

A candle, lit in Aberdeen, now spreads its light around the world.

When the Camphill pioneers founded their first community in Aberdeen, they likened it to lighting a candle on the hill.

That candle helped to illuminate the dark years of World War 2. Now its light spreads around the world.

Since then, the Camphill Movement has grown to encompass more than 100 centres, with 10,000 people, in 23 countries.

That makes Camphill one of the world's leading organisations working with children and adults who have additional support needs including learning disabilities.

But, wherever they are in the world, these communities still draw inspiration from the original Camphill in Aberdeen.

The international nature of Camphill enriches the cultural lives of the people of Camphill Aberdeen City and Shire.

Delegates visit from around the world. Volunteers come here to work within our communities.

But, international though the Camphill Movement is, each community functions on a human level, as an independent charitable organisation.

That keeps our focus sharply where it should be. On the needs of each individual - helping them to fulfil their promise.



Camphill draws support from all who uphold the choice of people to create communities which nurture promise through love and respect.



Camphill and Aberdeen - a time-honoured partnership.

In Aberdeen City and Shire more than 700 people live and work in Camphill communities.

Our communities offer education, training, work and living opportunities for vulnerable children, young people, adults and older people.

However, the story of Camphill and its Aberdeen roots actually starts in Vienna.



It was there, in the 1930s, that the group of pioneers began to formulate their plans for a community dedicated to helping children with additional support needs.

But, in the face of the Nazi annexation of Austria in 1938 they had to flee, resolving to meet in another country.

A timely invitation brought them to Aberdeen. Camphill Estate in Milltimber opened as the first Camphill community in June 1940.

Now there are six Camphill communities in Aberdeen City and Shire, creating nurturing environments in which individuals of all ages can fulfil their potential:

- Camphill Rudolf Steiner Schools, including Amber Kindergarten and Cairnlee House in Milltimber and Bielside
- The Newton Dee Community in Bielside
- Beannachar in Banchory Devenick
- Milltown near Arbuthnott
- Tigh a'Chomainn in Peterculter
- Simeon Care for the Elderly in Bielside

Also located on Murtle Estate, is Camphill Medical Practice.

Camphill communities have a broad outlook on life. Everyone is encouraged to participate, to the extent of their abilities, in the life of their own and the wider community.

Reflecting this are the many links between our communities and local organisations - such as the partnership agreement between Camphill and the University of Aberdeen to deliver the BA programme in Curative Education.



Creating inclusive communities.

Care and respect for people and the natural environment.

Central to Camphill's ethos is an integrated approach to health, education and social care supported by a nurturing environment.

Creating communities together involves mutual respect and valuing the contribution of each individual regardless of disability, religious or racial background.

Within our communities are opportunities for learning, meaningful work and participation in a life rich in expression through social and cultural activities.

Community living enables long-lasting valued relationships, supports appropriate independence and encourages each individual to participate fully in the world as responsible and respected citizens.

Everyone is encouraged to take part in community decision making as well as in making personal choices. The self worth that this creates, helps individuals with additional support needs to recognise their achievements and fulfil their promise.

From the outset, Camphill's vision for an inclusive and healthy social life has been matched by a respect and duty of care for the natural environment. Decades before it became popular in the wider world, Camphill was operating the biodynamic method of organic farming, with its focus on sustainability and the avoidance of pollution.

We collaborate with the Scottish Agricultural College, Aberdeen, UK and European universities to contribute to biodynamic and organic agricultural education and research.

Camphill's architecture is designed to enhance and be sympathetic to the natural environment, creating a tranquil setting to support our work. Camphill Architects, based in the Newton Dee Community, designs innovative, environmentally-friendly buildings for Camphill communities around the world.

