Question 1:

Why is the Findhorn Foundation meaningful to you?

Feedback:

- Sense of initiation
- Deepening into myself and into spirituality
- Connection with community
- Deep sense of peace and connection with myself
- A miracle
- So for me Findhorn is a comfort and blessing
- For me, it is enough that you exist.
- An emanation that reverberates in the ether of the world.
- Retreats and workshops extend this unforgettable experience… even decades later!
- An example for others that humans can live in partnership with nature and one another listening to each other, all of nature and the higher voices that are here for us.
- For me Findhorn has an invisible but not impalpable energy that spreads out love, peace and light into the world.
- My Spiritual home
- Findhorn offers a path that is rich with peace, realisation and awakening. Findhorn is always in my heart. The learning I realised there is with me today, many years after my last visit. I deeply appreciate, even though I have not said it out loud, the devotion to spirit, to living better lives, to bringing light to others that Findhorn and the people of Findhorn spread around the world
- Findhorn represents working in community with the angelic and nature spirit beings
- And what about Cluny?…For me, it’s the core of FINDHORN spiritual experience. Its energy is incomparable.
The Findhorn Foundation gives to the world the possibility, through the programmes, to organise with members and guests the right context to manifest the greatest living experiment in cooperation, love, light, in order to elevate the level of consciousness of humanity creating a new world.

For me the Findhorn Foundation is the organisation through which the Findhorn Community can open to the people of the world who are searching for their Spirit, Inspiration, Soul, Inner evolution.

Quite an audacious assumption given the low attendances and lack of interest shown by the world to the FF before it closed its doors.

Findhorn is a place of connection to many inspired people. That network when activated can reach many people with a message of hope.

The World needs Findhorn – especially Cluny!

Learning to engage with others from a position of security

Connection with something very simple and yet beautiful - the simplicity allows connection with a touchstone - it's not complicated

A constant process of rejuvenation, with the Foundation being a touchstone that you can constantly refer to

The ideals of respect and spirituality, and practical sustainability left a lasting impression.

Difficult to answer the question because it’s the core impulse that really attracted me in the first place

Findhorn Foundation so that the legacy started by all those wonderful people carries on

It is sacred ground - that can be palpably felt upon stepping into the threshold of the Park. It serves a Great Purpose Now that The World is On the Verge of The Great Transition.

Findhorn is nurturing and grounding

In FF I found something more than the sum of the parts. Psychosynthesis helped me assemble the individual puzzles and understand the importance of putting them together in the right order (i.e.,). In FF, which I returned to many times later as an RP, I found all the puzzles, but moreover something more - how to do it?, and hence the "added value." It is
Why Vision Sessions 2024 - Consultation Source Data, Question 1

essential to understand education as a never-ending process of integrating and synthesising small pieces, having a "hole" in my imagination - hence the vision of the world, what this is going to be.

- FF showed me where community building was going, and from there were the programs I created. They started from child rearing, through the school system, to university education.
- Findhorn over the years has made me feel a part of change – given me hope because you as a group did something that worked!
- Eco-village

- It was that the power of a hundred people in concord and pulling in the same direction for the cause of peace, harmony and the common good is more like the force of a thousand.

- I gained belief in the reality of Christ & Christ consciousness
- Eileen’s words inspire me daily and help me to live a life founded in God.
- It is a bubble - but so is every other place - family, university - this is the bubble I chose, it makes living possible for me
- Because there is nowhere else like it.
- It is in a special place and has had much love and design put into it over many years
- Because the Findhorn story is one of hope and faith, starting from nothing and growing and growing
- Because we need places like this more than ever as the world seems to get more messed up
- I would say simply that the world continues to need beacons of light like the Findhorn Foundation. You have certainly shone brightly and just knowing you are still here and shining will be a great comfort and inspiration to many.

- It is about something bigger than the people
- Tears were coming - of joy
- Foundation was a gateway into something more - a constant through most of my time, including when away from the Foundation
- Where I first connected with love
- My experience was about the physical place
- We give energy to the bubble and the bubble gives energy to us to thrive
- Time in the gardens are amazing
- Connections I have made with people
- Spiritual Home - a sense of rightness in the quiet centre
- Realisation of a spiritual call
- Exploration of the mystery of life
- Foundation experience and community experience
- A sense of belonging
- Findhorn has offered spiritual wisdom, practise and guidance all my life
- Meaningful spirituality
- Hope
- Magic
- Loving Kindness
- Opened me to new ideas
- Challenged me to be better
- A guiding light in a challenging world
- It was defined as a community in action, living/being a place that looks within and without.
- It’s a place where you are accepted as you are.
- Spirituality beyond religion.
- Cluny was a spiritual home
- We “found” ourselves
- Alternative way of living
- Welcomed in love
- Belonging
- The three principles
- Awakening
- Awareness
- A gateway to deeper enriched life style
- Faith and stillness
● Spiritual school
● Subtle energies connection
● Living/working in community: kitchen, garden
● Developed capacities—“we could do anything”
● The God within
● Findhorn symbolises an anchor in my life and a special place for renewal and where community, integrity and people come first, over money, accumulation and conflict.
● For many people, including me, it is important to know that there is a centre in the world that is continuously sending out loving energy thus contributing to the healing of the planet. This feeds my hope.
● Love in action (included the material and all levels)
● Being with people—tangible, visceral—on the journey
● To say yes from higher perspectives
● Findhorn was always special to me and precious and unique. Please continue.
● Findhorn offered a powerful spiritual growth/impact which opened us to hope, trust, faith and interconnectedness. We learned we are all unique spiritual beings interconnected, speaking from our hearts with no boundaries.
● Celtic spirituality encouraged through FF work with nature & its spirits.
● Findhorn is a place, to go to find these things, a touchstone, a physical place we need to go to for retreat and shelter to give us hope.
● Unanimous message: Please stay.
● Findhorn is a sanctuary for weary, battered Souls to find themselves again.
● Findhorn gave me the opportunity to go on retreats within a spiritual community that brought purpose and meaning to life.
● An anchor of soul infusion
● Findhorn is needed to guide the way as we start to exit this era of materialism and get back to what matters, working with Mother Earth, living in community and harmony with each other – this is what the new era is all about.
‘Why’ Vision Sessions 2024 - Consultation Source Data, Question 1

- It always felt like coming home when she visited and the part that friendship played in this also.
- Just being in that beautiful part of Scotland was very conducive to the experience.
- time at Findhorn had been transformative, life changing,
- could not imagine how things would be now had I not visited.
- It was the process of seeing how life can be lived in collaboration with spirit while witnessing others also doing so as well and having this shared experience.
- Felt it was a demonstration of how people can live in harmony while also cooperating with nature.
- My time at Cluny is transformative and healing.
- I was really in a space where I needed group support and just a safe space to be but mostly, I wanted to do some seva and Findhorn provided this with their volunteer programme.
- I believe seva works (selfless service/love in action)
- I think this is why I was on the zoom-I really want to see this being available in the future for others and hopefully for myself!
- I feel blessed that I got to see the framework of how things get done and decisions get made at Findhorn and I trust the process and those following it.
- I am in agreement with the others in my group in that I believe online gatherings can be very real and beneficial. However, nothing really compares with being able to stay in the community and immerse yourself in the energy field of everything that is going on there.
- Visited Findhorn 20 years ago, and participated in Experience Week, Garden Week. Returned a few years later to play the Game of Transformation.
- Enjoyment of the Courses
- The Foundation is cherished for its profound spiritual and aspirational influence, serving as a crucial conduit for personal and collective growth. It stands as a testament to the power of collaboration, deeply connecting individuals, spirit, and the land.
- Transformation of consciousness
- There is a creation of a global awareness of the interconnectivity with nature
- The spiritual dimension of the climate crisis is expressed
- There is an intentional engagement with nature
- A demonstration of hope
- Offers tangible experiences
- A doorway to the inner and outer realities of consciousness
- Human and soul integration
- Sense of community and belonging
- Help you know you are unique pillar of light
- Love in Action (no hierarchy of anyone being better than another)
- The beacon of light logo more reflective of the times than the NEW logo
- Beauty of the foundation is that it looks outward
- Finding a way of communicating that which is inward with the community
- Growing food is an inspiration for others to do
- You see things in a different way
- The Network of Light
- Still point in the vesica pisces of spirit and matter, maintaining the flame.
- Spiritual community that wakes us up to something we have forgotten in our indigenous past
- Giving people concrete skills
- The relationship with the UN and other organisations
- My interconnectedness with life
- The community acts as the soil for the FF
- It holds the planetary filed for what is emerging
- Being a birthing presence of the new
- Expressings a hopeful and positive vision for humanity’s future
- Strengthening the connection between the physical and the subtle realms of nature and the life forms comprising our planet.
- Maintaining an inner focus to sustain progress in the face of adverse pressure
- Findhorn not only Scotland
F is a portal

Spiritual waters overflowing to wipe away fear

Reinvention through the Angel of Trust

Integration of the old with the new

Solidarity of ideas, courses, money and resources

Wonderful memories

Internationalism, common ground, values driven

Magic of gardens

Places like Findhorn provide a sanctuary for those who may struggle in life or those who need new inspiration.

The Love and Light energy needs spreading from anywhere/anyone and Findhorn is so grounded in that, keep up the inspiring work. I had a life changing experience there on 3 visits, such a memorable, evolving, happy time. Love the nature kingdom but went on to become involved with the animal kingdom and rescue work.

Regeneration built upon trust (don’t forget the old)

To reunite with individuals, institutions and initiatives with the same goals

There is a desperate need to live lightly on the earth

Experience of Findhorn Where You Are courses

Has attended facilitator training for Game of T, and Permaculture courses.

The Spirit of Findhorn has stayed with us all

When I am needing a period of time in a place of quiet and beauty, the Findhorn Foundation is one of the places I would like to be.

I can imagine it still being a place of retreat in the future, but perhaps not so busy, not such busy programmes but gently guided weeks with a lot of time and space.

It's a powerful expression and example of 'intrinsic' values. And as such is a useful antidote and counter-example to the 'extrinsic' values exemplified by Donald Trump. Afterall, it's been recently said of Trump (by Boris Jonson, in fact) that his being elected US President in November is "what the world needs"! And I thinks it's clear that the world, at least in a political sense, is veering toward the extrinsic end of the spectrum
Participating in Creating Findhorn Where you are has helped me to feel part of Findhorn. Older people can regard online as 'an extra to life' but it is a way to support connection, finding a tribal sense of common understanding…joining calls is 'like meeting my family'. It's like parents who keep the family house…you can always return there and feel this deep connection. The influence carries on within us - it is resonant within and a very important part of ongoing life.

I need Findhorn. Light and darkness seem to be the fabric of Earths’ existence, physically and spiritually, for millennia. I think we humans live within this mixture of light and dark, learning from it, weaving ourselves from it.

The Findhorn Foundation is a wonderful place of silence and peace, of which unfortunately there are not that many in the world. That's why the world needs the Findhorn Foundation. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your peace work.

It changed my life profoundly. I have always been drawn to the mystical, to opening to communion with the Divine. In more recent years, when the Founders had passed on had lots of good experiences at Findhorn.

Findhorn is an imaginal cell.

I deeply cherish the experience of personal development I had whilst living in the Findhorn community, so much so, I think the culture which brought that experience about deserves to be shared much more widely than it currently is. The focus of spirituality enabled me to overcome feelings of inferiority and shyness, of alienation and social anxiety and made it possible for me to live a far more interesting and richer life subsequently, than, I am sure, I would have otherwise.

FF is a window into the community.

Creating Findhorn Where you are was mentioned again – everyone had felt the inspiration/beacon of light both in person visiting as well as online.

For another person zoom has been a gift – 'it enabled me to continue being part of F…gave me a way to look into the future…I've never felt more part of F than in the past 3 years.'

appreciating the deep humanity which characterises this person’s experiences of visiting Findhorn.
My first visit to Findhorn was an Experience week followed by a workshop in 1979. I have been back many times since then & always loved it.

The greatest gift that I think Findhorn has provided over the decades since its inception is the living reminder that There is a Different Path that we (speaking dominantly of White/European/Western/Urban/Colonial Capitalism cultured people) can choose.

Life affirming experiences

Findhorn the place (not just the FF) is a spiritual anchor of light and love.

It is a community, a spiritual home.

It enables a connection to the soul of nature, a living communion with life.

It is an ark bearing seeds of a new civilisation, exemplified by the three principles.

One person had the image of all of humanity being held in this quality of presence…a planetary being, which we can attune to… one which isn’t geographically limited to Findhorn, but the founders turned into this consciousness and brought it into every aspect of everyday life…

Findhorn was seen as a demonstration point, a bridge as Peter used to say, of this new consciousness.

Translating spirit into daily life

People blossomed, thousands of people came and were touched, inspired, awakened…to a way of life where everything is regarded as having innate intelligence. We (the three of us) contact this experience of expanded consciousness through attunement and meditation. And embody these through the co-creative 3-core practices- through a collaborative, co-operative approach with whatever and whoever we are with.

To limit the question to FF feels very structural. In the meditation we were all in touch with a very fluid entity…this dimension of expanded consciousness is well beyond the bounds of structure.

FF could be seen to offer a lens, or to act as an instrument to amplify this consciousness and radiate it out to the world.

The 3 principles are a gift in my life

To experience and support the Network of Light
• To connect with subtle beings
• To relate to the land in new ways
• To be away from my urban life at a retreat centre of beauty, for example, the Cluny Woods and the land between the Park and the Bay…
• The excellent courses I attended with high quality teaching and focalising i.e. Transformation Game and many others over many years
• Be in a community of open people committed to spiritual deepening, where diverse practices are welcomed (i.e. not doctrinaire)
• The three core practices
• Learnt to love again
• An ecological environment where I could learn in the gardens and in Cluny kitchen.
• Witnessing circles
• A community committed to love as well as planetary health and peace.
• Findhorn (not just the FF) is a spiritual anchor of light and love.
• It is a community, a spiritual home.
• It enables a connection to the soul of nature, a living communion with life.
• It is an ark bearing seeds of a new civilisation, exemplified by the three principles.
• Tricky question, because apparently the world …. i.e. human beings … to survive only need food and water, and an environment favourable to reproduction. So at the end no spirituality is needed for mere survival : we have countries, we have laws, and we placidly kill each other in continuous wars. [Irony mode OFF]
• If I remember what I read in books both by Eileen and Peter, Findhorn Community was created following a kind of path, of a personal mission.
• Spiritual awakening
• Network of light
• From the very beginning it was clear that what had to offer was a balance between spirit and matter, better said a manifestation of spirit into matter through common and material work on one side, and constant meditation and listening on the other side.
• So again, a balance between two forces.
When I came to Findhorn at the beginning of the nineties I found something I recognized as a spiritual home: there I felt truly at home for the first time in life,

Joining other likewise people made me feel I was not alone … and helped me discover my own roots.

Spending days in the kitchen cooking with others for around 200 people … amazing.

To me Findhorn have always been a lighthouse

To me Findhorn have always been a place where to meet others, beyond religions or other differences

To me Findhorn have always been a place remembering constantly to put spirit into material world (a long path to me)

To me Findhorn have always been a place remembering to be flexible enough to recognize spirit into material world and things that happen (another very long path to me)

To me Findhorn have always been an example and a teaching through practice

Findhorn is one of the first places that I can call "the portals", opened to us and we were allowed to access.

You come to Findhorn and something happens, the heart opens, feeling the connections to the other beings and other worlds we share the planet with opens up. Findhorn changed our lives through having this connection.

Learning about Spiritual attunement and guidance

Findhorn as a place is unique.

With Findhorn we include Iona and Erraid, a network of light.

Words we connect with Findhorn:

Practice

Togetherness and belonging

Concrete Community

Support

Connection

Life changing

Challenge
• Inspiration
• Intensity
• Passion
• The geographical place Findhorn has a high frequency, the urge to go back to this place, to have this frequency reinforced. Serves as support and nourishment for times away from Findhorn.
• I need the support from the Findhorn Foundation to radiate that energy - remote support.
• Received the Seed through being there - transformative experience, healing experience.
• Beauty of the place in the Scottish setting brings lots of energy of transformation and peace and love.
• Findhorn emits spiritual light into the world, like a lighthouse
• In Findhorn spirituality is everywhere all the time, it is a lived experience, it is present in the atmosphere, you have an immediate experience of spiritual presence.
• It is a different way of living you cannot find anywhere else in the world.
• It is home.
• Beacon
• Meeting people from all over the world
• Gardens
• Joyful
• Stability
• Always there in the background of my life
• Alternative way of being
• A sensation of clear blue sky
• Meaningful
• Nurturing
• Community
• Nourishment there was allowed to come into my life and remains NOURISHMENT
• Don't know what I would have done without those two books (Hawken, Findhorn Garden)
- Kundalini awakening, not going mad!
- Life-changing
- Soul-validating when all alone on a journey
- Transition time for me and others there
- Place of Sanctuary
- International aspect
- Like-Minded people
- Dance
- Free to explore connections with nature
- Meaningfulness
- Opportunity to experience connection with Nature, and take our experience into the world
- LUCKY!
- Grateful to just go BE in the ecovillage, even if not on a course.
- Wish I were still there
- Green inside me, growing.
- My 4 years at Findhorn were very important in my life.
- It was a time of working to embody my best, in the furthering of a non-personal plan, within the body of 250+ other generally equally committed individuals.
- I experienced multiple instances of manifestation without which I could not have been there.
- I could probably talk for hours about the impact I came away with.
- Guess I want to stress it was extremely experiential.
- I did one workshop in my time there and it was the Game of LIfe which I participated in because in the decade before I had participated with the group/founder who developed Dungeons and Dragons, and I wanted to compare Game of Life with what I knew about role playing scenarios.
- The FF is revered for its profound spiritual influence, fostering personal and communal evolution. It embodies collaboration, connecting people, spirit, and the Scottish land in a harmonious flow.
- Business background leading to appreciation of collectivism.
● Gap year discovery leading to long-term stay.
● View of the foundation as a gift to the world in need.
● Finding a tribe and seeking meaning.
● The 3 principles in my life, forever grateful
● A beacon of light with many ongoing threads.
● Recognition of the foundation as a seed bed for initiatives.
● Foundation described metaphorically as containing potential ("dragon's eggs").
● Changed lives through collaboration and working towards a better world.
● Emphasis on self-confidence, expression, reflection, and cooperation.
● The foundation as a life-changing force and container for contemplation.
● Opened doors for deeper insights and purpose.
● Investment of Life Force Life-changing Life work relationships
● Opened a door to deeper exploration Opened a door to serve
● Living in community and common vision Living, working in spirit in community
● Bringing spirituality to everyday life Time for inner outer exploration
● Trusting a deeper something to give
● Self-reflection, cooperation, deepening my spiritual life
● Bringing joy to me & others
● Dance the songs
● Empowerment & Joy:
● Encouragement of community and individual growth
● Overcoming mental chaos
● Development, growth, outcomes, contentment
● Experiencing joy, inspiration, energy, simplicity, others
● Be of service to community
● Be present for existing community members
● No hierarchy, no structure
● Provide a landing pad for magic and experience from outside
● Work to build that way
● Not another networking convergence than work
● Provide a place for life, work, relationships
● It was the best of times
● It was the worst of times
● Investment of Life Force
● Life-changing
● Life work relationships
● Opened a door to deeper exploration Opened a door to serve
● Living in community and common vision
● Living, working in spirit in community
● Bringing spirituality to everyday life
● Time for inner outer exploration
● Parts of world in trouble People don't know how to meet with transformation
● Plant the mystical seeds of Findhorn in these places
● Unity, transformation, Eileen’s messages To go out, not to be kept here
● Mix of frustration and hope.
● Aspirational and spiritually focused.
● Impactful in doing good for the world.
● Reasons for coming to the foundation: Business background leading to appreciation of collectivism.
● Learnt to love my work
● Gap year discovery leading to long-term stay.
● View of the foundation as a gift to the world in need.
● Importance of the foundation beyond organisational structure.
● Lifestyle and serendipitous meetings valued over structure.
● Impact of living values in everyday life.
● The participants collectively underscored FF’s profound spiritual and educational impact, its foundational role in personal and community growth, and the evolving dynamics of its relationship with the broader Findhorn community.
• Mix of appreciation for its historical contributions and a keenness for adaptive changes to meet future challenges.
• the Foundation's spiritual aspirations and its role in fostering hope and global goodness
• Enter into spiritual life
• Act of service
• Global network
• Light in the world
• Act of service in community
• A core part of my life
• Hope, Transformation, Growth, Sweet, Energy.
• Good + Experimental.
• Standard "Fishbowl style" - it's where I am real, I am a member, bonding.
• FF is central to the health of the community - it can be the voice of the inner world to the outer world.
• FF as a doorway in or out to the happening now - don't see it happening now - hope it will be that again - hope to not be a real estate agent.
• Representing.
• Belonging
• I feel I belong to the FF more than my church 3000 miles away.
• FF is an integral part of my life, I hope my (our) FF becomes an integral part of the community.
• Experience with this still small voice saying you who Listen up
• Nature is calling Nature's calling and You have a message to tell the world findhorn.
• to find findhorn in your hearts
• Co creation with nature
• Talking about spirituality was embedded within the organisation
• offered a place where people could follow various spiritual impulses
• Go along their own path
• Belonging
● Meeting like minded souls
● Making lifelong friends
● They could come here to connect to the place and see what this was
● connect to their own area of Interests
● It introduces the idea that everything has Consciousness and we can be in relation with it.
● The Heritage of the place is the impulse for the highest good, or a better way to be more in harmony.
● Historically that impulse has felt very pure
● You can feel it here Uh in this fact that Went on to this idea that maybe part of the reason why the foundation is Meaningful In general.
● Get the fact that is offered the space of spiritual learning to be explored as part of the fabric of life,daily life of living in community
● Spirituality Was Embodied
● It offered a place where people could follow various spiritual impulses & directions.
● "Everything has consciousness & we can be in relation with it."
● A heritage is...The impulse for the highest good / a better unity to be more in harmony. Historically that impulse has felt very pure.
● Its legacy soaked into the land is meaningful.
● The FF’s role in creating a welcoming and supportive environment where different spiritual paths are respected.
● Connection to a deeper wisdom
● People going out into the world with their lives changed.
● "Got inspired to serve the world from/in another country/at home."
● FF Is a portal Portal is where spirit and matter interact.
● Magic of gardens, transformation of consciousness, human / spirit integration.
● FF founders created a portal through service to higher conc. Magnetic
● F unique - no dogma. 3 pillars.
● Community full of heart,
● FF is like a sweat lodge fire keeper.
• F is a still point in the vesica pisces of spirit and matter,
• maintaining the flame.
• Learning to practise a spiritual awareness
• FF global consciousness. Global membership.
• Findhorn embodies spiritual connection, yet represent Findhorn in the UN as holistic model of
• community living.
• F a flickering lighthouse. Magic still exists. Seed of an ecological civilisation
• Spiritual school, anchor for soul incarnation. Stay open to the presence of love and creativity.
• Spiritual anchor, Eileen's guidance founded on a rock.
• Findhorn is a beacon of light and hope
• Transformation, the three principles
• Coherence in the field is important.
• Spiritual community, unity in diversity, acceptance,
• silent sharing - a practice sits beneath the practice
• A unifying, coherent field,
• The presence of love is transformative, affirming human nobility
• A new framework of nourishment can replace power and control.
• Internationalism, common ground, values-driven
• Findhorn’s spiritual anchor is unique in the world.
• Group meditation supporting the lived experience of spirit in daily life
• Call recognise the allies, the subtle worlds, it's not only humans.
• There are many deep practices to connect and dialogue with the subtle realms
• Create a heart-space for the subtle realms
• Exploring the mysteries of creation
• There is power in conscious engagement.
• Findhorn incarnated for a reason and still has a purpose of translating spirit into daily life.
• Appreciate what Findhorn opened in me - a living, grounded spirituality,
Accepting inner guidance, daily spiritual practice and its harmonious expression in community.

Life mirrors our challenges and Findhorn created an environment for their resolution.

Group discovery enabled psychological and spiritual processing.

Daily attunement in work groups, great meaning in small actions.

Love without fear - the practice of Council, sharing fully, courageously, inclusive of both light and dark.

FF has an educational impulse.

The world needs the Findhorn Foundation more than ever.

Guiding lights and tried and tested models of new governance, infrastructure, ethos etc. The Findhorn Foundation, and all the ecovillages were always meant to be prototypes for finding new ways of living on the land and with each other.

What if all the hard work of so many years and souls was to prepare you for what is needed right now?

Findhorn is so important, the energy of the foundation is always with me.

Peace and community, needed in a world full of separation. It is the solution to conflict resolution. So there needs to be an example of that working in reality.

It was the first time that I experienced Community so fully. I met people for whom love, mindfulness, co-creation with Nature was key and who actually lived that life as best they were able. I met people and was guided and taught by them, who were as in love with life as I was. I was met by those who met a part of me that no-one ever really had - except in books.