

DEAR FRIENDS,

Our last newsletter appeared in autumn, as we had to decide, to write the newsletters only twice a year. My introduction last autumn ended with me expressing the hope, that Michaelic strength and light would accompany us through the dark time of the year and all its challenges. Well, we have gone through a difficult and dark time with lots of challenges and are happy, that the light of spring is with us again.



We had two days without electricity just when winter started with the first snowstorm in November. So it was easy to find something, we would need, when our local newspaper “Nädaline” wanted to start an action, to collect money for us. We knew, we would need it for the wood burning stove in Tamme house kitchen, in order to heat the house and to cook, in case there is no electricity. Many companies reacted and we got the money together. **Thank you all very much.**

Several meetings took place in Pahkla, Maarja Küla and Tallinn to work at the quality and to promote the service “life in community”. In the beginning of November a group of people not only from Pahkla travelled to Norway in order to get to know two Camphill places there. In Estonia there are several initiatives, who want to start new villages for special needs people.

Comenius house was constantly filled with guests, who had come for meetings like twice the baltic seminar or the northern region regional group. The house also served us well for all the guests, who had come to celebrate Christmas with us. Right at the moment Johan from Holland is renovating it.

The first of Advent Urve Purga came again with her violin pupils from Tondi School in Tallinn and we made a concert together which was followed by the advent garden in the hall. We had a lot of fun performing the Christmas play again. We went to Tallinn (Hilarius school) and performed it here.

Also just before Christmas Ants Tammar presented his new book called “Years and People: Letters to Fellow Travellers” in Kohila and Rapla. Both times we were also invited, as he wrote about people and initiatives in the social field in Rapla county. One of the eight chapters is about Pahkla. You can buy the book for 100.- EEK when you come to the spring festival.

Maire Aunaste, she makes a TV-programme called ”Good News” came and filmed here one morning and made interviews. Then she invited Cathy and Katarina to the TV-Studio in Tallinn where she was interviewing us and where also the films, she made here were shown. At the same time in Pahkla everybody was watching the show having good cake made by Louise. Afterwards, as a surprise to us, Maire Aunaste asked us also to come with her to Radio House, where she talked with us still for one hour. Some regular radio listeners in Pahkla even managed to hear this as well.

In an Estonian magazine about special cow races appeared an article, in which our cows and Silvi, our animal expert were praised for the excellent achievements caring for our Estonian land cattle.

Some two weeks ago we got a letter from Andrus Ansip, Estonian prime minister, that we will be able to use our land now as social land. Our local newspaper wrote about this at once.

Towards the end of February our candle storage room was full and we stopped candle making for this winter. Inge and Kersti were happy to join the weavery team and Jevgeni and Kaarel went to the wood or the stable. Marek got the possibility to renovate his room together with Claudia and Margus decided to rest a bit more.

A lot of wood was sawn and chopped and there came new wood already.

Michael from Germany came in January. He is gardener and cuts our berry bushes and trees. Janon from Canada came also in January to help in Tamme house and the candle workshop. She got already very good friend with the cows. Madli, who studies social work, did a practice with us. We would have liked to keep her here at once, but she still needs to finish her studies. In October Andres came to live with us, he introduces himself still in this newsletter.

On the roads the snow has meanwhile changed into wild rivers and lakes we have to cross, every time we want to get to Vikerkaare house. The smell of the berry bushes, the sound of running water and the song of the larks tell us that spring has arrived.



And we sing spring songs, turned the clocks to summertime, whilst outside the thick layer of snow slowly melts. Our musicians practised their instruments again and want to perform for you at our

**SPRINGFESTIVAL,
which takes place the
19th of April.
At 12.00 hours
in the
MIKAELI SAAL**

Wishing you a warm spring filled with the song of birds and a good Easter time,

KATARINA

WINTER

My winter was really interesting; here in Pahkla we had a real winter. I come from France and it is so different than in my country. We had started the winter with a snowstorm; due to it we had no electricity for two days. For the duration of these two days we didn't have water, radiator or lights because all work with electricity here. To have water to drink and cook we had to melt snow on the fire oven. To eat we made a "Lummi" soup (a soup with snow).

After it was Christmas time. I enjoyed the Estonian Christmas and food. Of course as a French girl it was really new for me to eat cabbages, potatoes and sausages in Christmas meal. It was such a great experience and it happens one time in your life. During this winter I have seen the ice with minus twenty degrees in January. I have seen the Estonian forest full of snow. I have seen the short days and the darkness. I have made a lot of sauna for having warmth. This time was an experience that I'll never forget.

NOLWENN

NEWS FROM PAHKLA LIFE

Here is a lot of work to be done. I made candles and chopped wood. Many boxes of birthday candles got ready. The candles I made are packed in boxes by Louise, Nolwenn and Janon. Margus made the pictures for the boxes. We have now new boxes. They came from Aivar's printing workshop. In the beginning of March we had made so many candles that they did not manage to pack them anymore. So we stopped candle making for this winter and went to work outside. Today I threw heating wood onto the trailer. I also watched a big wood lorry, how the wood was being unloaded.

And if there are sometimes problems, we solve them.

Today it is nice weather. Where the sun shines it is warm, in the shade of the trees it is cold. The liverworts do not flower yet the earth is still covered in snow.



Maire Aunaste visited us. She makes TV-programmes. She makes one programme called "Good News". Everybody you could see in the film: Robert, Louise and Nolwenn, me and Jevgeni were shown, how we made candles, Ants, how he made a carpet at the weaving loom. She made an interview with Andres and Kersti S. The cameramen went also to the stable and there they filmed Urmas, Vova, Andres, Malle and Robert. Also our cows appeared on television. In Tamme house they filmed how Kersti shared her soup. My friends who saw the film were happy and said, 'Kaarel eats soup'. On Tuesday Cathy and Katarina had to go to town and to give an interview. Afterwards we heard them also in the radio, where they spoke for one hour with Maire Aunaste. I saw this programme when I was on holidays at my grandmother's place. The next day I mucked out the stable. I emptied it completely. I also brought milk to the neighbours. In their family is a small child who is a bit my relative.

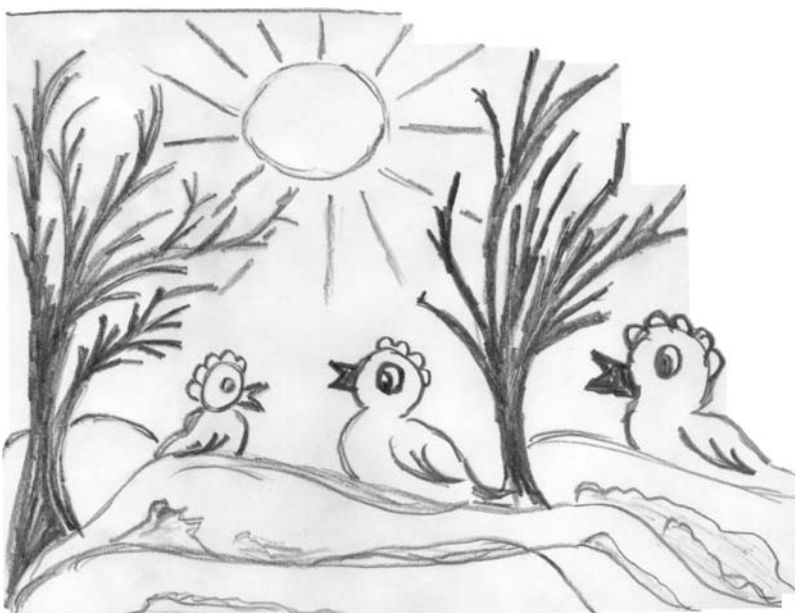
KAAREL

NICE SPRING

The 20th of March spring started. The snow has not melted yet. Today I saw a crow flying in the shining sun.

Soon it will be Palm Sunday, then we will walk around our land. Then will come Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. When the weather will be nice we might go for an outing on Ascension Day.

KERSTI K.



ABOUT MY EXPERIENCE IN PAHKLA

Hello, I am Robert and 26 years old. I am a volunteer from Germany and here in Pahkla since September 2008. I make my European Voluntary Service for one year in Pahkla. I live in Männi Maja together with Katrin, Urmas and Andres. Now we have spring and the nature around looks alive and fresh. The sun is shining, the birds are singing, and it's light very early and dark very late. But there is only one little detail which makes the spring different than in Germany. The temperature is under zero degree and we still have a lot of snow. But it's just the beginning of spring so I am very optimistic that the warm temperatures are coming after our long winter. The winter this year was really beautiful. We had and have a lot of snow and the temperatures were only sometimes really low.

I started to work in autumn with collecting and sorting the potatoes and finished in winter times with packing the candles. Between I milk the cows, work in the stable, make cheese, work with our boys outside, drive the piimaring with Silvi and sometimes I have also to cook in Tobias Maja. I live in Männi but I eat breakfast and lunch in Tobias. That is very comfortable, because Kersti prepares every morning a really good breakfast and makes a good pudru, which gives me enough power for the day. Also our lunch is always good. Kristiina, Claudia and Nolwenn are mostly cooking and are supported by Malle, Kersti and Marek. The house connection from Männi and Tobias works very well and for me it's a good possibility to have a second home in the village. Because Männi is 15 minutes by foot outside from the village and sometimes I prefer to stay for a little break in Tobias.

I am very happy to stay here in Pahkla and to live together with our villagers. This place has a safe atmosphere and it's good to see how everybody finds his individual place here. Andres from Männi Maja is a new villager and he came in the end of the last year. He is 30 years old and has lived his whole life at his parents place in the south of Estonia. At the beginning it was very difficult for him to find his place here in Pahkla. Also for me it was not always easy to live with him together in Männi. But he finds more and more his place and he is already a part of the stable team. He helps me to milk the cows, which he does very well. He has experience with cows, because he was milking a cow at his parents place. It is really nice to see the relationship between him and the cows. He likes the cows a lot and they give him a lot.

Soon we will start with the farm work outside and I am happy to enjoy the spring and the summer here in Estonia.

ROBERT

PANCAKES



Cathy taught me how to make pancakes. Now I make every Thursday completely on my own pancakes for the whole Tamme house family. I take eggs which Malle brought us, the chickens gave them to her, and put them into a pot. Then I beat the eggs and add milk and sugar. I also add oil, flour and a bit salt. Cathy then makes nice dough with the mixer. When the dough is ready I put it on the cooking pan and start making pancakes, pancakes, pancakes until they are all done.

Everybody, also our guests from today Katrin and Tiia liked my pancakes.

INGE

KATI KODU AND PAHKLA CAMPHILLI KÜLA

When Ernest was still here, in autumn one Monday we went to Kati Kodu and had games and fun together with people from Kati Kodu. Afterwards we decided, that it would be nice, to do more together, because people simply like to be together now and then. So we invited people from Kati Kodu to our Mardi feast. We had a nice feast with games, dances and good food. That same evening was such a storm, that the roof of the builders hut flew away. Part of the roof Aivar had to get out of the oak tree in front of Tamme house.

Then Kati Kodu invited us. It was Kadri day and many kadrid went by our white bus towards Vilivere. When we finally had found the house in the darkness we went inside, where the reception committee was already waiting for us. We sang a Kadri song and Kati Kodu performed a play telling the story of the cat with boots on. We had food with us and Kati Kodu had also been preparing all sorts of marvellous tasting surprises. Nothing was missing.

We were shown around in the house and we saw where people had their rooms. Jüri had many beautiful plants in his room and he gave us some as well. The evening ended with music and dancing. The next time we met was just before Christmas when they came to see our Christmas play. We did not only perform here but also in the Hilarius School in Tallinn. It was nice, to perform the play again. Many guests had come.

Then came the dark time, when we did not meet for some time but for our carnival party we asked Kati Kodu again to join us. Kaarel had the suggestion, to meet in the “train station”. So we all came together in the “Pahkla train station”. Kati Kodu people sang us the song of Piilu Duck as train conductor. We bought tickets and went by train to all possible and impossible destinations. Kaarel was the train conductor. Ants controlled the tickets. Marek sold tickets and I sold newspapers. Tiit and Katrin were the Station directors and the station musicians were Margus and Katarina. A very special place was there where Kristiina and Andres sold us, just like professionals, nicely prepared food. We played a game with balloons and musical chairs, danced folkdances and also disco-dances in the end.

When there is the right moment for it, we will meet again with Kati Kodu.

JEVGENI AND KATARINA

OUR DEAR VILLAGE CHICKENS



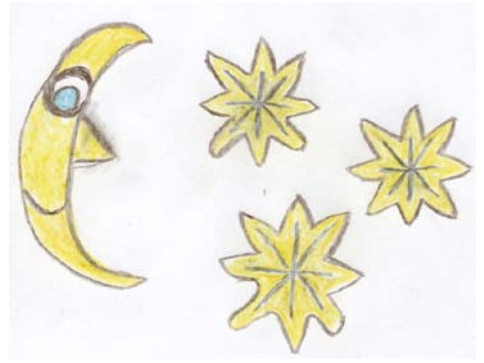
The chickens are outside now, in the snow and they have a lot of sunshine. Every day they give a bit more eggs. On Katrin's birthday they gave 32 eggs, Katrin Kirsipuu's birthday there were 20 eggs and on my birthday they laid 30 eggs. They are very happy that they may be outside. Imagine, spring is at hand and the earth is still covered in snow. In the pig stall is only one pig left. Tomorrow we buy new hens.

MALLE

MY WORK WITH THE BLACK CURRANT BUSHES

During the first half of January, when I started to work in Pahkla, it was still dark in the morning at 8.00 – in the afternoon at half past 4 the daylight had finished again, but bright Venus sent its rays over the western sky, when it was not cloudy.

The three rows of currant bushes with the fruit trees in between seemed to be infinitely long. How far would I get with cutting until the “normal” spring works would start in the garden again?



To cut the bushes is not really difficult, if you know, how to do it. First I cut the branches, which are too low towards the ground and take the light away from each other. Then follow those in the middle of the bush where they stand too tight and all the branches, which are too weak. Some branches I shorten a third of their length that they can branch out. Finally I shorten some tops in order that they would form stronger berries. That is already the whole ABC of berry cutting. The reason of cutting is to concentrate on the essential and to take away, what is not necessary; to care for, that all the parts get enough light in order to harvest nice and big berries. Now and then it is helpful to step back a bit to have distance and to have a better overview over the whole bush, just like in your life it might be sometimes good to put your own doing and your aims in question. . . .

Unfortunately two of the three rows stand far too tight so that they take away from each other the valuable light and it is difficult whilst cutting to reach all the branches. We should also with those bushes take every second away, but this is better done in autumn after the harvest.

There are sometimes fresh trails of mice in the snow or of cats or rabbits. Sometimes a car or a lorry loaded with wood drives past on the road. And crows fly croaking over or having an argument. Now and then there is a very beautiful sunset as a treat. When Manfred came to help, it was possible, to have interesting talks.

Now, in the meantime we have the end of March, Venus moved far towards northeast and constantly lower towards the horizon, until she became invisible and will appear at the early morning sky in April instead. Now we hope to have a good harvest in summer in order to have good juice and jam for autumn and winter.

MICHAEL

ANDRES

Hello, my name is Andres, I am 30 years old. October last year I came to Pahkla and now I live in Männi house together with Katrin, Robert and Urmas.

Together with Robert I milk cows. Together with Claudia I make lunch. I help sort out the grain, chop and stack wood. In the evenings I knit socks. I gave the first pair to Robert on his birthday. Robert is my best friend. I like to live here.

ANDRES

CREAMERY

Mondays and Thursdays I am in the creamery. On Monday I wash the cheese forms. Thursday I make white cheese and wash the jars for Friday's milk circle and I wash the cheese.

KRISTIINA

ANOTHER WAY OF SEEING

I am from half the world away, from another Northern country, Canada. I came here to find another way of seeing the world we share, to find a more peaceful way of co-existing. In our western society, it seemed to me that much of life is focused around how long you have to work for some set income, to afford a certain apartment, with a particular style of life. The more you can make for yourself, in the least amount of time, the better. In Pahkla, however, this is not the case. Very little of the work is about income, instead it is about living. The dough we make rises in the oven, not the stock market; the assets we move are from our cows, not foreign investments. Life here is about serving each other, giving to one another. When you are served, when we all care for the other, everyone has and no one goes without. There is a sense of true loving kindness that is infused into the very nature of our lives in Pahkla. We milk with caring, clean with compassion, and cook with a deep understanding for whom and why we work. Living here has left in my heart a desire to do more, a longing to be more effective. It is not a place where you impatiently look at the clock for when you can leave; staying only due to a given hourly price of value on your time. Here we stay till the work is done; for the work and the people are that hold all the value not the time or the pay cheque.

JANON

**OUR ADDRESS: Pahkla Camphilli Küla, Kohila pk.
Rapla maakond 79742, Estonia**

**TELEPHONS: (372) 48 34 430 – Helle House
48 34 416 – Tobias House
48 97 535 – Tamme House
48 34 419 – Männi House
48 98 300 – Vikerkaare House**

**FAX: (372) 48 97 231 E-mail: pahklack@hotmail.ee
Web homepage www.pahklack.ee**

DONATIONS:

- **AS SEB bank (addr. Tornimäe 2, 15010 Tallinn, Estonia) Pahkla Camphilli Küla SA
IBAN EE291010 8020 0392 8005 BIC -EEUHEE2X**
- **Spendenkonto in Deutschland: Katarina Seeherr Stadt+Kreissparkasse Pforzheim;
IBAN DE 13666500850001716379 BIC PZHSDE66**
- **Spendenkonto: Freunde der Erziehungskunst Rudolf Steiners e.V. Spende für Pahkla
Camphilli Küla Projekt: 6570 Postbank Stuttgart BLZ 600 100 70 Konto-Nr: 39800-
704 IBAN: DE91 6001 0070 0039 8007 04 BIC (SWIFT): PBNKDEFF**