

# NEWSLETTER 2015

# CAMP HILL COMMUNITY

# BALLYBAY

“ THE ESSENCE OF THE BEAUTIFUL  
IS UNITY IN VARIETY ”



CAMP HILL

# THE PAST YEAR

WELCOME

Twenty fifteen has been a really exciting and interesting year for Camphill Ballybay. This year the community became 21 years old - adulthood!. Right at the beginning of the year, HIQA (the Registration Authority) asked us to submit our Registration Pack. This meant a lot of paper work and also that our registration inspection was in the offing. During the year, the Adult Forum went from strength to strength and became one of the central meetings in the community. The aim of this forum is that residents can participate as fully as possible in the organisation of the life of the community, that information is shared with residents, and residents can be acquainted with the standards, policies and procedures governing the community. It is also an opportunity to prepare for festivals and practice singing, and there is an occasional quiz, just for fun.

Hazel became the Secretary of the group, and has done a good job taking the notes and writing up the Minutes of the meeting. There were celebrations in February of Candlemas, St Valentines, and Shrove Tuesday. On Shrove Tuesday in the morning, there were pancake races, with the usual winners being Alan and Aidan. In the evening a Carnival Fancy Dress Party with an animal theme. Also in February, the Lyre Group from Glencraig came and did a one day music workshop. A very big and important event for Camphill Ballybay happened in March when Darina became the Person in Charge. Into this task Darina has brought her considerable qualifications and experience, and mostly her youthful enthusiasm and energy. Darina works closely together with the Core Group in the management of the community. Throughout the year, there were visits from former co-workers, which means a lot to the permanent residents of Camphill Ballybay. A couple of visits from Christian were especially welcomed as he is still very much missed by all.

Camphill Ballybay passed the Registration Inspection in July. For this, a big thank you is owed to all the co-workers who were there, to the parents and families who supported us so well, and to Darina and the Core Group who worked hard to prepare for this milestone.

The wedding of Bianco and Alco in August was the most wonderful event of the decade. Everyone in the community worked so hard to make it a wonderful occasion. A large group of ex co-workers were also involved. Friends in the locality contributed in many ways to the success of this great event. Many visitors came from overseas, and Camphill Ballybay was rocking for days. Sadly, this year the community lost some very central co-workers. Rene, Veronica and Naomi left in August, leaving a gap that will take a long time to fill. In one fell swoop, we lost our Farmer, our Art Teacher and our wonderful child. Edi also left us to join Greenacres community. Edi made a significant contribution to Camphill Ballybay over the last four years. She is missed. Earlier this year, work on the refurbishment of the second phase of Brigid House began and now it is complete and Brigid House is a really worthy living space for the residents and co-workers. More recently, work has begun on Orchard Cottage, a small purpose built unit to meet more complex needs. This development work has been facilitated to a large degree by the fund raising efforts of many people, and by donations from families and friends.

Earlier this year, Mr. Rory Stewart passed away. He was a very active and supportive parent and friend of the community. In the Summer, Mrs Ena Robb died. This was another sad occasion for Camphill, as Mrs. Robb was not only a parent and friend but one of the original benefactors and instigators of the birth of Camphill Ballybay. Recently we were notified that our star artists have again won first, second and third prize in the Credit Union Art Competition. They are, of course, Alan, Hazel and Aidan. A big congratulations and well done to them, who are great ambassadors for Camphill Ballybay. Outstanding winners in the Clontibret Horse Show were Raymond, Alan, Brendan and Kevin O Kelly. Their rosettes were well earned. Aidan was also a prize winner in a big swimming competition which was held in Bangor Co. Down.

Family Days in March and October were very well attended and provided an opportunity to discuss all the current issues as well as enjoying a taste of community life. At the Open Day in June, the Roundhouse was officially opened by Peggy Sutor and Mrs. Ann Bowe, who cut the ribbon and members of the public were invited to view the house. The Open Day and Craft Sale were very well supported by families and friends from near and far.

In conclusion we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who have been a part of the life of the community over the past year.

Anne Horan







This year in October we had Family day. It was indeed very good weather to celebrate family day. The day was quite busy preparing and in the end it was wonderful. We started by having lunch and afterwards we had some art and eurythmy lessons in the hall and in the art room prepared by Sigi and Gyongyi. Meeting all the family members of the residents was great opportunity for us co workers to get to know them especially for us new ones. The day was full of fun and laughter. It ended with different cakes, pastries and a nice cup of tea or coffee. We are looking forward to the next family day.

Clara

Hello, Im Yvonne, Ive been working in Camphill for 12 years. Camphill has changed a lot since I came here, with new houses going up. I meet new co workers each year from different countries. I work with the residents, mostly Peggy, and clean in Brigid house and do some cooking and baking. I hope to be here for a few years more.

Im Alan Malone, Ive been here in Camphill Community Ballybay for almost 6 years. I work in the weavery and candle workshop. I help cooking every Friday in Nuin House with Alice. I enjoy life here with all the beautiful people in the community. Every 3 weeks I go to horse riding with Raymond and John. I joined the horse show competition and I got 3rd place. In November, I went to Ballytobin for the music week. I played the Lyre in the concert and I feel so famous. This has been a really busy and great year for me!

#### REMEMBRANCE DAY

In November, we had remembrance day. The event made us think about family members or friends who have passed away. We gathered in the hall and we lit candles and some people prepared a song or a poem.

Leah



Hi I'm Hazel Davis. My year in Camphill has been very busy and above all I enjoyed my time with friends. Two highlights of my year have been my singing and my beauty workshop.



Singing Concert: I love singing and I had lessons here in Camphill. On the 26th of May 2015, Veronica Kim and I organized a concert in the Hall. A good crowd came to my concert and said that they enjoyed it very much. Veronica played the piano and I sang. I sang a variety of songs, solos and duets, with Bianco and Veronica. Anne and Alan took part to sing solo. I would love to continue to sing and hold another concert in the future. Beauty Workshop: Since last year I decided to hold my workshop every fortnight instead of once a month. I announced it in the morning gathering and people showed up to get pampered. I provided nail painting, massages, hairstyling and reflexology. I would love to learn more about putting on make-up so I could provide this in my salon in the future.

#### CRAFT SALE

Traditionally we have a Craft Sale for Christmas. Our community sells different kind of things from our workshops: beautiful candles, colorful weaving stuff, delicious cakes and waffles and our own organic grown vegetables, jams, juices. Our tea room turned into flea market and that was the highlight for most of the visitors. We had 3 raffles in which you could win for example, a basket full of Camphill products. Thank you for all the people who came and supported us with donations. We hope for many more people and for better weather on Summer craft sale next year! Congratulations to all the Raffle Winners:  
1st Prize: Patrick O'Neil who won the Lamp  
2nd Prize: Carmel Ray who got the Galway crystal glasses.  
3rd Prize: Mildred Clarke - Care Chemist hamper  
4th Prize: Lucy Moffet - Ballybay Chemist hamper





Hi, we are Alco and Bianco the newly weds. We are still enjoying living here and working with the residents and all the different workshops we do. We learn something new and exciting each day as it comes. We would like to thank the co-workers, staff and most of all the residents who allowed us to celebrate our special day in their beautiful home. Thank you so much and God bless you all, you are all wonderful people.

A horse riding show competition was held in Monaghan. Congratulations to Raymond Lee who got the first prize. Alan Malone and Kevin O'Kelly who got the second and third prize.



Hello, Im Aileen Sherman. I've been here in Ballybay nearly 11 years. I like to go on outing with the girls to Pauls pub and to cafes and even shopping with Fiona. This year I became an Auntie again. I have two new nephews and I will go Christmas shopping for them. Im so excited to go home and see them this coming Christmas.



**HALLOWEEN PARTY**

We always celebrate Halloween with Raymond's Birthday. We all dressed up in different spooky scary costumes and Raymond chose to be a wicked witch this year. We gathered together in the hall which was decorated in a Jungle theme with lots of spider webs by Natasja. We had variety of creepy and horrifying foods like bloody sausage fingers, a pumpkin vomiting guacamole and spooky cupcakes. After eating, we had games and the spine tingling dance party. Ofcourse, we had a matching sound track for the dancing which everyone enjoyed. So, out and out we had a wonderful creepy evening.





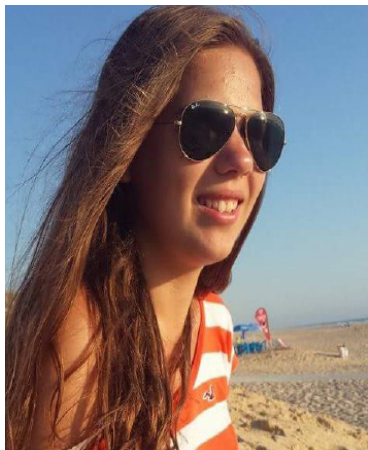
My name is Leah, I'm 18 years old and I'm from Germany. I will stay for one year in Nuin House. My workshops are garden, weavery, food processing and bakery, being in more than one workshop means I have a varied week and I learn lots of new things in different areas. On Monday I am cooking which is a big challenge for me but I really like it and it gives me an opportunity to try out new things. I enjoy working and living together with the residents and other coworkers. I learn so many helpful things and I am looking forward for this year which I can share with wonderful people.



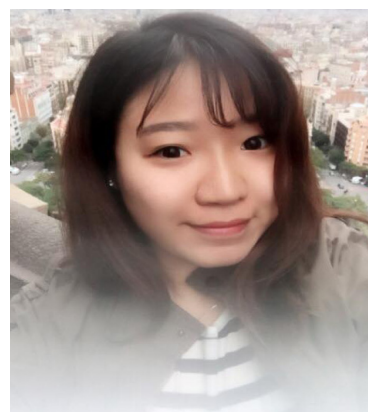
Hello, my name is Hee-young, I'm 22 years old from South Korea. I'm the new co-worker since October and I will stay here for a year. I volunteer here in Camphill to learn more experience about life in community. People here are nice and loving, I feel comfortable staying in Brigid house, I work in weavery and I like it. I learn how to cook and I enjoy working with the residents and co-workers.



Hi, I am Florian 18 years old and came from Germany. I'm in Camphill Ballybay since end of August. I'm living in Shamrock house and working in the farm. I never was in a life sharing community like this before but until now I really enjoy this kind of lifestyle and my work on the farm. I am looking forward to a nice time and a lot of new experiences in this community.



Hi My name is Clara, I am 19 years old and I come from Dusseldorf, Germany. I will join this community for 1 year. Nuin house is the house which I live and during the workshop time I work in the farm. This year is a wonderful possibility to share my daily life with the co-workers and the residents because all of them surprise me everyday. It is an enriching experience to help the residents during the day and spend with them the free time. Farming is great because I like the kind of work where I am outside and take care of the animals. The life in this community is totally different from learning in school. I hope this year will be a year with lots of wonderful surprises and experiences.



Hello! My name is Judy Kim from Seoul, Korea. I came to Camphill Ballybay on March 2015. It is nice to spend my one year before graduation in this place with great people. This one year would be the best and yet the most memorable year in my entire life. I am working in the bakery and food processing. I try hard to offer nice bread to people in our community.





Hey, I'm Sarah and I'm from Germany. Since August I'm in Shamrock house and I love living there with the people. Most of the time I work in the garden and sometimes I help in the farm. I really enjoy living and working together with the residents and the others co workers from different countries. For me its great that everyday here brings new experiences and a lot of lovefull moments.



Hi,my name is Joao,I'm Brazilian and 20 years old. I came to Ireland on March that gives me a bit more than seven months of Camphill. I'm really enjoying my experience here! I met a lot of nice people and made friends that I hope I will keep for a lifetime, including residents and co-workers. I work in the garden and quite often also help in the farm.



Hey, my name is Jessi, Im 19 years old and from Germany. Im here since 31st of August this year and will stay for 1 year. I enjoy living in Shamrock house and working in á few different workshop like food processing, art workshop and weavery. Its very good experience to get part of the life sharing in a community like this.



My name is Miguel Ferragutti, I am 19 years old and i came from Brazil. I am working in Brighid house since August and I am working in the farm workshop. Untill now everything looks like an amazing experience. I can't wait to see what is waiting for me during my stay here in Camphill Bablybay.



Hello I'm Carolin from Germany. I am 18 years old and now I live in Brighid House.I work in the candle workshop and the weaver. I really enjoy living here because the whole Atmosphere is so different than in Germany. I feel the joy and happiness every single day. I am really happy that I got the opportunity to come here

NEW CO WORKER

# WEAVERY



In the weavery we made a wall hanging for Veronica, Rene and Naomi who moved to Germany at the end of the summer. Veronica was a big help with the wall hangings we made in the past. Xz made the blue tulips, Alan drew the big purple/ orange flower and the big pink one and I felted them with a needle onto the yellow blanket. I used a piece of red weaving from Kevin for some Dutch tulips. The big colourful round woven flower is made on a bicycle wheel by Raymond. Hazel designed the white/purple flowers. I planted the grass, a cut off from a throw made by a weavery in county Wicklow. For the birds we got some inspiration from Aileen's drawings. I am sure that the wall hanging has a nice place in their new home in Germany. Thank you again for all your help and good luck Veronica.

Natasja



Weavery Outing in Dublin to see the exhibition of 75 wall hanging of Camphill Communities.

# BAKERY

Every second day we make white and brown bread . We bake different kinds of bread and make buns on Friday. I enjoy working with the co workers. I helped Ryan and Judy putting oil on the tins and weighing the dough for cutting. Its always warm in the bakery and smell of bread is delicious. After baking Alan delivers the bread to each house. We are trying to make the best bread for the whole community.

John Robb



# CANDLE WORKSHOP

Its winter time now, its a good time to work in the candle workshop as it is warm. We are very excited to be making a new brand of candles in different colors, varieties, shapes and sizes. There are vintage candles which are made in tea cups, soya candles, massage candles with soya and coconut. We the food processing team are the same team that makes these lovely, adorable candles.

Bianco



WORKSHOP

# FOOD PROCESSING



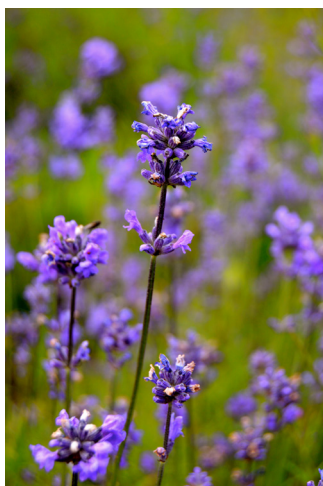
Food processing is mostly done in summer, we process a variety of things like pesto, apple sauce, apple juice, grape juice and different kind of jams such as strawberry, rhubarb, gooseberry and loganberry. This is all made from our own vegetables and fruits which are biodynamic. We do this with our residents, John, Hazel, Aidan and Alan who enjoy making all the products we process.

Bianco





# THE GARDEN



In the garden workshop we work in nature all year round. In its time rhythm of spring, summer, autumn and winter the passage of the year determines the life on earth. However, thanks to the greenhouses and tunnels we can also grow vegetables in the winter time. We have spinach salads pretty much all year round. We have an early crop of beans and peas, beetroot and carrots. A luxury... For people working on the land one feels sometimes a subconscious longing to bring the rhythm of ones life in harmony with the rhythm of nature, which we see taking place every year anew in front of our very eyes. Very often one discovers that the festivals of the year are closely linked to the annual metamorphosis of nature.



When working in the garden we learn the necessary jobs in practice; we notice that working the soil, tending the vegetables & flowers or fruits, we experience how much exertion, care and patience is necessary before a harvest is possible. It is great to follow a plant from seed to harvest, watch how everything grows and care for it. Supporting any form of life into bloom and thereby coming in actual touch with soil, plant, weed and everything a plant needs in order to grow develops habits of work which also give support to one's own soul.



But of course, we also did a lot of really practical work, and we were happy to host class 3 of the Holywood Steiner School for their farm experience. The pupils helped with the milking, planting the cabbages, leeks etc. It was a truly refreshing experience and their enthusiasm was unstoppable. Hopefully this is an initiative we can repeat annually, a bit like the work camp in the summer. Also this summer we hosted a group of volunteers for a fortnight to help with the work on the land, here in the community and Der-rivally.

The work on the garden shed is ongoing, but the shed is already in use for the daily harvest and storage.

Sigi





# THE FARM



This year there are many new short-term coworkers working on the farm, who have only little experience with farming. We joined Camphill just 3 months ago, so we'll try to give a update about what happend in the farm. At the beginning we had to learn a lot about how a Farm works, but we quickly got used to the daily routine and learned how to milk. At the moment we have 10 dairy cows and 5 of them give milk for our community. The rest of the cattle were on the meadows in Derryvalley and now have moved to the farm, which we had already prepared for the winter. That means we put a lot of hay through the hay dryer, so we have enough food for the cattle for the winter. This year we got 7 new calves. We would have had 9 but unfortunately we lost 2. But we had to learn that nature doesn't always work in the way we want. But on the other side we got 17 cute piglets in November, which is even more than last year. Every day we get good eggs from our chickens and we also take care of a herd of 17 sheep, which give us wool for the weavery. Of course it is not always easy; before we arrived the farmmanager, Rene, left the Camphill and we had often to figure out how to manage difficulties by ourselves but we are always trying to give the best that we have to help with farm development and now we get more and more into the farmlifestyle. Its great to work with the animals and see the biodynamic aspects of farming; like the preparation of the fields and so far it is an amazing experience for us to work on a biodynamic farm, a place that is teaching as so much.

Florian

WORKSHOP





Pictured below is the interior of the now completed extension to Bridget House. The complete revamping of Bridget house took place in two phases and is a project we have been busy with the past few years. It is wonderful to have it now complete with just a bit of tidying up and a few snags to be attended to. As you can see it is a beautiful, light filled and harmonious space.

On the bottom right is our newest development which is still in process - Orchard Cottage a small house which will be ready for occupation early in the new year. These developments have been made possible by the generous donations and fundraising of many of our friends and supporters over the past few years. We thank you all most sincerely.



## **WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT US?**

Any donations will be most gratefully received and you can send a cheque to the address below. You can also make a once off donation into our account or set up a standing order.

Our bank details: Bank of Ireland, Main St. Ballybay, Co. Monaghan.

Sort Code: 903234. Account number: 16154290

A/c Name: Camphill Community Ballybay Development

For more information about the community, activities and events please contact us.

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