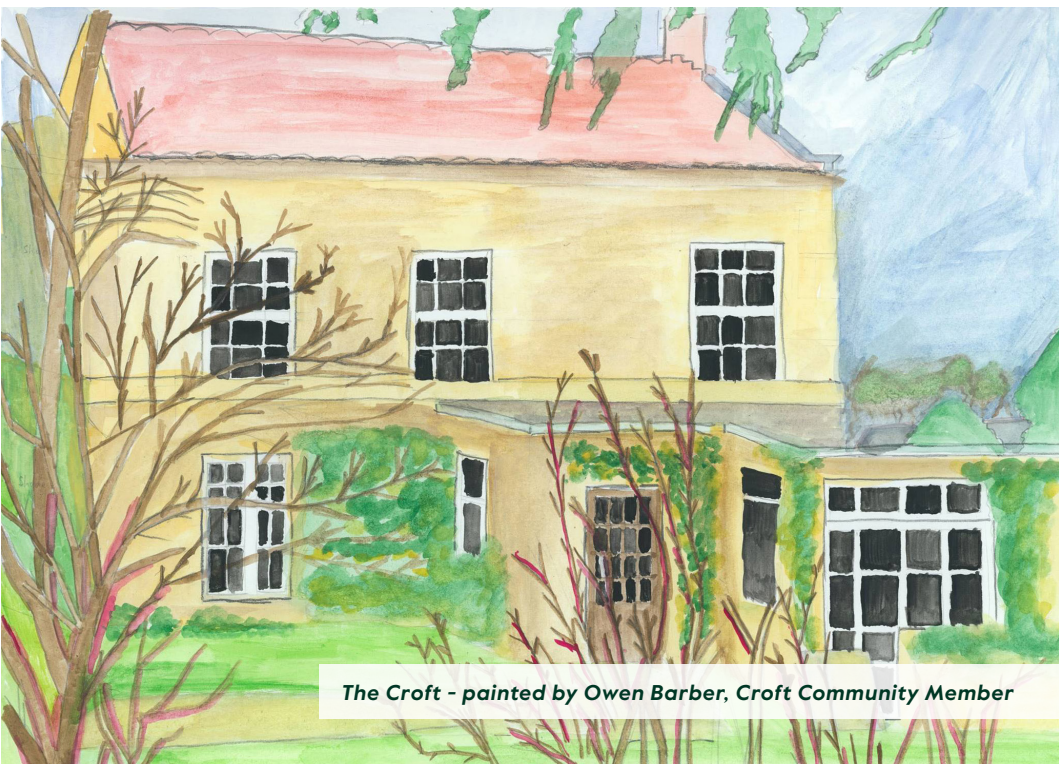


Welcome to Croft House

camphill
village
trust

Come inside, and let us show you around



The Croft - painted by Owen Barber, Croft Community Member

We'd like to introduce you to Croft House, where the Croft Community was founded in 1976



Today it's home to six people, who come and go between workshops and trips into Malton, a short walk away. A place where you'll find us chatting with support workers around the kitchen table while soup simmers on the stove. A place we can call home.

And home is a place where you can plan for the future. That's why we want to make some changes. This was already an old house when it first became part of Camphill Village Trust, 43 years ago. We've redecorated several times over the years, but it's been a long time since any major work was done.

It's time to put that right. With the support of our friends, we want to invest in Croft House so that it's fit for the next 40 years.

That way, no matter how our needs change in the future, we'll still be able to call it home.

Let us tell you
why Croft House
is so special.

'I made a good move. It's better than London!'

Jane is relishing her life in Malton, having moved to Croft House from London three years ago. With so many workshops and friends on the doorstep, she's busy nearly every day of the week.

'I've been gardening this morning, and it's Healthy Eating Group this afternoon,' she says. 'And there's a disco in the Barn next week - I think I might wear my black dress!'

But Jane and her friends also have time to contribute to their local community.



Jane receiving an award from the High Sheriff of North Yorkshire for always going the extra mile helping at our Kingfisher Café in Malton

'We do the shopping for people in Malton who are housebound,' says Jane's housemate, Michael. 'I go with Jane and Mark to Morrisons, once a week. Some of the people are really nice to shop for. But some of them have a very long list!'

Home is where we live our lives, our way

For Mark, Croft House is a perfect base to get out and about, leading an active life in the local community. It's a short walk into Malton with all its shops and amenities. 'I can be independent here, I can walk into town by myself,' he says.

But Mark knows that what he needs is a mixture of independence, companionship and support. He moved out of Croft House for a short time, to live in one of our more independent houses closer to town. 'I decided to come back,' he says, 'I like having the company. I've got lots of friends here.'



Part of Malton life for over 40 years...



Being within easy reach of the small market town of Malton has long been one of Croft House's main assets. Tom, who worked there for many years, explains why:

'We have always been well integrated with the wider town. There are kind and supportive people here, and good

amenities, a cinema and swimming pool. It's a really good place to live if somebody wants to develop their independence.'

And of course, the rest of the Croft Community's facilities are all on the same site. Which means it's easy to take part in workshops or visit friends who live nearby.

...now it's time to look to the future
If you turn over, we'll tell you about our plans.

Croft House is at the heart of our community...

Our cosy kitchen is always busy

Sit down with a cup of tea and you'll soon be joined by friends, making a sandwich or just gathering round the table for a chat.

Cooking for yourself is a real step towards independence. Anyone can join the Healthy Eating Group who meet at Croft House once a week to plan and cook a meal with the help of support worker Mandy.



Inviting friends over is always a pleasure

'I come to Croft House once or twice a week - for the Healthy Eating Group or to see my friends,' says Gareth who lives at nearby Oak Tree Cottage. He and Mark have been housemates in the past, and they still enjoy getting together. Gathering round the table, chopping vegetables together and chatting about favourite books and films - it's a real social occasion!

But the kitchen is getting old. We need to invest in new, easy-to-use equipment and appliances so that everyone can cook safely, with side-by-side assistance.



'One of the features of Croft House is the lovely big communal areas,' says Stuart, who is responsible for the Croft Community. 'It's very homely, with people coming and going, but it's a big, cold, rambling house that needs some improvements.'

Michael agrees, 'We need double glazing so that the windows don't rattle when the lorries go past!' he laughs.

Of course, replacing the windows will provide vital energy-saving insulation. But cutting out draughts isn't just about saving money. A house that's warm throughout means that people can choose to spend time where they want, for example, reading in their bedrooms after a busy day at workshops, rather than gathering in the kitchen where it's cosy but often noisy.



Making space for peace and quiet

Enjoying time to yourself is an important way to relax. Stuart explains: 'This is a house where people like to do their own thing. They come together for meals but it's fine to choose to do something different too.' That's why Michael has recently bought himself a TV for his bedroom, and Mark has created a comfortable space to sit and read his books and magazines.

But the upstairs corridors are dark and old-fashioned. A brighter paint scheme, new carpets and changes to the layout, creating more natural light, will make the upstairs areas feel light, airy and welcoming, to match the warm and busy kitchen downstairs. And creating an additional bedroom will mean that in future, another person will be able to benefit from the support we offer.



Michael has plenty of ideas. 'We should have a new blue carpet, with blue curtains to match!' he says.

Modern bathrooms will be more user-friendly

Our bathrooms are coming to the end of their useful lifespan. A new bathroom design would include the modern features and mobility aids which make bathrooms more accessible for people with any kind of disability.

This kind of choice simply wasn't available when our bathrooms were installed - so it's time to upgrade. This will mean that as residents' needs change as they get older, they will still have a bathroom that's safe and comfortable to use.



Changes we want to make

The place we call home can make all the difference to our wellbeing and state of mind. The warm and welcoming atmosphere in Croft House gives the people living there a secure base from which they can grow and develop - going out to enjoy busy, active and independent lives.

It's unlikely that any other house would meet Jane, Michael and Mark's needs in quite the same way - a short walk to town, friends and social activities on the doorstep and enough space to enjoy time alone when needed.

And this is why we need to invest in improving the facilities at Croft House, so that the house will meet the needs of people who live there now, and in the future.

We know it's an investment that will be worth every penny.



...we need to make sure it stays that way!

Croft House holds over 40 years of happy memories. It's a place where - with the right support - people have gained independence, learned new skills and made lasting friendships.

It's time to invest, to make sure the building matches the support, for the people who live there now and in years to come.

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