



Parallel Community Newsletter November 2011

The Parallel Community is a linking network and a platform where people can express and develop their positive contribution for change - human, social, ecological, creative and spiritual.

Welcome to the November newsletter for Parallel Community! We do hope you enjoy reading this, and look forward to receiving your letters, contributions and articles.

Parallel Community Update

Contributed by Lynn Forrest, PC Core Team member



We are about to begin a new phase, whichever way we look at it: the turning of the year, the dawn of a new age, the end of a cycle. And for Parallel Community it is the same. We have brought ourselves from the passionate inspiration of one man to a global network of likeminded people who are

doing their best to create a beautiful, peaceful, sustainable, loving society all over this planet. They are doing it practically, living every day in their own ways, true to their own values, but in common with their families, local communities and places of habitation.

Many of these people have spiritual or 'alternative' beliefs and practices, but that doesn't stop them being teachers, doctors, road sweepers, corporate executives, shopkeepers, writers, IT experts, parents or restaurateurs. 'Keeping it real', I guess, is our common thread - we are all trying to be the best we can in the current global situation. In that way, we hope to be able to offer those around us the encouragement to embrace the changes we all know are needed. It too offers the hand of friendship to those who want to know if there is anybody else out there feeling the same.

Parallel Community currently interacts at the Meeting Place on our website: a virtual village green where people from all over the planet can meet to swap ideas, inspiration, offer support and share. We have a basic Core Team of around 12 people based in Europe, holding the organisational aspects of the initiative. We meet monthly, in person and via Skype to discuss events, news, web-based activities and issues arising.

This is voluntary activity and the workload for some of our Core Team has been enormous at times, but we've done

our best to pull together to appreciate and support all that is necessary in such a network.

People's commitment and availability changes over time too, so we have all had to be flexible about both our 'jobs' in the Team and the amount of time we can give to it. We have also had to seek help, both from within the membership and outside, to deal with the growing tasks involved in producing the newsletter and creating a website that is more user-friendly. Local events often rope in family members and friends to lend a hand and so the extended network of PC is felt more widely in the community. This way we are active where we can be and don't task ourselves with things we cannot logistically undertake.

We constantly welcome new members and interact with existing ones; at fairs, shows, exhibitions, on the website, email and by phone. Anyone is welcome to join the Core Team to assist with organisational tasks and publicity (in fact we could do with some help with the secretarial tasks right now!) and we just *love* receiving new people into the Community to hear what's happening in their backyard.

So in this time of transition, Parallel Community offers itself as a crucible, a gentle, supportive pair of hands with the energy of the infinite. That is the potential for humanity at this time of change and one we hope to support in positive, sustainable ways into 2012.

If you're not already a member, it's easy to become one: just click on the link below, go to "Meeting Place", tell us a little about yourself and join in! If you prefer not to sign up to the interactive website, no problem: just send us an email on info@parallelcommunity.com and we'll add you to the emailing list to receive the newsletter every month.

www.parallelcommunity.com

The Commencement Address by Paul Hawken to the Class of 2009, University of Portland.

Paul Hawken is a renowned entrepreneur, visionary environmental activist, and author, most recently of 'Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Movement in the World Came into Being and Why No One Saw It Coming'. He was presented with an honorary doctorate of humane letters in 2009 at the University of Portland, when he delivered this superb speech to the graduating students there. We found it so inspiring that we are reproducing it here.

When I was invited to give this speech, I was asked if I could give a simple short talk that was “direct, naked, taut, honest, passionate, lean, shivering, startling, and graceful”. So, no pressure there.

Let’s begin with the startling part. You are going to have to figure out what it means to be a human being on earth at a time when every living system is declining, and that rate is accelerating. Basically, civilization needs a new operating system, you are the programmers, and we need it within a few decades.

This planet came with a set of instructions, but we have misplaced them. Important rules like don’t poison the water, soil, or air, don’t let the earth get overcrowded, and don’t touch the thermostat, have been broken. Buckminster Fuller said that spaceship earth was so ingeniously designed that no one has a clue that we are on one, flying through the universe at a million miles per hour, with no need for seatbelts, lots of room, and really good food - but all that is changing.

There is invisible writing on the back of the diploma you will receive, and I can tell you what it says: “You are brilliant, and the Earth is hiring”. The earth couldn’t afford to send recruiters to your school; instead it sent you rain, sunsets, ripe cherries, night blooming jasmine, and the person you are dating. Take the hint. Forget that this task of planet-saving is not possible in the time required. Don’t be put off by people who know what is not possible. Do what needs to be done, and check to see if it was impossible only after you are done.

When asked if I am pessimistic or optimistic about the future, my answer is always: If you look at the science about what is happening on earth and aren’t pessimistic, you don’t understand the data.

But if you meet the people who are working to restore this earth, and the lives of the poor, and you aren’t optimistic, you haven’t got a pulse. What I see are ordinary people willing to confront despair, power, and incalculable odds in order to restore some semblance of grace, justice, and beauty to this world. The poet Adrienne Rich wrote, “So much has been destroyed I have cast my lot with those who, age after age, perversely, with no extraordinary power, reconstitute the world.” Humanity is coalescing. It is reconstituting the world, and the action is taking place everywhere.

You join a multitude of caring people. No one knows how many are working on the most salient issues of our day: climate change, poverty, deforestation, peace, water, hunger, conservation, human rights, and more. This is the largest movement the world has ever seen. Rather than control, it seeks connection. Rather than dominance, it strives to disperse concentrations of power. It works behind the scenes and gets the job done. Large as it is, no one knows its true size. It provides hope, support, and meaning to billions of people. Its strength resides in ideas, not in force. It is made up of people from all walks of life, and the Creator, the One who loves us all.

There is a rabbinical teaching that says if the world is ending and the Messiah arrives, first plant a tree, and then see if the story is true. Inspiration is not garnered from the litanies of what may befall us, it resides in humanity’s willingness to restore, redress, reform, rebuild, recover, re-imagine, and reconsider.

The living world is not “out there”, but in your heart. What do we know about life? In the words of

“... civilization needs a new operating system, you are the programmers, and we need it within a few decades.”

“You are brilliant, and the earth is hiring.”

biologist Janine Benyus, life creates the conditions that are conducive to life.

I can think of no better motto for a future economy. We have tens of thousands of abandoned homes without people and tens of thousands of abandoned people without homes. We have failed bankers advising failed regulators on how to save failed assets. We are the only species on the planet without full employment. We have an economy that tells us that it is cheaper to destroy the Earth, rather than renew, restore, and sustain it.

You can print money to bail out a bank but you can't print life to bail out a planet. At present we are stealing the future, selling it in the present, and calling it gross domestic product. We can just as easily have an economy that is based on healing the future instead of stealing it. We can either create assets for the future or take the assets of the future. One is called restoration and the other exploitation. And whenever we exploit the earth we exploit people and cause untold suffering. Working for the earth is not a way to get rich, it is a way to be rich.

The first living cell came into being nearly 40 million centuries ago, and its direct descendants are in all of our bloodstreams. You are literally breathing molecules this very second that were inhaled by Moses, Mother Teresa, and Bono. We are vastly interconnected. Our fates are inseparable. We are here because the dream of every cell is to become two cells. And dreams come true. In each of you are one quadrillion cells, 90 percent of which are not human cells. Your body is a community, and without those other micro-organisms you would perish in hours. Each human cell has 400 billion molecules conducting millions of processes between trillions of atoms. The total cellular activity in one human body is one septillion actions at any one moment (a one with twenty-four zeros). In a millisecond, our body has undergone ten times more processes than there are stars in the universe; as Charles Darwin said, science would

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discover that each living creature was a “little universe, formed of a host of self-propagating organisms, inconceivably minute and as numerous as the stars of heaven.”

So, I have two questions for you all: First; can you feel your body? Stop for a moment. Feel your body. One septillion activities going on simultaneously, and your body does this so well you are free to ignore it. You can feel it. It is called life. Second question; who is in charge of your body? Who is managing those molecules? Life is creating the conditions that are conducive to life inside you, just as in all of nature. Our innate nature is to create the conditions that are conducive to life. What I want you to imagine is that collectively, humanity is evincing a deep innate wisdom in coming together to heal the wounds and insults of the past.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once asked what we would do if the stars only came out once every thousand years. No one would sleep that night! The world would create new religions overnight. We would be ecstatic, delirious, made rapturous by the glory of God. Instead, the stars come out every night and we watch television.

This extraordinary time when we are globally aware of each other and the multiple dangers that threaten civilization has never happened, not in a thousand years, not in ten thousand years. Each of us is as complex and beautiful as all the stars in the universe. We have done great things and we have gone way off course in terms of honouring creation. You are graduating to the most amazing, stupefying challenge ever bequeathed to any generation. The generations before you failed. They got distracted and lost sight of the fact that life is a miracle every moment of your existence. Nature beckons you to be on her side. The most unrealistic person in the world is the cynic, not the dreamer. Hope only makes sense when it doesn't make sense to be hopeful. This is your century. Take it and run as if your life depends on it.

“You can print money to bail out a bank but you can't print life to bail out a planet.”

Book Review – “Planet Earth Today” by Candace Caddick

Contributed by PC Member Karen Tlusty-Rissman

“Planet Earth Today” is the first volume gifted to Ms. Caddick from her divine guides. As a Reiki master, teacher and practitioner (and PC member), her ability to listen to her guides has been honed over 17 years. With the impending changes that Earth faces, these guides felt it was time to impart their wisdom to the public.

Through Candace’s channel, six of these divine beings have dictated their messages. Candace describes her process and how she and her daughter Heather read and reread the messages to be certain of their integrity. She also describes how she learned to hear their messages without preconceptions, “to stand well back and just listen”. She developed a method of questioning them for more clarity on what they were presenting and says the book is a collaboration of her guides and herself.

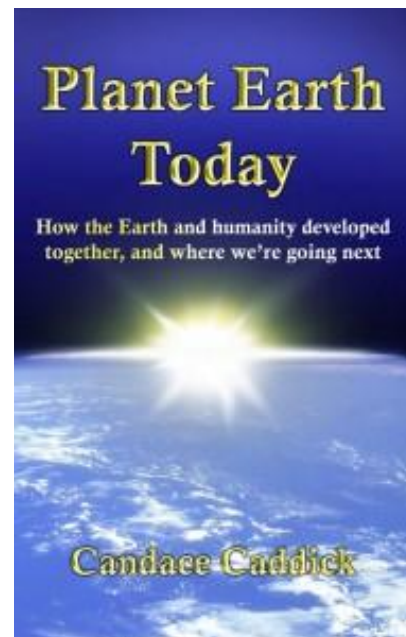
The angels present their information individually starting with Archangel Melchizadek telling of the beginning of our planet’s story. Much information is given about the conditions our human group soul incarnated with, and how we came to be in this state of disconnect and separation. There is also much information given about Atlantis which is continued by the Archangel of Light and is a theme common to the rest of the book. This Archangel also begins the dialogue about the changes coming to our planet in the year 2012, also continued through the rest of the book.

The shortest chapter in the book is written by the Angel of Darkness. It is difficult to read, but extremely relevant. It provides balance as there can be no light with the dark and serves as a reminder that all things are created by God (or Divine Energy). It is necessary to include this if we truly want to be whole.

Archangel Ariel gives practical recommendations both physically and energetically for creating more light in yourself and the planet; some are obvious, others are new and exciting. Esmariel, Archangel of Transformation, gives information on how to effect change in our lives and what the possible futures of humanity might be. In the final chapter, the Archangel of Hope shares her visions of the present and future. It is extremely interesting to read in the light of all that has been happening in the world recently. It is a perfect ending for the book as it left me filled with hope for our future.

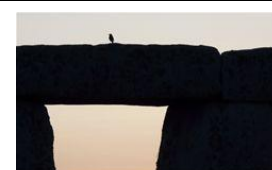
Time and time again, the Archangels stress the importance of Mother Earth and that we humans need to remember that our place on this planet is to serve her, not the other way around. Several of the Archangels suggested Reiki self-treatments every day. There is much information about the coming changes around 2012 and that these changes happen over a period of time, not overnight. I have many pages marked that contain deep and profound wisdom. It has been a long time since a book has inspired me in such a great way.

“Planet Earth Today” is self-published and available on Amazon at http://www.amazon.co.uk/Planet-Earth-Today-Humanity-Developed/dp/0956500900/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1319995257&sr=8-1



Mystical Britain 2012 calendar

The Mystical Britain 2012 calendar, with beautiful atmospheric photos of mystical Britain, contributed by members of Parallel Community, is now available. The calendar includes Celtic festivals and pagan holidays, solar and lunar eclipses, and also sun, full moon and new moon dates in their relevant astrological signs. The price is £13.52, of which a proportion goes to Parallel Community. <http://www.lulu.com/product/calendar/mystical-britain-2012/16674948>



Mystical Britain 2012

Daily Meditation

PC member Jeryl Hutchens in New Zealand sent in this quote, saying, "I wondered if this rang a bell for all that you are working together for..."

"When you all sing together, tell yourself that it is allowing you to work not just on yourself first, of all but also on the whole world. For the harmony you create gradually spreads out, influencing all creatures in space. Can you form a choir if your philosophy and your quest are personal ones? No, you are merely singing solo, whereas, when there are several of you, you form a choir. It is not enough to work alone and only for oneself. Of course, each person must work individually - for a collectivity must be formed of well-developed individuals - but without ever losing sight of the collective interest. The new philosophy does not reject the old one of self-improvement, but that self-improvement must always be able to serve the good of everyone. You may not have thought about this, but there it is: belonging to a choir teaches us how to behave all through our life." **Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov**

If you wish to visit Prosveta's site, or consult the many titles by Omraam Mikhael Aivanhov, go to www.prosveta.com.

Growing Power: How to Raise One Million Pounds of Food on Three Acres

Contributed by PC Member Nancy Bell

Will Allen, a Minnesota farmer, has started a programme called Growing Power. His goal is to grow food, to grow minds and to grow community. Growing Power's vision: "Inspiring communities to build sustainable food systems that are equitable and ecologically sound, creating a just world, one food-secure community at a time."

So how can you produce one million pounds of food on three acres of land? Through aquaculture and the utilization of vertical space you can:

- grow food year-round using heat from compost piles to warm greenhouses
- produce 10,000 fish (Tilapia and Yellow Perch) in fish beds that are warmed using solar heat.
- utilizing vertical space by incorporating tiers of beds with hanging baskets, you have 2,500 square feet of growing space - 300 to 500 yards of worm compost
- grow fish and plants symbiotically.

A packed greenhouse produces a crop value of \$5.00 per square foot which means \$200,000 per acre.

The fish are farmed in the lowest bed, five feet below ground level. Tilapia and Yellow Perch tolerate high density conditions and they are kept at a density of one fish per one gallon of water.



Water is circulated continuously, from the fish tanks to plant beds using an aquaponic pump. The water then passes through the plant beds, where the plants, soil and pebbles filter waste from the water nourishing the plants, before returning to the fish beds below.

The farms also keep apiaries, colonies of European Honey Bees

(*Apis Mellifera*), to help with pollination. Each hive produces 150 pounds of honey per year.

Livestock are fed a natural, sustainably-raised grass and vegetable diet, which complement the system, so no antibiotics or growth hormones are used. The manure produced is, in turn, used in the production of compost for the growing beds, a living system composed of carbon residues, micro-organisms, minerals and red wiggler worms. They produce ten million tons of soil per year through compost and vermi-composting (worm-casing compost).

Growing Power has farms in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Chicago, with satellite training sites in Arkansas,

Georgia, Massachusetts and Mississippi. The urban farm in Milwaukee at the University of Wisconsin has six traditional greenhouses, producing 15,000 pots of herbs and vegetables, six hydroponic systems producing fish, herbs and salad greens, along with 50 bins of red wiggler worms.



To learn more about this programme go to <http://www.growingpower.org>

Contributed by Lynn Forrest - PC One Love project co-ordinator

July this year saw Parallel Community begin a six month initiative to instigate a distant healing project. Members of the Core Team were inspired to create a symbol to use for this project, based on our own PC logo and one or two 'messages' from the unseen world! Many of us live on or nearby, or have an affinity with, the Michael/Mary earth energy line identified by Hamish Miller and friends. So being influenced by the Michael energy is not unusual. During the spring we enjoyed a couple of events at which we held meditations on the beach opposite St. Michael's Mount. There and in the garden of Treviscoe, the home of Ba Miller, we received information that helped us design a symbol that would activate our project and influence the healing energy we send out.

The symbol takes the infinity or lemniscate horizontal shape and doubles it, placing one across the other to create a 'cross' (two figure-of-eights crossed at the centre). Then St. Michael suggested we colour it with a golden rainbow light - and the One Love logo was born. We then invited members to form groups (of no fewer than two people) across the world, to meet regularly and commit to those meetings until December. They would take as their healing focus any topical or personal event or situation that had come to their awareness and use a guided meditation format (also gifted to us) as the basis of their distant healing meeting. Twelve groups formed within the first month and their work continues until the end of the year. Those groups are situated in: UK, Canada, Spain, Turkey, Netherlands and Sweden.

Now we are fully aware that distant healing is no new thing. And we do know that people have been doing

this work for decades, dedicating themselves to raising the vibration of people and places all over the planet for years. However, with the addition of the new symbol and the basic meditation format, we seem to have stumbled upon a very simple way to keep healing energy active for as long as the focus is regularly maintained. And that's not new either except that our groups have noticed how working with the symbol is much more energising and activating in a sustainable way than anything they have worked with before. Even after the distant healing meditations have finished, group members report still noticing the resonance of the symbol



and the activating principle alive in their consciousness. The meditations themselves are 'effortless' once the symbol is given intent and it seems then to 'have a mind of its own'. It has been likened to a Reiki symbol and to other sacred symbols having many sorts of positive meanings (those interested in sacred geometry will probably have many explanations and we would be glad to hear from you).

We don't know if any of this is particularly significant but we still have a couple of months of the project to run, so there are no conclusions as yet. There may not be any; this may simply be a way of spirit testing people's resolve and commitment to something we have always had access to. But it is so interesting to see its effect on the people involved and the global network of places active in healing during this period.

As they say, "Watch this space"! Further information can be located on the Parallel Community website Members' page - One Love group (as above).

Help please ...

PC Member Vanya Orr (orrvanya@gmail.com) who runs Earth Trust Nilgiris in India (see article on page 8) writes....

"I was reading about the work on opening up the route along the Glastonbury axis; and I wondered if anyone in PC is looking at the Michael line that comes from Pembrokeshire through all the Llanfihangel (Place of Michael) villages & churches. It passes from a slightly north westerly direction towards the slightly south of east, so must intersect at some point with Hamish's line. Beyond Crymmych it is so strong that one side of it (at the end of the Prescelly hills) is really powerful and when you step across it, the other side is just ordinary: as though it is St Michael's Lance holding in the dragon energy of the hills. I grew up there so it is very special to me. Any help from anyone?"

PC Member Suzanne Thomas (suzanne@eaglebear.fsworld.co.uk) has sent us this article about Fountain International, with which she has been involved for many years.

This year, Fountain International had its 30th birthday on 29th September 2011. After the death of Colin Bloy in 2004, the energy surrounding Fountain had begun to flag, and seep away. Colin was such a charismatic powerhouse and fountain of knowledge that he drew many to him, and the Fountain Concept. So when things began to fade away it seemed sad that such a good idea, much needed in these times, should vanish.

At the Megalithomania Conference in Glastonbury in 2009, between Giles Bryant and myself, a plan was hatched to make the Fountain Concept available to more people, who may like to use it as a tool for healing. So started what I would like to call the “second generation” of Fountain International, and the reinventing the Fountain International Conferences, as they had been back in the 90’s in Weston-super-Mare, Tintagel, Exeter, York and Brighton University. Since 2009, there have been two conferences a year, organised by Giles in Essex during September or October, and I have organised two in Torquay in April. I can only speak from my perspective, but in 2010 the first conference drew 25 people, and last year it jumped up to 70 people. The Fountain Conferences were, and are, a highlight in many people’s year, as they are such inspiring battery rechargers. From the people that I have spoken to, they were so pleased that the conferences were back.

The next Conference will be in Torquay on 21st- 22nd April 2012. The confirmed speakers will be Paul Broadhurst, on St George and the Dragon; David Wells (from the Daily Mirror and Most Haunted TV), on the Astrological Chart of Fountain International and Astrology for 2012; Jan Harper Whale, “Waking the Dragon”; Colin Kingshott, “As Above So Below”; Christian Kyriacou, “House Whisperer”;



Catherine Wilson, “Observable Changes in the Collective Field”; and myself, updating on Fountain International and meditations. (More details will be available on the fountaininternationalmagazine.com website nearer the time.)

Once the Fountain Conferences got moving, the thought came that the Fountain-International.org website should be updated, and when we managed to gain profit from the Conferences, this was put into action. To keep a story short, we ended up with two new websites, which went live for Fountain’s 30th anniversary. Giles Bryant instigated the fountaininternational.co.uk website, which gives all the information about

what Fountain is, and how to do it etc and includes a good film on Fountain, (well worth a visit.) I instigated the fountaininternationalmagazine.com, which mainly includes the new Fountain International Magazine, details of events, and new publications, like the updating of Colin Bloy’s booklet “In Search of the Grail”.

The online magazine is free to users, and has been a pure joy to put together. So why not take a peek? The first is retro, and includes some of the best articles from the old Fountain Magazine (for download now.) The next issue is due out by 2nd February, and will mainly be new content. As part of our regular feature, we are having a guest group spot. It seemed a “no-brainer” that it had to be Parallel Community. Hamish Miller was always a stalwart supporter of the Fountain Concept, and the bonds have always been close between us. We look forward to working with Parallel Community, and will always welcome a two way involvement. For example if any of you would like to submit a relevant article, or creative piece of work, ie poetry etc, I would be only too pleased.

Let’s work together to build the future we wish for.

Article by PC Member Nancy Bell

Picture from Earth Trust Nilgiris website

Earth Trust Nilgiris is a non-governmental organisation which is run by PC member Vanya Orr. Located in the Nilgiri Hills, the organisation works with local villages to provide tools and education, so the villagers may farm their fields in a sustainable manner. The organization also seeks to assist the people to develop responsibility for primary health care solutions using traditional methods. Earth Trust also works with rural children to provide the inspiration, skills and passion needed to revitalise the communities and the land they live on.

The Nilgiri Hills rise like a heart shaped island in the lowlands of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. The hills are situated at the junction of the Eastern and Western Ghats of southwest India. They play an important role in the water systems, energy and shakti of southern India.



The Nilgiri Hills were one of the first places to be registered as a World Biosphere Reserve with the aim to protect the plants and animals unique to that area. Now though, 80% of the original environment is destroyed by people encroaching on the area. More than 60% of the grasslands are gone. The grasslands were instrumental to the irrigation of the area, acting as a huge water reservoir. They collected water from the mists and rains and then slowly released it through the shola tree roots year round. Much of the area is now under thousands of acres of non-indigenous plants which have decimated the thin soil layer. Earth Trust is working to help the local people fight this encroachment.

They are helping them develop a health system incorporating tribal medicinal practices. They work to empower the women of the tribe to turn the downward spiral into alcoholism and violence around. A twelve module programme gives vital information on sources of illness, hygiene, childcare and nutrition and how to deal with stress-related issues arising in their lives.

Earth Trust has helped establish 35 organic gardens for growing vegetables and herbs. A three month craft training programme has been established in eight villages, with 124 women participating. They learn knitting, embroidery and tailoring. The children between nine and thirteen years of age in sixteen rural government schools have formed Eco-Clubs. These help to sustain the natural connection to nature, and

they learn to grow organic vegetables. This programme benefits the school nutritional programmes and ultimately their own villages when the children return home. Children develop responsibility and a sense of worth because they can contribute to the welfare of their village. It also helps them to connect to their traditions and reduce drop-outs and rural drift to more urban communities.

Elders are involved in education by sharing the stories of their people which are being lost. They participate in research to measure local chemical inputs into the local ecosystem. They are engaging in protecting local springs which are drying up in some areas. Elders are renewing traditional rituals and planting trees in these locations.

To learn more about Earth Trust's work in the Nilgiri Hills you can visit their website at: <http://www.earthtrustnilgiris.org> or you can contact the Earth Trust Office at earthtrust@gmail.com tel: +91 423 251 7036

We would really welcome more contributions from PC members, so many of whom are involved in fascinating projects, both small and large. We want to hear from YOU: what you are doing, what inspires you; and what you think of this newsletter!

The deadline for the December newsletter is Friday 25th November. Send articles, letters or comments direct to Frances at watts@penare.ndo.co.uk, or by post to the address below.

Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to any friends you feel might be interested in Parallel Community.

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