



The Threshold Centre

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Welcome

Welcome to your winter newsletter. We have just a few items to keep you in touch with what is happening here at Threshold. We have had a good few months, it has been relatively quiet. We are still talking about how we might use sociocracy in the future. Roz is doing work on her house The Byre. She has managed to choose builders who are only causing minor disruption to us so she picked well. We have hosted another co-housing course that went very well with good numbers and we have had quite a few visitors staying. It is nice to see the farmhouse well used.

Happy New Year from all of us at Threshold!

Winter Solstice Festivities

Winter Solstice is an important time of year for us here at Threshold. Not only to mark the changing of the season and the rebirth of the Sun but a time when we throw aside responsibility and work commitments and have fun together! And having fun is something we do well here at Threshold!

A winter storm meant that only the hardy few made the trek to Stonehenge this year. The rest of us stayed in bed and listened to the howling wind and rain from the comfort of our houses. Well done to John, Kate, Bill, Charles, Rozzie and Tarin who made the journey and represented us in the stones for the sunrise.

Later that day, and to mark to the point of the Solstice, we gathered in the meditation room and ommed then lit a celebratory firework on the Solstice cake (health and safety looked somewhat concerned at this!), read out solstice thoughts and meditations then danced a Solstice dance. It

was a joyful way to celebrate the moment and to share as a community.

We reconvened later for the annual Secret Santa event and to share a yummy dinner which was cooked by everyone. There were too many gorgeous treats to mention them all so thanks to everyone who contributed to making it a great night.

The next few days saw everyone going their separate ways to various family get-togethers leaving a few of us in the peace and tranquillity of a nearly empty Threshold – a rare thing!

This left space for some of us to take part in the annual Threshold Christmas muck spread - a tradition which is gathering popularity for those of us that choose to do something a bit different on the big day - it's great fun!

Even Santa put in an appearance this year - on the roof of Fox's Holt - we're not sure if he comes as part of the sale of the house as yet!

Tina

Fox's Holt – 3 bed property for sale - £152,000

Situated in the Heritage Wing Fox's Holt will appeal to those who prefer a country cottage feel.

A small courtyard, shaded by a wild apple tree, leads to front door which opens into an open plan living and kitchen area featuring a modern wood burning stove and complemented by wooden floors and rustic look doors. Three bedrooms are split across two floors.

Go to our website for full details or contact Amanda & Peter to arrange viewing on 01747 835633.



Garden news

The big news is we had all our trees pruned, pollarded and thinned! We have a lot of trees around the car park and the village green, which have never been pruned since we all moved in. Some had got really tall and potentially dangerous, or were blocking the light. Others were simply too crowded. We arranged that on the Gardening Weekend in October, we would pay a tree surgeon to come in and do the clever stuff, while the rest of us dragged, piled, sawed, lopped and chipped (we hired a chipper) – and later had a bonfire. It was a great success, thanks to all our helpers (you know who you are!!), and it's so light and open now when you arrive at the entrance, that you think you're pulling in to the wrong driveway! The pollarded willow in the middle of the village green took a bit of getting used to, but it did badly need a haircut.

Meanwhile, back on the veg patch, we had a great harvest, and did lots of freezing of peas and beans (mostly by our visitors on the Friends Weekend in September) and beetroot which is now stored in boxes of sawdust. Garlic and onions were plaited and hung on Gay's antique butcher's bicycle in the polytunnel. We have lots of free fresh organic veg for us all to eat. Now most of the empty beds have been cleared and covered with a lovely layer of horse manure, delivered in a great steaming pile from the local farm – though we have instructions to leave a bit for some of our residents to barrow on Christmas Day.....don't ask!!

Linda



Easter Retreat 18th - 20th April

This long weekend will provide an opportunity for shared activities and private reflection. It is designed for people who are on a spiritual path, but not aligned with a religious tradition, although people with a religious tradition will be very welcome too.

Participants will be involved with co-creating the programme with us, and people will be join in where they want, and have private time when they want.

The range of activities on offer include:

- Silent meditation
- Guided meditations
- Sharing favourite readings or poems
- Circle dance/ dances of universal peace
- Walks in nature
- Simple rituals to let go of the winter and welcome the spring
- Some activities with that symbol of spring – the egg!

The event will start with lunch on Good Friday and end after lunch on Easter Monday.

The non-residential cost is £100 which includes lunches and dinners.

Some B&B spaces are available at £25 per night, or we can suggest nearby B&B.

Please email us if you are interested.

November Co housing course

Folk literally descended on the Threshold Centre in November for our last Cohousing Course of the year. A contingent from the Camphill Communities flew in from Scotland (and elsewhere) together with members of OWCH (Older Women's Cohousing) from London and an individual also from Scotland. The weekend was co-led by Amanda and Stephen with a lot of dynamic interchange of ideas going on between all involved. We also had a great behind-the-scenes team providing teas, coffees and meals. For those concerned with air miles we have a carbon-offset tree-planting scheme in operation in our orchard.

Stephen

UPCOMING EVENTS

The courses and work weekends prove very popular, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Cohousing Workshops

The workshop provides an opportunity for individuals or groups to experience life in a cohousing community for a weekend, at the same time learning how to go about setting up a project. The cost of a weekend is £150 including lunch, tea/coffee; evening meals. Accommodation at the Threshold Centre/local B & B is £25/35 per night.

Feb. 14-16 June. 20-22

Nov. 14-16

Easter Retreat

An opportunity for shared activities and private reflection.

Apr. 18-20

Gardening/Work Weekends

A great opportunity to experience the cohousing lifestyle and to work with us and get to know us. You'll meet interesting like-minded people and have a fun weekend - it's not all work! Arrive in time for Friday supper if you can, otherwise early on Saturday.

Mar. 14-16 May. 16-18

Jul. 18-20

Afternoon teas for Visitors and Enquirers

These take place on the first Saturday of each month from 3.00 to 4.30 pm. An informal gathering with a chance to look round and meet the residents. Please let us know if you would like to come, and bring cakes to share.

Open Meditation

The first Tuesday of each month at 7.30. We offer meditation and visualisation techniques suitable for all levels of experience. There is no charge, but donations are welcome.



**GOODBYE
to Linda Day.
It was lovely
having you here -
good luck in
your new life!**

**The winter salad Michael planted is doing really well -
thanks Michael!**



Chickens

Well, our chicks are on the move again for those who wandered thru the night and thought they had been abducted by aliens, no wonder Ms Smith looks so spaced out most of the time!. They are now relocated in the blackberry area where they have successfully fertilised our last bumper crop, well done girls the same again this year please!

We continue to support their wellbeing, and as they are in a exposed area they will be getting their own shelter and a new biomass boiler! Just a reminder to all, egg production is good at the moment, so please check for eggs before you buy them in the supermarket. Ok, its slightly more expensive but the feed needs to be paid for and we appreciate your help. Thanks for the newspapers, Paprika says she's enjoying the Times crossword, she's having difficulty with a clue its ' its a Weatherspoons special on Tuesday' mmmm. its 7+4 letters down something 'tika'

The chicken group.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!

When I told a recent visitor how I had moved house within the community, she remarked she thought it was an amazing story, so I thought I'd share it with you all.

I was one of the first of the 'new' residents to move in when the build was finished, and I rented a small house from the Housing Association. I lived there happily for over 3 years, never really feeling a need to move or change my situation. However, during that time I had inherited a small amount of money, which had been sitting in a bank while I tried to decide how best to invest it (or spend it). It was not enough to buy a 'whole' house, but when Richard and Julie said they were leaving and their shared-ownership house was up for sale – well, the 40% of it they owned – it suddenly occurred to me that I could actually afford that! It's such a lovely house, 2 bedrooms, and away from the drive and all the traffic, and why not?

I moved in at the end of June, and here I am, 3 doors down! It is of course a much greater commitment than just renting, and I am really glad I had those 3 years in which to make sure Threshold is the right place for me.

Linda

**WELCOME!
To Stephen & Kate
who have moved into Sun
cottage and to Jon who has just
moved into the
farmhouse.**

Keep in touch

To sign up to our mailing list, please email the office at:

info@thresholdcentre.org.uk

To avoid disappointment, please phone before visiting.

We welcome visitors to our monthly

- Afternoon Tea
- Open Meditations
- Work and Gardening Weekends

and the various courses that are run here.

Please remember that this is also our home and we have busy lives, so turning up hoping to be hosted and shown round could end in disappointment - Thank you.

With best wishes from us all, Jane, Amanda, Peter, Susannah, Bill, Michael, Gay, Andrew, Linda, Ceri, Tina, Amanda B, John, Jamie, Rozzie, Stephen, Penny, Charles, Muriel, Jon, Stephen G and not forgetting Monty & Elsa our dogs & Flash & Eddy the cats.