images of activities in Camphill in the early days



Music has always been a big part of Camphill



Bread Making



Mending a plough and ploughing



St John's celebration



Milking



Horse and cart, children in Murtle



Weaving in the early days



St George's Day Procession



Enjoying a picnic



Bee keeping

Activities in 2020 Camphill

We share below some of the activities enjoyed by residents and pupils in present day Camphill.



Creating mandalas in the trees



Sharing food and company



A community ceilidh – fun for all



In one to one conversation



Getting ready for action



Young people planning together



Horse-riding and therapy



The bike garage



The Alpacas



On the farm



Arts and crafts

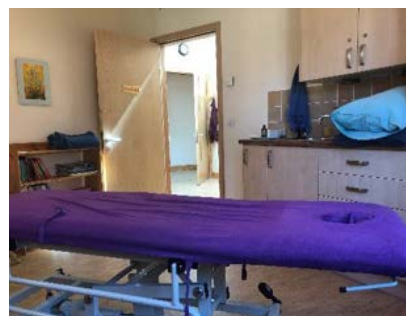


Out shopping

A focus on Therapy College

There is a wide variety of therapies being offered in CSA. These include: anthroposophical therapies, such as Rhythmical Massage Therapy, Oil Dispersion Baths; Therapeutic Movement; Eurhythmy Therapy; Eurhythmy Colour and Light Therapy; Therapeutic Speech; and Therapeutic Music/Music Therapy. In addition, the following are also offered: Arts Therapy/ Therapeutic Art; Play Therapy/Therapeutic Play; Counselling, Hippotherapy (the use of horse riding as a therapeutic or rehabilitative treatment, especially as a means of improving coordination, balance, and strength) and Equine-assisted Therapy.

Here are some images:



Rhythmical Massage room and table



Oil Dispersion Bath

This wooden bath is used in CSA to give children and young adults a therapeutic bath. The bath is given at a specific temperature with a substance, usually oil, added or dispersed through a special apparatus. The child/young person is immersed in the water for 10 – 20 min allowing the skin to absorb the substances individually chosen for their healing qualities by the therapist. After the bath the child/young

person is usually warmly wrapped to rest. Therapeutic baths and footbaths have a range of benefits, amongst others stimulating the body's warmth, improving poor blood circulation, boosting the immune system and supporting the experience of the body's boundary. The bath therefore promotes physical and emotional wellbeing. Normally a course of baths is given once a week for one term



A Eurythmy session from the past

Day 7: June 7th
Camphill: a Global Movement



Camphill, from its early beginnings, has become a global movement. This is a timeline of its growth and development in the first 60 years.

1938/39	Dr Konig at Kirkton House
1940	Camphill House acquired and the Camphill movement founded
1951	Camphill School near Bristol started
1953	Glenraig Community Northern Ireland started
1955	Botton (1 st Adult village started)
1960	Communities in South Africa, Germany, Holland and USA started
1960's	Communities in Switzerland, Norway and in Stourbridge the 1st Urban Village in Britain started
1966	Dr Konig passed away
1970's +80's	Communities started in Finland, Irish Republic, Wales, Botswana, Austria, France, Brazil, Sweden, Canada
1990's	Communities started in Eastern Europe-Poland, Estonia and Russia
1999	1 st Asian community in India

Since its foundation in 1940, the Camphill movement has continued to grow and now there are **119 communities in 27 countries** across the world. This pays testimony to the power of the Camphill vision to transcend geography, culture, language and nationality.

You can visit a Camphill community in Austria, Botswana, Canada, Czech Republic, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Republic of Ireland, Latvia, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Poland, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America, Vietnam and Wales as well as Camphill inspired communities in India, Israel and Japan.

International Dialogues

The Camphill Communities across the world hold regular International Dialogues. People working and living in Camphill settings worldwide can attend these conferences to discuss key issues impacting on their charities and on the people they support.

In 2017, the Dialogue was held in Aberdeen, the birthplace of the movement.



In 2020, the 80th Celebration year, the Dialogue was held in Hermanus, South Africa and was effected severely by the growing Coronavirus pandemic. Here is a picture of some of the attendees relaxing after the discussions.



Some attendees relaxing after conference discussions

Some final comments from Facebook

M: Brilliant photos, takes me back to when I was there this is what is keeping me positive at this moment of crisis

J: re the STV video, I'm so proud! My year in Camphill School Aberdeen was a very special time! Was a pleasure for me to be a volunteer in that amazing environment!

D: Great piece of news. It's a wonderful school and its recognition is well-deserved

A: Brilliant to see everyone happy and content and lovely sunny weather added to peaceful atmosphere. Keep up the good work.

C: It looks such a beautiful peaceful place. Well done for keeping this special place up & running in this difficult time.....

A: Many blessings on you all, for all you have done and shared, so joyously and

creatively, while keeping good care for everyone, during the lockdown. Thank you.

L: I cannot thank the staff at Camphill enough. What would have been a very anxious time has been made bearable by the help support and love we have received. I now know why it is a Camphill family. Thank you from the bottom of my heart

PR coverage leading up to and during the celebrations

The following PR coverage was also secured for the 80th celebrations: Click on the links to access.

27 May – P&J - <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/nostalgia/2208678/camphill-school-gets-ready-to-celebrate-its-80th-anniversary-of-enriching-peoples-lives/>

27 May 2020 – P&J - https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/2219756/timmy-mallett-offers-best-wishes-to-camphill-school-on-its-80th-anniversary/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

28 May 2020 – Evening Express

02 June 2020 – P&J - <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/aberdeenshire/2231687/north-east-msp-lodges-hollywood-motion-congratulating-camphill-school/>

On 04 June 2020 – STV visited Camphill School and Newton Dee. The report can be accessed by clicking on this link

<https://www.facebook.com/camphill-schoolaberdeen/videos/884142065388562>

Camphill Scotland also arranged national PR, as follows:

1 June <https://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/charity-set-for-new-chapter-in-80th-year>

5 June <https://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/charity-marks-milestone-anniversary>