camphill village trust

We've been making a difference for 65 years...

Find out how your support is helping us change lives

65 years of opportunity

Our journey began in 1954...

...when a pioneering group of volunteers founded the charity Camphill Village Trust. Within the next year, they had established the first community for adults with learning disabilities at Botton Village. Since then, Camphill Village Trust has grown into a family spread across 10 locations around England, supporting 563 people.

Today, our strength lies in recognising the unique abilities of every single person we support. And our challenge for the years ahead is to ensure that adults with learning disabilities have a life of opportunity - the chance to reach their potential and pursue their dreams.

We'd like to share the achievements and inspiring stories of the people we support as we celebrate our 'blue anniversary'.

Celebrating our 65th anniversary with the people who matter most

All of the blue arts and crafts from the pottery and dolls to the cyanotype Christmas paper are made by people supported by Camphill Village Trust.

Our anniversary is a chance to acknowledge what's really important. Not just our age, or the size we've grown to - but the achievements of our community members, and the generous donors and dedicated staff who have supported them every step of the way.

For people with learning disabilities, every new skill learned, and every task accomplished can be a small victory in its own right. We're proud of the many success stories which we see every day in our communities.

Arts and crafts, farming and food production have long been the cornerstone of our community life. But these days our workshops include everything from computer animation to customer service and road safety. Our aim is to offer a choice of activities, which give people the skills they need to live the way they choose.

Our workshops, together with the range of housing options, and one-to-one support, provide the holistic support that can change lives. But we couldn't do it without your help.

Let us show you the difference your support can make...

Supporting Ian as he takes the next step

Ian is moving on. He's ready to move into his own house, a few miles away from Botton Village.

'I've been at Botton about 20 years so it's the biggest change I've had in a long time. I'm excited but a bit nervous too!'

To settle into his new home, Ian is taking a two-week holiday. But he'll soon be back, as he's a familiar face behind the scenes at the coffee bar and his regular Lego workshop. So after his break, he'll be cycling back to Botton Village every day. He's already checked out his new journey to work. 'I'm good at cycling so the hills aren't a problem for me!'

Getting his own place means a lot to Ian: 'There will be staff coming to take me shopping, but apart from that, I'm going to be properly independent.'

Helping people to live the life they choose

Joanna likes her shared house in St Albans. It's an easy walk from home to both the Seeds of Nuture Allotment and the Café on the Corner, where she helps out regularly. Back home in the evening, cooking dinner for housemates is an opportunity to try new recipes with fresh vegetables and herbs from the allotment. And it's good to have the company of friends when you tackle the washing up, or relax later in the open plan lounge.

'I wouldn't like living on my own. The best thing about my house is that I share it with my friends,' says Joanna.

Ian has gained new skills working in the coffee bar

The skills and experience he's gained at Botton Village coffee bar have given Ian the confidence to take the next step. 'Working here three days a week has been good preparation for living by myself. I wasn't so good at cooking before!' he says.

by building skills in workshops

All our workshops are based on teamwork and sharing good ideas. Carly who manages the Seeds of Nurture allotment knows that everyone who attends has something unique to offer. Joanna's an important member of the team.

'Joanna's been coming to the allotment a lot longer than I've been working here,' says Carly. 'She knows what's been planted before and how things work.'

Joanna has a lot to offer, and with just the right amount of support and guidance she can tackle most tasks around the allotment.

'I grew up helping my mum and dad in the garden, so I know a lot about growing things. I wouldn't know how to get started by myself though - so it's good working with Carly,' says Joanna.

Sharing skills, working together and keeping active

But living in a Camphill Village Trust community offers a blend of structured activities alongside more personalised support. Ian's key worker is there to help with individual challenges too. 'When I first came here I was spending too much,' says Ian. 'But Beth, my key worker, has helped me set limits so I don't run out of money.'

And the support won't stop when Ian makes his move. As he grows in independence, the support we offer will change and grow with him.

'I'm proud of myself,' says Ian. 'I didn't think this would ever happen, but I feel like I'm ready for the next step.'

Keeping track of money is a step towards independence

and providing the right kind of support

Joanna is at risk of diabetes, so an active lifestyle and healthy diet is vital for her long-term health. 'I've got a sweet tooth so it's a struggle sometimes,' she says. But she's keeping on track - thanks to regular exercise at the allotment, the running club she's joined and the support workers who are on hand to help her with cooking healthy meals at home.

Joanna's key worker Julia meets with her regularly. Key workers can help with all aspects of life, but Joanna especially appreciates having support in attending doctors' appointments and understanding her health needs.

'I'm lucky to have Julia. She helps me get organised. My life would be really tricky without her.'

We've come a long way in the last 65 years, and our anniversary year is a chance to celebrate everything that the people we support have achieved.

But we know there is more to be done. With your support, people like Ian and Joanna can live a life of opportunity. Thank you.

Registered with FR FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

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