

Community Building in Britain Newsletter

Number 70

July/August 1999

The newsletter is issued by a growing network of people in Britain who are committed to developing community building beyond that originally described in Dr. M. Scott Peck's book, 'The Different Drum', and as further developed by the Foundation for Community Encouragement in the USA (FCE).

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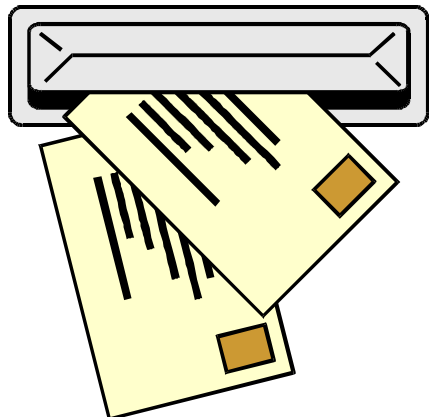
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Mailing

Can you help stuff 1000 envelopes for the mailing due out at the end of August? If there are enough of us it need only take a few hours.

Offers of help please to
Peter Cooper
1 Evergreen Close, Woolmer Green,
Herts SG3 6JN,
(email PeterCBIB@aol.com)

It will probably be done somewhere in the South East of England - can you offer a convenient venue?



Editorial

We seem to be a little thin this issue... I'm struggling with this new role - how to communicate authentically with over 200 of you who supposedly read this newsletter, most of you strangers to me. I see myself as holding a TOOL for individuals within the Community Building Network to communicate... I'm not entirely sure what 'holding a TOOL' means, and I feel like saying,

**Come on guys - give me a break -
how can I do my job if you don't
send me anything to edit?**

Padding out?

I thought about 'padding out' this issue with articles from other newsletters - such as the FCE Communiqué (our sister organisation in the States) or from the Anti Violence Project Newsletter (AVP provide Workshops on conflict resolution specifically for those of us prone to violent expression; they also do valuable work with prisoners). However the truth is I don't want to 'pad out'. I don't think that's my job.

'Nobody's written to me', I wail in despair...

'Not true', comes the still silent voice within...

Thanks to Penny Wooding, Yvonne Poulson, Jonathan Melville-Brown, Mike Roth and Ruth Goffe (who did write) and thanks also to Ray Gibbins for permission to reprint his account of his experience of Sutton Courtenay from the NACCAN newsletter.

Personal news from your Editor

I have accepted the Holding Group's invitation to sit in on a meeting of the 8-10th of October 99. I want to meet them. I want to experience how 'it' works... what is this holding group's business? I'm also feeling out of touch - like I

don't know who I am writing for... for whom am I holding a space...?

I'm also supporting Kate Whyman to sponsor a CB event in Brighton in Spring 2000. I feel like I want company - to be accompanied on this new venture... I would like to see more of an exchange of ideas/thoughts and especially feelings via a letters page in the newsletter-SO WRITE TO ME!

It was my birthday yesterday - Happy Birthday to me!

Small groups

I want to encourage anyone in a small group that meets regularly to write about their experiences. On-going Community Building Small Groups are different to CB events such as CBE or CBW. I will at some point write about my experience of the Brighton Group and I will be encouraging other members to write of their experiences and perceptions. I invite anyone who has attended a small group over a period of time past or present to write to me - preferably sooner rather than later... how about a deadline of **30 September 1999**?...If you want verbal encouragement or stimulation of ideas phone me.

Rachel Castagne 01273 382 864

P.S. I am supposed to be gathering news for the CBiB Newsletter - if anyone has any news for me please write to me at:

Flat C, 257 Preston Road, Brighton BN1 6SE

P.P.S Manchester Community Building based Support Group started some time ago. If interested contact Barry Johnson, details on the back page, for more information. "The group often feels like a CB group, but we are not aiming to be purely a CB group. There were 6 of us but we've just gone down to 5. We meet every 2 to 3 weeks on a weekday evening for about two and a half hours."

P.P.P.S WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO DEBBIE AND ARMANDO WHO GOT MARRIED ON 30TH JULY 1999.

Community Building in Britain events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Notes</u>
29-31 Oct	near Birmingham	Peter Laxton: 01446 711569 Tea'n Stuttford: 0121 420 4390	£150 residential	CBW for followers of Jesus/Messiah
11-14 Nov	Othona, West Dorset	Catherine Siddall or Tony Jaques 01308 897130	£155 residential	CBW
31 Dec - 2 Jan	near Bristol	Jonathan M Brown 01761 410472	£90 provisional	Millennium Eve CBE
20-26 May 2000	Oxfordshire	Tracy Barr 01243 775 745	TBA	Training in facilitation

Note: - **CBE** stands for "Community Building Experience", which provides an opportunity to build community in a large group over two days. In a "Community Building Workshop", or **CBW**, a third day is added so that not only can participants experience the building of community but they can also learn about the process.

Community Building, Edinburgh; March 1999

Group of 16 plus two facilitators.

I was frustrated, I was in pain. I was despairing and I was joyful, as is usual in a CBE. And it was different from the groups of 25 to 50 that I had been in before.

Personalities

In my experience there are always two or three 'big' personalities in a group (maybe I am sometimes one of them!). This time they formed a larger proportion of the group.

Maybe because there was a smaller number there seemed more temptation to behave in more of a small group way. So people were engaging one another across the group. Thus, I felt, the rest of the group became almost onlookers as two people sorted out their differences. The puzzled questions did not lie in the centre of the group as I have often experienced before, where they relax and flatten out and where other people in oblique or direct ways, address them, so that they gradually become answered' or resolved.

In this group some of us felt we must attempt to give direct answers, often stimulating another question. I found it more

difficult to remain silent when a question or reflective answer was addressed to me.

The facilitators seemed freer to share something of their own journeys sooner, to take risks sooner. It all felt risky, riskier than usual. I got in touch very powerfully with the despair and then resignation that we were not going to make community and so the joy of community poured in to that empty space, taking me by surprise.

Guidelines?

The wish in me to have things easier wonders if the smaller group needed guidelines more clearly laid. Like the value of sharing into the centre and not engaging too much in one to one exchanges. But again I realise that the discovery by experience of these ways of being, is more powerful and therefore lasting.

So I am content with the way it was, I am thankful once again to the facilitators, Chrissie and Sharon, for holding a safe place where I can be myself and can free up and express bits of me that I usually keep hidden away. Thank you to the whole group for the gift of acceptance into the community we made.

Penny Wooding

The Scott Peck experience

by Ray Gibbins of Northallerton

Editor's note: Reprinted from the newsletter of the National Association of Christian Communities and Networks, with kind permission of NACCAN and the author. It is an interesting view from someone who has just attended their first event - at the Abbey Community, Sutton Courtenay from April 16th - 18th 1999.

Some ten of us were housed in the Guesthouse, but a few yards away along a garden path. Nicely modernised, warm and comfortable with its own kitchenette and dining room, where we had a DIY plain breakfast. (Veg meals only). Many folk were day visitors, mostly Southerners, so we residents were favoured, for we 'gelled' almost instantly into an effortless community.

Facilitation

For those who don't know, Scott Peck is a brilliant American Psychiatrist and Christian, who has blazed some new trails, including his Foundation for Community Building Groups. These need some support/tending; by trained Facilitators, a role which calls for some experience and sensitivity rather than anything else, except, of course, faith in the ventures and dynamics involved. Such skilled facilitation adds to the cost of the workshops.

It has been shown to work in the U.S.A. I see it as a tool of boundless potential, now boosted enormously by my first personal encounter with the event rather than Scott Peck's many exhilarating and challenging books, all of which I read eagerly, beginning with 'The Road less Travelled'. Author's formal title - M. Scott Peck, otherwise, 'Scotty'...

Open

A major point in these encounters, is that they are entirely free from any commitment to or any specific sponsorship from, any religious, political or other establishment. They are open to accept anyone genuinely interested, for whatever motive, and can be utilised by any organisation, be it in Education, Business or Faith, etc..

Our weekend was an introductory one, known as a Community Building Experience. The full works is the Community Building workshop, of three days, the final day being

one in which the now integrated Community is set to work to complete some useful tasks appropriate to its size, capacity or needs. Indeed, the group may have met to try to solve an existing deadlock, already awaiting.

Separate agenda

Despite the clear briefing in an introductory letter from the Facilitators, it soon became clear in our group, that many had come with an ongoing problem and thus a separate agenda. We had been told that 'the process is not a Therapy, though it may be therapeutic.

Thus we were soon out of the first stage of 'good will assembly', officially called Pseudocommunity and into the stage called Chaos. In this folk begin to feel disappointed and frustrated and may argue or 'have a go' at others - then at the Facilitators for not sorting it out for them. We were warned it could be stressful and this showed when some were angry or in tears - even childish items of petulance.

Look honestly

This should move on into the next stage of 'Emptiness', when we should be helped to understand that, even with some pain, we need to set aside some particular prejudice or preoccupation or other resistance, which prevents openness to look honestly at one's own motivation. Even the desire of some to 'heal' some others pains, is not appropriate here, -but just another escape route.

Our chaos seemed rather prolonged, I was hardly aware of the Emptiness. Being well briefed and sympathetic from having read all the books, I was able to feed in some of my own belief in the process and my positive feeling about the group as a whole.

Movement

Though there had been some chuckles throughout, one sharp repartee to a particularly inane statement, brought a spontaneous roar of

laughter from the whole group, so the culprit could hardly feel hurt. I think that may have achieved some 'movement', for, during the final hour and a half, without any structuring from the leadership, the introductory quiet minute or so was followed by more thoughtful and positive inputs.

I sensed that we all wanted it to work, that many fears and obstacles HAD been worked through, and a great deal of caring and mutual consideration was in the atmosphere. Finally, someone suggested we stood and linked hands, in silence. This we felt, symbolised our new togetherness the Community had earned for itself, just by choosing to come and BE there, to give what they could, to be truly gladdened by what we EACH received from each other, just being plain, vulnerable and human. I was amazed and wonderfully warmed. Some were kind enough to thank me 'for my bits of wisdom'.

Subdued tones

I can submit this hopeful report despite actually hearing only about half the words. Our group of fifty fitted neatly in chairs around the perimeter of the ancient Hall, with

high, steep ceiling. With no amplification and people understandably speaking in subdued tones, this was quite unsatisfactory. A similar meeting, with use of a microphone, would probably be OK, for this is undoubtedly a very pleasant venue.

Community Building in Britain has a bi-monthly Newsletter, which can be obtained through Peter Cooper, 1 Evergreen Close, Woolmer Green, Hertfordshire, SG3 6JN.

Christian roots

Some may feel that this, not being specifically Christian, is not properly relevant to NACCAN now. Yet it springs from Christian roots and can be felt to be vigorous in the freshness of this new shoot. It is, I believe, a useful tool. No one need be condescending, or indifferent.

I have to say, though reluctantly, that this group of complete strangers found a value and usefulness in me, perhaps because of, rather than despite my 82 years, which most of my local fellows in the Faith seem not to have noticed. Now I wonder why that is???

Ray Gibbins

The alchemy of transformation

Christopher Cooke tells us about a series of workshops, with Don Americo Yabar (Peruvian mystic and Shaman), commencing in October 1999.

There are three workshops, each of three full days duration, commencing on the evening before day 1.

The dates are:

- 21-24th October - Low Gillerthwaite, Ennerdale, Cumbria
- 25-28th October - Low Gillerthwaite, Ennerdale, Cumbria
- 1st to 4th Nov - Earth Spirit Centre Glastonbury.

The price is £333. This includes full board and accommodation. (Deposit of £96 secures a place)

*Further details from Christopher Cooke,
Hidden Resources, 3 Dimple Wells Lane, Ossett, West Yorkshire WF5 8RN;
Tel:01924 270786 Fax: 0870 0567431 Pager: 07654 346175
E Mail: cookie@tusk.demon.co.uk
WebSite: www.hiddenresources.co.uk*

Dialogue

Having been to three CBE's around the country and then involved in the setting up of five more in Edinburgh, I am obviously impressed with the process! I have been frustrated that we have not managed to get a continuing CB group going.

When I was introduced to the concept of a 'Dialogue Group' at an Interlalia Conference in Edinburgh three or four years ago, this seemed like a possible alternative. Our Dialogue group started with around 30 interested people and is now a regular monthly, four hour meeting of between three and ten people.

David Bohm

Dialogue groups were started by David Bohm, a theoretical physicist and a man much interested in the nature of thought and consciousness. Investigating the way we communicate he had conversations with Albert Einstein and later with J. Krishna Murti among others.

He developed the proposition that the reason the world is in such a mess is to do with the way we think. That many of our thoughts and opinions, and therefore our decisions, are based on assumptions and prejudices. Assumptions we all make about the world, our place in it and the nature of humankind. He realised that we absorbed a great deal of 'shared meaning' from our culture and society and that much of this is incoherent, that is: unconscious.

Assumptions challenged

He decided that it was possible that, by talking with others and being open to having our assumptions challenged or questioned, we could bring into consciousness that which is usually unconscious. That this was a way in which fundamental change in thought might come about.

Bohm suggested groups where the only agenda was to explore our ways of thought. He called the process 'Dialogue'. Dialogue comes from the Greek word Dialogos: 'logos' meaning 'the word' and 'Dia' meaning 'through'. Dialogue can happen with more than

two people and I can have a sense of dialogue within myself.

The picture or image that this derivation suggests is of a "stream of meaning flowing among us and through us and between us. This will make possible a flow of meaning in the whole group out of which will emerge some new understanding." This quote, and those which follow in quotation marks, are from David Bohm's 'On Dialogue', part of a transcription of a meeting in California in 1989.

No agenda

The method in the Dialogue group is that there is no agenda, people raise whatever matter comes to them and it is explored. The group does not have to explore anything. "So we have here a kind of empty space where anything may come in and after we finish we just empty it. We are not trying to accumulate anything."

Negotiation often happens as to how to proceed, this is only the beginning of dialogue. Assumptions come up and the idea is that I suspend my immediate reaction and see my assumption along side the other person's assumption. "Everybody will be sharing all the assumptions in the group. If everybody sees the meaning together of all the assumptions, then the content of consciousness is essentially the same."

Towards coherence

No defending, no persuading, thus everybody is free. "It is a harmony of the individual and the collective, in which the whole constantly moves towards coherence. So there is both a collective mind and an individual mind, and like a stream, the flow moves between them."

In this way new and creative occurs. "Perhaps in Dialogue, when we have this very high energy of coherence, it might bring us beyond just being a group that could solve social problems. Possibly it could make a new change in the individual and a change in the relation to the cosmic. Such an energy has been called 'communion'. It is a kind of

participation. The early Christians had a Greek word 'koinonia', the root of which means 'to participate'... the idea of parking of the whole and taking part in it: not merely the whole group, but the 'whole'."

Thinking informed by feelings

I find our group very stimulating and the meetings have something of the same flavour as a CBE for me, the openness and the risk held at the thinking level, often informed by feelings. It is a meeting I break other appointments to attend!

*Penny Wooding
4 Milton Mill
Penicuik. EH26 ONS*

Holding group report

We met at the Brewhouse at Poor Clares convent, Baddersley Clinton on Friday evening on the weekend of 18 - 20 June. Suzy Adderley, Ruth Goffe, Teān Stuttaford, Tracy Barr, David Saunders and Yvonne Poulson were present and joined by Peter Cooper from Saturday morning. Gerri Moriarty, Richard Benzie and Anthony Kirke were unable to attend.

Friday

On Friday evening, we all met to "check in", and one contribution that made an impression on me was a desire for both intellectual rigour and freedom from theorising.

The joint meeting of Holding Group and Facilitation Training Group is to take place on 16 - 18 July, and much thought was given over the weekend to how this can move us on into a more creative relationship between the two groups. We held the image of a ball which was too often dropped or missed. We often talked about our relationship but never quite got down to making it, which spoke loudly to me personally.

Saturday

The following morning, nurtured by a peaceful green garden surrounding the house, we did come closer ourselves, and other residual anxieties were voiced and heard. I was aware that I had joined the group in 1997 in response to discussion of Learning Opportunities and working with groups with special needs, (I am

number and sequencing dyslexic paraplegic), and that I still take no responsibility for events.

By the end of the first session we had shared briefly the issues we had each brought or that had been raised with the group for this meeting, and together created our agenda for the weekend's work.

For the rest of Saturday, our discussions circled around, often needing to visit several items on the agenda at once to get a full picture, and sometimes leaving final decisions until the next day.

New members to holding group

Tracy has been attending two meetings to "try out" being in the holding group; we are also currently inviting people to consider joining, and have had two responses, from Margaret and Jonathan. In addition, Rachel, the new Newsletter editor is not in the group, and we wanted to explore with her how we can best communicate and work together, which will probably involve inviting her to a meeting with us.

There were conflicting feelings about whether we could invite two new members and still give adequate attention to each, and we considered carefully our capacity to welcome more than one new person at a time, and visited also how relevant previous experience in CBiB is for working in the holding group. Tracy told us how and why she had felt it was the right moment for her to look

at aspects of CBiB other than facilitation, which is where her heart is. She enjoyed the different opportunities in the HG and we welcomed her present commitment.

We decided that Rachel, as Newsletter Editor, will be included in the holding group mailings and invited to claim a space on the agenda and to attend a holding group meeting as she feels moved to explore her relationship to the holding group. Ruth will contact Rachel. We put on hold whether to invite two, or one new person to our next meeting, until later in the weekend.

On Sunday afternoon, we agreed that, without creating a precedent, both Margaret and Jonathan would be invited to attend the next two holding group meetings, and that Anthony would inform Margaret of this invitation, and that Tracy would inform Jonathan and become his contact for this period, and that Peter would mail the holding group report of this meeting containing this information to all holding group members.

Networking vision

Suzy told us that she and Sharon are planning a Party in mid August at the Abbey, Sutton Courtenay, to bring together people who live in Oxfordshire who have done CB events or are in ongoing CB groups in Oxfordshire, or arising out of the two CB events held at the Abbey so far. Sharon has booked a jazz band for the evening, and Suzy is planning to incorporate some visioning opportunities into the day to facilitate people and groups in the CB network in discovering each other and sharing their ideas. Possibly reports of this happening may spark off similar gatherings in other regions. The issue of quality control crops up in all these contexts.

Review of the recent Sutton Courtenay C B Experience

Following the event, we had received a few letters containing very valuable feedback about disappointment in this event, including a request to the holding group in a letter to Suzy from Sharon, (main organiser and member of the host community). Various issues are raised; many of them involve both facilitation

and holding groups equally, and these will be put on the Agenda for the joint meeting in July.

Issues that concerned the holding group immediately were:

- to respond in detail to Sharon's letter
- to try to disentangle any confusions, and ensure all the feedback Sharon has been able to collect will be available for the joint meeting
- to notice discrepancies in information on the publicity leaflet for the event, and what actually happened
- to try to reach clarity about the extent of our responsibilities for guilt in this, and to learn from it and incorporate revisions to the information we supply to organisers of events, including examples of publicity material.

Changes

We remembered that the support information in use had been written at a time when individuals tended to run non-residential events, while now a number of residential events are organised by existing live-in communities, and our material needs to be looked at again with this scenario in mind. We looked carefully at many aspects of the issues raised until we felt ready for a draft letter to Sharon to be written, for us to return to tomorrow.

We queried our own expectations of authenticity and community. The day ended with a useful analogy: this is like using a crochet hook to pick up old threads and bring them together with recent developments. On Sunday morning, we concluded the letter, and Suzy will take responsibility for any necessary further communications with Sharon until the joint meeting.

Event support

On Sunday, we started with the issue of the costs of facilitators' accommodation and expenses from 2 nights before the event to give them the full day needed for preparation, for the Event for followers of Jesus/Messiah.

Tracy confirmed, as an experienced CB facilitator, that the full day is essential. Often facilitators gather in one of their homes, or are put up by the organisers, so our information has not stated it as a clear requirement. Peter will see what can be worked out with the organisers.

Event support information

When we are at the joint meeting, we will invite input from facilitators for a redraft of our support information for people/groups organising events. The holding group will convene a small sub-group to work on this material.

We heard about publicity progress by organisers at the above event and the Othona event.

The British facilitation training event

We heard from the Design Team that preparation for the CB facilitation course has been rescheduled to a longer time-scale - and with a much greater participation of the whole FTG in the development process. The facilitation course is now tentatively planned for 20 - 26 May 2000. This will be preceded by two stages of work by the facilitation group in September and November. The event in May still needs a group who will take care of budgeting, publicity, bookings, etc (which we often call "sponsoring"), and a fundraising group. These requirements will be included in the mailing.

Mailing

We decided to fund the mailing of material to our database, on forthcoming events, training,

visioning, mini-newsletter. Please note the material for mailing should reach Peter by 1 August. This will be mailed to arrive early September as people return from holidays.

Joint meeting

Erica has offered to circulate material before the joint meeting of the holding group and facilitation training group, and had sent a letter mentioning possible agenda items already known from the FTG.

Suzy will gather together relevant items concerning Sutton Courtenay to send to Erica. Peter had had several individual responses to the revised Entry and Exit Surveys circulated to HG and FTG and he will send this item. David will submit an item considering a mission statement and purpose for CBiB. We may also send items as individuals.

Closure

Closure was peaceful. I expressed my thanks to the HG for their patience which had allowed me to see that their inclusion of me and my needs was the very initiative I had hoped for and had renewed my initial hopes. Renewed hopes, exciting new opportunities, a way through the uprush of ideas, clearer focus and positive anticipation of the joint meeting were all celebrated by us together.

*Yvonne Poulson,
with some background information
from Ruth Goffe*

Future HG meetings

- October 8th (eve), 9th and 10th
- December 10th (eve), 11th and 12th
- February, 2000, 11th (eve), 12th and 13th

London accommodation

Rooms to let in my shared house in North London.

Seeking authentic in-house relationship. £260-£310 p.c.m.

If you would like to explore this possibility further absolutely without obligation call Tom on 0181 444 9764 - it would be good to have another community builder on board.

The FTG meeting

Once again I have volunteered to write a report for the newsletter on the Facilitator Training Group meeting (May 1999), and this time I feel even less inclined to offer an objective account of what happened there.

Progress

It seems to me that the nuts and bolts of what we worked on, talked about, and decided are not so interesting as the progress of community building in this group, the main issues we are struggling with, and the direction we are headed. In trying to describe these, I am bound to be strongly subjective - but for me this will be a truer account than the more carefully factual one which might have been written by someone else.

Future

For me, the future of the facilitator training group depends on how well we succeed in creating our own facilitation course. Without it, we will have failed to expand our membership, and our future prospects of replenishing our dwindling pool of facilitators, will be poor.

But also, if we are sloppy about the training, there is a risk we will down-grade the quality of facilitation in this country - a quality which I believe (despite some distinctly critical rumblings in various parts of the network) is adequate to its task, and sometimes brilliant.

Staged plan

Anyway, on the second day of our meeting, the plans for our CB facilitation course were discussed with interest and enthusiasm, and a clear staged plan for pooling our insights and moving the training forward - has emerged. (We are going to have an "in-house" training in mid-November, and a public training course next May.)

The other essential business is learning how to share in an alive and honest way, our feelings of success, our failures, and our questions about the actual experience of facilitation. I have not been present at such a

vulnerable and heart-felt discussion about this before, as took place on the Saturday morning - when it seemed we were really beginning to share (in a way we have needed to in the past, but have not succeeding in creating the necessary level of trust).....

Business

A third critical area (though in my opinion somewhat less urgent than the previous two), is our capacity to take a business-like attitude to our work, and to our relationship with the Holding Group.

In my last report I described a curious state of paralysis which gripped the circle in January and seemed to make it impossible for us to decide either for or against having a Joint Meeting with the Holding Group in the near future. At our meeting in May we agreed there would be a Joint Meeting and there has been a subsequent decision that there should be two such meetings every year, for a trial period.

Other decisions made: John Hoggett has been elected to "hold" FTG business between meetings. David Saunders and Angelo Faria have communicated their decisions to leave the group. Jill also announced her leaving, at this meeting.

Task/process

For the rest, there was lots of interesting stuff happened, and a lot of sticky places just like before. I still feel that much of our practical discussion remains agonising and feels like trying to swim through glue, uphill. I would go so far as to say we have barely started to grapple with the problem of what is "Task/Process Integration", hardly at all. I think perhaps the phrase itself is a bit glib, and implies there is some simple thing we are either doing, or not doing. Then it becomes terrifying and depressing to have to admit we are not doing it.

How nice it would be if we learned to recognize, truthfully, what bits we are doing well, and where we are failing and what we could do to make it better. (I think we could make better use of the knowledge we have of

"stages of community"... learn to navigate better, learn to deal with the stage we are actually in, moment by moment...)

Tenacity

But it has also been pointed out to me that the Facilitator Training Group is notable for the frequency and ferocity of "beating itself up" - and I don't want to add to the misery by making unnecessarily negative comments.

Our strength, certainly, is the tenacity with which we - the surviving members - have stayed the course, and continue to learn, (painstakingly it's true) to communicate better and more openly with one another. I also believe we have great potential to learn to do better. So I for one intend to keep on coming along.

Mike Roth

Stop Press

Welcome in the Millennium in the spirit of community

You are invited to a New Year's and Millennium Eve Community Building Experience.

To be held on the 31st Dec 1999 - 2nd Jan 2000

Details are to be finalised, but the proposal is for a 2 day CB Event straddling the New Year, with an optional 3rd day together. The venue is near Bristol, will probably be self-catering, and will involve a residential option of sleeping together on mattresses and sleeping bags in a large and warm meeting room. and/or the option of paying a little more for a private single or shared room. How we actually spend the evening of the New Year and the midnight hour has not yet been decided.

Costs are also not yet calculated. This will depend on the group size (likely to be between 20-30) and on factors yet to emerge. An early estimate would put the event at about £90 for the CBE (self catering, residential in meeting room) with around another £16 par person for the optional third night and day. Those requiring single rooms would need to pay a little more. Some bursaries will be available.

As you can tell, planning is in its early stages.

If you are interested, please contact Jonathan M Brown on 01761 410472, or write to him at 19 B, West Road, Midsomer Norton, Bath, BA3 2TL. Places will be limited.

Please note that by booking early you may enable me to fill the event without an extensive publicity campaign in the autumn. This will reduce costs considerably and should result in an event fee lower than that suggested above.

The New Learning Centre

Autumn 1999 & Spring 2000

Director: Noël Janis-Norton, Learning and Behaviour Specialist

211 Sumatra Road, London NW6 1PF

Tel: 0171 794 03211/5328; Fax: 0171 431 8600

Calmer, Easier, Happier Parenting Workshops

Would you love your children to be more co-operative, confident & motivated?
We can show you ways of getting back in charge & developing positive strategies that really work.

Our intensive one day workshop: Stimulating, enjoyable, practical
July 11 August 7 September 4 October 3 November 6 December 5 January 23
(Discounts for previous participants)

(New) Parenting Skills Classes

Expanded & Simplified

Learn how to deal more effectively with typical family issues: discipline, parent-child conflicts, sibling squabbles, homework, etc.

Evenings: Monday & Thursday Mornings: Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday
10 week course (Discounts for previous participants)

Saturday Mornings, Half-Term and Holiday Courses

For children and teens who need to brush up on classroom survival skills: academic skills, learning strategies, positive behaviour and attitudes. Includes parenting advice and support

Time Out Programme

For children and teens who need to get back on track

A short-term educational alternative to mainstream schooling for pupils experiencing acute problems with learning, behaviour, motivation, confidence.

Includes parenting advice and support

(New) Parent Advice Line

Another new programme. This is for parents who are outside of London or abroad who would like weekly telephone sessions. A course of 10 weekly half hour sessions.

Introductory Talks

Free talks, every week, on "Skills for Success at School and Harmony in the Home"

For parents and professionals. Two London locations (call for details)

Teacher Training Programme

The forthcoming programmes for this year are

Summer Holiday: Two Modules

Module A - 31 August to 4 September (5 days) & Module B - 1 to 6 November (5 days)

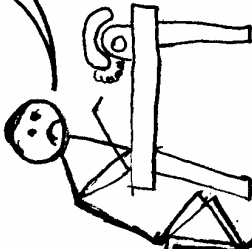
Autumn Term: Modules A & B - September to December (Thursdays for 10 days)

BOB + MAY
(PART I)

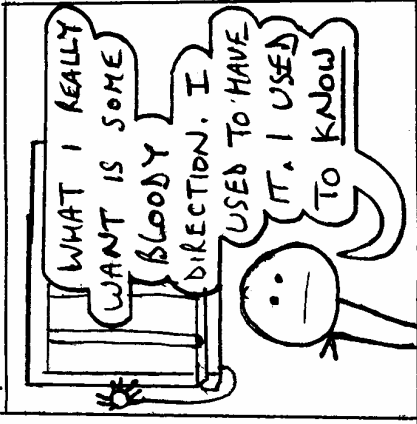
FOR A WHILE, BOB HAD BEEN
FEELING LOST



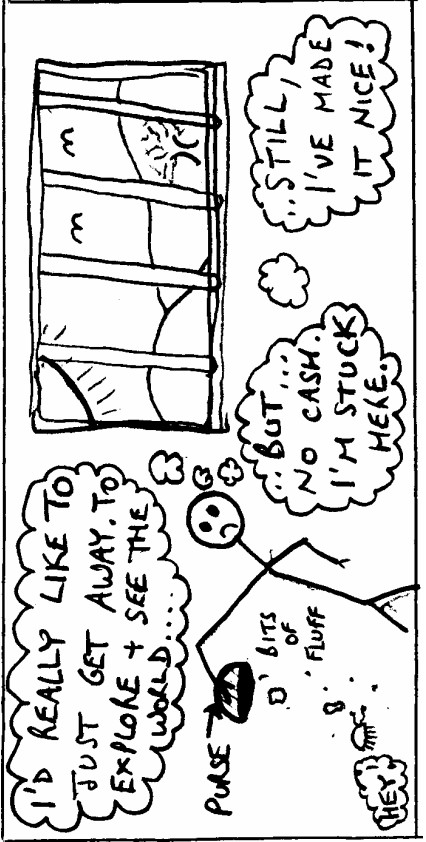
OH GOD! NO JOB, NO MONEY
NO FRIENDS + NOTHING TO
DO. I'M BORED + LONELY +
NO ONE WANTS ME.
WHY DOESN'T THE
PHONE RING?



JPHB
'97



WHAT I REALLY
WANT IS SOME
BLOODY
DIRECTION. I
USED TO HAVE
IT. I USED
TO KNOW



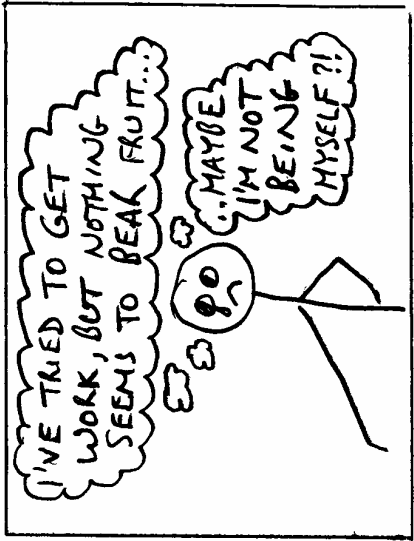
I'D REALLY LIKE TO
JUST GET AWAY, TO
EXPLORE + SEE THE
WORLD...

PAUSE

D' BITS
OF
FLUFF

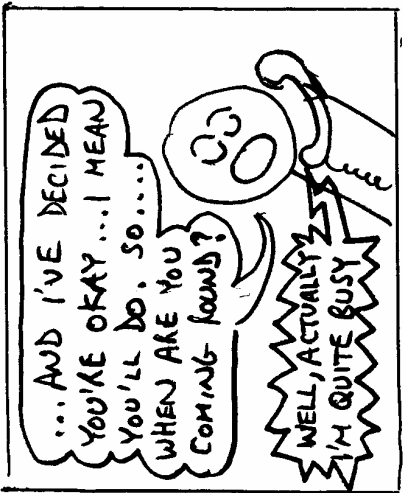
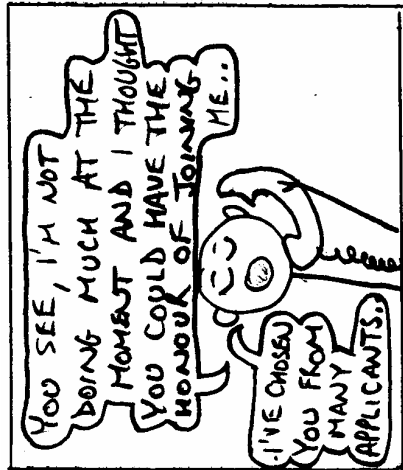
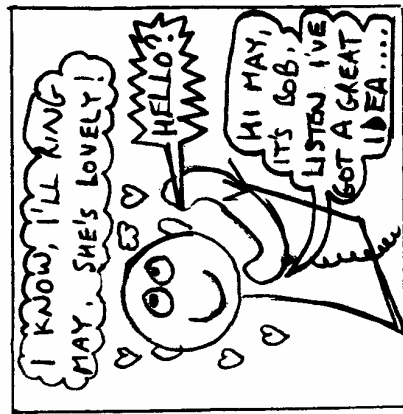
BUT...
NO CASH.
I'M STUCK
HERE!

STILL,
I'VE MADE
IT NICE!



I'VE TRIED TO GET
WORK, BUT NOTHING
SEEMS TO BEAK FRUIT...

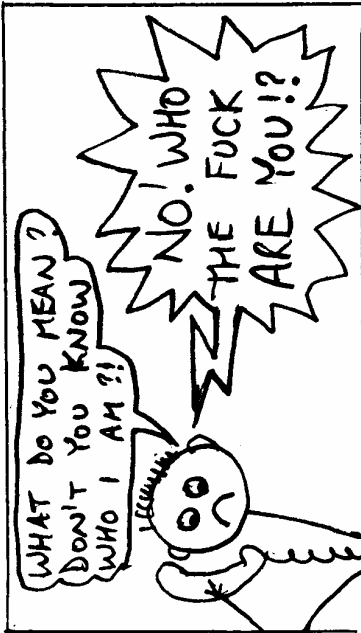
MAYBE
I'M NOT
BEING
MYSELF?!





TO BE
CONTINUED.....

CLICK.....
BRARRRR



NO! WHO
THE FUCK
ARE YOU!?

Bob and May

by

Jonathan Melville-Brown

(To be continued)

Local ongoing Community Building groups

Some groups are open to anyone interested in experiencing Community Building, some are open to you only if you have already attended a CB event, some are open all the time to new members, some may not be open to newcomers just now... Check with the local contact person.

Brighton: Meets on the second Saturday of the month. Contact Tracy on 01243 775745

Leamington Spa: First Wednesday of each month, 8pm. New members welcome. Prior attendance at a CB event is not necessary. Contact Debbie or Armando on 01926 337 409

Malvern Hills: Meets fortnightly on Thursday evenings. Contact Susie on 01684 540138

Manchester: "Community Building based Support Group" meets every 2 or 3 weeks on a weekday evening. Contact Barry at Flat 1, 143 Hamilton Road, Longsight, Manchester, M13 0PL for more information

Oxfordshire: Currently not open to new members. Contact Sharon on 01235 848132

Sheffield: Meets monthly. Contact Alison 0114 263 0177

Other groups exist but are not currently publicised. If you are interested in joining, or forming, a group please feel free to contact Peter Cooper (address below) for information and help.



General enquiries

*about Community Building in Britain, or events: Tel **07071 880858** (premium rate), write to 1 Evergreen Close, Woolmer Green, Herts SG3 6JN, email to PeterCBIB@aol.com, or see the Web page: <http://members.aol.com/petercbib>*

Newsletter contributions

*Please send items for inclusion in the next issue to the editor Rachel Castagne at Flat C 257 Preston Road, Brighton, BN1 6SE by **30 September 1999** (Tel: 01273 382 864).*

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.

Subscriptions and mailings

Subscription rate [UK] to March 1999: (Apr-Jun) £10; (Jul-Sep) £7.50; (Oct-Dec) £5; (Jan-Mar) £2.50. Please send cheques (payable to "Community Building in Britain") and any address changes to: Peter Cooper, 1 Evergreen Close, Woolmer Green, Herts SG3 6JN Tel: 01438 813765