

# FINDHORN FOUNDATION

## NEWSLETTER SPRING 2011

### LEGACY – OUR NEW WORKSHOP SPACE



As Spring begins to emerge in its full glory with the new shoots of bulbs appearing and the soft green down of the leaves budding on the trees, it brings with it a sense of excitement for the future; excitement at what we are creating now, at what will emerge later on even though we cannot yet imagine it, and how we are all contributing to creating a better world for everyone.

The appeal for our new education building has brought in £38,000 – very many thanks to those individuals and organisations who have contributed to this appeal so far - we are getting so much closer to our goal, with just £30,000 still to go.

Pictured above is the first group with special needs from L'Arche community, already using the new building which we call Legacy.

We regularly receive enquiries from groups, both local and further afield, wishing to visit us and needing easily accessible spaces and facilities. These enquiries point to a real need for a fully accessible facility in our community and show us how important this will be to the future development of our programmes.

Thanks to some generous donations, including the legacy from Tom Welch mentioned in the last newsletter, the decision was made to go ahead with building this new development now, trusting that the rest of the funding will come.

This decision reminds us of the trust displayed by our founders in the early days of this community: committing to the purchase of the much-needed cedarwood bungalows and trusting that the financial support would come. Their trust was rewarded. Similarly, we often find ourselves holding that balance between the practical and the spiritual, a delicate blend of planning and trusting.

If you would like to support this worthwhile project please ring us on 01309 691620 or visit the Support Us pages on our website ([www.findhorn.org](http://www.findhorn.org)).

Thank you for your love, support and good wishes - you make a huge difference to the work we do here at the Findhorn Foundation and we truly couldn't do it without your partnership.

# WILDLIFE PARTNERSHIP

Thanks to funding of £10,000 from the Big Lottery Community Wildlife programme, we are now fulfilling two exciting new projects – working more closely with the local community and simultaneously helping to grow our local bee population.

The Park Garden team along with children from local schools are working together on the design and creation of a community garden that encourages and provides habitats for all manner of bees and wildlife. We are thrilled to have attracted the funding for this project as it allows us to work in partnership with the local community, Youth Project and school children while creating a beautiful garden for the enjoyment of all.

The children are very excited about the project: "I think it was cool, because we made a minibeast wall, we planted seeds and

we made two dry hogweed nests for the bees," said a pupil from Kinloss Primary.

The Park Garden team will continue to work on the wildlife garden throughout the summer and we are planning a community celebration event that will take place at the end of August.



courtesy Press and Journal



## YOUTH IN ACTION

This year we have welcomed four young people from the European Union. They are being supported through EU funding to spend a year with us as part of the Youth in Action Initiative of the European Voluntary Service Programme.

Findhorn is an ideal place to offer youth a versatile work environment as it can support them in developing personal, social and task related skills. "It is a privilege to be here, working with people who hold skills and knowledge about various topics that have a foundation in valuing all life and the environment," says Mikkel Funnemark (21) from Norway.



Mikkel is developing our bee project in Park Garden, reinvigorating the local bee population by establishing beneficial plants, creating nesting boxes and hives and increasing awareness in the community to ensure that the needs of bees are met. Initially Mikkel knew very little about bees - he is now a

font of information. "Bees have been living on this planet for 190 million years!" he exclaims, "they have a lot to teach us about patience, co-operation and working for the common good, as well as performing the important task of pollinators."

When Mikkel leaves Findhorn he will return to his community with a dream to establish a centre of demonstration and

education in sustainable living. He is already making connections to build this reality and create a better world.

Miho Mihov (25) from Bulgaria heard about Findhorn four years ago. He was at a yoga centre searching for a place that bridged ecology and spirituality. When he heard about the EVS programme through his NextGen network, he applied straight away. "Here I am able to explore community life."



Miho is creating a demonstration garden at Cluny that supports people producing their own homegrown food. As he takes me around the gardens, past numerous flower boxes and through the greenhouse, I am amazed at the abundance of burgeoning herbs, vegetables and fruits that will grace the plates of Cluny diners. "I am learning how to grow the plants, taking guided tours with the local schoolchildren and guests, developing educational material and spreading awareness about how homegrown food reduces our ecological impact."

Miho's vision is to co-create a community in his home country, and he values his experiences here as they allow him to explore what it takes to develop and hold a community. "Most rewarding has been participating in workshops. My Experience Week was amazing ... I was able to experience a deep connection with everything."

**Thank you again for creating the opportunity for me to support your work  
- Hirohide Koga, Japan (Experience Week & Spiritual Practice 2009 and donor)**

# HOUSING COOPERATIVE BLOOMS

The community's intention to grow the village of light and further embody our vision and values is bearing fruit in the form of the Park Housing Cooperative. Its aim is to provide community-owned housing that ensures the long-term vitality and sustainability of the community by:

- providing affordable homes for community members who do not have the financial means to buy their own home, and
- allocating these dwellings prioritising young families, as well as elders and key workers who have served the community

Initially we applied for government housing association grants to create this project, but as none were available we had to get creative! As Findhorn has always stood for trusting in abundance, brother/sisterhood and generosity, we reached out to some community supporters and to our delight we have thus far been blessed with £240,000 in donations and interest-free loans - enough to subsidise three affordable, ecological homes in the Duneland complex behind the Universal Hall.

Before building work begins in June we hope to raise enough for at least one more unit, and later to manifest funds for four more units for the second phase of the development. For more details please visit [www.parkhousingco-op.org](http://www.parkhousingco-op.org).



# PINERIDGE WEST – OUR NEW ECO-MOBILE



At the beginning of March, GreenLeaf Design was awarded the opportunity to build our first eco-mobile on Pineridge West - the first of several purpose-built, well-insulated mobile homes,

each housing two of our staff members.

“By choosing GreenLeaf Design we know that we will be guaranteed a good quality, well sourced building that will meet our needs and those of our staff,” said Paul Johnson, Assets Manager. “We went through all the necessary process of quotes and tenders, and in the end the quality and the delivery timescale made GreenLeaf the logical choice.”

This first eco-mobile has been funded through the bequest that we received from Tom Welch and we all felt that it was a practical and fitting way to use his generous gift.

The consortium of builders, plumbers and electricians are working with, Jason Caddy, grandson of Findhorn's founders. Jason's father Jonathan Caddy built Cornerstone for his mother in 1990 the community's first eco-house. It feels good to know that new generations of Caddys are still building this centre of light and love – in the literal sense as well as the spiritual!

The first eco-mobile will be complete by the end of May with the next one aimed to be complete by September, ready for the autumn.

# SOILLSE - LIVING IN THE SUNLIGHT

Soillse (Gaelic for sunlight) is a 10-person, multi-generational, co-housing cluster at The Park comprising singles, couples, young and mature people - the vision and demonstration of a group of long term members of the Findhorn community. Over the last seven years, the group has been developing their shared values of living in harmony with the land and creating a beautiful environment through permaculture gardening and passive solar design.

A key feature of the houses is the use of large clay blocks filled with vermiculite that create a very high level of insulation - the first time this technique has been used in the UK. The group is also designing a log and pellet heating system, and looking at how to generate additional electricity.

Shared features within the Soillse cluster of houses include a laundry, greenhouse, hot tub, bike shed, communal meeting space and gardening spaces.

Soillse are halfway through the construction phase of six houses on a site near the wind turbines, and the group is looking forward to moving into their new homes before the end of the year.



**Findhorn - a very positive contribution in my life  
- Denise Heneghan, Ireland (Experience 2008 and donor)**

# MYSTERY AND MIRACLES

As Findhorn's 50th birthday year draws closer it is valuable to take time to reflect on and celebrate our achievements, while continuing to manifest the Spirit of the Future, offering holistic education and demonstrating a world where spirit, humanity and nature work together to create a positive, sustainable future.

As part of our reflection and celebration of what Findhorn has provided in the world, we would love to hear tales from those who've passed through this community these past 50 years, and we invite you to share your Findhorn stories with us. We are curious to discover the tales of synchronicity, the moments of inspiration and the many transformations that have arisen as a result of your connection to Findhorn.

We also invite you to celebrate this milestone birthday with us. We are planning a series of special events and special weeks in 2012 where friends both old and new can come and reconnect with Findhorn, including a Homecoming Event for our Resource People on 16th of June, and a Birthday Week Celebration for our ex-members on 12th of November.

If you have an interesting experience to share with us and would be willing to share it with our worldwide community, or would like to know more about what is on offer in 2012, please write to us at the address on the front page of this newsletter or email us at [findhorn.foundation@findhorn.org](mailto:findhorn.foundation@findhorn.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

## GARDEN OF INSPIRATION - News from Park Garden

Park Garden is where the magic of Findhorn first manifested, and our vision is to co-create a world where human consciousness is in perfect alignment with all forms of creation.

We are actively working with new ideas and projects to support that vision: developing an 'edible landscape', establishing a bee sanctuary, and creating a new physical space - the Moontree building - for garden-specific education and processing fruit and herbs. This vision has already manifested many wonderful gifts. We have had generous donors, hardworking builders and gardeners, and everything we needed in perfect timing. We feel a heartfelt thank you to all of you!

Thanks to a European Voluntary Service grant, two students divide their time in Park Garden between research and learning practical



gardening skills. They are exploring increasing and maintaining a healthy bee population, and expanding our edible landscape. We would love Park Garden to become an educational resource for everyone, and they are also helping us to lay the foundation for land-based education on permaculture, forest gardens and medicinal plants.

We have been amazed to witness the emergence of a long-held dream of a purpose-built home for the Park Garden department. Moontree now stands near our greenhouse - walls and roof are up, and we hope to be able to host classes and preserve fruit and herbs in late summer. We have manifested £15,000 so far - half way there! Early on it became clear that this project has its own radiant spirit, drawing support from unexpected sources: Julia Butterfly-Hill's Engage Network ([www.engagenet.org](http://www.engagenet.org)) has supported us financially, and The Ecological Panel ([www.ecologicalpanel.com](http://www.ecologicalpanel.com)) has donated a lot of the 100% recycled wood furnishing.

We are thrilled about the grant to create a wildlife garden (see earlier article) and we are hoping to tie that in to a bigger vision of education about the spirit in nature, including signposted educational routes across The Park, classes in Moontree, guided nature walks, and exploring and demonstrating Forest Garden principles.

No shortage of vision, inspiration and good work for 2011 and beyond. May we all grow this magical garden both within us and on this land.



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