

Transcript **Neumühle**

INTERVIEWER: Claus, we have come to see you here at Neumühle. The project was originally announced „archery“. What, roughly, is your day's schedule like?

CLAUS WEBER: Our schedule starts at seven a.m. We meditate in two groups from seven to eight and eight to nine, respectively. Then we have breakfast for half an hour. After breakfast there is something specific here, so-called 'community jobs', i.e. everybody does something for the centre, everybody helps, either in the kitchen or in the garden or perhaps just sweeping the driveway to the buildings. Afterwards, again in two groups, we do archery for one and a half hour, then we have a midday break which is used for sunbathing, swimming or fishing. In the evening, we do again two rounds of archery and after supper we round off the evening meditating and after this meditation there is something our students especially look forward to: the enormous bonfire lit with wood from the forest.

INTERVIEWER: I have seen that you have vegetarian cuisine here. How do the students cope with it? Many of them are accustomed to meat-based diets.

CLAUS WEBER: Well, what I do notice is that the students have practically no problems at all with vegetarian food. The food is very rich and varied, and for those who cannot do without any meat during the four days, tomorrow night we will do a large barbecue with steaks and sausages.

INTERVIEWER: When we arrived we also saw, that the students, as you said before, were doing little jobs like sweeping the driveway or pulling out weeds. How do they respond when they are assigned with jobs?

CLAUS WEBER: In a very cooperative way, I must say. The jobs – we have just tried it out this morning – I read them out, there were four jobs to be done: helping in the kitchen (clean and cut vegetables), picking berries, clearing a cellar, i.e. piling paper in another room, sweeping the driveway and the students volunteered for the tasks. Of course, there were jobs that were favoured like picking berries and others that were less popular like sweeping the driveway but we found a Solomonic compromise.

INTERVIEWER: I know that you are not doing this project for the first time. When did you start it?

CLAUS WEBER: It is the fifth year now that we are doing this project and I still find it as exciting as in the first year.

INTERVIEWER: And what motivates you, to repeat it again and again?

CLAUS WEBER: I just find it fine, fine to be here, fine to meditate, fine for the students, too – and this is the main reason for me – to simply find oneself through tranquillity. What helps here is archery, is meditation and fishing, which is part of the programme, too.

INTERVIEWER: And how long are you going to stay on?

CLAUS WEBER: Today is our second day. We stay till Thursday afternoon. Our departure is scheduled for Thursday afternoon. On Thursday morning we will have an archery competition where we will, well... choose our champion.

INTERVIEWER: So, have a nice time and a safe trip home.

CLAUS WEBER: Thank you very much.