

Who Are We?

We are a group of about sixty adults, many of whom have a learning disability, who have launched a new Camphill venture in The North York Moors. We are all residents or former residents of Botton Village Camphill Community – both Co-workers and learning disabled residents. There are also several children living as part of the families and households in the community.

The community is centred around ten large and five small houses across three villages (Danby, Castleton and Botton), a local shop that is owned and run by community members, a community garden and a Steiner School.

A number of households in the community have additionally joined the Shared Lives Movement, supported by The Avalon Group, which will be responsible for the registered care provided to our learning disabled residents.

The Shared Lives framework allows us to pursue the principles by which we have lived, worked and built community together. As members of the community, we **live together**, we **work together** and we **grow together**.

Becoming a Volunteer Carer

We Live Together

We share our homes and our lives. The elderly person, the busy working adult and the small child each has their own place within the community, and we are all enriched by our daily interactions.

There are typically around six to ten people living in each household. The household is comprised of two to three people who have a learning disability, one or two Co-workers (with their family or children) and a volunteer carer.

The majority of Co-workers in the community are registered Shared Lives carers. Everyone is a part of and makes a contribution to the running of the house community and to making it a happy home, and a therapeutic and healing space.



We Work Together

Everyone in the community has a contribution to make. The work is meaningful and necessary for sustaining the community. This means we each rely on one another, no matter what our 'ability'.

Some of our work is centred around the households themselves and what it takes to run them, such as cooking healthy meals, cleaning and creating a beautiful home. We also own and run a local Health Food Shop in Danby, with several community members helping both in the shop and with shop-related projects.



We Grow Together

As a Community we strive to work using the Anthroposophical ideals laid down by the Austrian philosopher Rudolf Steiner. These ideals were the inspiration for the German Jewish refugee, Karl König, who was the founder of the Camphill movement. We try to see the humanity in each person and uphold their better nature. We understand that we all suffer from prejudice and disability in our own way, but with each other's help we can rise above this. We look outside ourselves, finding inspiration in nature and in the cultural and spiritual life that we weave together.

Celebrating the festivals of the Christian calendar, as well as birthdays and other life events together, is an important aspect of community living. We take time and care to prepare these events, including all community members in the planning. It is at these exciting times of the year that we can also appreciate the result of our collective endeavour.



What is it Like Being a Volunteer Carer?



Living in a Household

Volunteer carers typically spend between six months to a year living and working in the community. Before you arrive, you will have a chance to speak to the members of the household (by Skype or telephone) in which you will be placed, so that you can ask any questions and so that they can get to know you before you arrive.

If you have particular needs or interests, it may be that you are placed into a household that would go some way towards meeting those needs. For example, if you enjoy being around children, if you would prefer to work with older people, if you have an interest in working in one of the gardens, this may influence where you are placed.

You will be expected to be an active member of the household, taking an interest in the other people with whom you live, taking part in household activities and contributing to housework. It can be challenging when settling into a new situation that may be very different from what you are used to at home, but it is also very rewarding to become a valued member of the household.

Working in the Community

We work to meet the needs of the community, which will take precedence when deciding what work you will do within the community. However, as with your living situation, your interests and skills will also be taken in to account when deciding what your work area will be.

This can often be an exciting opportunity to gain a new skill or a new perspective and many volunteers who come to the community leave with new ideas about their own futures, feeling inspired to share what they have learnt during their time here.

At the age of 18 I flew from one side of the world to the other...

I left behind my family and friends for a place I didn't know much about. I was completely out of my comfort zone and unsure what to expect.

I came to the community and was amazed how they greeted me with open arms and immediately made me feel at home. I quickly felt I had become part of a new family.

Sharing meals, work, festivals and life together was something strange at first but became special and unforgettable.

I loved that no matter what, everyone was valued, cared for and seen as an important part of the community.

I met people of all different cultures and abilities who I was able to learn from, grow with and create special bonds that I will have for life.

I learnt to be more empathetic, loving and accepting but most importantly to see how beautiful life can be.



Learning and Personal Development

Education, self-realisation and personal development are integral to our life here in the community. As a volunteer carer you will have the opportunity to attend a Foundation Course, which explores many aspects of Camphill community life. This includes learning about Camphill's founding philosophy, theories around social therapy and what it means to be human. This is also an opportunity to meet and socialise with other volunteer carers and to discuss concerns, ask questions and reflect on your time here.



You will also be required to do some training necessary for the provision of social care in the community. This may include First Aid, the safeguarding of vulnerable adults, health and safety, food hygiene and understanding aspects of social care legislation. All training will be provided by The Avalon Group. Their award-winning Learning and Development Team will ensure you have all the skills and knowledge required to fulfil your role as a Volunteer Carer.

What do we expect of you?

The community, according to Camphill principles, is committed to upholding the health of the human being, both spiritual and physical. The conduct of its members and volunteer carers must at all times be supportive of this. It is important to understand that norms of behaviour might need to be adjusted to meet the needs of living with people with learning disabilities.

The misuse of alcohol can be detrimental to the health of both the individual and the community, and therefore community life is not compatible with excessive drinking or frequent trips to the pub. The use of illegal drugs will not be tolerated and will result in your placement being terminated.

It is important to come with a 'can-do' attitude and the expectation that you will become fully involved in community life during your stay. Your presence should enrich both the household and the community.

In return we hope that you will gain a unique and wonderful experience of community living, in a supportive environment, with a group of motivated and inspiring individuals. You will also gain some valued experience in providing social care.



Important Information



Finances

Volunteers are not paid, but all food and accommodation is provided. If volunteer carers are staying longer than six weeks, they will receive £100 per month.

Travel costs

If you are coming to the community as a volunteer carer, we expect you to pay your own travel costs to and from the community.

Holiday and 'Time Off'

Although volunteer carers are not entitled to any formal leave, you may be helped with meeting the costs of taking a short holiday during your stay.

We do not tend to schedule or timetable 'time-off', although it is common to come to an agreement in the household at what points during the week you will not be considered 'responsible' and may have some free time either in or outside of the community.

Criminal Record

By law everyone living and working with vulnerable adults has to provide a current DBS (Police) check. UK Citizens will have to apply for a DBS check on completion of the application process. Non-UK citizens will have to apply for a police check from their country of origin and send certification of this. DBS checks will be conducted by The Avalon Group. On arrival in the community a UK police check will be applied for on your behalf. In order for this to be done you will need to bring your passport with you (an identity card is not sufficient).

Immigration

Unfortunately, at the moment we are not able to invite volunteers who need a visa for their stay in Great Britain into our community.



How to Apply

If you wish to join our community, please contact us on email: opendoors@eskvalleycamphill.org

or call 01287 661213. You will be put in touch with a member of our Open Doors Group who will guide you through the application process.