



EVS INFO PACK

2018



CVT Gloucestershire, Oaklands Park, Newnham, Gloucestershire GL141EF, United Kingdom
Tel. +44(0)1594-516-551; email: oaklands@cvt.org.uk; website: www.cvt.org.uk

INTRODUCTION

Camphill Village Trust is a UK charity. CVT's Gloucestershire based communities comprises 3 of CVT's 9 communities in England. Camphill communities are residential life-sharing centres for people of all levels of ability, including adults with learning disabilities, mental health problems and other special needs. Our communities subsist in sustainable agriculture and the production of a variety of handcrafts, meanwhile providing support for work, learning, and daily living. CVT is part of the international Camphill Movement that has given rise to centres in twenty-three countries in Europe, North America, Africa, and Asia since its foundation in the 1930s.

CVT's Gloucestershire based communities provides an incredible volunteer experience. All three of our communities—Grange Village, Oaklands Park, and Taurus Crafts—are situated in England's outstandingly beautiful Forest of Dean. Together the Grange and Oaklands serve as live-in communities for more than sixty people with special needs, and include biodynamic, organic farms and gardens, wood workshops, bakery, pottery, basketry, and a fully functioning theatre and communal celebration space. A vibrant arts-and-crafts centre, Taurus Crafts includes craft units, a pottery, gift shop, delicatessen, wholefoods cafe, art exhibitions, and function rooms.

CVT's Gloucestershire based communities has a long, successful history of hosting international volunteers. In Camphill culture, volunteering is understood to be a rewarding way to make a positive impact on the lives of others, as well as being a wonderful opportunity to develop new skills and abilities. On a deeper level, the principle central to volunteering—that labour is offered free of a monetary evaluation of its worth—is understood to be inherently ennobling and an ideal of the human relationship to work.

Our “Camphill Life Sharing Youth Volunteer Project” is the second long-term EVS project hosted by CVT's Gloucestershire based communities. It is an eleven-month volunteering placement including twelve volunteers from EU countries.

Arrival: **1st February 2018** at Gloucester City

Departure: **31 November 2018** from Grange Village and Oaklands Park

Our Volunteer Coordinator will arrange transport from Gloucester to the Grange and Oaklands on the arrival day and will also coordinate transport to Gloucester on the departure day.

THE VENUES

Oaklands Park

Newnham, Gloucestershire, GL141EF

Oaklands Park is a Victorian mansion property bequeathed to Camphill. It has a 150-acre farm, an eight-acre market garden, and a wood workshop. It serves as a live-in community for approximately thirty people with special needs. Volunteer accommodation is situated in this community.

Grange Village

Littledean Road, Newnham, Gloucestershire, GL141HJ

The Grange is set on a hillside of the Forest of Dean and has spectacular views of the Severn Valley. With carefully cultivated and designed gardens, the Grange is itself a place of inspiring beauty. The village is made up of nine supported living households, each of which accommodates between five to ten people. There is also a farm and gardens that use biodynamic, organic methods of agriculture. The Grange includes a fully functioning theatre and communal celebration space, along with a bakery, a pottery, a wood workshop, and a space for basketry. Volunteer accommodation is situated in this community.

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Portugal - Casa de Horta - casadahorta@pegada.net

Italy - Commissione Sinodale per la Diaconia - giovaninmovimento@diaconiavaldese.org

Hungary - Compass Európai Ifjúsági Közösségért Egyesület - evs@compassegyesulet.hu

Germany - Experiment e.V. - burbach@experiment-ev.de

Spain - Colectivo GENTES - erasmusplus@colectivogentes.es

Croatia - Udruga IKS - evs@udrugaiks.hr

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Participants should be aged between 18 and 30 years.

Volunteers with CVT's Gloucestershire based communities should be comfortable at taking initiative, but also prepared to work as part of a team. They should have good interpersonal skills and be adaptable to the needs of different situations. They should be open-minded, open-hearted, and prepared to learn from interacting with people of different cultures and levels of ability. They should be reliable, responsible, and have a mature appreciation of the seriousness required in working alongside vulnerable adults.

We would like our volunteers to have an interest in and respect for the environment. They should be prepared to develop land-based, craft, performance, and artistic skills, but also ready to engage in basic household tasks, including cooking for themselves, tidying up their rooms as well as shared household cleaning, and simple maintenance.

We are seeking young people who are interested in non-formal education, the arts, crafting, sustainable gardening, and social care. But it is also important to note that volunteering with our organisation does not necessarily require particular experience or qualifications. Rather, we are seeking volunteers with the right kind of attitude.

Volunteers with our organisation should have a commitment to—though not necessarily a fully developed realisation of—moral, emotional, and physical wholesomeness. They should carry within them a strong desire for inner growth and personal development.

We would like applicants to submit brief personal statements that describe what they are seeking from this volunteer experience, and what they intend to offer. Applicants are invited to be as creative—both in medium and content—as they would like to be in these statements. Personal statements may reference ideas for personal projects or other initiatives that applicants would like to develop while volunteering with CVT's Gloucestershire based communities.

The bulk of our volunteers' work responsibilities and daily activities will occur within Grange Village and Oaklands Park, which are also the sites of their accommodation for the duration of the project. Volunteer involvement with Taurus Crafts will take the form of cultural events and festival celebrations shared by the three communities, along with craft markets taking place at Taurus.

SKILLS

We do not require any prerequisite skills, but seek volunteers with varied interests and flexible dispositions. Enthusiasm, positivity, and initiative are more important than prior experience. The role of volunteers at CVT Gloucestershire is vital. It can be summarized in the words of the Camphill Movement's founder, Karl König:

“We work for the sake of work; we do not expect a return because we gradually come to understand that the returns are a gift, a donation, an act of goodwill which the others provide for us. We give and thereby we receive. Thus the innermost secret of all labour begins to reveal itself—it is love and nothing but unending love.” 1959

Our hope is that this project affords volunteers with community experience that will enable them to enact positive change in their own communities.

VOLUNTEER SELECTION

The selection process will require communication between the hosting organisation, the sending organisation, and the applicant. All selected candidates will communicate with our Volunteer coordinator to schedule at least one informal interview to be conducted over Skype, or else by phone.

Sending organisations will be actively involved in selecting candidates, but final approval of each candidate rests with EVS coordinator, who will work alongside the sending organisations to prepare volunteers for this experience.

Ideally, our group of volunteers will be gender-balanced and culturally diverse. Because many of our community residents have impaired or limited communication, it is best if volunteers understand and are able to speak basic English. Volunteers can expect, however, to develop modes of communication specific to each person we support. This learning process proceeds naturally and joyfully from interpersonal contact, and volunteers are nurtured along the way by the individuals we support. New volunteers may find that basic English is only one of many valuable communication tools, many others of which are nonverbal and most of which are intuitive to some degree.

CVT Gloucestershire is invested in the mentorship and education of volunteers. We seek to provide volunteers with a forum to apply their own particular interests and passions to the needs of the community. We are concerned with supporting volunteers in their personal development, not only for the duration of the project, but in more lasting ways. Volunteer/mentor partnerships are put into place to ensure this, including regular meetings. The working schedule will include some flexibility so that tasks can be distributed according to the volunteers' best interests.

CVT'S GLOUCESTERSHIRE BASED COMMUNITIES

CVT employs approximately seventy people in its Gloucestershire based communities and currently has the support of three volunteers, who leave within the next couple of months. Personnel directly involved in ERASMUS+ activities are mentioned below.

Gemma May, *Legal Representative*
Judy Wakeman, *Mentor*
Monica Infante Gifford, *Volunteer coordinator*
Emily Maynard, *Financial Officer*
Judy Bailey, *Cultural and social Leader*
Clive Davies, *Head farmer*
Chris Butcher, *Wood workshop Leader*
Dafna Margalit, *Head Gardener*
Ana Rodrigues, *Bakery Leader*
Anna Palmer, *Wood workshop Leader*
Martin Stephens, *Pottery Leader*

TRAVELLING TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

Grange Village and Oaklands Park are located in the Forest of Dean, twenty-five minutes' drive from the city of Gloucester.

The nearest airports are (listed by distance of travel to Gloucester):

Bristol Airport (Approx. 2h20m to Gloucester)
Birmingham Airport (Approx. 2h30m to Gloucester by coach)
Cardiff Airport (Approx. 3h to Gloucester)
Heathrow Airport (Between 3 and 4 hrs to Gloucester by coach)
Gatwick Airport (Approx. 5h to Gloucester by coach)
Luton Airport (Approx. 5 hrs to Gloucester by coach)
Stansted Airport (Approx. 5h to Gloucester by coach)

TRANSPORT TO GLOUCESTER AND VENUES

Please be advised that coaches offer the cheapest services for local transport within the UK. Travelling by coach from all London Airports (apart from Heathrow) usually involves a change at London Victoria Station. National Express is the coach company that provides most travel options both to London Victoria Station and from there to Gloucester Bus Station.

When flying from Bristol, Birmingham, or Cardiff, rail is the best option for travel to Gloucester.

Please check for the most comfortable and affordable travel options from your country, email us before booking and once the entirety of your travel is booked, please forward your itinerary and receipts to **evs.cvt@gmail.com**. You may also contact us for additional advice on route planning and pricing in England.

Once we have your travel itinerary, we will coordinate pick-ups from Gloucester and bring you to the Grange Village and Oaklands Park.

Here are some links that you may find helpful:

<http://www.nationalexpress.com/home.aspx>

<http://www.thetrainline.com>

<http://uk.megabus.com/>

<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk>

<http://www.easybus.co.uk/> (useful transportation between London airports and Central London)

<http://flyer.bristolairport.co.uk/>

IMPORTANT: When booking coach tickets, please note your destination is GLOUCESTER (Gloucester Bus Station is situated in the *city centre*). Make sure your destination IS NOT GLOUCESTER LONGLEVENS. If you buy your coach or rail tickets online, remember these have fixed times, *allow yourself plenty time to collect bags and go through Immigration* before proceeding to coach or rail connection.

REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL COSTS

Keep all original tickets including **boarding passes, receipts and invoices** related to full travel costs (complete travel from starting place to final destination). If you've booked online, keep the original confirmation email of your booking and itinerary printed with the date and time (official email sent to you by the travel company).

Both Sending and Receiving organisations are here to assist the volunteer with whatever questions might occur. Please contact directly **evs.cvt@gmail.com** in case of presenting difficulties with travel arrangements.

100% of the travel costs to the venue and back will be reimbursed up to the maximum of the amount indicated below. The volunteer will need to pay towards the total of their travel costs if both arrival and departure costs exceed the indicated in the table below. Please consult the travel budget list.

Country	Organisation	Reimbursement*
Portugal	Casa de Horta	275,00 EUR
Italy	Commissione Sinodale per la Diaconia	275,00 EUR
Germany	Experiment e.V.	275,00 EUR
Hungary	Compass Európai Ifjúsági Közösségért Egyesület	275,00 EUR
Spain	Colectivo GENTES	275,00 EUR
Croatia	Udruga IKS	275,00 EUR

*Reimbursement up to indicated sum

ACCOMMODATION

Volunteers will share accommodation either at the Grange Village or Oaklands Park. The sites have convenient access to the wider communities.

The Lodge at the Grange Village is 10-15 min by foot from a town called Littledean which includes a post office, fish-and-chip shop, corner-shop, tea rooms, and local pub. The Lodge has a common living room, laundry room, and a kitchen equipped with an AGA cooker that will be available to the volunteers for meal preparation. Address: **The Lodge, Grange Village**, Littledean Road, Newnham, Gloucestershire, GL141HJ

The Mansion in Oaklands Park is a beautiful Victorian stately home. Newnham town is about 20-25 min walking distance from Oaklands, and also has a post office, local pub, and other local businesses. The Mansion includes common areas, laundry facilities, and fully-equipped kitchens which will be available to the volunteers for their own use. Address: **The Mansion, Oaklands Park**, Newnham, Gloucestershire, GL141EF

Both the Lodge and the Mansion include individual rooms sharing access to bathrooms (including shower facilities) and toilets. Towels and bed linens will be provided for the volunteers' use.

Wireless Internet is available at both sites and volunteers are encouraged to bring their own laptops and other wireless devices. But please note that **UK plugs and outlets differ from the continental/European configuration**, so please bring your own outlet adapter!

Please bring warm clothes with you, including some that you can use while working on the land (clothes you don't mind getting dirty or worn out). It is a good idea to bring comfortable walking shoes for Forest walks.

ABOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM

If you wish to know more about the UK and Gloucestershire, please visit:

www.visitbritain.com

www.lonelyplanet.com/england

<http://www.visit-gloucestershire.co.uk/>

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestofdean>

CONTACT

For further information please us on **evs.cvt@gmail.com**

SUMMARY

Venues: Oaklands Park and The Grange Village, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, UK

Funded by: ERASMUS+ Programme, Key Action 1: Youth Mobility. Administered and supported by the UK National Agency: Ecorys.

CVT's Gloucestershire based communities are residential life-sharing centres for adults with learning disabilities and special needs. The Grange Village and Oaklands Park are part of the Association of Camphill Communities in the United Kingdom, which is itself part of the international Camphill Movement that has centres in twenty-three countries in Europe, North America, Africa, and Asia. The Camphill Movement was founded in Scotland in the 1930s by German Jewish refugees fleeing Nazism. It takes its primary inspiration from the ideas of the 19th century Austrian polymath, Rudolf Steiner.

Steiner's worldview, called Anthroposophy, is a human-oriented, spiritual worldview, the premise of which is that each person carries a destiny worthy of fulfilment in body, soul, and spirit. This idea persists as a major influence today and remains a relevant inspiration to the current social care drive to ensure that all people with disabilities are supported in an individual, person-centred way.

Today, at CVT's Gloucestershire based communities, the people supported are offered opportunities for personal growth, fulfilling work, friendship, social interaction, education, training, and cultural and spiritual inspiration. This all takes place within living communities where those with learning disabilities live alongside those who support them in an atmosphere of mutual respect and equality.

Volunteers: 12 participants

The main activities of volunteers at CVT's Gloucestershire based communities consist in:

- Assisting with the cultivation of organic, biodynamic vegetables, fruit, and herbs
- Maintaining the Grange Village and Oaklands Park estates
- Animal husbandry and maintenance of farming facilities
- Providing support and facilitating productivity in the workshops (pottery, wood workshop, basketry and bakery) while assisting in the development and production of goods
- Participating (which may include designing, rehearsing, and performing) in cultural events and festival celebrations

Becoming integrated in the wider community, and being involved in local community events and cultural outings are also part of this EVS placement.