

### **Important changes are coming!**

From this month onwards, we are going back to basics. We want to make digital interaction simpler for all the people who have had problems signing up to or navigating the Meeting Place on the PC website. We have therefore started up a Facebook group for Parallel Community, with the aim of focusing on the more practical things of life to stimulate people and communities, and most of all, to inspire one another, and bring back fun into our lives. We welcome your ideas, tips and suggestions on a monthly theme where we can share wisdom and skills, and hopefully everyone will benefit from this. So please have a look at the [Parallel Community Facebook group](#) and join in, if you want to do so. Meanwhile, the Meeting Place will stay open, though slightly different, but it will stay true to its original purpose; and these newsletters will continue to be sent out by email to all who have requested them, or by post.

### **Core Team Gathering**

The first weekend in September saw the Core Team gather at Treviscoe for two days of meetings about the journey ahead for Parallel Community. There were many delightful signs that Hamish was with us, and the ideas flowed thick and fast.

We began with a meditation for connection and guidance, and then discussed how things were going. The main points all seemed to lead to concerns about how hard people were finding it to know what to do in Parallel Community. We felt we needed to find things that were practical and yet simple in the ever-increasing speeds of this time. Trying to discuss and deal with the massive issues (like Codex for instance) is all very well, but it tends to stay just discussion and worry. We felt we needed to go right back to the beginning, to come home to our truth and allow change from there.

We remembered how Hamish used to say that "they can't control people who are laughing"; and wrote in 'It's Not Too Late' (p165) about the time he "...passed the same group of girls still waving and laughing as they walked along. They gave so much pleasure to so many people on their journey that day with a simple wave and smile.... It didn't cost anything and had a more exhilarating effect than any drug." That page is a good one to read if you can;

it contains Hamish's many thoughts on how little things can make such a big difference.

So, we decided to set a new way - a simpler way; one that isn't necessarily 'deep' or 'heavy' (though not preventing anyone from discussing those things at times), but one that involves us all in the simplest of ways. From now on we will be sending out a short newsletter once a month with a 'topic' for that month: one that is easy to do and to share with others, which we would love everyone to do. One where "*We Can Be The Change We Want To See*".

October's topic is **to become more aware of how we can balance work with play**. Time for ourselves and thus time for others. Time to be more aware and to be in a place to make more appropriate choices. (See article below.) We will also be printing out several 'good sayings' to support the actions for each month.

We also discussed the possibility of making up a small book or calendar of the sayings for purchase - maybe as Christmas presents. The investigations continue for reasonable printing costs and so forth.

After a great deal of debate, we decided to make a Facebook Parallel Community page. Many of us have been

'meeting' there recently as the Meeting Place is proving too complicated for those 'PC-ers' who are not so familiar with the computer. It was still acknowledged that Nathascha and Mario have done an amazing job with it since its inception, but that they will be just as amazing and able to steer the Facebook pages. We know that many people are not happy about Facebook given its rather poor press at times, but it would be good to remember (as ever) that the press love to take something that is used by a massive percentage of the population, and to use it in any way they can to spread fear: fear of being 'identity stolen' being the main one. However, in this modern world, that could happen at any time, in much simpler ways. BUT remember what Hamish said was so important about Parallel Community: we have come to this parallel place in order to be amongst other people who are 'not going to play' with the people who are wanting to control humanity through fear. We can assure you all that if you join Facebook and only put your name, and maybe an email address, there will be nothing to worry about. If you choose to put your phone numbers and your full address, well ... we just suggest you don't! Also, to dispel concerns about the 'shallowness' of Facebook, just don't write shallow! We can make our page what we would like it to be - and that, we will check, will be positive, supportive, encouraging,

compassionate ... and fun! As Hamish said, something only needs to be simple to make a big difference.

The weekend was a wonderful time of feeling the connection to so many people who care - each meeting started, and continued, with thoughts and wishes for everyone on behalf of whom we were meeting; the people of Parallel Community. No one person in it is greater or lesser than another, and everyone in the community is special, and we feel blessed to be a part of it.

Newsletters will continue to be sent out to all signed-up members by email; for people not on email, they will continue to be sent to you by post, and we are happy to do so; a letter is going out to you with this newsletter explaining how the circulation of future newsletters will happen, and we look forward to your feedback.

The ideas might be simple, but from simple things great things can grow - let us trust in that and allow it to happen.

Annie Turner, Core Team



## ***The Great PC Interactive Picnic***

The Great Interactive PC Picnic took place on Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup>. People joined in from several places, and here is a selection of their comments.

***Penwith group at Trencrom ...*** "We could not have asked for a better sunny day. The Penwith group met on the top of Trencrom Hill and the view was spectacular. Fourteen people attended from as far afield as Castle Hedingham in Essex and Milton Keynes, as well as local folks. The surprise happening that made the day so special was that during the picnic a sudden swirl of bagpipes wafted over Trencrom, as a lone piper stood on the nearby outcrop of rocks playing the pipes! We all felt that Hamish had joined us!" *Ba*



***Littlehempston, Devon ...*** Connector Margot Cooper sent the following report, and the photo below. On the appointed day, a group of 16 people, both members and friends of the Parallel Community, met in a beautiful biodynamic garden in South Devon, England, bathed in glorious sunshine. After a very delicious shared 'pot-luck' picnic, Margot Cooper, the main

Connector, began to speak about Hamish; and Christopher spoke about the aims of the PC. A vivid picture emerged and this was supplemented by a lovely selection of poems people had brought with them. One was a poem about hugging; another about St Mungo, the founder of Glasgow; a poem by Rumi; and a poem about the danger of emptying life of real meaning. But the prize must go to an original poem created by someone present in our circle. Written when she was 21, deeply tender and moving, she had never before today felt there was a mood when she could speak it to other people (and she was now mid 50s!) What moments of magic!

The day was full of the unexpected as two visitors suddenly turned up out of the blue, and one, a New Zealand lady called Angela, hailed originally from Christchurch, the city devastated by the recent earthquake. We had been passing round the wonderful biography of Hamish (by Nigel Twinn) and admiring the photos of him, but Angela took us much further. She had known Barry Brailsford (see page 99) who introduced Hamish to the Waitaha and their sacred places. When such moments of serendipity happen one could feel the presence of Hamish himself in his sunny spirit being at the gathering, showing us that he is still very active on behalf of the good.

We hope that other gatherings round the world also had magical and memorable moments like this. Sunny greetings from Devon!



**Waterford, Ireland ...** Stan Philips wrote, "We had a small Irish picnic here in Waterford, Bernadette and me, did a bit of work and spread the P/C message to those that crossed our paths. Hope all of you had a wondrous day and felt our joint celebration girdling the earth like a gigantic embrace."

**Heerlen, Netherlands...** The Dutch group in Heerlen had to have their picnic indoors due to pouring rain; the picture (right) shows them enjoying their time together.



**Alberta, Canada ...** "Four of us had a lovely picnic at 1pm MST in beautiful southern Alberta. The horses joined us, leaning over the fence to mooch treats. The sky was cloudy but the temperature was warmish, at 18 degrees Celsius. We toasted those of you who had picnicked already due to time differences, with mead from a local meadery. Thank you for including us in the PC family." *Nancy Rafter Bell*

## Focus on PC supporters

The interactive Parallel Community website has now been joined by 425 supporters. It can be a fascinating way to pass the odd half hour, clicking at random on different names, and seeing what comes up. Some people have put links to their own websites; others have written a few words about themselves; there are lots of photos of people too. What an interesting lot of people PC supporters are, involved in many and varied pathways. A few jumped out at me from a recent ramble through the website.

Have a look at the blog of PC supporter Elizabeth, "Silver Fox", Secret Garden, at <http://eyesbeloved.blogspot.com/> It's full of beautiful photographs from her travels, quotations from many different people, and her own writings. Her section "Arctic 2010" in particular is one that caught my eye.

*May we feel the tender toes  
of spirits dancing  
on the lining of our hearts.  
Sounding a bell in our Souls  
thunder beings in our blood.*

Completely different is the website of PC supporter Barbara Goodfriend, from New Jersey, USA. Her website, [www.barbaragoodfriend.com](http://www.barbaragoodfriend.com), talks about her work as an "animal communicator", helping people with their pets'

behavioural problems, finding lost animals, and so on. She believes that "...All species on this beautiful planet exist in a constant and innate state of perception and communication. What would happen if we all reached inside ourselves and awakened our innate telepathic abilities?" "Animals", she says, "are emissaries of universal energies, knowledge and healing."

The section "About Me" on people's web-pages has produced some interesting phrases too. "I am a lover of song, art, the world around us, and puddles". "Seeker after "truth", who has been around the block enough times to know we aren't currently hitting the spot when it comes to organising viable alternatives to the status quo." "Religion is for those who are afraid of going to hell, spirituality is for those who've already been there". "I am a gardener and a pilgrim." Someone else is "...drawn to Celtic spirituality after exploring many other paths. Never learned to ride a bike properly and would like to. Love hedgerow foraging for homemade soups, jams, cordials. Learning to appreciate the benefits of IT after big resistance." "I'm just an ant, but an ant with a heart." "It's difficult to talk about myself because I am in a never-ending discovery of myself and of what surrounds me." I think my favourite is the lady who, on filling in her address, got to the section that says "State" and wrote "Happy".

*Frances (PC newsletter editor)*

## Fair for the Future



Fair for the Future is in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year and held a gathering on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2010 of dozens of stallholders and exhibitors, workshop facilitators and talk hosts on the outskirts of St Just in west Cornwall.

Hundreds of people turned up to explore the sustainable ideas on offer and thoroughly enjoyed the easy, relaxed community feel of the day; as did our intrepid trio from the Core Team, Palden, Ba and Lynn.

The autumn weather was glorious, you could see the Isles of Scilly from the field in which we had our stand, and we were serenaded by young musicians from the local Penwith music school. It was a perfect setting for a perfect day, with much interest and networking in the Parallel Community. What was particularly apparent was the universal agreement by everyone we spoke to that PC's ideology is the only way forward for a sustainable society and lots of people are getting the message! (Lynn, Core Team)



## Focus for October: BALANCE in work and play

One thing that binds us all together is perhaps the 'pressure' or 'weight' of time and/or money versus our deep desire to be free from their slavery. So many times I hear from people that they don't have the time or they don't have the money to do something that they would rather be doing. Something that would make them much happier; something that would light up the spark in their hearts. *If I only had more ...* Then they would feel better and this sense of happiness would be reflected in the lightness of their tread and the warm glow in their eyes and smiles. But since we don't have 'it' (yet!), we keep on hoping for it. Funny how it always seems to be just beyond our grasp. Why does it feel like we get less of that which we so desperately desire more of?

Maybe it will happen when we have been 'good' enough, or 'active' enough, or 'giving' enough? Or waited long enough? Well, I have had enough of waiting. I decided to have a look at my own life to find out whether I am a slave to time or money – or just the victim of my own thoughts. Have I given away my freedom for the sake of 'security'? Is there such a thing as security in life? All things change, nothing remains the same. It is the nature of life, ever expanding. Have we become too rigid to the flow of life? When we hang on to the old structures

where *making money to be able to pay the bills* is THE focus of modern (wo)man, is there any room to look at alternatives to create a happier life? Can we still find a way to tap into our innate resourcefulness and limitless creativity to 'go with the flow'? Can we listen and attune our lives to the rhythms of nature, the stars and the evolution of human consciousness? Can we find a way in which we are able to release ourselves from the shackles of money? Or, shall we least start by creating more BALANCE between 'having to work for money to be able to pay my bills' versus 'time to do what makes my heart sing', and by so doing, become a generator of love and joy to ourselves, to our friends, families, neighbours, communities, the Earth?

Perhaps others have already found a way to create such a balance in their lives. We invite them to share their wisdom and suggestions, on the PC Facebook page, at [Parallel Community Facebook group](#). We would also love to hear any ideas, tips and suggestions of how you would create balance between work and play.

Nathascha Heijen, core team member



## A "Facebook with Purpose"



*Bernadette Phillips, member of the Parallel Community core team from Ireland, has written the following to give further explanation of the idea behind the setting up of the Parallel Community Facebook page.*

Any organisation seeking to reach out to a wide and diverse audience must make itself known on a broad platform, and so the PC Facebook page is simply another forum in which to connect with and reach people. In expressing his vision for the PC, Hamish spoke about a "Facebook with purpose", one that would reach millions and millions of people.

The reasoning for setting up a Parallel Community Facebook lies firstly in recognising that there has been a dearth of interaction on the PC website; and secondly, in actively responding to the reason and vision for PC: **"The Parallel Community has been formed to create a platform where people can express their positive contributions for change" on a "human, social, ecological, creative and spiritual" level.** Facebook is one way of communicating this message; and it does not diminish or deflect from our communications in any way on our PC website. It is also in line with another core objective of PC, which is to **"Share your ideas and inspiration with others around the world"**. Facebook can be a great way of doing this, as connecting to and sharing information with just one friend can have the potential to reach all the connections of that friend and their friends, and so on. It can generate conversation and a flow of interaction which supports awareness raising of PC and engages people's attention and interest.

The internet, and networks such as Facebook, can be used in a positive way to connect and interact with many, many

people who are working for peace, unity and positive change all around the world. **“Millions of people and groups across the world feel just the same, and now it is time to unite to make our voices heard.”** Facebook can help in finding and connecting to such groups, along with connecting to people who are looking to be part of, and involved in, an organisation such as Parallel Community, but do not know about it. Because it is used by so many millions of people around the world, Facebook can help us reach such people.

Whilst recognising the negatives and positives of using social networks, in an organisation’s development, it is important to move a vision into action, and in so doing align and increase the organisation’s strength and capacity to deal with both negative and positive reactions. This involves casting the net wide, and being prepared for and aware that sometimes we may encounter difficulties and challenges.

Together we are co-creating a wonderful Parallel Community both from 'within' and from 'without'. And as the hunger and need for love, peace, positive change and healing intensifies in this amazing but complex world of ours, may we focus our attention on, and align and join our energy to, bringing our simple yet profound message of "bringing back the simple joys of living, loving and laughing" to communities all around the world.

In so doing, we hope to create a blueprint for a "Facebook with purpose" of soul proportion and magnitude so full of positive energy and positive vibrations, which supports a 'knowingness' beyond any doubt, that there is nothing to fear from being part of a network where we can increase our presence on a grand scale. Working together, **“We will inspire one another to create a tolerant, respectful and ecologically aware society”** and help create a ‘better world for all’.

### **The Core Team at Treviscoe**



Members of the Core Team (together with helpers John and Frances) pictured at their September gathering recently at Treviscoe. From left to right: Ann Brocklehurst, Richard Smith, Lynn Forrest, Frances Watts, Annie Turner (front), John Watts, Ba Miller, Lindsey Price, Bernadette Phillips, Adam Price, Nathascha Heijen, Mario Peters. Core Team member Palden Jenkins was unable to be present.

### **Next newsletter**

We would really welcome contributions from PC members for the next newsletter, which should appear around the beginning of November. Please send any comments, feedback, articles, ideas, poems, photos, etc , by Friday October 29 at the very latest, to Frances at [watts@penare.ndo.co.uk](mailto:watts@penare.ndo.co.uk) , or to the PC address below.

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