

## FFWPU UK: The Annual Gathering Festival Date Is Out - June 24<sup>th</sup>

Michael Balcomb  
March 15, 2023



### **The Annual Gathering Festival Date Is Out!**

We are pleased to announce the Annual Gathering Festival 2023 will take place in June and is an event to look forward to!

On the 24th of June, Cleeve House will be hosting this year's Annual Gathering Festival to which everyone is invited and welcome to come! From the youngest to the oldest, there will be something for everyone and plenty of opportunity to catch up with new and old friends on a nice day. This will also be an exciting opportunity to see the new changes happening there under the care of the Cooper family who are investing their time and effort to bring Cleeve House back to its golden days!

More information and registration links will come out soon. In the meantime, you can keep up to date with what's happening with Cleeve House by keeping an eye out to the newsletter - [sign up here!](#) - and to the website.

Interview with the our new Cleeve House Project Manager can be found [here](#).

Next events happening at Cleeve House are the [HARP UK Easter DP Workshop](#) and the [Easter Family Camp](#). Registrations are closing, sign up today!



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February 14, 2023 | Announcements, Articles | Cleeve House, Our Properties, Staff

# Simon C. Takes Over At Cleeve House As Project Manager

**Simon C. will be taking over responsibilities at Cleeve House as our new Project Manager of the property. Here is how he came to decide to take up the role and his plans for the future.**

## **So how did you end up at Cleeve House with your family?**

There was an inspiration during the Easter Family Camp last year where some of us spoke one morning at breakfast and discussed how much potential the house and grounds have. Off the back of that I wrote a proposal but it didn't gather much momentum at the time.

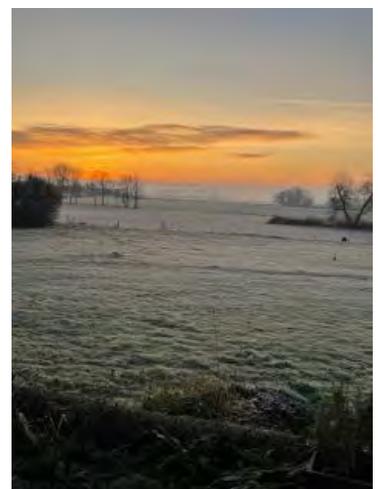
Later in the year I bumped into Mike and Fumiko Balcomb on the train to Susan C.'s Seung Hwa. Fumiko-san asked me if I still had any interest in Cleeve House. I replied how it would be nice to do something, but it would be difficult to make it happen.

Then on the 28<sup>th</sup> December I was starting my end of year reflection, looking at my life, and peering into 2023. I had an unusual experience where in 30 minutes I came not only to a conclusion, but a decision – I was going to make something happen.

Crucially it was not going to be reliant on my wife and my family supporting me and they would not have to come along for the journey. This was something I would take responsibility for, even if it meant going on my own and coming back to London at weekends. I sensed family relationships had reached a point that would allow that to work; everyone was taking care of their life in a way that meant we would all still be together regardless of where we were all physically.

As I sat at my desk I realised that it would be good for the status quo in my life to be disrupted, and also that the disruption would be positive for Cleeve House and all it represents for our community and the charity. I had a clearer concept of what needed to happen.

Things have moved very fast if you only made a personal commitment at the end of December and you are already on site at the start of February; a lot of other cogs in the machine must have needed to fall into place, normally that would take



***First morning at Cleeve House watching the sun rise over the frosted fields.***

months; how did that work?

Well, it has required a lot of different people to be on point and effective in what they do.

I spoke to Chieko the next day, and asked her if she was still interested in the Cleeve House plan. She was open, and in the end it would depend for her on how the children felt. The four still living at home took some time to think about it, and decided themselves one by one to get on board. It was least convenient for our eldest son, as he is away in the north at university and will be studying back in London from September, but fortunately he is, in my mind, very reasonable and mature, and so in many ways I am most grateful to him for the way he responded to my decision, even though he will not be coming to live at Cleeve House.

Chieko and I met with Sylvia L., Terry S., and Mike and Fumiko, at our house, on 3<sup>rd</sup> January. Four days later, we drove up to Cleeve House for a site visit. The morning after that visit Chieko woke up very early. When I came down to the kitchen she said we should not waste any time if we are serious. I did a bit more work on the revised proposal, and sent it off to Mike, and various other relevant parties.

There was some rigorous and constructive feedback from all those involved in making the decision, and then on 18<sup>th</sup> January, Chieko and I joined a meeting in Lancaster Gate where we got a final decision from all present that they would like us to take the project on. I drafted a service contract for the charity, and after a couple of changes we met to get it signed and go over some practical first steps.

We packed up our house, bought a car from a small independent garage in Ilford, got a lot of help and encouragement from friends and neighbours, and family, and were officially out of London by 9<sup>th</sup> February. Two of the boys, along with two of their friends who have joined the Cleeve House Team, beat us by two days, arriving on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, and by the 8<sup>th</sup> the all essential gym had already been constructed and equipped in one of the out houses.

There were a lot of practical details to work out, but when there is a clear goal in sight distractions fall away and life can move at quite a pace.

As Shakespeare had Brutus say, **'there is a tide in the affairs of men, when taken at the flood, leads to fortune. Omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows....'**

### **OK, so what does it feel like now that you have moved?**

It is properly freezing cold here, three duvets was not enough last night, and our cat and the house cat, Mitch are still scoping each other out.

But the vibe is good, Mervyn and Roswitha are still here helping with the hand over, there is a group of brothers preparing a workshop for their younger peers that is starting today. We had an informal walk around with a local architect to discuss potential planning options for developing the site, and the skip has arrived to signal the start of the BIG declutter.

### **And what are your actual plans, what do you intend to do and by when?**

The proposal I submitted to the charity involves me putting together clearly defined options so that the trustees and the executive can be in a position to make some big decisions that are long overdue.



***Preparing to leave for Cleeve House.***

Over the years many people, the Zaccarelli's (Miriam, and Carlo and Barbara) and then more recently, the Claxton's, have put in so many hours of hard work to keep the house open and alive, but that has been done largely out of their own ingenuity and particular skill sets. A house that is as old as Cleeve House sitting in six and a half acres of land needs serious investment. Or it needs to be sold, and we do not want that to happen. There is a lot of extensive renovation that needs to be undertaken and it requires a business plan that meets the goals and values of the charity and our community. By end of July 2023, there should be a clear long-term plan of works decided upon and hopefully in part already underway.

We want to document what we are doing and keep the charity and the community updated on a regular basis. There are a number of different ideas and we will report on them once they take shape and become real possibilities.

One thing about deciding to move out of London; Chieko and I were experiencing a house full of people most weeks and weekends with people feeling like they could come over, stay, use the fridge, the gym, and just be at home. It was after many years, finally having a feeling, that as a family we had all managed to grow up and start becoming who we were meant to be and who we wanted to be. A lot of that culture was a result of the bonds that our children have with their friends and the fact their friends were able to bring some of their family culture to our home and bless us in that way.

It might seem counterintuitive to move out of what was a comfortable and cosy environment into this cavernous, freezing cold house with its labyrinth of rooms. But I hope we will find with hindsight it was the perfect time to do it. We want to do our best to bring the culture we experienced in our home to Cleeve House; to make it easier to connect.

Our movement can seem quite small when someone asks me that narrow question: 'are they in the church?', but if we don't think of it as a church, and instead we consider and count people as friends and family, then we can be a so much larger community, and a happier and better one too. If you ask my wife she will tell you she has moved on from being a church member, and I can say I have come to appreciate how differently we see life, rather than being traumatised by that reality.

It was True Father sitting in his hotel room in London about 12 years ago on his final tour, who said to me, as Chieko and I sat in front of him: **"she has moved on, beyond you, you better watch out and listen, or you might lose her."**

He was very elderly, and his insight seemed a bit mystical at the time. But he was not as binary as some like to make out, and perhaps those prophetic words are relevant for all of us as we look around ourselves today.

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**We want to wish Simon and his family all the best as they embark on this new adventure. Keep an eye out for updates from Cleeve House!**

If you want to get in touch with Simon, please email [simonlcooper@gmail.com](mailto:simonlcooper@gmail.com) or call **07879 474 732**.

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Festival 2023

24th June

*At Cleeve House - more details  
to come out soon!*

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Alma Gaina | 15 March 2023

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## Holy Oak Memorial Woodland Rent & Sales: New Venue, Holiday Home, Camping Site & Won Jeon Plots

Alma Gaina | 15 March 2023

We would like to offer our beautiful hall, wild camp site, and airbnb, for beloved FFWPU members, in addition to our existing service of providing



## Inviting All Blessing Candidates To Albania! [Video]

PR@FFWPU | 7 March 2023

Dr Michael Balcomb gives us an overview of our state-of-the-art Peace Embassy in Tirana, Albania which will host the upcoming 2023 Blessing Ceremony for those



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ALMA GAINA

February 23, 2023 | Activities, Announcements | Cleeve House, Divine Principle, Easter, HARP UK, Workshop, Young Adults, Youth

# HARP UK: Easter DP Workshop “Breathing New Life” – Registrations Are Now Open!

Saturday the 1st of April to Thursday the 6th of April 2023 at Cleeve House

[Staff Registration Link](#)

[Participants Registration Link](#)



Hello everyone!

HARP UK is pleased to announce that the [Easter DP Workshop 2023](#) dates are now officially out and the registrations are open! The workshop will take place at Cleeve House, just before the Easter Family Camp. See below an introduction to what to expect and look forward to from the upcoming workshop!

“HARP was founded to teach the Divine Principle. Therefore, to fulfil the purpose of our organisation we will be hosting a Divine Principle workshop this Easter. The DP may appear to be complicated theology that has little bearing on our everyday lives, yet nothing could be further from the truth. As Unificationists who aim to put our faith into action, it is essential that our core principles inform our every decision. However, if we are unsure of what these principles are, it becomes very difficult to see how they are relevant to us.

Our goal with this upcoming workshop is to explore how the DP teaches us to live. There are many lessons for us to learn, from discovering about the nature of God to clarifying the purpose of life. Additionally, the DP educates us on how to relate to others and we are encouraged to not repeat the mistakes of the past so that we can bring about restoration. Accordingly, the goal of this workshop is to revitalise the spiritual lives of our HARPies by "Breathing New Life" into to the DP."

**Deadline for early bird fee is the 12th of March. Deadline for overall registrations is the 21st of March.**

**Where?** : Cleeve House

**When?** : 1st April, arrivals at 3pm, to the 6th of April, departures after lunch. In case you are planning to stay for the Easter Family Camp, the schedule for that will start in the afternoon/evening.

**For who?** : Anyone from 11 to 18 years old of age (participants) and 19+ to staff or help out.

**Motto?** : Breathing New Life

For any enquiries, feel free to email: [harp@ffwpu.org.uk](mailto:harp@ffwpu.org.uk)

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## Cleeve House Declutter: Come Down And Find Yourself A Bargain!

PR@FFWPU | 14 February 2023

Cleeve House is having a BIG declutter from 20th – 27th February and all of our community are welcome to come down, have a look



## Simon C. Takes Over At Cleeve House As Project Manager

PR@FFWPU | 14 February 2023

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