

# Community Building in Britain Newsletter

Number 52

February/March 1997

*This Newsletter is issued by a growing association of people who are, in conjunction with the Foundation for Community Encouragement of the USA (FCE), committed to developing community building in Britain beyond that originally described in Dr. M. Scott Peck's book, 'The Different Drum'.*

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# From the Editor

## Mailing

You should receive, either with this newsletter or at about the same time, a mailing with more details about upcoming events and the General Meeting. As this mailing is being sent to all those who expressed an interest in Community Building in the last few years it will also include an invitation to subscribe to the newsletter - I am hoping to increase the circulation to over 200 this year. Although it is not relevant to you I am sending this to existing subscribers, as I thought you would like to see the whole mailing.

May I offer an especial thanks to those who have helped with the mailing, and ask you to give me any feedback about how we can improve what you receive?

## General Meeting

Do book early for the General Meeting, as I have heard quite a few saying they intend to go. Plans seem to be well in hand, and I look forward to seeing you there. I have also heard from some for whom such an event does not seem appropriate at this time. Do feel free to pass on any of your views through this newsletter.

## Training Group

There is a note in this newsletter from the Leader Training Group about their desire to open the group to others. There are also the notes from their latest meeting, which give a good flavour of the issues they struggle with. However I do want to raise an issue about it because I am a little confused.

As I understand it this group have been called various things at various times by various people including the Leader Group, Facilitators' Training Group, Leader Training Group, and just the Training Group. I think that part of the confusion stems from whether 'Leader' is felt to mean 'Facilitator in a public event', 'Leader of CBiB', or 'someone keen to help build community wherever they are'. I understand that the 'Leader Education Program (LEP)' is used as a basis for training facilitators for public events, but it is actually

intended to be of much wider relevance than this.

Public events and everyday life seem to be different contexts that need different (but related) approaches. Many of us want to, and can, learn to 'lead' people into community in different contexts, although few of us might want to do it in a public event. Is the LEP and the Leader training group relevant to us?

## Other developments

This same issue seems to be being addressed in a number of other places as well, including the Ongoing Learning group (or might it now be 'Tender Shoots?') and NGCB (a forum on the internet for discussing 'Next Generation Community Building'). There is something from the former in this edition, and I hope to include some of the conversations from NGCB in a later edition.

Perhaps this is something that will be addressed further in the General Meeting?

## International contacts

I have been contacted by a few people via my internet Web page (that is mostly about Community Building). Fredrik Ivarsson lives in Göteborg Sweden, and would like to get in contact with anyone else interested in Community Building in Sweden.

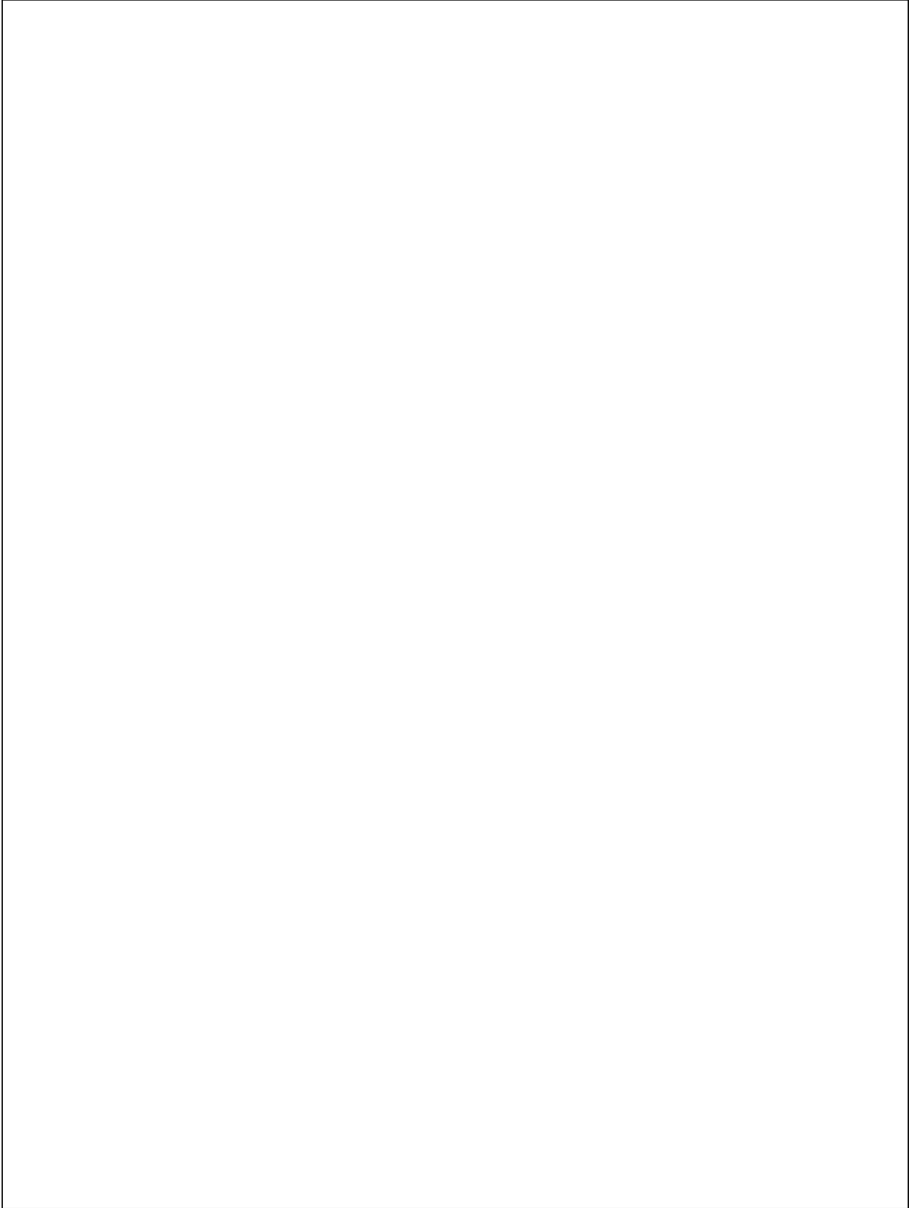
I have also heard from Roy about an event held in February in South Africa.

## Special edition

Do not forget that the next edition is one where we have a special opportunity to address how Community Building principles and practices apply in personal relationships, particularly very close ones. If you have any views or experiences on this that you would like to share do please let me or Armando know before 14th April.

## Feedback

Finally thank you to everyone who has renewed their subscription already, and for your comments. I look forward to hearing from all of you soon, and I do want to learn  
*Peter Cooper (details on back page)*



Note that the General Meeting is only for people who have already attended a CBE or CBW.

In America there is a Community Building in Organizations Conference in May, and a Community Building Skills Seminar (CBSS) in June.



## **Community is**

Community is inclusive.

Community is reflective and contemplative.

Community is realistic and multidimensional.

Community facilitates healing once it's members stop fixing or trying to heal each other.

Community members can fight gracefully.

Community deals with difficult issues.

Community encourages tolerance for ambiguity and paradox.

Community requires authentic communications and relating with respect.

Community is a group of leaders: each person is responsible for the health and success of the group.

Community celebrates a wide range of talents and gifts.

Community is the ideal consensual decision-making body.

Anthony Kirke, Cliff Jordan and Ruth Goffe met in Malvern 15-17 February.

### **NEWS FROM CB EVENTS/EVENT SUPPORT**

*Monkton Wyld, Dorset* CBE successfully took place. They propose another event same time next year.

*Braziers, Oxon* 3-5 May: CBW specifically focussed on community building for ongoing communities.

*London*: a group has formed to arrange a CBW 30 May-1 June. Ruth to be HG link.

*Leamington* CBE 21/22 June: venue booked.

*General Meeting, Sheffield* Thurs eve 26/Sun aft 29 June: flier nearly ready.

*Cardiff* 4-6 July: CBW for local church community, and others are welcome. Peter Laxton has offer of financial support for this event subject to condition we may have difficulty with: Anthony to negotiate further.

*Hothorpe Hall, Market Harborough*, CBW for church-going christians: provisional dates, not yet confirmed (September likely, December less likely).

We wish to find time to look at how well our system of supporting events is working; to review the pricing formula; to reflect on patterns emerging.

**ONGOING LEARNING GROUP** due to meet weekend of 1 March in Buxton. Holding Group wish them well.

**FINANCE** Erica has sent us the accounts for 1996. We very much appreciate her work in producing them. We spent time comparing 1996 with 1995; noticed that apparent similarities are quite superficial. Noticed that a major expense was supporting joint meetings at catering venues; if we planned further ahead we could probably get cheaper venues for these. Cliff to put summary of account in newsletter.

**LEADER TRAINING GROUP** Angelo has notes of latest meeting: [facilitators were discerned for several events; four people who have undergone “Leader Education Programme 1” in USA were invited for an afternoon; the issue of opening to new members was grappled with; individuals intend to write their concept of contract/expectations between LTG and its members, leading to draft contract for LTG/HG relationship; the group has invited Ruth and Cliff to attend future LTG meetings as members of HG].

**Holding Group**: We decided to keep to our planned HG meeting in the week previous to LTG April meeting, not to try to amalgamate our meeting into spare time at the LTG meeting.

**NETWORK SUPPORT** Noted the accumulation of funds in CBiB newsletter account. Mailshot intended for March, including a “mini-newsletter” generated by Peter Cooper which he is happy to pay for out of newsletter account; and a compilation leaflet for approaching events in place of individual event fliers; plus a flier for the general meeting. One all-purpose booking form. Anthony to liaise with Peter Cooper.

**Re advertisements in the CBiB newsletter**, we agreed to ask Peter Cooper to make very clear in his presentation that non-CBiB events are non-CBiB events.

**CHANGE UNLIMITED** Two participants in FCE's recent "Leader Education Programme 1" are advertising CB events in UK under this title; the way they have communicated their intentions has excited some strong feelings in CBiB. We recognised that communication from Change Unlimited (letters and phone conversations) is feedback we might learn from, if we can accept it. And this raised question - how much do CBiBers unwittingly express negative views outwards to others rather than sharing and attempting to resolve difficult feelings within our circles - eg frustrations, feelings of suppression. We want to do better. We also sense that it is possible that Change Unlimited's perception may be fallible and possibly attributes qualities/nature to CBiB it does not possess.

We would like Change Unlimited and CBiB to be mutually supportive but are concerned that this does not appear to be the case at present. So we wish (a) to encourage ongoing communication, and (b) to maintain clarity that this initiative is distinct and separate from CBiB events.

Another issue raised: *How far does CBiB allow/include the possibility of earning a living from CB?* (Recognise past desire/movement towards this.) At present this doesn't seem to be the case: how do we stretch to include it?

**CONSTITUTION** Cliff shared correspondence he has had with Richard Benzie. We then launched into lively discussions around this issue.

We will prepare clear proposals:

- Option 1:* to maintain the status quo (Ruth to write up a description of what the status quo is);
- Option 2:* To form a Ltd Company to carry out some of CBiB's functions (Cliff to work on this proposal, and draft constitution, and specific ideas about the relationship between CBiB and this company; financial/organisational costs of setting up and maintaining this company; the hoped-for advantages; possible drawbacks) and
- Option 3:* alternative courses of action/inaction, including alternative legal structures. Cliff to ask Richard if he can assist with all this.

We wish to satisfy ourselves about these issues in the holding group before presenting them to general meeting.

We imagine **limited company** would initially act purely as agency to carry out wishes of CBiB, and attempt to ensure this by choosing/trusting directors to be committed to process and decisions of CBiB. It would provide the entity that enters into financial contracts with event organisers and facilitators.

Very wary that it should not discourage or disempower anyone from contributing energy and responsibility to CBiB.

**MISSION STATEMENT IN COMMUNITY INSIGHTS BOOKLET** Cliff dissents from content of this and believes it can only be CBiB's mission statement as result of active conscious choice. He is confident that the issue will arise at general meeting if it is still real.

**HOW THE HOLDING GROUP HAS BEEN SINCE THE LAST NETWORK GATHERING**

**2+ YEARS AGO** Changes: At the beginning of this period we were a group of 13; for the last year there have been just 3. When we had 13 members we experienced rich and dense weekend meetings, dominated in early meetings by confusion over our role. Now we are 3 we have more ability to focus and attend closely to CBiB business. We do not feel either was right or wrong; we valued both ways of working. We compared our way of working to our perception that CB facilitation is a lot to do with allowing-to-emerge and containing; less acknowledgement is given to leadership roles of initiating, risk-taking and direction taking. Since the last general meeting, the holding group has tended towards the first rather than the second way of working. We are also well aware that each of us three remaining in the group are now carrying more responsibility.

**CBiB GENERAL MEETING** (Unstone, Sheffield, 27/29 June) We considered our relationship as the holding group with this meeting. *(THIS IS ONLY A SMALL PART OF WHAT WE HOPE WILL HAPPEN!!)*

*What does the holding group want from the general meeting?* We hope for:

- o new holding group members if it is to continue
- o feedback including criticism and approval of what we have done
- o attention given to a proposal for CBiB's Constitution

*What developments would we, as the holding group, like there to be energy for at the general meeting? (- amongst many other things)*

- o further opportunities for learning
- o developing support for event organisers
- o opening of Leader Training Group to new members
- o enhancing the network including future gatherings
- o looking at individuals making money out of CB while working with integrity and contained within CBiB

We are working on a *REPORT* of work in the holding group over the last two years for presentation at the general meeting.

We are keen that energy generated at the general meeting is sustained. As a result we propose

- o participants' interests and offers are included in the address list for all to see
- o a date and venue for a subsequent general meeting is set by this general meeting
- o we shall provisionally book two residential weekend venues for any large meetings the General Meeting might generate

**INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS TO HOLDING GROUP** In the event of the holding group continuing, we have thought about how to include new members. This is our ideal scheme:

- 1 a notice in the newsletter that the general meeting is the occasion to join the holding group (including some provision for those who cannot attend the general meeting)
- 2 at the general meeting participants are invited to identify where their energy/interest lies
- 3 a session within the general meeting will be convened for all who might wish to be in the holding group, or who have experience about it to share\**(note b)*
- 4 the group of those who are willing to serve in the holding group choose who are to be its members, with recourse to the main meeting to resolve any conflicts about this
- 5 before the end of the general meeting members of the new holding group identify themselves

Note (a) the existing holding group does not hold onto the power to decide who will be in the newly forming holding group

Note (b) we would like scheduling of the holding group formation session not to clash with other group formation sessions.

Having met regularly for day-long meetings, this was our first weekend meeting since our membership reduced to three a year ago. We had time to reflect and have unstructured exploration together. The last two sessions were given over to creating this record together.

*Ruth, Cliff and Anthony*

Contributions for the next newsletter are due by  
**14th April 1997.**

Especially welcome are any contributions on  
**community building and personal relationships.** They can be sent to the editor,  
or to Armando Magnino 21 Aylesford Street,  
Leamington Spa CV31 2AL  
tel h: 01926 337409; tel w: 01926 318028  
email: [armando@magicol.demon.co.uk](mailto:armando@magicol.demon.co.uk)

A group has formed to sponsor at least one CB event to take place in late May in Central London. This may become an ongoing group. If anyone is interested in organising the catering for the event or can offer

The Leader Training Group would like to be joined by some new members this year. This cannot be completely “open” since there is a maximum number of people the group can sensibly contain. All concerned will therefore need to work towards a form of decision about who the new members will be.

The first step will be to write to us, care of Chrissie Sugden, Glendarroch House, Ardrishaig, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA30 8HJ (if possible before 14th April 1997). The second will be to meet some of us at the General Meeting on 26/29th June. Following this there will be a process of decision-making which needs to respect the wishes of everyone involved. We trust that this will be as close as possible to a consensual process.

*Chrissie Sugden and Mike Roth*

# Subscription Renewal

To Peter Cooper  
Editor CBiB Newsletter  
1 Evergreen Close  
Woolmer Green  
Herts SG3 6JN

From .....

Post code .....

Tel: .....

Please renew my subscription to the CBiB newsletter until March 1998. I enclose a cheque payable to CBiB for £8 for each UK or European Union subscription (£12 for non-EU).

Cheques payable to 'CBiB' please.

Please use this space to add any comments or suggestions you would like to make about the newsletter, to notify a correction to your address, or any extra requirements. (If required, please add £5 for each copy of the Booklet on On-going Community, and £4 [£6 non-EU] for each extra newsletter to the same address.)

You can just send a cheque payable to CBiB, or use the attached form.

# Gift Subscriptions

To Peter Cooper  
Editor CBiB Newsletter  
1 Evergreen Close  
Woolmer Green  
Herts SG3 6JN

Please send gift subscriptions of the CBiB newsletter from March 1997 to March 1998 to the following people. I have added £8 for each UK or European Union subscription (£12 for non-EU) to my cheque.

Name and Address (1):-

Name and Address (2):-

"An organization is most unlikely to do the hard work of community maintenance unless it has a task above and beyond community itself - a task so important that ongoing community is required for its accomplishment. For this reason I am doubtful how long organizations with relatively minor tasks - support groups or church congregations, for instance - can sustain themselves in real community. Usually the task must be major and complex."

(from A World Waiting To Be Born  
by Dr M. Scott Peck

We met at Anybody's Barn. We were facilitated by Michael Jacobs and Ian Davidson.

I have listed consensus/action points under each agenda item for ease of reference. The rest of the report is almost verbatim *with my clarification in italics*.

We had 8 sessions together starting with Friday evening after our evening meal.

Friday evening was spent checking in, sharing our personal stories and in some cases our relationship with Community building.

## Agenda

The agenda we set for ourselves was as follows:

1) How do we respond to people who want to join the Facilitator's Training Group (FTG)?

- We had consensus about opening up the FTG to committed newcomers. This opening will happen after we review our individual and joint contracts within FTG.
- We would need to consider our criteria for membership and how our development & training process, not to mention our group process, would be affected by this decision.
- New members would need significant commitment including attending 3 meetings a year.
- We have the right and duty to say no to people.
- We will inform the next newsletter about our decision and invite people in CBiB to apply. We would seek to meet with applicants at the June GM, consider applications at our September meeting and assuming progress with our internal FTG contracts, invite new members in time for our January 1998 meeting.
- Anthony would invite Cliff Jordan and Ruth Goffe to April's FTG meeting as members of the Holding Group.

2) What is this group for/about?

- CBiB entrusts to us the task of discerning facilitators for CBiB events
  - The facilitators discerned by FTG have our support
  - To be discerned, facilitators need to be physically present at the FTG meeting, or in mitigating circumstances when they are not, need to clearly communicate their availability for discernment.
  - The FTG have 4 facilitators who could be called upon as backup at short notice; Michael Jacobs, Anne Monger, Sharon Usher and Colin Harrison.
  - Our structure and process have refined readiness for facilitation of CBiB events.
  - The Leader Education programme (LEP) does not confer automatic readiness to facilitate CBiB events.
  - We now have the skill, experience and readiness to create our own learning programme based upon our learning over 3 years.
  - We're seeking confirm membership of FTG members for the April 18th to 20th meeting. We will be bringing our individual and joint draft contracts for consensus. Two questions we have: (a) What do I commit to/what do I not commit to in the FTG? (b) What do I expect/not expect from the FTG?
  - I will send copies of these minutes to all members of the FTG who haven't yet clearly withdrawn.
- 3) Feedback - how, when, who? Or working & learning together.
- This process continued throughout the weekend.
- 4) Relationship between the Holding Group and the FTG - contract, share space?
- The FTG has no contractual responsibility

to FCE.

- The FTG's relationship with CBiB (Holding Group) needs to be looked at again and re-contracted if appropriate.
- 5) Upcoming workshops/discernment.
- 7-9 Feb. CBE at Monkton Wylde - Mike Roth and Anne Rutherford facilitated
  - 18-20 Apr. - FTG at Haywards Hall - Chrissie and Sharon facilitating.
  - 3-5 May - CBW at Braziers Oxon - "Towards ongoing community" - facilitated by Michael Jacobs, Anne Rutherford, Chrissie. Angelo interns. Backup facilitators - Colin and Anne Monger.
  - 21-22 Jun - CBE at Leamington - Mike R, Chrissie and Tracey to facilitate. Colin and Anne R. as backup.
  - 27-29 Jun - CBiB GM at Unstone Grange - Gerri, Ian and Angelo to facilitate.
- 6) General meeting
- It was agreed that the facilitators would not have to pay for their attendance.
  - The GM would be facilitated for 3 days - 27th to the 29th. The first whole day (Friday) would be optional. The last two would require a commitment to attend.
- 7) Planning our learning/training.
- Mike Roth (& Anne Rutherford?) will make a presentation of the Client centred consulting methodology to the group.
  - Angelo will at his next FTG meeting present the bare bones of the BBC's "Breakthrough" facilitation approach.
- 8) Meeting with some of the new crop of US trained facilitators
- Mike Roth made a stout defence of CBiB - copies may be available from him for £0.50p.

## Saturday 1st am session

We followed our agenda in a way that followed the spirit of the Group. Item 1) & 2) on the agenda were live for us.

"Don't know where I am with CBiB. Not worried about it. I don't yet know how much I know (*about living the*

*community building process*)"

- "I'm open to new members with their freshness and enthusiasm"
- "Wanting joint meetings with the Holding Group, others interested in a training commitment"
- "Feeling a pull to be in the FTG - a feeling of something emerging"
- "Like to open the group to US trainees and to the wider network but aware that this opening would affect whatever level of honesty we have already reached in the group"
- "Clarification that our invitation to the US trainee to come and visit was not an invitation to join the FTG"
- "Alienation, isolation from FTG, a feeling of not belonging, isolation existing within the group"
- "Upset at the last sentiment - seeking clarification from the earlier speaker - does the not belonging belong to CBiB or to FTG or both"
- "What is this group about, what are we for, what do I belong to?"
- "Group felt like a lumpy jigsaw piece trying to fit into a larger pattern - an illusion that FTG is a safe place, a haven, a refuge - FTG also feels precious and is safe"
- "Fearing stuckness within FTG"
- "The danger in community building process - feels like being tricked for 3 years, the potential to damage each other"
- "Being fuzzy in the group - feeling conned - not sure about CBiB and FTG"
- "Unrealistic expectations from CBiB and FTG"
- "Feeling of relief that the dream crashed. Now to deal with the pieces. Now to walk the earth after 3 years".
- "Isolation between FTG meetings - terrified of reaching out - who belongs where?"
- "Acknowledgement of friendship, belonging, good work done, integrity"
- "Acknowledgement that we all know more than we think we do - we've gathered at this FTG because of the goodness & knowledge we have"

## **Saturday 2nd am session**

Items 1) and 2) were still live.

Michael Jacobs feedback to the group about the distinction to be drawn between belonging to a working group and belonging to personal relationships within the group. *That not having a close and intimate relationship with each and all was not an impediment to having a fruitful working relationship.*

We struggle to have conversations with each other in the circle - the pattern is one of "one says", "second says", "third says"... so that when someone responds with feeling to another there is sometimes a level of discomfort within the group. Statements are made in isolation excluding feeling responses ... the model doesn't encourage conversation yet the model allows statements of depth and intimacy that don't need a conversational response.

Cliff Jordan's question of "What can CBiB offer outside of workshops?" was aired.

How do we go about opening out the membership of the FTG? Do LEP graduates automatically join the FTG? Would arriving at a consensus about LEP graduates need the physical presence of all FTG members? What about others known in the CBiB network?

## **Saturday 1st pm session**

We were joined by Nicky Ratcliffe, Jean Handley, Peter Cartwright and Alex Sharrat who shared with us their experiences of the US level 1 Leader Education programme. Nicky and Jean were clear about not wanting to join the FTG and of their desire to work in schools in the UK and abroad. Alex was interested in working collaboratively with the FTG/CBIB to develop another UK Leader Education programme. Peter Cartwright was interested in carrying his learnings in his life and expressed an interest in joining the FTG.

## **Saturday 2nd pm session**

Ian's rhetorical question to the group about there being some avoidance. Group's assertive denial. This illustrated the need for feedback to the group being couched in language that allowed a group to examine its truth and to fish out anything denied.

How do facilitators facilitate safety in a group? How can we demonstrate care and concern for participants?

Some discussion about facilitation for and generally about the General meeting. *The facilitation could start on the Thursday evening's welcome session.*

## **Sunday 1st am session**

List of basic requirements that the group needed - Barleycup, normal tea.

We are in the process of developing our own contracts with each other before opening the FTG to new members.

We examined the level of care and concern for ourselves within the FTG; about how far away we were from the ideal expressed in the Rabbi's Gift. We seemed to not be able to support each other adequately in a consistent way... yet we still exist after 3 years and the level of interaction between us seems to be slowly becoming more honest and straightforward. We acknowledged the duty element of care and concern within the FTG and that we have a long way to develop in expressing this.

Ruth and Cliff will attend April's FTG meeting in their Holding Group capacity. Should they leave the Holding Group, they would have to reapply to join the FTG if they wished to in their individual capacity.

## **Sunday 2nd am session**

Was spent largely in discernment.

The need for a clearer contract between the FTG and the Holding group was expressed.

## **Sunday 1st pm session**

Completing discernment, joking, laughter and closure.

*Angelo Faria*

# The one thing I can do

*(written after attending the Monkton Wyld CBE February 1997)*

The one thing I can do  
Is be me.

I do this without fault.  
I step on the tightrope of my being every day  
And cross the Niagara falls.

I sometimes am me  
without even trying.

The one thing I can do is  
Cry my tears  
Laugh my laughter  
Speak my words  
Dream my dreams  
Hope my hopes  
Blush my blushes  
The one thing I can do is  
Be afraid of what I fear  
Love what I love  
Cherish the things I cherish.

The one thing I can do is receive  
The tumultuous applause  
The wall of indifferent silence  
The catcalls, the jeers,  
The surprising, unsolicited and altogether welcome  
Acts of genuine acceptance  
Which occur when I am me.

The one thing I can do is be  
Nervous when I am nervous  
Angry when I am angry  
Despairing when I am in despair  
Happy when I am happy  
Sorry when I am sorry  
Thoughtful when I am thoughtful.

This my friend is the one thing I can do  
As I travel the adventure  
Of trying to reach out and touch  
You.

*Richard Benzie  
Flat 5, 167 Mornington Road  
Leytonstone, London E11 3EA  
Tel 0181 532 8417  
17th February 1997*

The 'Ongoing Learning Group' (I'm sure at some point we'll find a nicer and more encouraging name for it) met at Hargate Hall, near Buxton, Derbyshire on the weekend of 1st and 2nd March.

I am not sure of how I am going to explain what happened and what we did. It was very exciting, very moving, very useful... There were eight of us. It seems that what brought us together were our questions about community building, its process, its relevance to our everyday life. And as the weekend unfolded, it seemed to me that what we did was explore these questions more in depth, perhaps not necessarily finding answers (or not the answers I was expecting).

## Energy

Way back in October, at the Joint Meeting, I felt really excited about setting up this group. In the months that followed my enthusiasm declined steadily in the face of 'life': commitments, stress, problems of all sorts, so that when the date actually came I wasn't sure of why I was going. Talking with other people on the way up in the car, and then informally on the Friday evening helped me to get in touch with some of my initial energy and to get clearer about what I wanted: I wanted to know how to carry on the clarity and openness I reach at CB workshops in my everyday life. Usually the feeling lasts for a few days and then slowly fades. What is it that happens at workshops? Can I replicate it, or it can only happen in a group?

## Experiments

I soon realised that my expectation that this group might come up with a neat booklet of 'rules' was unrealistic. We talked for the two days (and found time to watch TV, go for a walk and have a good time), explored, questioned, experimented... It was great. Perhaps the fact that we were not there to 'build community' as our main aim (as least, that's how it felt to me), allowed us to question and challenge each other and our assumptions, go into intellectual discussions without being

necessarily shouted down for 'not coming from the heart'... and we experimented, tried to work with different models. And yet there was time for vulnerability, closeness, tenderness.

I have learned much about myself and about how I stop myself from being truly me: this is the main insight of the weekend for me. That my 'barriers' (for want of a better word) to community are inside me I already knew. What I didn't know was that what those barriers did was to stop me from being myself, that my struggle at workshop, my anger, is about those voices and commands in my head that stop me from speaking my truth (for all sorts of fears - mostly abandonment) and from shining as the 'glorious human being' I am.

## Carrying on

At the end of the weekend there was a strong feeling that we had done some really good work and the decision was taken to keep the group as an ongoing learning opportunity. We decided that we did not want to keep it as a closed group, but that we wanted it to be an open space for people to meet and explore community building further. So the dates for the next meetings are: MAY 17/18 and OCTOBER 11/12. The May meeting will probably take place at Hargate Hall again. Please get in touch with me if you would like to take part.

(Calling it Ongoing Learning Group feels too formal for me. I would like to suggest 'Tender Shoots' as an alternative name. Can we reach consensus?)

*Armando Magnino*  
21 Aylesford Street, Leamington Spa  
Warwickshire, U.K., CV31 2AL  
tel/fax: +44 (0)1926 337409  
email: armando@magicol.demon.co.uk

## Resources Available

*via Peter Cooper (see back page), cheques payable to CBiB*

Book: "Ongoing Community" by Jerry Hampton - £5 inc p&p

Past copies of the CBiB newsletter, and index

Book lists and other FCE material on the internet

"mv2spk" on-line community

"NGCB" on-line discussion on Next Generation Community Building

World-wide web page (<http://members.aol.com/petercbib>)

FCE and ACE newsletters

Paper: "Adventure Education: Two Approaches" by Armando Magnino

I am also trying to see if the following can be made available in the UK VHS format:

Video: "Searching for Community"

### **Booklet for Sale** **Ongoing Community** **(Small Share/Support Groups)** **Formation and Maintenance**

Fourth edition June 1994 By Jerry L. Hampton - 48 pages

Includes

How to start an ongoing group

Model Meetings

Guidelines for meeting conduct

Ideas for group starters

Group maintenance

Ongoing groups and their characteristics

Why some groups fail

Forming groups in a workshop

What now? - After the CBW

Books on community

Study Guide - 'The Different Drum'

Copies available now from Peter Cooper (address on back page)  
for only £5 including post and packing. Cheques payable to  
'CBiB' please.

Jerry Hampton (who has had a long association with community building in the USA) has licenced me to sell copies of his guide, which is now in its fourth edition, and I am making copies available at cost because of the importance I attach to nurturing ongoing groups.

## **New Executive Director**

We are excited to announce the Board's appointment of Bill Thatcher as Executive Director of FCE effective April 1, 1997. There will be a fuller report in the next issue of the Communiqué but we wanted you to know the essential news at this point. The Board's unanimous decision on this matter represents the culmination of a year-long process of determining how the expanding activities of FCE will be best supported as we move into the 21st Century.

## **Mary Ann Schmidt**

The Board was equally strong in its affirmation of the pivotal role Mary Ann Schmidt has played in bringing FCE to this point of stability where the transition can successfully take place. No words can adequately express our profound appreciation for the dedication and commitment that Mary Ann has brought to her leadership positions within the Foundation. Her great dignity, compassion and maturity during these past several years, in particular, have been a model and inspiration for all of us who have worked with her. She will continue in a strategic role within FCE, although not as President.

## **Bill Thatcher**

The Board has found in Bill the rare combination of skills and heart that will be of great benefit to FCE.- he has been an FCE Facilitator for the last nine years including pioneering work in Great Britain, public workshops, and workshops for both nonprofit and commercial companies; he is a published author and proven researcher on the impact of community building for individuals and in society. In addition, he has demonstrated successful leadership and fund-raising abilities with other international non-profit. His skill set is a unique match for the current and future

needs of FCE.

## **Move to Seattle**

As part of this transition the FCE office will relocate in Seattle, Washington. Robert Reusing will be moving to Seattle and continuing in his role as Director of Programs and Services. The FCE Board of Directors honors the FCE staff in Ridgefield, Connecticut, and Bill Bushnell in New Hampshire for their ongoing hard work ensuring a smooth transition. During the next few months Bill Thatcher and Mary Ann Schmidt will be working on the transition plans. We expect the Seattle office to be open by May 15th.

More details will be forthcoming, in the meantime, please join us in welcoming Bill and offering our full support to everyone involved in implementing this exciting change.

*Steve Bauman  
Phil Mirvis  
Co-Chairs.*

*FCE Board of Directors*

*Release Date Feb 10, 1997*

**Taunton:** Contact Julia Forse 01823 257371

**Leamington Spa:** First Monday in the month, 8pm. New members welcome. Prior attendance at a CB event necessary. Contact Debbie or Armando on 01926 337 409.

**Sheffield:** Meets monthly. Contact Alison 0114 2301739.

**North West England (including Darlington):** First Sunday in the month. Road Less Travelled support group. Contact Indi Garcha 01325 468881.

**Durham:** Long established Road Less Travelled group. Fridays fortnightly. Contact Pat Watson 0191 388 8951.

## General Enquiries

*about Community Building in Britain or Community Building events:*

*Anthony Kirke, 125 Greenham Road, Newbury, Berks, RG14 7JE Tel/Fax: 01635 47377*

## Newsletter

*Subscription rate [UK]: (Apr-Mar) £8; (Jul-Mar) £6; (Oct-Mar) £4; (Jan-Mar) £2.*

*Please make cheques payable to "Community Building in Britain" and send to the newsletter editor:-*

*Peter Cooper, 1 Evergreen Close, Woolmer Green, Herts SG3 6JN Tel: 01438 813765; Fax (telephone first): 01438 814986; e-mail: PeterCBIB@aol.com; Web page: <http://members.aol.com/petercbib>.*

*Please send items for inclusion in the next issue to the same address by **14th April 1996**.*

*For convenience of personal contact, the address and telephone number of letter-writers will normally be published, unless other instructions are given. Contributions of any sort (articles, pictures, poems, letters etc.), and of any length, are welcome from all involved in any way with the CBiB network. While every effort will be made to reproduce items in full, please realise that the editor may have to shorten or alter them for publication.*