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Film Animation Workshop at the Journeyman

by Heather Lynch

Students at The Journeyman Programme enjoyed a 6 week animation film making project with film maker Will Nugent. The Animation Film Workshop took place in autumn 2010 over 8 sessions. The 6 films made by students were commissioned by Tipperary County Council and shown at the Tipperary County Museum in February this year. Students each choose the topic for their film.

Fred Sullivan said: I loved playing my Dad's trumpet from the Waterford "Royal Show Band". (Which is what his animation was all about)

Luke Sanders said: It was a nice experience because I did an animation about something I like a lot: "The A Team"

David Cassidy said using Lamh sign language said : I love orchestra music a lot. I like to watch music on TV and go to concerts, so I enjoyed making this animation about conducting an orchestra.

Caroline Harte (with the help of assistant Kun Hee) said: I loved making animation because I want to be famous.

Claire Phelan said using Lamh sign language: I loved making the animation because I love acting and drawing

Marti Ann Ryan said: Working with film maker Will was great.



Fred, David and Luke, happy animators

Camphill Community Dingle is growing!

by Tonnie Lemmens

have names yet, and we're very hesitant to give them any; we shouldn't get too attached to them, as they certainly are going to be eaten next year. And then there's the geese, who are trying to become a family, laying an egg every second day, So everybody who enters the field is an intruding enemy and attacked by the gander. Especially ladies in skirts, who look too similar to a flapping goose, are seen as a family-threat, and within seconds are fleeing the grounds with a hissing biting gander in pursuit. But the eggs are wonderful and I suspect that in some secret office-drawer there is an emergency plan to turn Camphill Dingle into a goose-and-chicken farm if everything else might prove to go wrong....

Three weeks ago three new members arrived, squealing and squeeking and extremely hungry. They won our hearts immediately, even though they slobber and stand with their feet in their food. And once in a while make themselves independent and break through the fence for a lovely outing in the vegetable garden. They don't



Camphill loves the Springtime

Camphill is at its best this time of year, in the gardens and farms. Planting and sowing, letting the cattle out in the open air where it is healthy and invigorating, while preparing for the Festival of Easter. And as the season changes, so are the challenges of changing times in Camphill as Noel Bruder writes inside, and I am reminded of the words of E.A. Bowles:

"One of the greatest virtues of gardening is the perpetual renewal of youth and spring, of promise of flower and fruit that can always be read in the open book of the garden by those with an eye to see and a mind to understand"



Michael Hilary Editor

Camphill Ballytobin Develops

by Rene van der Poort

Camphill Ballytobin near Callan, Co. Kilkenny is a life sharing community of about 80 people, some with special needs and volunteers of all ages and nationalities. Founded in 1979 Ballytobin has grown from a small land based community to a diverse community with an integrated school, an alternative energy project and a large Hall the home of many cultural events.

The children go to school and to training school, while the adults work on the organic garden and farm, the bakery and the food processing workshop and in the houses. For both children and adults we offer individual therapies. There are 6 houses in Ballytobin. In each of these houses everyone lives in an extended family sharing in the cooking cleaning and the household tasks with everyone contributing what he or she can.

Ballytobin's recent building developments

Over the years the school has grown considerably which has led to the construction of an additional school building, a beautiful Finish log cabin with two classrooms and a library in 2005.



The School Building

In 2007 we started the construction of our new bakery which is in the centre of the community and was completed in 2008. It provides most of the community with fresh bread and is a great additional workshop space for the community.

Due to the many public concerts that take place in our Castalia Hall, it became necessary to refurbish the entrance with additional toilets, kitchen facilities, additional fire escape, and storage space. Castalia hall is the venue of many high profile concerts which Ballytobin organises together with Music in Kilkenny.

Castalia Hall



At present we are building new therapy facilities to house all the various therapies that take place in Ballytobin, such as physio-therapy, occupational-therapy, movement-therapy, massage-therapy etc. under one roof. We expect this building to be completed in the autumn of 2011.



The Therapy Building under construction

Recently we have started the refurbishment of Gabriel's house which is the oldest house in the community. As office and administration work are on the increase our current office has become too small and a new office is planned in the near future.

All these building activities would not have been possible without the grant aid we received (HSE Capital Funding, Arts Council Funding, Dormant Accounts Funding, Housing Grant funding, etc.). Over many years we have organised fundraising activities with the help of our local friends and parents committee, such as our annual open day, plant sale, and coffee mornings which have also contributed substantially to the completion of these projects.



Anika and Neill Reilly

Villager Profile **Mary Kenny**

My Graduation in Trinity College

In 2007 I attended a two year course in Trinity College called The Certificate in Contemporary Living. For the first year we did English, Maths, and Drama. For the second year I got to attend some English lectures on the main campus which was very enjoyable. I also did a placement over in Eason's on O'Connell Street, where I sorted sweets and magazines out. The teachers on the course were really nice and friendly. I also made a lot of friends, some who I still see when I go bowling every Tuesday.

My graduation took place on Tuesday the 17th November, 2009. I got all dressed up in my glad rags and headed for town for a Graduation photograph which was to be inserted in the Irish Times. I collected my gown at 12.30pm and met two photographers on the main Trinity College campus. There were 5 other students from my class who joined me for the photograph.

Later on, after a small bite to eat, I got ready to meet all my college buddies in the NIID for the celebrations including the Graduation Ceremony. At around a quarter to give Siobhan Humpreys, who is my best friends, and my lovely Mother came to the Graduation Ceremony and brought me out for a lovely meal at a very fancy Italian restaurant. We didn't get to bed until after ten o'clock.

Editors Note: *The Certificate in Contemporary Living is a two year, full time Trinity College Certificate programme. This Certificate is the first full time course for adults with intellectual disabilities in Ireland. It is a specially designed third level programme aimed at supporting students as they make transitions towards independence, lifelong learning and employment.*



Trinity graduate Mary Kenny

Growing up in Dunshane

by Ethna Brave

It was Christmas in the hall of the Camphill Dunshane Co. Kildare. All the parents were sitting obligingly for the spectacle to begin. The room was suddenly plunged into darkness and all that could be heard was a series of giggles and a clatter as performers tumbled down the stairs. The lights were turned and an oddly attired group of waifs draped in muslin appeared before the expected audience to begin their performance.

Acting in made-up plays with my friends, was part of my upbringing in an environment which was however unique. My parents work and live in a Camphill Community of about 50 people. The community is a life sharing place where people with disabilities live and work alongside their carers where they are a valuable part of the community.

Many people did not understand my background in a life sharing community, yet my sister and I did not even notice the disabilities or handicaps of the people around us. I cannot remember the first time I noticed that they were different, as they were almost like brothers and sisters to us all those years. We ate our meals with them, spoke to them, teased and fought with them on a daily basis as children do.

In particular I remember Andy who was living in the community since he was 16 years old. His own family came to visit him and he spent holidays with them, but we were his second family. He is now 32 years old, and I still get a big shout, a hug and a kiss from him every time I visit the community.

Everyone has their own personality and quirks and as we grew older and the curtain closed on my childhood, we found it more difficult to live in the community. Having moved away, we realised our childhood had been unique. I know that this has made me more open minded and more tolerant of other people. In my opinion this is a very positive quality and one which I believe will always be an advantage to me.



Ethna Brave with Andrew Flett

Grangebeg Camphill Community *by Andrew Syme*

A MEETING PLACE TO SHARE, CREATE & CELEBRATE

We are a small land based Camphill community for adults with special needs, established in 2006. As a sustainable life sharing community, we believe that “The healthy social life is found when in the mirror of each human soul the whole community finds its reflection and when in the community the virtue of each one is living”. By fostering relationships based on mutual care and respect in a healthy social environment, we can promote healing, growth and personal renewal through meaningful work.



Celebrating a birthday

HOME LIFE

There are about 20 people living and working in Grangebeg in 3 houses, 9 of whom have special needs. Our community is largely sustained by volunteer coworkers living and working together with those in need of additional support. We also have some employees and volunteers helping with our farm, garden and workshops. As a new community, Grangebeg hopes to develop our connections with the local Dunlavin community and we are very open to any volunteers who wish to come and share their talents with us.



Music in Colmcille Hall

COLMCILLE HALL

Colmcille Hall hosts several local community groups in Grangebeg and is available as a meeting space which can seat up to eighty people. The hall is ideal for community gatherings, festivals and plays. It also provides facilities and space for our workshops. Grangebeg has strong connections to its neighbouring Camphill communities in the Bridge and Dunshane.

WORKSHOPS

In Grangebeg we take great pride in the work that we do. All our workshops have a therapeutic value to share, create and celebrate throughout the year.



In Colmcille hall we have a variety of workshops offering the opportunity for people to work creatively in quiet, therapeutic spaces while learning new skills like baking, food processing, art & craft, drama, candlemaking, felting, painting, weaving, and woodwork. The bakery produces a variety of bread and baking for both the community and local markets.



FARMING

The farm and garden forms the backbone of our working life and we try to operate in such a way that people with different needs and capabilities can fit in and play their part. To us growing food from the land and caring for the wellbeing of our animals is therapeutic, challenging and fun and we aim to learn more every day.

We are responsible for the care and management of 46 acres of land, on which we run a small herd of cattle, sheep, pigs and chickens. We are organically certified and our vegetable garden provides enough food to sustain us through most of the year with a surplus to sell to local communities and fellow organic growers.



DIRECTIONS

Grangebeg is signposted halfway between Brannockstown & Dunlavin in County Kildare on the border with County Wicklow. It is within walking distance of Dunlavin, the nearest village and 15 minutes from Kilcullen, which lies on the bus route between Dublin and Waterford. We are approximately 20 minutes from Naas, and 50 minutes from Dublin.

Help us raise €50,000



Join the 2011 Flora Women's Mini Marathon 10K

DATE: Bank Holiday Monday 6th June at 3 PM

START: Fitzwilliam Square Dublin 2 ----- **FINISH:** St. Stephen's Green Dublin 2

HOW TO ENTER: Either on the official Entry Form which will appear in the Evening Herald every Wednesday and Saturday. (www.florawomensminimarathon.ie) from 3rd March 2011.

BOOK AS EARLY AS YOU CAN

Numbers are limited and it's filling up fast

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 27th April 2011 or when numbers are full.

If you want to have a day that's good for body and soul

**run or walk the Mini Marathon and
support your local Camphill Community**

CAMPHILL will provide **1**/Sponsorship Cards **2**/Camphill Tee-Shirts **3**/Refreshments and showering/changing facilities at The Sandymount Hotel at The Aviva Stadium Lansdowne Road. Participants can meet/park at the hotel from 12pm and we will bus you to and from the event.

For further information contact your local Camphill Community or MICHAEL HILARY at 087 2568810 or email: mhilary@esatclear.ie



Spectacular Success at Camphill KCAT Film Premier

film review by Megan Spacia

As part of the Jameson International Film Festival taking place in Dublin in March, I had the pleasure of attending a screening of 'Living Colour', by director Eamon Little. The film played to a packed audience at the IFI (Irish Film Institute) on Monday evening.

The focus of the film was on a group of artists working at the Kilkenny Collective for arts and Talent (KCAT), which according to their website, 'combine artists with learning disabilities and other disadvantages with professional arts practitioners'. Their art is their work, and the KCAT facility is a professional artistic space providing materials and support. Importantly the role of artist is stressed above all special needs. Likewise, the film is not about these people's special needs, and chooses not to define them by this but by their role as artists. This is the biggest success of this film, which allows the viewers to peek in on the lives of these artists and see them using different types of media to express themselves.

We as an audience accompany the artists through the creation process and are allowed to see their artwork come to life. More importantly, we are able to truly hear their voices through a medium which allows the artists freedom to express themselves in their own unique voices. Personalities emerge, such as Francis, the resident storyteller and class clown, or Andrew, the creativity junkie dabbling in different genres. Or Karl, the non verbal artist who uses brilliantly vivid colours to recreate the world he sees around him. Or Declan, the meticulous painter, whose attention to detail yields dazzling mosaic-like canvasses.

We watch as each of these unique individuals tackle their creations in this unique cooperative space. Later in the film, the artists display their work locally at a gallery. From my own viewing experience, never has such a simple way of presenting a film been so effective in holding my attention and relaying such an interesting story.

And throughout the film, I found myself confronted with basic human truths, whether through the artwork presented or through the words of the artists themselves. I found beauty in this film, in the most ordinary of places, as I began to look through the eyes of the artists expressing themselves creatively. One artist, Francis Casey put it best saying, "people with mixed abilities are capable of saying what they really feel. I speak through colour".

Little chatted of his goals for the film, expecting to tour it on the festival circuit before a television version of the documentary on RTE in 2012. With his cast standing alongside him, Little stressed the necessity of the group becoming comfortable with him in order for the story to take shape. Said Little "for the first couple of months, I was the only person working the camera. How that place works is all based on relationships". His approach was definitely a success, as the end result both captivates and delivers. I would recommend this film for anyone looking to see a documentary which is true to its purpose of capturing a truly remarkable cooperative artistic space. Most importantly, the film does not hinder its beauty by pushing any agenda or message. It simply is, and what it is, is marvellous.



Karl at work in the studio

Camphill Pages relaunches

Camphill Pages is the newsletter of the Association of the Camphill Communities, of England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland. It is a glossy 6 page A3 magazine which in future will have editorial input from the 4 regions.

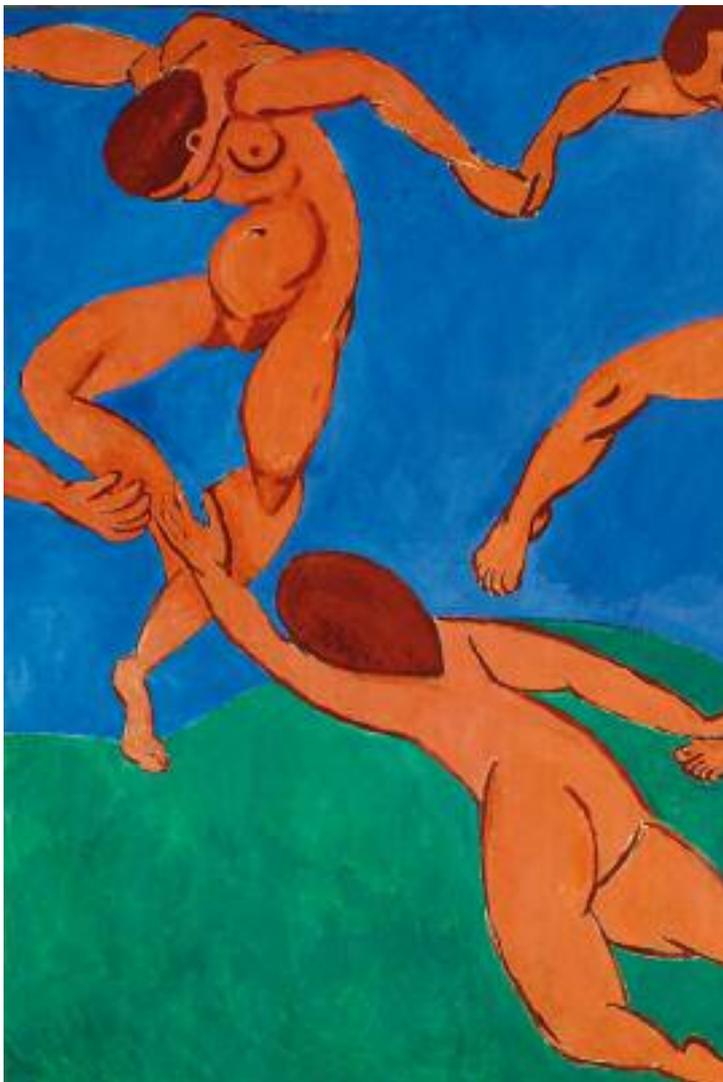


Purpose:

- * To inform members of Camphill Communities (residents, co-workers, employees and Trustees) about news and developments from other communities, in the region and further afield.
- * To inform parents and friends, professionals and decision makers about Camphill
- * To augment the publications of individual communities, and neighbourhoods by giving a wider view of Camphill,
- * To show Camphill Communities as centres of excellence and achievements
- * To demonstrate that Camphill offers diverse provision and continues to develop to meet changing needs

Camphill News will be published twice a year in June and December and will be distributed to communities and to our mailing list, with the Camphill Spirit published in Spring and Autumn. The editorial will feature contributions from the 4 neighbourhoods, each contributing interesting features on sustainability and enterprise, culture, education, and resident and co-worker lives and activities. Look out for a copy at your nearest Camphill or subscribe to our mailing list.

The times they are a changing by Noel Bruder



Nearing the end of our designated 'Transition Year' in Camphill, there is a real expectation that change is on the horizon. This can be unsettling but also can give us new momentum. Surely the most positive aspect of change is the sense of being in control of one's own destiny and the aspiration of arriving at a better place. Oscar Wilde put it this way: 'a map of the World that does not include Utopia is not even worth glancing at, for it leaves out the one country at which Humanity is always landing.' So, we in Camphill have spent an intensive year mapping out where our collective utopia lies.

What does the Camphill utopia look like? For me, it's a place where the principles that have always sustained us find renewed expression. I personally need no more inspiration than the ideals written down in the 'Introduction to Camphill Communities of Ireland' booklet: mutual respect, inclusion, sustainability, etc. However, renewal has got to take place if these ideals are to remain relevant. So, we have to reach out beyond what we know. We need to experiment and be prepared to fail and learn from this. I see it as a place of greater freedom and a place of more differentiation. So, we'll all have clearer choices and be empowered by this.

More particularly, in relation to the way that Camphill in Ireland will be organised, I think we will try to strike the balance between greater collective co-operation and more individual responsibility. Communities will be a dynamic balance between these two forces.

*Manus enjoying a painting session
under the watchful eyes of Sally (left)
and Maire (right)*



Growing older in Duffcarrig

It's a sunny day in Camphill Duffcarrig, and some of the older residents are leaving the hall after morning gathering. What will "Tara group" get up to today? Perhaps a leisurely walk and a chat, taking time to observe the changing seasons, listen to the birds and maybe pick up some flowers. They might make a detour to the farm to see the cows, sheep and pigs, or maybe walk around the garden to check what vegetables are growing and perhaps taste some of the tomatoes. They keep a good eye on everything in the community!

Maybe it's music day. Dorothy will have a short piano lesson and the rest of the group will listen to relaxing music on guitar or piano. They will also make music and sing together, everyone taking part with great gusto. Eurythmy is also a weekly event. Exercises keep the joints supple and improve posture and are very enjoyable.

Most of the older people in Duffcarrig have lived here for thirty years or more, serving the community faithfully through all its ups and downs. They have worked hard to build Duffcarrig up to what it is today. Now it is time for them to stand back and take some time for themselves. They may take up a new hobby or spend more time on things they enjoy. Sometimes it's also ok to do nothing; to just sit peacefully together in companionship.

The room that is used for Tara group at present is a cosy and bright space. We usually sit around the large table, looking at books and writing letters to family and friends. This is also where we enjoy lengthy tea breaks and lively chats. There is no pressure here, life has slowed and there's plenty of time to smell the roses. Some people are here everyday, others drop in for specific activities. People will also take time out for therapies such as massage and special oil baths, or just to have a rest. It's all individual, designed around each person's needs and wishes. If an individual prefers to stay working in a workshop past retirement age they can do so, maybe at a slower pace or for fewer hours.

We love having visitors, especially if they join in our activities. Unfortunately the room we use has no toilet facilities so we have to go outside in all weathers to another building. We would like to have our own toilet nearby and we would love to have a purpose built space one day, a home for our own. The room we currently use is the Art room for Duffcarrig.

The absolute favourite day is Wednesday, when we go for an outing. This can be simply a trip to do some shopping or a visit to a tourist spot or a beautiful garden. Tea is the most important element and of course chocolate cake. We know how to enjoy life! A few of our friends have already gone ahead to the next life. We were privileged to accompany them on their way as they died here in Duffcarrig and we remember them with love. Betty was the last one to pass away. She reached the ripe old age of 87 and was cared for in St. John's house till the end. With each one's passing, death seems to become a little less fearful, a little more part of the natural order of life, which will surely help when our own time comes...

In the meantime, we still have a lot of living to do!

If you would like to be kept informed about our work and would like to receive subsequent issues of Camphill Spirit in electronic form (pdf), please send your email address to: Michael Hilary (087-256 8810), Camphill Spirit, c/o Camphill Communities, 1a Farmhill Park, Goatstown, Dublin 14, or email to: fundraising@camphill.ie