

Chair's report to Harom Galamb (Scotland) AGM 12th June 2026

Introduction

Harom Galamb (Scotland) has the following purpose and powers:

Purposes

The organisation's purposes are the relief of need through raising funds to support the Harom Galamb Association, a charity registered in Romania providing a day centre for young adults with learning disabilities, with the aim of providing vulnerable individuals with opportunities for personal growth and skills development, increasing social integration, independence and confidence.

Powers

The organisation has power to do anything which is calculated to further its purposes or is conducive or incidental to doing so.

There is a memorandum of understanding between Harom Galamb (Scotland) and the Association of Harom Galamb in Transylvania. A symbiotic relationship exists.

As the annual accounts show, Trustees, along with the team in Transylvania, have continued to raise funds during the past year for the benefit of those receiving day services in Romania.

The Board of Trustees

Since the last AGM, Trustees have held 10 meetings. These have all, but one, been via Teams/Zoom.

During this year we have said goodbye to Richard Costigan as a Trustee. He brought his experiences from social work, social care and from working in Camphill Communities to the Board of Trustees. Thank you Richard for your contribution.

We said hello and goodbye to Simon Blissett as a new Trustee, who took the role of strategy advisor including business strategy, fundraising strategies, financial shape and direction (in support of The Treasurer), governance and website development. He supported us wholly, until he believed that he could offer no more. Even in his short tenure, he has left an important legacy.

We also said hello to Nick Kellner as a new Trustee, with the intention of bringing his experience of biodynamic gardening to the Board and also providing a vital link to the Camphill Youth Movement.

I am so grateful to Laurence Alfred, our Board secretary, who is brilliant at providing accurate and very timely minutes after each of our meetings. He keeps us on track. He is also the main correspondent for the Board, keeping in touch with a myriad of individuals and organisations. Thank you Laurence

Sean Belliveau has continued to support AHG by creating cash flow forecasts for both revenue and capital spends, which keeps AHG on track and enables HGS Trustees to be aware of where best to target fundraising activity. Sean has made such an important contribution to both HGS and AHG enabling everyone in such a straightforward way to understand both the present and the future finances. Thank you Sean.

Visits to Association Harom Galamb, Transylvania

The chair made two visits to Transylvania over the past year, firstly in May 2025 and secondly in May 2026 (which is discussed in more detail in the section, below, headed the official opening of the day centre).

The visit in May 2025 incorporated a meeting with the director of social services of Harghita County, the lead inspector and social worker; team meetings between the chair and staff members and by the chair carrying out the annual staff reviews.

Laurence and his wife Vibeke visited in September 2025. Vibeke offered training sessions on 'Understanding and responding to those with additional needs'. Attendees came from the County Services, other NGOs and parents with special needs. In addition they took part in day centre activities with beneficiaries and met with staff. Feedback has been very positive. They also visited for the opening ceremony on 14th May 2026.

These visits provide a valuable opportunity to quality assure the way in which monies provided through Harom Galamb Scotland, and monies raised elsewhere, are being spent. They also offer an opportunity for practice to be assessed (as an addition to the in-county inspection reports).

Affiliation to the Camphill Movement

During this period, we became full members of the Association of Camphill Communities (UK and Ireland) (AoCC) and through this, to the Camphill worldwide movement which will open doors for greater collaboration, professional support and potentially sponsorship (beneficiary exchange; staff training development opportunities) as well. The founders of Harom Galamb Association have had long year's of experience in Camphill's in Scotland and 3 of the Trustees of Harom Galamb Scotland have also lived, worked or supported the work of different Camphill communities. Our practice is inspired by the Camphill ethos and methods.

Fundraising

In July 2025 HGS Trustees, along with Zsuzsa Soo, made a presentation to interested partners, parties and funders at Camphill House Aberdeen. The presentation included the following topics:

- Laurence: Welcome to Camphill House and the Camphill connection
- Simon: My experience in Transylvania and with Harom Galamb
- Zsuzsa: The story of AHG
- Sean: Brief update on the finances
- John: Q&A
- Launch of the new website

The fundraising efforts to support AHG over the past year have been to try to:

1. Ensure that there was no revenue funding gap, between the costs and the fees paid by Harghita County for beneficiaries.
2. Ensure that the remaining capital funds for the costs of the day centre were met

As a result of the presentation in July and bids made since, we are grateful to have received monies from:

- Camphill Foundation: £11.6k
- Camphill Social Fund: £10k
- Christine Sadler: £10k
- The Duff Foundation: £3k
- Aberdeen Kiltwalk £2k
- Other individual financial contributions

We were also very fortunate to be the recipients of a huge lorry load of goods from Tigh a'Chomainn Camphill Community and also goods from Dutch donors. These include: washing machine and dryer; fridge; freezer; wood burning oven; garden tools; craft equipment; furniture, bedding, towels for guest accommodation; kitchen utensils; fan; TV, printer, laminator, laptops; table adapted for felting; lots of wooden chairs and tables for the 3 rooms; sofas; guest furniture and equipment.

The opening of the Harom Galamb new day centre (14th May 2026)

History

The building work for the day centre was started in February 2023, by laying the foundations, continued from March 2024, thanks to the funds made available by the Romanian Ministry of Work, Family, Social Protection and Old People (2.000.000 RON) and the Software AG Stiftung, Germany (120.000 EUR). The building was designed by Zsolt Varday and Kinga Varday, complying with the quality standards for a Day Centre for adults with disabilities and at the same time giving honour to the traditional architectural style of the village. The construction company was Constructasist SRL.

The opening

On the 14th May, we held the official opening of the Harom Galamb Camphill day centre. Speeches were made by: The Mayor; Deputy Social Services Director; HGS Secretary; AHG Project lead; 3 parents; the architect; and the local church minister. Attendees came from far and wide making it a day

to remember. A variety of workshops were held which were well attended. In the evening, attendees were treated to a Hungarian folk band and folk dancing.

AHG attracts both professional and personal visitors wishing to learn from the work that is being done with young people with special needs. The views of these visitors help to affirm and reaffirm the service being provided.

There is no better voice than that of beneficiaries and their families. A close second are those who fund beneficiaries (councils) and those who have political influence. In Appendix A, I have included some of those voices (including three parents, the local mayor and the social services representative) as expressed at the opening ceremony on 14th May 2026.

Other support from HGS to AHG

In addition to the fundraising activities and other financial support identified above, HGS has:

1. Provided 1-1 sessions to Zsuzsa and over the year, have met on zoom roughly once per month and more often, if things need discussing and resolving.
2. Provided support to the staff team which, during the year, has consisted of: Zsuzsa, project lead; Evi, psychologist; Agnes, art therapist/social care; Lilla, part-time social worker; our new full time social worker, Betti; Margit, the gardener and Villi our new handyman/driver.
3. Supported Zsuzsa to attend the annual social therapy professional meeting in Bulgaria. This is important for personal growth, learning and renewal.

Conclusion

The development of Harom Galamb, both in Scotland and in Transylvania, has, over the last 6 years, been driven by a series of business and project plans, which have been shared with potential sponsors and supporters. We have monitored these plans at Harom Galamb (Scotland) Trustee meetings and adjusted as necessary, and we are now at a point where our various plans are reaching fruition:

1. The day centre is complete and officially opened on 14th May 2026.
2. Beneficiary numbers are increasing (currently 15 young people).
3. Beneficiaries and their families are achieving outcomes thought not possible previously. This is demonstrated by the voices of the parents recreated in Appendix A.
4. AHG's reputation for quality assured person-centred provision is well known. This is demonstrated in the speech from the social services representative recreated in Appendix A.
5. We are approaching revenue sustainability for the first time in our history.
6. Our AHG staff team, supported by Scottish Trustees are highly qualified and professional and, importantly, have been stable over time.
7. We have supported and developed a new improved website: [Harom Galamb Association \(3 Doves\)](#)

It has been an absolute privilege to lead the Trustees in our support of AHG to achieve the outcomes reflected in this annual report. I wish Harom Galamb (Scotland) and the Association Harom Galamb every success in the future.

John Richards,

Chair HGS

3rd June 2026

Appendix A: Voices from the Harom Galamb Day Centre opening ceremony on 14th May 2026

Mihály Iván, Fanni's Dad:

'If anyone would tell me that my daughter would be able to do anything independently, I would not have believed them. However, it is just as well, I did not believe them. My family and I have had a new beginning and a fresh start. Life begins again. We always had to fight for her but now she's arrived at the right place. It's a blessing. We got the message that Harom Galamb is coming. It was like a message from God. First, we didn't want to believe it. We thought it was just a dream

We saw the place and it felt like home. In the beginning Zsuzsa had the activities in her own house; My daughter coming to Harom Galamb has changed my life completely; It was very hard to let go as we needed to know that she would be well cared for. And she is, and slowly, slowly, she became more independent. She is now much more balanced. She contributes in the garden and in the kitchen and with craftwork.

It is most touching for us is that she can now give attention and love to others. She has changed, but so have we. The coworkers look after our treasure with all their love. It is a sharing supportive environment. It is a community where our children can feel safe and find meaningful work. It is a real gift to us as well. We have received support that we never realised we needed, and now we stand in front of this new building which will offer more families relief and support.

More young people will be able to experience the care and dedication from the staff here. They will also find out that they are more capable and also able to contribute as our daughter did. There is a community here that can bring everyone together and offer not only support for her but for also for us'.

Mother of Iza Attis:

'For us, "Three Doves" is synonymous with Divine Providence. Perhaps these two words can describe what is truly happening here. That in this exclusionary, selfish world, where society functions solely according to its own interests, where people sometimes forget to be human, an oasis is formed, an oasis comes into being. Here, the purest of souls are cared for by people blessed with such devotion, love, and boundless patience—this is indeed Divine Providence.

As a parent, I can say with certainty that our children have come home. Here, in this place, everyone is valued, everyone is equal; there is no exclusion, no backbiting.

And like every home, this place would not be complete without a caring, protective, devoted mother. Providential God has sent us no fewer than five of these mothers. These gentle-hearted people bring joy, happiness, and beautiful moments into our young people's lives every day. This cannot be learned; this talent can only be given by the Good Lord. Thank you and gratitude for everything'.

Agi's Mother

'Three Doves—What Does This Mean to Me as a Parent? An answer to our prayers. At the very beginning, it meant a shift in perspective. It meant seeing my daughter's life and her possibilities from a viewpoint where everything seemed to be all right. As if her disability no longer posed any obstacles.

At first, it also provided a space for developing coping strategies, for getting to know and accepting people in similar and different situations. Sometimes, it meant facing our own mistakes and receiving positive feedback and encouragement regarding our parenting. Stability, continuity. A vision for the future. Finding alternative solutions and new friends.

It has replaced the disadvantages, struggles, and hopeless situations of childhood with a well-thought-out system that lovingly upholds human dignity and individualized care. It represents a second home where, by her own admission, my daughter feels safe and loved. It means discussing daily burdens, seeking solutions, and finding them under the protective wings of a welcoming community. It means rediscovering the true values in our young people with disabilities—values that we, as parents, have

always seen in them—which are recognized in this Galamb environment with such naturalness that human disability pales in comparison, making way for the loving, accepting, and inclusive spirit of Galamb. Where we can exist side by side in peace. If we fail, we can start over again and again. To quarrel and make up, to understand, to accept, to rejoice and to cry, and then to laugh.

To fall and get back up, trusting that there is someone who will catch me, who believes in me, and who accepts me just as God created me. All of this takes place with the young person surrounded by a protective net of professionals and friends who know every facet of this young adult. It means trust in the team, reassurance and expert advice, as well as emotional support—and sometimes opportunities for creative expression, free time to recharge. It means the joyful afternoon reports from my daughter after each successful weaving session. Joy.

The proud presentation of freshly picked spinach. Pride. Eating it with the knowledge that she was part of the process, that her work was useful. Satisfaction. It means the joy of birthdays celebrated with delicate sensitivity—the feeling of “I am important and I matter” in the young person and in us as parents as well. Last but not least, it means gratitude for being part of the community—a resource that is like an inexhaustible well, nourished by love and dedication’.

Matild Păncescu Social Services:

‘Good afternoon, My name is Matild Păncescu, and I am here both on my own behalf and on behalf of the Harghita County Directorate General for Social Assistance and Child Protection, and I am very pleased to be here today.

The development of a social service also brings about the development of the community, encouraging mutual assistance among its members. This is what Zsuzsa began with the Three Doves Association here in the Porumbenii Mici community seven years ago. Of course, it wasn’t easy, but she was surrounded by wonderful people who treated their fellow human beings with love, regardless of their status.

We see that the efforts of the Harom Galamb Association are bearing fruit; they are becoming increasingly well-known and are growing, and now they are being crowned with the development of the day centre—the construction of this wonderful new building, which is tailored to the needs of its visitors.

Ever since I met Zsuzsa and learned about the various activities, methods, and therapies she uses to develop the abilities and self-confidence of people with special needs, I’ve told myself: Yes, there are other ways to improve these people’s quality of life. She strives to apply the experiences gained in Scotland and the best practices learned there here as well, which sets a good example for others. The methods and therapies used to better integrate young people should be shared as widely as possible and adopted by other social service providers as well, because they have proven to work.

Of course, the role of the authorities is indispensable in supporting social services. In the field of social protection and welfare, as a state representative institution, our task is to promote and support these services, as well as to apply for funding from the Ministry of Labor, which provides a certain percentage of the cost standard. We would like the county council and the county’s local administrative authorities to participate to a greater extent in the financial support of these services. In addition, during our visits, we strive to assist them in complying as fully as possible with the legal requirements necessary for their operations.

Congratulations to the entire team at the Association on this initiative and on the successful completion of the day centre development project, and we wish them continued success’.

The Mayor:

‘This is a significant day not only for Harom Galamb but for the whole Village. It is significant because what you have achieved here is very special and unique.

Back in 2016 it was the first time I became informed about people with additional needs through my second daughter’s school. She told us about how people with additional support needs live and we then tried to follow all the things she told us about how difficult it is for people with learning disabilities. I think we need to learn that they are just as valuable members of society as everybody else.

Two years past after this before I met Zsuzsa in my office. She told me where she has been, what she has learned and what she would like to do here in this Village. So, as usual after I hear such an inspiring story, I went home with a lot of enthusiasm and told my family about it; but besides my enthusiasm I had my doubts because she told me about what funds she had and needed.

It took another two years for her to move here and to start the foundation work around 2020. It's important to mention that she had a dream and she wanted to realize it here and make it real. Also important to mention is that she did not rest until she found the people and organisations to support her and this is the result that we can see today.

When I stand here I feel ashamed because I believe they could have been so much more support; we as the municipality could have given more to this project throughout the years.

But we are here today and the project has become a reality, and I can confidently say this is a unique provision, not only locally but in the wider community as well and I am deeply grateful that she made it happen. I am also grateful Zsuzsa that you found the people and the associations around you to support the project.

I wish for you that you fill this place with life and that this life brings more people towards it, because through this you help not only the parents but also the parent's surroundings, their families and their communities.

I'm happy to say in front of witnesses now that I will do my best to help and support you in your work, not only personally but us at the municipality as well because I believe deeply that this is something we should all support on a deeper level.

I wish you a lot of strength, courage, and hope that you will make happen all that you have dreamt of. Thank you very much'.

From the Architect, Zsolt Varday

Set in a beautiful location at the bend of Felső Street in Kiskalambfalva, the building complex created as the home of Három Galamb gave us, as architects, a rare opportunity to pause and reflect. As we gently shaped the design in response to the surrounding landscape, we found ourselves thinking not only about buildings, but also about the lives, inner worlds, and quiet layers of the soul that such a place is meant to shelter.

For us, the story began with Zsuzsa and her dream. It continued through a design process shaped by countless conversations, until that dream, gradually taking form, found its builders in Ferenc and Levente. Yet one essential piece was still missing. The slow and uncertain flow of diverse funding sources suggested a long, fragmented construction process, perhaps stretching over many years. Then came the ministry grant, designed for precisely this purpose, together with Csaba, the grant specialist, without whom the team would have struggled to find its way through the administrative maze.

They say that a good building speaks for itself. Still, as this one is still young, let us lend it a few words of introduction.

- It is a new house within an old shell. The varied old roof tiles soften the rooflines reaching toward the sky and help the building settle naturally into its surroundings.
- The old house facing the street became the seed from which the rest of the complex grew. The small former dwelling served as a prototype for the character of the new ensemble, and the blue colour was rediscovered beneath the earlier layers of whitewash.
- The rows of cross-gabled barns enclosing the courtyards do more than create an appealing architectural rhythm. In this windy region, they help form a gentler microclimate within the farmstead courtyards along the street. Materials from the stone barn that once stood here have been given new life in the parapet walls, retaining walls, and paved paths around the buildings.
- The porch that wraps around the complex acts as a threshold between inside and outside. It supports a close relationship between the building and its immediate environment, offering a pleasant sheltered place where, protected from sun and rain, one can still feel connected to the open air.

- Finally, the clay plaster that lines the interior spaces serves the residents through its warm earth tones, sound-softening texture, and ability to support a consistently pleasant indoor climate.

Should this be a fully sheltered environment, radiating safety and predictability? Or a place that prepares its residents for life beyond its walls, offering manageable challenges one step at a time? Is it a temporary refuge, or a lasting home—a world within a world? In the end, we came to understand that it is all of these at once. Each conversation with Zsuzsa, and with all those who share her conviction that there is always a path toward a full life if we keep searching for it with persistence, brought us closer to that understanding.