

Editorial



October's New City is a celebration of Genfest 2018 – an extraordinary international youth festival held in Manila in July this year. Over 6000 attended and thousands more were linked up throughout the globe via the internet.

The first Genfest was held in the Focolare town of Loppiano on 1st May 1973. This was a fairly small and 'spontaneous' event for youth. The first international Genfest took place in Rome in 1975 for about 25,000 young people. I was there along with many compatriots of that era and it was one of those unforgettable events which will always remain with me. It was a moment of God. From then on, Genfests have taken place every six years in different parts of Europe. Genfest 2018 was different in that it was outside Europe and hosted by Asia in the Philippines.

Another step forward has been the realisation that Genfests need to be more than a one day extravaganza. Over the last few years more thought has been given to the overall impact of Genfest on those attending. This has resulted in planning experiences leading up to the event and follow up meetings and social projects. You can read all about the experiences of team GB which spent a week in Vietnam before going on to Manila (Page 4).

We have included some of the experiences shared by young people at the Genfest (page 8). The theme 'Beyond Borders' was unpacked by these interventions and through music, dance and theatre. They illustrated that there are a variety of borders which need to be overcome by us all: personal, moral, social, cultural, political to name but a few.

Genfest 2018 and its associated follow up projects, are signs of a youthful new energy and hope in a world which desperately needs an injection of justice and compassion.

Paul Gateshill
editor@newcity.co.uk