

Myvillages newsletter June 2014

Dear friends and colleagues of Myvillages

Spring time started with an award for us and summer is going to be busy. So we thought we'd update you with a few lines on what's going on Myvillages-wise.

In late April we received the 2014 Create Art Award for a new project in East London called 'Company. Movements, Deals and Drinks'.

It links east London's history of hop-picking in Kent with the ambition to set up a new community drinks-making enterprise. Kathrin who is leading on the project has just had her first Dagenham sunburn, and we are busy making lots of connections and producing expected and unexpected drinks for a launch in October. The website is still under construction but lists upcoming dates: www.c-o-m-p-a-n-y.info.

Last year we decided it was time for an 'International Village Show' and are very pleased to announce that the Museum of Contemporary Art Leipzig is joining us in the effort to produce a two year long exhibition to show all the villages we are working with in one place. We're currently refurbishing the old coach station in the museum garden, to make a permanent outdoor display including the first International Village Shop Dispenser, a good size function room and hospitality suite for guests and visitors and a flat for us in our popular rustic eclectic style. The project website is designed by An Endless Supply and goes live this Friday, 13th June 2014. www.internationalvillageshow.myvillages.org

'Umeå Skafferi' aka the latest Swedish Version of our 'Pantry' project is starting to get filled and will be used during the Survival Kit Festival this autumn. The Bildmuseet's curator Cecilia Anderson set up a local pantry-team led by Sujoy Lee. Curious to see what enters the pantry as we have to eat what is there.

Earlier this year eighteen young farmers and ranchers spent a week together in Fryslân. We filmed the sea and the Frisians had to explain to the visiting Colorado students how drainage works when you farm below sea level. Wapke has been working on "Farmers & Ranchers" for a while and this autumn sees the Dutch group going to the US, the launch of a film for TV broadcast made together with M12 and Kim Shively, and an exhibition at the Fries Museum. [Click here to watch plains vs polder action.](#)

For over a century, Vlassenbroek in Belgium has been an artists' village, where the tradition of drawing outdoor scenes seems to have tapered off. The local polder has recently been designated a flood plain which means that the familiar landscape will disappear. This calls for imagination and visualisation! 'Tekenen in Vlassenbroek' is Wapke's latest collaborative and multi-disciplinary drawing project - for a picture book compilation.

Antje is currently polishing up her rural Spanish tongue for an exhibition at the Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporaneo in Sevilla which opens on 18th September. It includes the premiere of two new films for I like being a farmer, the celebration of a new line of finest china and 180 jars of Seville Orange Marmelade from the museum's gardens ... come and join for a warm long night out!

The 'Eco Nomadic School' is continuing over the summer. Next stop is Brezoi in central Romania in late July, with hands-on lessons in traditional constructions for a new Odaia (small hill farms on common land), insight into Romanian food preserving tricks and the obligatory outdoor Tzuika production.

And as always: 'New Village Products' are on the go and are currently being prototyped or in the process of making in Ballykinlar, Höfen, Sevilla, Ekumfi-Ekrawfo and Grafschaft Bentheim.

Myvillages has a Facebook page now, which you are of course very welcome to like. Our numbers are currently more within the hamlet size region.

Have a great summer and hopefully see you!

Best

Antje, Kathrin and Wapke