



**Camphill pupils at work in Sandbaai Hall where they have been since January but will be leaving this week.**

**Peat fire statistics:**

- The Peatland covers 33 ha and is estimated to be 12 000 years old;
- The fire is burning in a 9 ha area which is covered with aliens;
- The peat is 7.25 m deep, although in the central channel it is deeper;
- The depth of the fire varies because of the eroded state of that part of the wetland, one of the peat ore sites measured heat at 3.9 m under the ground;
- The ground above the fire fractured into honeycomb cracks with strong-smelling gas consisting of sulphates, carbon dioxide and methane seeping out;
- The baseline soil temperature in the area is 18°C; on the path next to the road 38°C was measured; further into the site 128°C was measure and temperatures at the centre of the fire have been recorded at 330°C;
- The recent heavy rains have not succeeded in increasing the water table;
- The previous time the peatland burnt it took 8 months, without intervention, before the fire was extinguished by rain;
- Working on Fire have developed a 'spike' tool which will drill a vertical hole into the burning substructure. A pipe connected to a hose will be sunk and water pumped in so that the peat can be flooded from the bottom up.