

Community Report

Living in Loch Arthur these days one feels in many ways that we are at a poignant moment and that we are facing new challenges and possibilities. It is indeed rather extraordinary to be part of all these changes that are coming about. We are entering the last phase of building our new farm shop and by the time you are reading this, the keys will have finally been handed over to the Community. With the changes created by the new shop the rest of the Community will have to re-adjust: suddenly there are new work-opportunities, spaces to be filled and roles to be developed.

At the same time there is an entirely different process happening: from the 1st of October 2012 Loch Arthur Community won't be part of the Camphill Village Trust anymore but will instead be a standalone charity. Again there is lots of work involved but we believe strongly that it is a good and important step for the Community and it represents the stage the Community is in.

Next to all these "big things" there is all the drama and beautiful moments of daily life happening as well, so I decided to just share some important moments of the last 6 months with you.

We are very fortunate in that a lovely Scottish-American couple called Naomi and Reed joined us and took on the responsibility in Iona. They are a wonderful addition to the Community and people living in Iona especially enjoy their enthusiasm. And we celebrated Denis' sixtieth birthday with an incredibly moving, funny and entirely delightful performance of Shakespeare's "The Tempest" which Denis directed and starred in as Caliban. I don't have any doubts that most of us (especially Denis!) thought in between that it was sheer madness to put on such an ambitious project in the midst of all the other things that had to be done. But it is so important to have these joyful experiences of Community so we don't lose sight of the incredible potential of sharing life in this way.

Now the autumn winds are blowing and we are preparing for our Harvest meal. So much to celebrate and be grateful for! And we are looking forward to a time of many changes, excitement and challenges and hope to see some of you enjoying a cup of coffee in our new café!

Susanne Salthammer

Adam's Story

Adam joined Loch Arthur Community about one and a half years ago and lives in Stable Cottage. He works in many different workshops and feels he has learned a lot. Talking about the farm he says:

"I was a bit scared at first, I thought the cows might kick or bite, but Saul showed me that they are nice, really. I am much more confident now because I am used to them and they are very gentle. I give



them concentrate and water and do the bedding for the calves.

I like working on the farm because the team is fantastic.

Adam also works in the creamery where he is very much appreciated and learning many different jobs. "I help with waxing the Crannogs. I was really nervous in the beginning, it is so busy in the creamery and I had to learn so much! Now I am very confident there. I found many good friends, like Louise, Fiona and Phoebe and others. I am also making the yoghurt and

I am more relaxed about doing this now. Christoph teaches me now how to clean the milk delivery pipes and this is a bit complicated but I think I will learn it! I will probably be able to do it on my own one day."

In The Loch Arthur Garden, by Pat Parker

The garden workshop is one of the busiest in the Community usually between 8 & 12 gardeners each day coming to grow vegetables, fruit, flowers & herbs which has been quite challenging for us this year. Every day for the last 3 years we have recorded the rainfall at Loch Arthur which confirms what we already know - this year has been wet!

Consequently the gardeners have not been able to get on with as much weeding as needed so our outdoor vegetables have struggled to compete with weeds and slugs. We have raised 4 ducks this spring who now go to work every day on 'slug patrol' returning each evening to their deluxe accommodation which was built by the gardeners who also this year completed the wheel barrow shed to house our fleet of 18 one-wheeled vehicles.



The greenhouse has been invaluable where we've produced lots of tomatoes, french beans, cucumbers and squash and in our new raised beds, which we finished erecting last winter, we have grown salad crops, radish and flowers.

More soft fruit has been planted together with a windbreak, and our wormery is in full production turning the Community's food waste into compost. This year we began sponsoring one of our co-workers on a two year apprenticeship course with the Bio-Dynamic Association which is proving to be a great help in such a busy garden workshop.

Tea break - still the favourite part of the garden workshop!