

New homes at Grange Village

- with a little help from our friends

The right home can be life-changing. Grange Village in Gloucestershire now boasts two beautiful new flats, which will provide accessible homes in the heart of a supportive community.

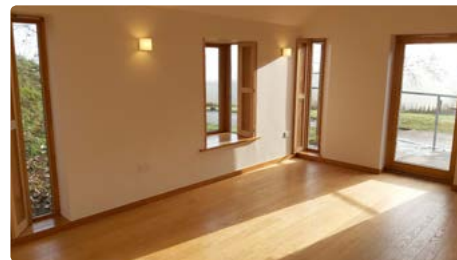
The new flats are created on the site of the old Medical Centre which was no longer in use - and the renovation work was funded by our generous supporters who contributed over £85,000 to our Grange Village fundraising appeal in 2021.

Self-contained flats like this provide the firm foundation for people who are ready to become more independent.

General Manager Frank explains how a new flat like this can offer a new beginning: 'One of our new residents is a young woman who's taking the big step of moving out of her family home for the first time. She and her family think that moving to Grange Village will offer her



A beautiful new home ready to move into - thanks to your support!



Thank you to everyone who made this possible - we couldn't have done it without you!

independence and new opportunities - within a safe and supportive environment. We're all looking forward to welcoming her into the community!

A day to remember for football fans at Larchfield

Favourite shirts and autograph books were at the ready at Larchfield community recently. Ryan Giles, star of nearby Middlesbrough FC, and the team mascot Roary spent an afternoon posing for photographs and chatting with staff and community members.

The visit was part of My Boro My Shirt - a campaign to encourage Middlesbrough fans from different walks of life to share their stories and show how supporters can make football a welcoming place for everyone - regardless of their background.

As well as meeting Ryan and Roary, the day was a chance for community members to get creative. With the help of Rob Nichol, who edits a Middlesbrough FC fanzine 'Fly me to the Moon', we spent the day drawing, painting and writing our contributions to My Boro My Shirt - including coming up with our own shirt designs.

Ryan and Roary had the opportunity to see some of the fantastic shirt designs on the day, and the finished designs were then featured in a special edition of

Rob's fanzine. Community members were delighted to see their work in print!

The culmination of the event was the invitation from Middlesbrough FC to wave flags on the pitch at a recent game. A number of people from Larchfield attended the event and proudly stood on the pitch, soaking in the atmosphere.

Taking part in My Boro My Shirt has been a great way to combine creativity with a shared love of a local team. It was a real team effort and a lot of hard work behind the scenes which resulted in fun and football-fuelled days!



Our local team at the heart of our community: Ryan Giles and Roary visit Larchfield



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Green entrepreneurs face the Dragons' Dell!

Community members have been coming up with ways to help the environment and pitching their green ideas to the Dragons' Dell.

The co-production team have been working across all our communities since last autumn to come up with ways to make our communities greener. Early this year the best ideas from each community were then pitched to a panel of 'dragons' in the style of the popular Dragons' Den TV show.

Doing our bit for the natural world is important for all of us across the Trust. As Fiona says: 'It's important to look after our environment and it was good to work together to plan something'.

There were 15 ideas pitched in total, and our green entrepreneurs bravely faced the dragons and answered their questions about the costs and possible benefits of their proposals. The successful ideas to be taken forward include a clothes swap shop at Delrow, a pop bottle greenhouse at Stourbridge and a composting project between Croft Community and local schools in Malton.



Communities working together to develop their green initiatives

The 'dragons' in the Dell included Robin, whose role as Head of the Natural Environment means he oversees all our social farms, gardens and outdoor space.

Our Green Teams will be reporting back at the Regional Forums in autumn, we can't wait to hear and update how these exciting projects are progressing.



Communities proudly present their ideas to the probing 'dragons'

A royal visit to Malton!

Carolyn and Virginia from Croft Community in Malton were thrilled to greet an important visitor to the town recently. King Charles III paid a surprise visit to Malton just a month before the Coronation, and some of our community members, along with some other local charities, were given the opportunity to meet him.

The royal visit held particular meaning for Carolyn. Her late father, Henry Moresby Chinnery, was equerry to Prince Philip. The King and Carolyn remembered meeting as children over 50 years ago, so the visit brought back happy memories for both of them.

'It was very good,' says Carolyn. 'The King looked nice, and I told him about my life.' 'It was lovely to shake his hand,' adds Virginia.

Virginia and Carolyn were joined by Chief Executive, Sara Thakkar, who knows that the King's longstanding interest in the environment is in tune with our values.

'The King is a strong advocate for social farming; using agriculture and nature in therapeutic care,' says Sara. 'It was a privilege to talk to him about how we support community members to lead healthy, active, and independent lives.'



Carolyn and Virginia proudly representing the Trust as they greet The King

Getting busy in our local communities

Knowing that lockdown had been particularly hard for older people, Olivia and her fellow Kindness Crew members at our St Albans and Delrow Communities were keen to reach out. For the last two years the Kindness Crew have been serving refreshments and running quiz and craft activities at their local branch of Age UK.

Sharing smiles at St Albans

The Kindness Crew have now started paying regular visits to Alban Manor Nursing Home, where one of our former community members now lives. It's a chance to get to know new people over a friendly cuppa and share some of our favourite activities – whether that's arts and crafts or getting up for a dance!

Olivia enjoys sharing her love of dancing: 'We were really laughing at the dancing, it was very funny,' she says. 'I can't wait to do it again.'

Doing our bit to 'Keep Britain Tidy'

Caring for the environment starts in our own back yard. At Delrow Community

the Kindness Crew noticed that fly-tipping was becoming a problem in the local area.

Eddie decided that enough was enough. He took responsibility for phoning the local council, and reported the problem to a helpful council employee called Cameron, who arranged for the rubbish to be collected within a matter of hours!

Eddie, Daniel and Josh are making sure the problem stays under control by going out litter-picking on a weekly basis. And if they spot any more fly-tipping, they know they can report it to Cameron straight away!



Doing our bit to tackle fly tipping in our local area



Sharing our love of art and dancing



A warm welcome to new friends in Wolverhampton

Twenty three new households joined the Camphill Village Trust family when we were awarded the contract for running Shared Lives in Wolverhampton last July. Along with our existing Shared Lives team in Dudley and the Black Country, we're now supporting 66 people in Shared Lives arrangements.

A busy 12 months

'It's been a really enjoyable year,' says Kate, our Head of Service. We've taken time to listen and learn from carers, and most importantly to hear from the people who live in Shared Lives arrangements about their goals, dreams and aspirations.'

Shared Lives carers share their homes and provide day to day support to adults with social care needs. It's a popular choice for people with disabilities – offering both independence and all the benefits of living as part of a family.

Bella is one of our Wolverhampton carers. 'We've had very good support from the Trust,' she says. 'Kate provides us with lots of information, and I feel like part of the team!'

Shared Lives carers share their homes with older or disabled people who find it hard to live on their own. If you live in the Wolverhampton or Black Country area and would like to find out more about becoming a Shared Lives carer, you can contact Kate directly on 01384 441505.



The Shared Lives team reaching even more people a year on

Friends reunited after lockdown

Many of us will remember taking up arts and crafts projects to keep busy during lockdown. At Croft Community, individual house groups kept busy by creating felted squares during the long months when they couldn't meet up with friends from other houses.

Now community members have decided to sew all the different felted squares together, to form one big wall hanging. It forms a touching reminder and a beautiful physical representation of how friends across the community have come back together – stronger than ever!

Inspired by nature

With all the squares stitched together, it's plain to see where the inspiration came from. 'We took ideas and felted the plants and animals we found in the gardens at the community,' says Owen who helped to stitch the wall hanging together.

'We spent a lot of time in the garden during lockdown. You can find lots of birds and bugs in the gardens, it's lovely.'

The wall hanging is now on display at the Weavery, where it can be enjoyed by community members and visitors alike.



Our wall hanging symbolises the threads that keep us together

Danby station is looking ship-shape... thanks to Steven, Adam and Alan!

Danby station on the Esk Valley Railway is a scenic spot, high on the North York Moors. But the unstaffed station was starting to look neglected – until volunteers from nearby Botton Village got involved.

Eagle-eyed readers might remember that the connection between Danby Station and Botton Village began during lockdown, when a group of community members contributed some paintings for the waiting room.

Since then, Steven, Adam and Alan have taken responsibility for keeping the station buildings and outdoor areas looking their best. They visit the station fortnightly in summer and monthly in winter.

Turning our hands to anything

Tidying up the bedding plants, painting and decorating the waiting room and cutting back the trees has kept the trio busy.

'I love to trim back the trees and paint the woodwork,' says Steven. But it's not just about practical skills. 'I love getting out and meeting new people but most of all I am making a difference to my local station,' he continues.

Alan agrees that it's well worth the effort. 'The time I spend at the station gets me outdoors,' he says. 'I feel a sense of immense pride when I see the station in all its glory.'



We've transformed Danby station with a lick of paint



Gifts for your garden - handmade by Chris!

Since Chris moved to Botton Village in 2010, he's been perfecting his crafting skills at our Woodland Studio. Most recently he's created this rustic willow bird house, which is on sale in our online shop. We're sure it will be a big hit – with birds and humans alike!

Gifts with pride and purpose

'I enjoy weaving with willow,' says Chris. 'It's a slow and sometimes fiddly job but it's worth it in the end when you see the finished piece. I'm pleased with my bird house – and it makes me happy knowing that someone is going to like it and buy it.'

Our online shop shop.camphillvillagetrust.org.uk showcases the traditional crafting skills of our community members, and every purchase helps to raise funds for Camphill Village Trust. New products are being added all the time, so why not visit the website today and subscribe to email updates for the latest offers?



Chris is proud to see his work on sale in our online shop