

green
care

programme

Prospectus

2024
2025

camphill
village
trust



A LIFE OF OPPORTUNITY
EST.1954



“ I find animals fascinating... we give the animals food and fresh water and fresh bedding – we check them and make sure they are alright and care for them if they are not well. I also really like working with Pepsi (Shetland pony). I feel a lot happier since I’ve been coming here – working with animals is very therapeutic. ”

Kieran, Animal Care and Husbandry



At Camphill Village Trust, we’re passionate about the power of nature. We have seen first-hand the incredible impact that connecting to the world around us can have on health, confidence, and wellbeing.

That’s why we’ve developed a pioneering new Green Care Programme that offers work and skills-based opportunities across our urban and rural communities.

From therapeutic gardening and horticulture to animal care and nature crafts, Green Care can play a vital role in helping people with learning and other disabilities to lead a more fulfilled, healthier, and happier life.



What opportunities are in the Green Care Programme at Camphill Village Trust?



We have a range of indoor and outdoor day activities for people with a learning disability, autism, or mental health challenges. They are designed to enhance purpose, increase skills, and help people reconnect to nature.

Our communities have working social farms, gardens, and other natural spaces. We have indoor enterprises such as shops, cafes, bakeries, cheese-making, woodworking, and a printing press that enable us to offer an array of meaningful Green Care activities. Expression and creativity are also important for wellbeing. Many of our communities have purpose-built buildings where we deliver a range of creative arts, such as music, crafts, and drama as part of our Green Care Programme.

We also recognise the importance of improving wellbeing by connecting to nature. This ethos runs throughout our Green Care - from being able to actively work outside in our social farms and gardens, to participating in indoor nature-based art and crafts, where we work with natural materials or celebrate the changing seasons and landscapes. Health and nutrition are also an important part of our offer. The people we support are enabled to work with food 'from field to fork' - from planting and harvesting to processing and baking - right through to customer-facing opportunities such as serving food in our cafes and working in our shops.



What are the benefits of Green Care?



Green Care can help with physical and mental health, social connection, learning and skills development, and lessen reliance on health and social care services in the future.

It's holistic and person-centred. Everyone we support at Camphill Village Trust is an individual with different abilities and everything we do is about enabling their unique potential. So every experience and every impact are different, but common benefits include:

- ✓ Increased self-advocacy, agency, and independence.
- ✓ Increased confidence and self-esteem.
- ✓ Increased inclusion and social connection.
- ✓ Increased sense of purpose, meaning and value.
- ✓ Increased life and/or vocational skills.
- ✓ Improved health and wellbeing.



Our Green Care activities

We're uniquely positioned to be able to offer a wide range of Green Care Opportunities across our sites.

Our communities have working social farms, gardens, and other natural spaces. We have indoor enterprises like shops, cafes, bakeries, cheese-making, woodworking and a printing press. Many of our sites also have purpose-built buildings where we deliver a range of creative arts, such as music, crafts, and drama, taking inspiration from the natural world around us.

Health and nutrition are an important part of our offer. The people we support can work with food 'from field to fork' – from planting and harvesting, to processing and baking – right through to serving food in our cafés and working in our shops.

These are the types of activities we offer:



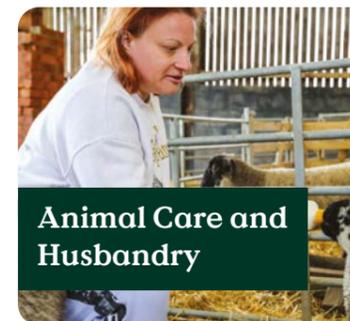
Growing and Horticulture

Such as planting seeds, growing vegetables and other plants, maintaining gardens, harvesting produce.



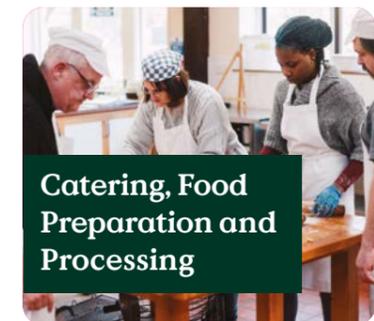
Creative Arts for Wellbeing

Including music and drama.



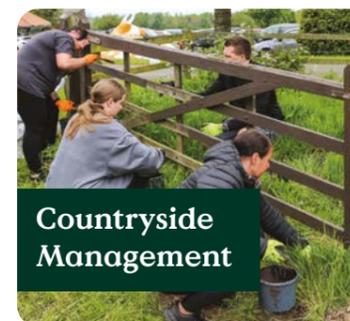
Animal Care and Husbandry

Feeding animals, grooming and care, collecting eggs, working with livestock.



Catering, Food Preparation and Processing

Preparing fruit and vegetables, jam and chutney making, baking, preparing produce.



Countryside Management

Tree and hedge work, maintenance of greenspaces, working with equipment and machinery.



Retail and Customer Service

Working in the shop or café serving customers or working behind the scenes.



Nature-based Arts and Crafts

Woodwork, pottery, willow weaving and working with natural fibres.

Read on to explore our activities at each location in more detail and find out how to get involved.

What our communities think about Green Care activities



Growing and Horticulture

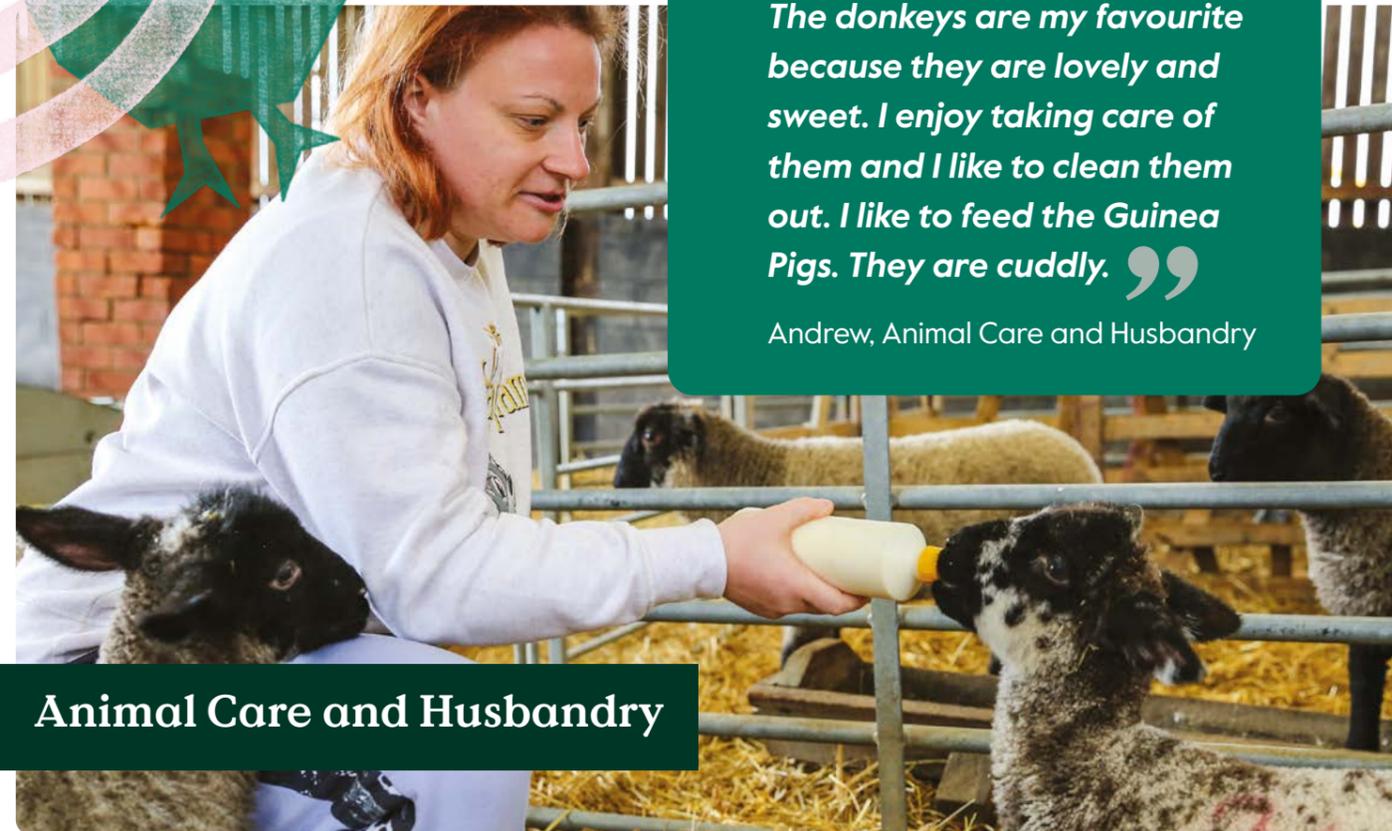
“ I enjoy feeding the chickens, planting and filling pots with compost. I like growing sunflowers and I water things we have planted. I like harvesting pumpkins and I learnt to lift things safely by bending my knees. I have learnt what plants need and I’ve learnt which seeds are which. ”

Emily, Growing and Horticulture and Animal Care and Husbandry

Our communities feature a variety of farms and gardens, ranging from small to large scale, where we teach food growing and horticulture skills. We help individuals grow their own vegetables, fruits, herbs, plants, and flowers, primarily using organic gardening principles.

We offer supported gardening and structured courses that adopt a farm-to-fork approach, covering all aspects of food growing, such as preparing indoor and outdoor spaces, sowing seeds, garden maintenance, watering, pest and disease recognition, pruning, taking cuttings, and transplanting seedlings. We also harvest and utilize the produce in our cooking classes, for general sale, and for food production.

Our farms and gardens are designed to provide a safe space for engaging with nature’s healing elements. Through our horticulture programmes, we’ve observed improvements in memory, cognitive abilities, physical rehabilitation, coordination, socialization skills, problem-solving, and self-esteem.



Animal Care and Husbandry

“ I enjoy working with the animals because they make me happy. The donkeys are my favourite because they are lovely and sweet. I enjoy taking care of them and I like to clean them out. I like to feed the Guinea Pigs. They are cuddly. ”

Andrew, Animal Care and Husbandry

We manage extensive agricultural land that serves a variety of purposes, from growing crops and feeding livestock to providing habitat for wildlife and pollinators, whilst using a farm-to-fork approach. We blend traditional and organic farming methods with group activities, enhancing social skills and connecting to nature. This allows our communities to take pride in contributing to the beauty and sustainability of their surroundings while growing food with a known provenance.

“ I feel a lot happier actually since I’ve been coming here – working with animals is very therapeutic. I also really like seeing Poppy (the dog), she’s really nice and she knows she’s the queen around here! ”

Kieran, Animal Care and Husbandry

On our farms, we facilitate activities using an individual yet holistic approach. These activities may include practical animal husbandry, witnessing animal births, harvesting and making feed for the winter months, maintaining hedges, fences, walls, gates, trees, and grass cutting. Participants gain hands-on experience in various aspects of farm management, promoting a deep understanding and respect for agricultural practices.

Caring for animals and working on the land is incredibly rewarding, boosting confidence and providing a sense of purpose. Through interaction with animals, individuals develop skills such as patience, sensitivity, and empathy. Engaging in outdoor, land-based activities promotes physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing while helping maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Working with land and livestock throughout the year in all conditions creates a sense of achievement as participants navigate the changing environment. Each season brings new tasks, reflecting the farming year’s cycle.



Countryside Management

“ I’ve been in the Botton gardens about 6 months and I really enjoy my own allotment. I cut the grass today and enjoyed using the new compost bays to put the clippings. ”

Laura, Countryside Management

Our Countryside Management programme focuses on the practicalities of environmental sustainability, the management, maintenance, and conservation of habitats to support thriving wildlife. Participants will develop skills in plant and boundary maintenance while having the opportunity to use a variety of tools, equipment, and machinery.

Through hands-on activities, individuals will learn to care for natural landscapes, ensuring they remain healthy and vibrant. This programme highlights the importance of preserving biodiversity and promoting ecological balance. Participants will engage in tasks such as tree planting, hedge laying, and maintaining pathways and waterways, gaining a comprehensive understanding of countryside management practices.

Working in diverse outdoor environments, participants will also develop teamwork and problem-solving skills. By participating in these activities, individuals will experience the physical and emotional benefits of working in nature, from improved fitness to enhanced mental wellbeing.



Nature-based Arts and Crafts

“ I enjoy the calm of the pottery but sometimes it does get a bit rowdy! I like seeing pots being made and I look at other potteries when on holiday. I like making pie dishes and larger bowls using the pottery wheel, ‘cause it’s better for me to learn and get good at. People want stuff I’ve made. I’ll have to see about that won’t! ”

Richard, Nature-based Arts and Crafts

Nature-based arts and crafts are integral to our communities, offering activities for people of all ages and abilities. These projects include textiles, weaving, printmaking, ceramics, woodwork, and willow and cane weaving. We have extensive facilities such as a print studio, production pottery, and well-equipped craft workshops.

Group sessions foster social interaction and friendship development, while promoting independence and confidence through roles like making drinks and cleaning up.

Our nature-based crafts are inspired by the seasons and local nature, using materials like flowers for patterns and recycled items for new creations. These activities enhance fine motor skills, cognitive functioning, concentration, and focus. Participants gain a sense of pride and achievement by completing projects, which they can take home or sell within the Trust.



Creative Arts for Wellbeing

Our drama and music activities offer tremendous benefits for the people we support. Drama creates a safe space for self-expression and communication, enabling individuals to express their thoughts and feelings through movement, gestures, and dialogue. This artistic form of expression builds self-confidence and self-esteem in a fun and vibrant environment. Participants can explore different roles and scenarios, enhancing their ability to empathise and understand diverse perspectives.

“ I really enjoy being part of Larchfield Community. I find craft work very therapeutic and this helps with my anxiety. ”

Lucy, Creative Arts

Music plays a crucial role in developing communication and social skills, addressing sensory issues, and improving behaviour and cognitive functions. It promotes self-reliance through structured activities and collaborative efforts. Whether through playing instruments, singing, or participating in group performances, individuals experience joy and a sense of accomplishment. Music therapy techniques are integrated to help with emotional regulation and stress reduction.

Additionally, our mindfulness practices, conducted in a beautifully green and natural setting, significantly benefit individuals emotional awareness and overall wellbeing. These practices help participants understand and manage their emotions, reduce anxiety, and improve concentration. Engaging with nature during mindfulness sessions enhances the therapeutic effect, creating a serene atmosphere conducive to mental and emotional healing. Through these activities, we aim to support holistic development and enrich the lives of the people we support.



Catering, Food Preparation and Processing

Based on ‘farm to fork’ principles, participants in this programme will develop skills in preparing freshly harvested food, baking, cooking, blending, and producing foodstuffs for various customers. This could include making jams and chutneys for sale in our stores, baking cakes for our cafes, or preparing a buffet for visitors to enjoy.

“ I like to get involved in all aspects of cooking. I like to follow recipes to make my dishes. I have learnt so many skills and I would like to go further with my cooking. I love being able to take my food home with me. ”

Amy, Catering, Food Preparation and Processing

Everyone in this programme will be supported to achieve a Level 1 Food Hygiene certification, with opportunities to progress to Levels 2 and 3. Additional accredited qualifications in food production will be available for those who wish to further their expertise. Participants will gain hands-on experience in meal planning, ingredient sourcing, and food safety practices.

Working in our well-equipped kitchens, individuals will learn to prepare a variety of dishes, mastering essential culinary skills while understanding the importance of nutrition and food quality. Our comprehensive approach encourages teamwork and communication skills, as participants collaborate in a dynamic kitchen environment, enhancing their ability to work efficiently with others and solve problems.

Through this programme, we aim to equip individuals with the skills and knowledge to gain a deeper appreciation of and for healthy and creative cooking. Our catering, food preparation, and processing activities offer a fulfilling and enriching experience.



Retail and Customer Service

“ I work in Taurus Crafts, doing the gift shop and zero waste shop. I love working there because I get to learn new things every day. ”

Harriet, Retail and Customer Service

Our social enterprises provide the people we support with valuable opportunities to develop skills and gain experience in a functioning business. Our public cafes and shops serve as learning environments where individuals can practice customer service skills with the public, or work within the business delivery team to prepare orders, manage stock, and maintain a clean, tidy, and customer-ready venue.

These roles cater to a range of needs, from building confidence in a safe and supported environment to offering learning opportunities that serve as stepping stones to voluntary or paid roles elsewhere. Participants gain hands-on experience in a real-world setting, which helps them develop practical skills and self-assurance.

For those interested in formal accreditation, we offer the opportunity to pursue qualifications in Customer Service. Everyone in this programme is encouraged to challenge themselves by learning new skills and undertaking a variety of tasks in retail and hospitality settings. This comprehensive approach ensures that participants are well prepared for future employment opportunities and personal growth.



I'm interested. How do I apply?

Enquire: Contact us by email (greencare@cvt.org.uk) or telephone your local community direct on the number opposite.

Visit: We will send you an application form and invite you for a visit.

Trial: You will be invited for a free taster session to see if you enjoy your time with us.

Induction: Following the taster session, we will complete an assessment.

Participation: If the trial is a success, you will be invited to enjoy your chosen activities.

Outcomes: outcomes, goals and aspirations can be viewed on our website

www.camphillvillagetrust.org.uk/support/green-care-programme/

Referrals to our communities



Anyone can make a referral to us, it could be yourself a carer, family member, friend or neighbour. We also encourage social prescribing by GPs, mental health services, community nurses and other health and social care professionals.

Our free trial days are a fantastic opportunity for potential new starters and those involved in their care, to discover the types of activities on offer, meet the team and see if they would like to return. Trial days also give our team a chance to get to know the individual and assess their strengths, interests, and goals – and how we can support them. We'll talk about things like personal care, communication needs, and medical history too.



Want to find out more?

If you've got questions about our Green Care Opportunities or want to find out more about Camphill Village Trust we'd love to hear from you: for more information simply drop us an email at greencare@cvt.org.uk or call 01653 228322.

Contact Us

Botton Village: 01287 661390
Croft: 01653 602721
Delrow 01923 856006
Grange Village: 01594 516246
Larchfield 01642 579800
Oaklands Park..... 01594 516246
St Albans..... 01727 894829
Stourbridge Community 01384 441505
Taurus Crafts (Sevenside Skills)..... 01594 844841

Where will they take place?

Green Care activities are available at all our rural and urban locations:

1. LARCHFIELD COMMUNITY, MIDDLESBROUGH
2. BOTTON VILLAGE, DANBY
3. CROFT COMMUNITY, MALTON
4. STOURBRIDGE
5. GRANGE VILLAGE, NEWNHAM
6. OAKLANDS PARK, NEWNHAM
7. ST ALBANS COMMUNITY
8. DELROW COMMUNITY, WATFORD
9. TAURUS CRAFTS, LYDNEY

All activities are open to residents at our Trust communities and available as opportunities on referral to those living in the wider community.



We are a national charity and not-for-profit organisation with 70 years of experience, knowledge and passion for supporting people with learning disabilities, autism, mental health challenges and complex needs. Our sites include smaller scale, semi-urban gardens through to large, rural commercial farms and a variety of urban settings throughout England. We provide supported living to over 400 people and deliver over 1,500 green care opportunities per week from our nine communities and services.

How do I find activities in a community near me?



Locations/ Activities:

	Botton Village	Croft	Delrow	Grange Village	Larchfield	Oaklands Park	St Albans	Stourbridge (Severnside Skills)	Taurus Crafts
Growing and Horticulture	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Animal Care and Husbandry	✓				✓	✓			✓
Countryside Management	✓					✓			
Nature-based Arts and Crafts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Creative Arts for Wellbeing			✓						
Catering, Food Preparation and Processing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Retail and Customer Service	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓



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Find out more

For more information simply drop us
an email at green@cvt.org.uk

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