

# Camphill People

FESTIVAL SPECIAL EDITION  
AUTUMN 2011



Credit: Picasa web albums

## THE LIGHT OVERCOMES THE DARKNESS

Who turned off the Lights?

The people of Callan celebrated the final magical night of the festival by turning the town into a world inhabited by fantastical creatures.

All the street lights were turned off and replaced by beautiful lantern lights and glowing costumes who chased away the dark creature. This gave the illusion

of the light overcoming the darkness and good overcoming evil.

The street was inhabited by magical glowing costumes, dancing fire poi and hula hoopers, giant paper lanterns, masked drummers, singing angels and an atmosphere so electric that it lit up the whole town. We have included many photographs in this special edition so that you

can see for yourself!

This was truly a triumph by the people of Callan where community groups and participants of workshops came together to produce a multimedia illuminated night-time spectacle.

The *Camphill People* congratulate the people of Callan on a wonderful close to a terrific festival.

## Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the special edition issue of *Camphill People*.

This issue is dedicated to the Abhainn Rí Festival 2011 and the wonderful spectacle that filled the streets of Callan.

We have reported on different aspects of the festival. I have interviewed Patrick Lydon about the history of the event and how the festival has developed in Callan.

I spoke with Rosie Lynch about 'Commonage' and how she became involved in the project.

Andrew Pike explained how the 'creature' was made and shared his views on the festival.

I interviewed Liadan Ryan-Gerhardt and Eoghan O'Brien who participated in some of the workshops and also Hannah Frister and Narumi Yamaguchi about their involvement in the spectacle.

We hope that you enjoy all the articles in this issue!

*-Fintin Kelly*



Credit: Narumi Yamaguchi

CAMPHILL PEOPLE FESTIVAL SPECIAL EDITION

## FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

A feature of the spectacle this year was light. This was provided in different formats including many beautiful lanterns. Fintin took the opportunity to talk to Hannah Frister about the lanterns.

**FK Did you make the lanterns for the parade?**

HF I helped. There was a workshop for creating costumes, lanterns and props for the spectacle – I made just two tiny lanterns and I helped to make a large one.

**FK What were they made with?**

HF They were made of willow, covered with thin paper. In the centre was some metal that held the tea light candle.

**FK Was this not very dangerous to have fire and willow and paper together? Could they not go up in flames? I was worried about safety.**

HF This was considered at the design stage, and the lanterns were rigorously tested and made so that this would not happen!



*“Santa Lucia is said to bring light in the darkest times”*

## SANTA LUCIA

There are festivals of light celebrated throughout the world. This year we adapted the Festival of Saint Lucia which was quite beautiful. The parade of angels sang angelically along the streets of Callan.

**FK Can you tell us about the Angels in the parade.**

NY Yes, the idea is based on the Scandinavian tradition of Santa Lucia. Santa Lucia is said to bring light in the darkest time. The angels with the bright lights protected Callan against the evil dark monster.

**FK How did you make the costumes?**

NY We already had white costume from a play. We recycled the costumes and we added head-dresses, reflective material, glowing face paint and battery powered lights.

You can see a photograph of the angels on page 1. The lead angel is wearing the traditional red sash and her headdress represents a wreath of candles.



Credit: Narumi Yamaguchi

## HOW DID THIS GET STARTED?

This was the first question that Fintin asked Patrick Lydon when he interviewed him about his involvement in the festival.

**FK How did the festival get started?**

**PL** The idea of the festival is that anyone who is doing anything interesting can come together and do the interesting things together! There are many different strands of activities and clubs represented. The juvenile hurling club, the boxing club, soccer club, vintage cars and tractor clubs, food producers to name a few. Abhainn Rí is a Callan festival and is organised and run by the people of Callan. A successful festival is very good for the economy of Callan. A manifesto was drawn up after K10 in 2009, and in 2010 the first Abhainn Rí festival was born.

**FK Who went to the launch night?**

**PL** The launch night was advertised in the local paper and all the public could come along. The committee also invited people like county councillors, business people and community leaders. We handed out leaflets and programmes and people could sign up to the workshops. Also people could volunteer to help.

**FK Will there be a festival next year?**

**PL** Certainly. Big plans for 2012 already!!!!

### Manifesto for a **Callan Festival**

Over the last years, and particularly after the K-ten celebrations in 2009 many people shared thoughts about the potential for a Festival in Callan. Looking back, there is quite a progression:

- Callan Alive! in the '90s
- Its one-off follower, Vive Callan! in '99 that introduced the idea of people with special needs coming from abroad
- Annual John Lockes' festival of juvenile hurling on August Bank Holiday
- The Special Olympics hosting of the Ivory Coast in 2003,
- A series of art exhibitions, concerts, and events in the Friary, KCAT and Workhouse
- The Big River parade in 2006, with Macnas [Macnas has been creating performances in Galway for over 20 years] and KCAT working with local volunteers
- Consistent Arts Festival and Heritage Week events, with **Callan 800** Festival and Field Day in '07
- K-ten Festival with 3-day participative groups and finale in Abbey Meadow

Many people have been involved in all of these events and many people have visions of how Callan could harness its new community activity to create a festival that could involve, and attract, an even wider variety of people.



Credit: Picasa web albums

*"If you can dream it, you can do it."  
- Walt Disney (1901-66),  
American animator, showman, film  
producer*

**FESTIVAL SPECIAL EDITION**

*Here are some before and after photographs (sourced from the internet) that illustrate the hard work and preparation that has gone into this wonderful spectacle!*

*Before*

*After*



SOME PHOTOS FROM NARUMI...



Left: Bryan and Maya

Below: Mascha at a workshop

Right: Johanna hard at work

Below Right: spectacle at the co-op breach



FESTIVAL'S FUTURE

Fintin interviewed his friend Andrew Pike about how he participated in the festival and how he would like to see the festival develop in the future.

**FK** What did you do this year?

**AP** I did a bit of painting of the machine. I also helped to make the creature of the darkness. I attended the drumming workshop [see page 4!] and during the spectacle we were drumming for 2½ hours with 10 minute breaks.

**FK** How does this year compare with last year?

**AP** It took off slowly at first. 'Macnas' (who are a street theatre group from Galway) came to Callan with their expertise. The creature was built using silage plastic, glue guns, heat guns to shrink the plastic. Also there was an improvement on the festival signage from last year to this year.

**FK** How would you like the festival to develop?

**AP** This festival is not only for Camphill and KCAT – it is for everyone in Callan. I feel strongly about getting the teenagers and adults involved. I want them to think about the town and stop littering the streets. If we want to get bigger we must start earlier. I want to see more and more people say 'YES I want to help'. This is an opportunity to really enjoy ourselves but we must spread the work so that everyone is involved in a happy way.

**FK** How can this be done?

**AP** There were a lot of people out in the streets for the spectacle and a lot of money was spent in the town. People, especially business people should accept that it is a festival for Callan, and not just Camphill and KCAT. They need to start planning early and clean up the town beforehand.

**FK** Fantastic Andrew, very good.

*"This festival is not only for Camphill and KCAT – it is for everyone in Callan".*



Credit: Picasa web albums

*Andrew Pike working on the creature of the darkness.*



Credit: Picasa web albums  
Taken in a space developed by Commonage at the old Co-op

*Commonage is a five year active architectural research project based in Callan. Now in it's second year the project aims to provide a critical resource for the future of architecture in the expanded field and development which can be measured in qualitative rather than quantitative terms. Curated by Jo Anne Butler, Tara Kennedy and Rosie Lynch*



## WHAT IS COMMONAGE?

Fintin interviewed Rosie Lynch at her home and asked her about the Commonage project.

**FK** **How did you know about the festival and how did you know about Camphill?**

**RL** I grew up in Duffcarrig and Ballytobin. My parents are co-workers, Dad is a farmer. We moved to Ballytobin when I was 7 years old. In 2010 the festival organisers were thinking about developing an architectural strand as a way for people to think about their environment - past, present and future. Patrick Lydon knew about my interest in this area and invited me and my colleagues to contribute.

**FK** **What does Commonage mean?**

**RL** It comes from the word 'commons' where people have the right to graze their livestock. Commonage is space that is not private or public but operated and managed by the town's people.

**FK** **Is it difficult to get the money for this project?**

**RL** This is the second year of this project and we have secured more funding through 'Engaging with architecture scheme' [Arts Council] and Leader. This can be hard because we have to look at what the needs of the schemes are and ensure that this also meets the needs of the artists and the town and people.

**FK** **Who are the other artists?**

**RL** Tara Kennedy and Jo Anne Butler both graduated from NCAD (National College of Art and Design, Dublin) and have gone back to study architecture at UCD. We are very interested in visual arts.

Thank you Rosie for telling us about this very interesting project.

## WORKSHOPS — THE INSIDE STORIES

Credit: [www.facebook.com/AbhainnRiCallan](http://www.facebook.com/AbhainnRiCallan)



*“It was really fun to learn to hula hoop!”*

Liadan Ryan-Gerhardt is a student at Bridgid’s College Callan. Fintin interviewed her about her thoughts on the workshops and the festival.

**FK What did you do in the festival?**

LR I was in the parade and I took part in some workshops. The general workshop was where we helped out and made props and so on. I also did the animation workshop and circus skills workshop.

**FK Eoghan did the animation workshop – did you work with him?**

LR No, Eoghan was working on a project for the parade. I was drawing and taking pictures for another

animation film. Some people were using puppets. They would take a photograph, move the puppet a small bit and taking another picture. It took about 60 photos to make a small animation film. It was a slow process. Making a film was tedious!

**FK What was your favourite workshop?**

With a huge smile Liadan tells us about the circus skills workshop.

LR It was really fun to learn to hula hoop! If I was not already in the parade I could have been in it hula hooping. It was great fun!

Eoghan O’Brien also really enjoyed the workshops and preparation leading up to the spectacle. Fintin interviewed his friend about his experiences.

**FK What did you think of the festival?**

EO I loved the festival, everyone in Callan were involved – old people, young people, all people. Well done to all the people of Callan. (John Clark, Rosie Lynch, Aisling Rice, Margaret Walker, Patrick Coleman and others). It was the experience of all the people sharing the work. Well done to the people of Callan.

**FK Did you go to the launch evening?**

EO Yes, it was brilliant because there were so many workshops to choose from – dancing workshop, drama workshop, drumming workshop and many more.

**FK Did you do any of the workshops?**

EO Yes, I did the animation workshop. I was involved in making an animation film that was shown on last day as part of the parade. It was projected onto a wall of a house in the street. I drew pictures and these were photographed. The photos were loaded up onto a special programme on a laptop to make the film.

**FK Did you like the parade?**

EO Yes it was brilliant, there was a big monster – I was an angel protecting Callan against the monster...

**FK So you think it was good?**

EO It was all brilliant, well done all the people of Callan.

*“It was all brilliant, well done to all the people of Callan.”*



*Well done you!*  
Photo Credit: Picasa web albums

## Acknowledgments

*Camphill People* would like to thank all those who provided the photos in our Special Edition.

We would also like to thank all the people who took time out of their day to be interviewed or provide information for articles.

We hope you enjoyed the issue!

*A special thank you to Paul Bokslag who, by proxy, gave permission to use the photographs that appear on the festival's website, Facebook page and in the online photo album at [www.picasaweb.google.com/110517348271937370820/AbhainnRiSpectacle](http://www.picasaweb.google.com/110517348271937370820/AbhainnRiSpectacle)*

## Contributors



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Jenny is the copy checker for *Camphill People*

## AND SO TO NEXT YEAR...

The 3rd annual Abhainn Rí Festival takes place in the week leading up to the August Bank Holiday. The next festival is scheduled for:

**Saturday 28th July until Sunday 5th August 2012**

The festival is always looking for help and new ideas and can be contacted at [info@abhainnrifestival.com](mailto:info@abhainnrifestival.com)

Don't forget to mark it in your diaries and help us celebrate three in a row!

See you there...



Credit: [www.facebook.com/AbhainnRiCallan](http://www.facebook.com/AbhainnRiCallan)