



Welcome to the New Look Extent Newsletter

Extent has a new simpler format, with news from Folk Camps and information about next year's holidays. We hope it provides you with useful information. There are more details about each holiday at www.folkcamps.co.uk.

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Thanks to Jon McNamara who has done a grand job of editing Extent for the last few years. If you have anything you would like in Extent in the future, please contact Mic Spenceley or Patrick Self, via the Folk Camps office.



Office Matters

As we head towards the 2014 season, there are a few changes to Folk Camps administrative processes. You may notice Google Checkout/Wallet no longer appears on the website (as Google has closed this service). We now accept PayPal for on-line payments for: publications, reunion tickets and governing membership but please note, transaction charges will apply.

Nearly half of you are now paying Folk Camps electronically directly from your bank for your holiday deposits, full payments and balances using the BACS service. It's quick, convenient and free, and can be done on-line, by telephone and at your local branch.

Holiday deposits can still be paid by card, by telephoning the Folk Camps office during normal office hours (please have your card details ready!)

We still accept the old fashioned cheque – for any payments.

Shower tents proved popular for the weekend camps and will continue to be provided – thanks to those that helped with logistics!

The Bonus Points scheme introduced last year to encourage members to try one of the workshop weekends of dance, music and song, has been extended. If you have accumulated 40 points from previous bookings you will be informed and given the opportunity to attend one of these weekends for free.

In these days of email and social networking, "Extent" has changed its format to a newsletter rather than a magazine. It is still accessible on line, as web pages, pdf, and downloadable e-reader file. For those not on-line, a printed paper version will still be available. The idea is that important information will be more easily accessible.

As well as giving more information about camp staff, the website will contain as much information as possible regarding the proposed programme for weekend camps. Council wants to encourage the provision of more workshops at every camp. If you fancy running a workshop at the camp you are attending, then why not contact the camp leader beforehand? You can email the office with your information.

Don't forget that you can buy your tickets for the Reunion Ceilidh on-line. It will again be at Toddington Village Hall on Saturday 16 November. See you there?

The "Winter Warmer" weekend at The Paddocks Hotel, Symonds Yat from Friday 24 January - Sunday 26 January, is now in it's second year and attracting a lot more interest. Places are limited, so don't delay in making your booking.

On the pages of this newsletter there is information on yet more innovations as well as the 2014 programme of camps. Have a look!

Mic Spenceley – administration manager.

Price Freeze for 2014

We are pleased to announce that we've frozen the prices of all Folk Camps camping holidays for 2014. We are able to do this by careful management of costs by Council and our Contractors, especially Mic Spenceley on overall Admin, and Jenny Hopper working on Provisions. We've frozen prices twice in three years, so in real terms, the main summer camps will be cheaper in 2014 than they were in 2010. (By comparing our price changes to RPI). Don't say that we do not try to look after you!

Staff Information

This year we are adding more information about our volunteer staff on the website. There is a new link to the staff page at the bottom of the camps programme page, listing all the staff for the season. We hope this helps you to learn more about our talented volunteers and find out which camps each musician or leader is providing their expertise.

We would like to thank all our volunteer staff that has supplied information about themselves and a photo. We aim to add to this information over the next few months.

2014 Camps Programme

The full programme is available on the website at:

www.folkcamps.co.uk/booksummary.asp

Winter Hotel Breaks

The Folk Camps programme includes two winter breaks at the Paddocks Hotel which is set in the spectacular Symonds Yat Valley on the River Wye. The hotel has excellent facilities including wifi, en-suite bedrooms which are either twin or double. All meals are included

The **Winter Warmer** is over the weekend of 24 - 26 Jan, with **Mic Spenceley** leading, and music provided by **Richard and Belinda Jones**. The programme of workshops and activities on offer is included at the end of this newsletter. Already we have more bookings for this event than at the same time last year, so don't delay, get your booking in soon.

The **Craft Break** is 17 - 21 Feb. This Monday to Friday break coincides with most schools' half term dates. It may be an ideal opportunity for grandparents to have a few 'creative' days with their grand children. Craft workshops offered at past holidays have included: lace-making, stained glass, making violins, pole lathes and wood turning. There is often a workshop on technical activities such as digital photography or getting to grips with your computer. Musical activities have included bell ringing and ocarina playing. The break also includes a daily morning music workshop and an evening dance and sing-around.



Summer Camps

The summer marquee camp will be at **Bedingham**, in South Norfolk, where we can visit much loved attractions such as the many award winning beaches, the Norfolk Broads, the historic city of Norwich and Chicken Roundabout at nearby Bungay, (which is now sadly a poultry-free zone, but it may soon gain a suitable commemorative statue).

To avoid the first week clashing with too many school terms as last year, we are starting the marquee camp on July 26, and ending week 4 on Saturday 23 August (the start of the August Bank holiday weekend).

Dan Mason is leading **week 1**, with **Chris Jewell** as Musician. **Susie Savage** as Apprentice Musician will be running her popular Children's Orchestra each morning to contrast with Chris as the main music workshop moves onto more advanced tunes later. With Dan leading, you can expect a wide range of workshops at this camp. (26 July - 2 Aug)

Jacqueline and **Stuart Beattie** are moving up to the big time to lead Marquee **week 2**, after 3 years of leading the popular Spring Bank Holiday South camp. **Jenny Newman** and **Andy Glass**, joint Musicians will lead much-loved morning music workshops and provide music for the evening ceilidh. Expect a warm welcome, and lots of lively dancing in the evenings. (2 - 9 Aug)

Barry Pollard leads **week 3**, with **Mick Davies** and **Bryony Leach** as musicians. We are told that Mick can play more than just a ukulele... expect a hugely well-attended ukulele gathering at this camp, among the many other activities. (9 - 16 Aug)

Paul Weir and **Walter Pohl** will be sharing leading **week 4** with **Lizzie Mounter** as Apprentice Leader. **Emily Farewell** and **Alistair Gavin** will provide musical variety and inspiration. After Walter's successful return to staffing last year we couldn't keep him away... (16 - 23 Aug)

The summer hall camp is at **Breinton**, near Hereford. It is a rural village hall, away from neighbours, not far from the river Wye.

Bob Carter leads week 1 at the hall. **Andy Johnson** is musician at this camp, running music workshops, often concentrating on playing for the benefit of dancers and ensuring there is plenty of music for dancing in the evenings. (2 - 9 Aug)

Ben Thackeray leads the 2nd hall week. He is supported by **Richard** and **Belinda Jones** as musicians, where the workshops are likely to feature some of Richard's own music. (9 - 16 Aug)

There will be additional Apprentice staff supporting the programme as we find suitable individuals (or they volunteer) to train to become fully-fledged Folk Camps staff in the future.

Workshop Weekends

We're offering even more **Workshop Weekend** camps this year, including Singers camps in both the north and south.

These camps are excellent value for money, considering the range of workshops on offer. They concentrate on a particular activity, though not to the complete exclusion of others. ,.

For each workshop weekend camp an outline programme of workshops and activities will be published on our website.

Dancers Weekend will be lead by **Pete and Marj Hendy** with music from **Moira and Peter Gutteridge**. Expect a weekend of social dance workshops, Playford, traditional folk dances and some dances you may not yet know. It will suit both experienced dancers and those that have danced a little but want to learn more. This year this camp will return to Blockley, Gloucestershire, a location we haven't been to for quite a few years, which is a pretty Cotswolds village. 30 May to 1 June

Session Music Weekend will appeal to those that want to learn to play new tunes by ear. This will be run by Chris Jewell and Ben Thackaray, who will be running a variety of workshops between, some suited to those that can pick up new tunes very quickly, and others for those take longer to learn each new tune. There will also be opportunities for everyone to play music together, and there will be dancing on the Saturday night. This camp takes place on 6 - 8 June at Miserden, also in the Cotswolds.

Singers South will be lead by Jay Parrack, who will be running a wide range of workshops for singing together and also providing opportunities to sing individually. The musician is Bob Shatwell, who will be running a music workshop and who will be organising the music for the evening ceillidhs. Again this is at the pretty Cotswold stone hall in Miserden, a popular weekend location. This is a long weekend from 12 - 15 June.

Musicians Weekend is run by **Mic Spenceley** and **Dave Brown**. This camp includes several music workshops where participants can play together as a band using sheet music (in contrast to playing by ear at the Session Music Weekend). This is suitable for all levels from beginners to experts. This runs from 27 - 29 June at Beckford, near Evesham in Worcestershire.

Singers North is a long weekend run by **Karen Dietz** and **Jules Gibb**, who each run community choirs, and will be providing a range of singing workshops. Chris Jewell will be providing music for the evening dancing and leading the music workshops. This will be 17 - 20 July at Bampton in the Lake District.

Both of the Singers camps are long weekends, with the camp starting around tea-time on Thursday evening. Some people are likely to arrive on Friday, so do not be put off from booking if you cannot arrive on Thursday.



Family Bank Holiday Weekend Camps

The details of our popular May, Spring and Summer bank holiday weekends are on the Folk Camps website. We have camps at Loxwood in West Sussex, Dalton in Yorkshire, Chiddingly in East Sussex, Whixley in Yorkshire and Kington Langley in Wiltshire.

Camp Locations

For 2014 we are looking forward to returning to two popular locations for our Summer Camps. We had been looking elsewhere, but hadn't found sites that were really good enough for you and your holidays, so rather than settle for something not quite good enough, we will continue looking in new locations for the future, and return to **Bedingham** in East Anglia, and **Breinton** near Hereford, not far from the Welsh border.

You can find more details of these camps including dates and staffing elsewhere in this newsletter. Our usual policy is to find new sites, but we occasionally return to those that you really like. We'd like to go back to the very wonderful Gower, but not straight away. We plan to return to the lovely Lake District hall site at Bampton, that many of you enjoyed last summer, for the Singers North long weekend (17-20 July 2014).

Finding an ideal site for a Folk Camps holiday is no easy task. The perfect site is secluded but easily accessible (including access for large vehicles to deliver and service all our essential equipment), the camping area needs to be reasonably flat, ideally with beautiful views and within easy reach of holiday activities and attractions. So if you know of somewhere that may be suitable, please let us know. If we use a site that you suggest, you will get a £100 holiday credit.

Generally we look for three different types of site.

- Marquee sites are typically in beautiful parts of the country, with nearby holiday activities. Usually a farmer's field, but sometimes a playing field.
- Hall sites for the summer are also in secluded locations – ideally we look for a hall outside a village with an adjoining field or playing field.
- Weekend camps tend to be at less remote halls, to reduce travel distances for a weekend. The Southern hall camps are generally within reach of the triangle between London, Birmingham and Bristol. The Northern weekend hall camps are usually within reach of the Northern conurbations of Manchester to Leeds.

Folk Camps Loyalty Bonus Scheme

Don't forget to use your bonus points to get a free place at a Workshop Weekend!

Each camp you pay for and attend qualifies you for points.

Points allocated are:

- Week long camps: 10 points
- 5 day camps: 5 points
- Weekend camps: 2 points

We have made a small change to the scheme so that your points keep on accumulating year on year rather than having a cut-off point as before.

For every 40 points you accumulate, you will be offered a free place on one of our Workshop Weekend camps. Currently, these camps are Musicians, Session Musicians, Dancers and Singers. (There are two Singers camps in 2014).

Bonus places on these camps are limited and will be issued on a first come, first served basis.

We have all bookings recorded on our database and we will contact you if you qualify for a free place. If you claim a free place, your point tally will be reduced by 40 points.

You must be over 18 to be allocated points. Points were allocated for camps held since September 2009.

We are hoping that this scheme will encourage more members to try out a Workshop Weekend. There are 5 Workshop Weekend camps in 2014, giving you a wide choice.

Remember: the more camps you book, the more points you will accumulate, giving you the option of free camps in the future.

Music Alumni

We are very fortunate that many people at Folk Camps are also well-known on the general folk circuit and have recorded their music or songs professionally. You can listen to tracks from some of them on the Folk Camps website.

Go to the Music page and follow the link:

[Click here to listen to some folk camper musicians & bands](#)

If you have some well-recorded music which you think would be suitable for the page, please contact Mic Spenceley.



Reunion and AGM

Make a date to join us on Saturday 16 November

At Toddington Village Hall, Bedfordshire LU5 6AN.

There will be plenty of opportunity to catch up with your Folk Camp friends, starting at 11.30am with coffee, chat and photo-swap.

Ann Tracey is providing drinks, hot food, sandwiches, cakes and snacks in the hall at lunchtime and after the meeting. It's likely that some people will go to the local pub (The Angel) for a drink and possibly a tune session, so please bring your instruments or singing voices!

At 2.30pm the meetings start. The AGM will be preceded by an EGM to make a minor amendment to the rules concerning Council Members retirements. See the information sent out in advance to Governing Members and on the website in the members AGM section.

In the evening there is a ceilidh from 7.30pm - 11pm. Jacqueline and Stuart Beattie will be our MCs, with Folk Camps Band provided by Chris Jewell, Richard Jones and friends.

There is no a bar, so please bring your own alcohol and drinks for the evening.

Tickets for adults are £8 in advance, £9 on the door, with accompanied under 16s free.

For more details visit the Folk Camps members section of the website, at www.folkcamps.co.uk/membersReunion.asp.

Calling young Folk Campers ... Your views count!

At our recent Folk Camps council meeting we noted the lack of representation by younger members of folk camps. We know that young people have busy lives and may be unable to commit time to working on a decision making board like Folk Camps Council, especially for a standard term of three years, but we would still really welcome their input.

We decided to invite a different young person to each Council meeting this year, so they can see what happens, and to have the opportunity to share their thoughts about some of the discussions we have and decisions that we make. What Council does affects your future holidays; they do not just happen by magic!

The meetings that are most appropriate to visit are our two spring meetings, near Cheltenham on Sunday 23 March and Sunday 18 May. We will cover your travel expenses to the meeting and provide your lunch.

If you would like to be considered as a guest to one of our meetings, and are aged over 18, please contact: patrickself@folkcamps.co.uk



Yvonne's Legacy: Folk Camps bursaries for young people

At last year's AGM we announced that Folk Camps was left a very generous legacy in the will of Yvonne Hunt.

We asked members for suggestions as to how this legacy could be best used and, after considering various options, Council has decided on the creating a bursary scheme to assist folk-active young people to experience Folk Camps, for both their and our educational benefit.

As we are sure you all know (!) the Folk Camps Memorandum and Articles of Association (i.e. our legal document) says that our purpose is "*to preserve for the benefit of the public English folk dances and songs and other folk music, dance and song (including singing games), and to make them known and to encourage the practice of them in their traditional forms*". The bursary scheme is a way of using the legacy in a manner that satisfies this: *preserve, make them known, encourage the practice* = educate and share folk music, song and dance.

Summary

- To provide bursaries to promising young folk-artists to attend a camp.
- The bursary will provide up to 90% of the camp cost. Each recipient of the fund will pay just the normal camp deposit.
- The bursaries will be advertised nationally.
- There will be an application process to determine those most suitable for receiving bursaries.
- This satisfies and extends the reach of our purpose: educate and share folk music, song and dance.

Who can apply?

- New-to-Folk-Camp, young adults aged 18 – 28, with a demonstrable current active involvement in the folk arts movement (music, dance, song).
- Lapsed Folk Campers, aged 18 – 28, with a demonstrable current active involvement in folk arts movement (music, dance, song) movement. (Those who have not been to Folk Camps for at least 4 years).

Expectations

- Folk Camps hope that most, if not all, of the recipients will be able and willing to:
 - Share their folk music, song or dance knowledge and skills with us
 - Potentially offer a workshop during their week on camp
 - Use blogging and other forms of both traditional and social media to publicise their experience
 - Be an ambassador into their communities for Folk Camps holidays
- However, it is important to note that the bursary is NOT a payment for carrying out workshops.



Potential Benefits to the Recipients

- Experience the magic of a Folk Camp
- Learning more about folk music, song and dance from our existing skilled membership.
- Potential for practical experience as an animator, facilitating folk art workshops for a variety of ages and skill levels
- Opportunity to gain leadership skills

Potential Benefits for Folk Camps

- The additional education (both to and from these young people) will help to satisfy the purpose of Folk Camps: *“to preserve for the benefit of the public English folk dances and songs and other folk music, dance and song (including singing games), and to make them known and to encourage the practice of them in their traditional forms”*.
- External publicity for Folk Camps.
- A potential increase in numbers of committed Folk Campers.
- An increase in the pool of potential apprentice musicians and leaders for future years.
- Gaining more folk knowledge and learning from the participants.

Application Process

Applications will be via an application form to be published during the winter. Selection criteria will be transparent and indicated on the form. Selection will be made by a Council sub-committee.

The bursaries will be advertised nationally (e.g. on bursary listing websites), on the Folk Camps website, and hopefully by our members by word of mouth to potential recipients.

Bursary places will be limited on each Folk Camp. Places will be for summer week camps or weekend camps, but not at the Winter Hotel breaks. In 2014, the bursaries will be worth up to £205 each, depending on which Folk Camp the recipient obtains a place.

Who was Yvonne Hunt?

Yvonne was involved in early Folk Camps in the 1960s and knew our founder Bill Rutter. In the 1970s she was often a caterer (remembered for her gorgeous bread pudding), and staffed camps along with her husband Dennis who was a warden. She enjoyed the Folk Camps that had an “International Dance” bias, and was involved in dance clubs in the Midlands. Her friend Nibs Watson (nee Hobro) remembered that she was a lovely dancer, and was still dancing around 2000, although her last Folk Camp was probably Forestside in the early 1990s.

We are very grateful that Yvonne remembered Folk Camps in her will, and hope that she would have appreciated how we intend to spend her legacy.

**WINTER WARMER 2014****Friday**

Arrival after 15:00

Late afternoon: 16:00 Tea & biscuits
Informal Music SessionEvening: 18:30 Dinner

Welcome meeting

Ceilidh**Saturday**Morning: 08:30 Breakfast
09:30 Music workshopsWorkshop 1: Simple tunes
or
Workshop 2: Folk Orchestra

10:45 Coffee & biscuits

Dance workshop: French Bourrees
Song workshop *

Lunch 12:30 Buffet

Afternoon: 14:15 Walk by the river (weather permitting)
Workshops if weather inclement *

16:00 Tea & biscuits

Music workshop 3: Playing for Bourrees

Other Workshops *
Social dance / Song / Morris *Evening: 18:30 Dinner
Ceilidh: Workshop band
Singaround
Ceilidh



Sunday

Morning:	08:30	Breakfast
	09:30	Music workshops
		Workshop 1: Simple tunes or Workshop 2: Folk Orchestra
	10:45	Coffee & biscuits Dance workshop: Playford / Contras / Squares Song workshop *
Lunch	12:30	Buffet
Afternoon:	14:00	Music workshop 3: Playing for Playford
		Other Workshops * Workshop Showcase
	16:00	Tea & biscuits & Farewell

This programme indicates the expected workshops on this holiday.
Most of the workshops have been prepared by the staff, and are expected to run.
Other workshops depend on the interests of participants. These are marked * indicating likely workshops based on previous Folk Camps holidays.