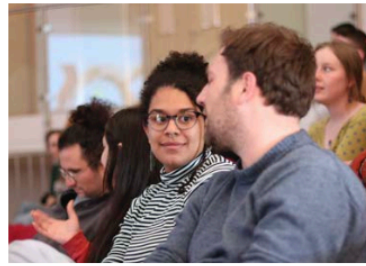


& AGEING WELL IN CAMPHILL



Some of the participants from this year's Youth Conference at Newton Dee.



Youth Conference Camphill Newton Dee, May 2023

Written by the Youth Conference 2023 Organising Team and edited by Pages editor.

Community Building

How can we (re-)imagine our future? Youth Conferences have a well-established history in Camphill and many long-standing co-workers share memories of Youth Conferences in the 70s. This awareness of each other and deep friendships between individuals and communities across the world are things that have taken place in Camphill over generations. Bringing this strength of the network of people surrounding the Camphill Movement to a new generation, was the intention behind rekindling the Youth Conference impulse.

The foundation to that was laid in 2018 at Clanabogan's Youth Conference - 'How can we carry the Camphill flame into the future?' and the 2019 Youth Conference held at Esk Valley - 'How do we express our Camphill values in the modern world?' Plans for conferences in 2020 (The Mount - Living Camphill across Generations), 2021 & 2022 (Newton Dee - Community Building - Seeds for Social and Ecological Transformation) had to be cancelled unfortunately due to the pandemic. An online Camphill Youth gathering in May 2021 took place instead.

The encouragement to keep going and

not lose momentum, was given by three individuals from Newton Dee who one might call "of the older generation". They invited a small group of younger people within the Camphill Movement and the Youth Section to form an organising body. With the right mixture of wisdom sharing, guidance and letting go, these three individuals facilitated a weekend in Newton Dee in November 2022 to 'pass on the baton'.

This weekend of brainstorming around the questions of "What do we want to achieve?" and "Who do we want to reach?", marked the beginning of the planning phase. Common themes and interests of our generation today were explored and it was recognised that there are a lot of young people in urban areas looking for a different way of life. Many are drawn towards community living but often don't know where to go or who to ask. Another common phenomenon observed was that people who live in communities want to connect with others who share their values and way of life, to learn from and strengthen a wider awareness of each other and build networks of like-minded people and communities.

It was the start of a beautiful collaboration between individuals from Camphill

Communities in Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and the US (Newton Dee, Esk Valley, Glenraig, Clanabogan and Camphill Academy) with a strong link to the Youth Section at the Goetheanum in Switzerland and a committed group of ten people was formed with a vision of what the conference was going to be about.

The Conference

The program was built around the theme of 'Community Building - How can we (re-)imagine our future' and consisted of different talks and presentations discussing research, experiences, topical issues, personal development and leadership. These talks were followed by group activities in which participants had time to reflect on what they heard, while doing something creative or contemplative including circus, singing and music, wood carving, meditation, and eurythmy.

Not everyone was from Camphill or an intentional community which gave the conference a great feel of diversity. There was a space called the 'Idea Bazaar' where people shared stories about exciting projects and new initiatives. Some of the presentations given were from L'Arche, the Youth Section at the Goetheanum and in the UK, Casa De

Santa Isabel in Portugal, Freunde Waldorf, the Future Shapers, different Camphill Communities like Camphill Botswana, a project in Banchory, a teaser to 'Born That Way' - an upcoming film about Patrick Lydon and many more from different regional networks and communities around the world.

Newton Dee proved to be a welcoming and generous host. Not only did the 70 participants from all over the world enjoy delicious catering from the Café, but everyone got an invitation to join one of the house communities for a meal. The workshops opened their doors to us for one afternoon and together we celebrated the spirit of community with an inclusive, joyful Ceilidh.

The final morning on Sunday was all about reflection. We created small spaces for inner work, trying to make a start at processing the experiences shared over the long weekend. A group joined Newton Dee's Offering Service before we reconvened in the big circle and said our goodbyes and farewells. Finishing with a powerful Eurythmy "Hallelujah", led by Munja Missalek.

Thank you to all the wonderful people who made this conference possible.



Please follow this link to view the Youth Conference 2023 video or scan the QR code.

<https://bit.ly/Youth-Conference-23>



SAVE THE DATE!
For the next Youth Conference.



Youth Conference

Camphill Mourne Grange
Northern Ireland

17-20 May, 2024

@camphill.youth.conference