

Here is some information about the Camphill Village Trust

Camphill Village Trust (CVT)

Building Community, changing lives

The Camphill movement, as it came to be known was founded in Scotland in 1939 by an Austrian Doctor Karl König with a group of young helpers. They were all refugees who had escaped Austria following the 1938 Anschluss.

Born in 1902, König had significant experience in working with children with a learning disability within a residential setting.

The radical difference of the new venture in Scotland was the emphasis on community both in a social and in a spiritual sense. König's aims were fuelled by the works of the philosopher Rudolf Steiner and he sought to fuse Steiner's precepts with an interpretation and application of the ideas and methods advocated by three social reformers from earlier eras involved in attempts at community building.

- Johann Amos Comenius (1592-1670),
- Count Ludwig Zinzendorf (1700-1760),
- Robert Owen (1771-1858).

König argued that each of these three individuals had in his words:

"imagined a new social order wherein a new social brotherhood could be established. They strove for a universal brotherhood among all men."

Each of these figures was in their own way deeply religious. Comenius held that the future hope for peace and understanding could be achieved through wisdom and that such wisdom would bring him closer to Christ. Zinzendorf is remembered for his claim that there is no Christianity without community. He was instrumental in forming the Moravian Brotherhood, within which the inhabitants strove to be 'brethren in Christ' through the proclamation of a new brotherhood of man. Owen articulated his religious impulse as a spirit of universal charity. He was convinced that individual character is determined by a person's surroundings, and he founded a succession of communities.

Today the CVT provides a home within a supportive community environment for people of all abilities. Whether in a household with others or more independently we accept and appreciate each other for who we are and encourage each other to give our best.

Playing Your Part

We recognise that we cannot exist in isolation and we all have an important part to play. Everybody's contribution is meaningful, valued and appreciated.

Valuing Relationships



We understand the importance of friends and the sense of belonging that people have as part of their community. We do not define people because of their disability and seek to align the achievements of citizenship and equality with the warmth of friendship and self-fulfillment.

CVT VISION:

People we support are at the heart of all we do – benefitting physically emotionally and spiritually with a strong sense of community.

CVT MISSION:

To be a values –driven charity delivering innovative person centred care in response to local needs. To be highly regarded, financially sustainable and well resourced with people who are motivated in their work and where our values are maintained

Values

CVT is inspired by a human-oriented, Christian, philosophy developed by Rudolf Steiner. It is based on the 'wisdom of the human being', and reflects and speaks to the basic questions of humanity and nature. It is not an abstract theory, but informs our practice and continues to inspire us.

Social Care

“Wisdom of the human being” remains relevant to good, contemporary social care, representing a person centred approach rooted in individual freedom. Individuals are not defined through their disability, everyone has a destiny worthy of fulfilment in body, soul and spirit.

Communities

Every individual within our communities is an active participant who makes their own choices and shapes their own life. The diverse capacities each person carries with them, their gifts and abilities, enrich our communities.



BOTTON Village in North Yorkshire is our largest community and of the 230 people living there around 100 have learning disabilities or other support needs. The village and farms nestle in green Danby Dale below the purple heather of the Yorkshire moors.

There are nine similar communities in the UK, following the same principles. The MWA is giving £1,500 to the Camphill Village Trust from Project Monies raised in 2016.

Naomi Hancock.