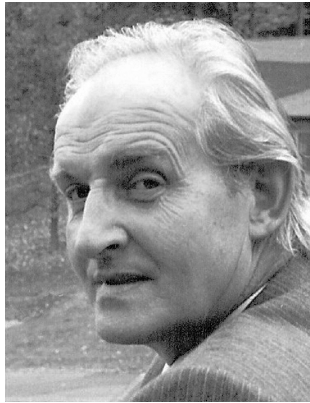


## Vitus Werthmann 26 May 1932 to 27 August 2008



Vitus came to Camphill as a young man intent on devoting himself to community building. He had already found his way into the Christian Community to which he had a strong connection from his early youth. Before embarking on the Camphill Seminar, which he completed in 1953, Vitus had already established his connection to the biodynamic land impulse. So for a brief period after the Seminar he returned to Germany to complete his training as a farmer.

In 1956 Vitus returned to Great Britain and began farming at Dale Head High Farm in Botton. It was in Botton that he married and his first child was born. The marriage was one of my earliest memories, it was the beginning of my relationship to him; he married my cousin Valerie, then Fern, now Werthmann. Soon after the birth of his first son, the call came for someone to take up the land impulse in the newly formed 'Village' incarnation of Newton Dee. Vitus arrived with a great commitment to nurturing the Village impulse in Newton Dee. His devotion and determination to this task never relented. Though in his latter years they may have mellowed slightly. Vitus was never afraid to speak out, or more importantly, do, what he believed was right. His resolve to the study of anthroposophy found constant expression, and those who knew him well also knew the extent of faithfulness and willingness to sacrifice self will for the good of the Community. There were certainly times when his strength of character could be challenging for those of a different opinion, but it was this strength, which many also found to be a rock on which to build. Vitus himself developed a deep love and knowledge of minerals, rocks, and gem-stones. a very symbolic expression of the man he was. For within many rocks and geodes we find the most beautiful and intricate rays of light.

I had the honour of working in the Karl König Archive together with Vitus in the latter years of his life. It was only then that I personally realised how deep his love of anthroposophy was. I had only known him as the strong, energetic farmer, as the storekeeper, and then running the Phoenix Gift Shop. A man with a warm and friendly smile. It was in the Archive after working there for some time, that Vitus tentatively looked into the diaries for the time he himself was in Newton Dee (then a school) as seminarist. He said one day 'You know, it is amazing to read the thoughts that were going through Dr. König's head at that time; one would never have thought it'. I wonder how many of those who were touched by Vitus would be amazed to have known what thoughts went through his mind. His faithful devotion to the 'Community' spreads out now, unhindered by physical restraints. A humble yet determined force.

*David Coe, Newton Dee*