

Folk Camp Forum is online!

The official Folk Camp online forum is online and ready for your input. This is the ideal way to keep in contact with fellow Folk Campers and contribute to the society.

There are bulletin boards for suggestions and also all the individual camps for the season so that you can keep up to date with those you have met in years past and plan your holidays for the future!

Visit <http://www.members-only.org.uk> to visit the forum.

In other news.

Loxwood - Spring bank holiday ***is full***

Lymstone - 12 - 19 August ***is full***

Why not choose to go to the August Bank holiday at Loxwood, Dalton for the Spring Bank Holiday and the other weeks at Lymstone or Rattery?

AGM Survey

Yes, we're already planning the next reunion and AGM and we need your help. There's an on-line survey at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=23871654087>

– which, if you haven't already completed, we'd be grateful if you did. For those that aren't able to do the online survey, a paper copy can be obtained from Sue Malleson. Just telephone 01908 372376 and leave your name and address and she'll send you a real paper version.

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Head Office- Roger Conway
18 Roughmoor Cottages
Taunton
TA1 1HA
Info@folkcamp.com
01823 270754

Editor - Rebecca Brown
25 South Lonsdale Street
Manchester
M32 0JE
rebecca@kijko.com
0161 286 8355



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Extent

More updates
& news from the Folk Camps Society!

We're going to Lymstone!

The summer marquee site has been moved just down the road to just outside the beautiful fishing village of *Lymstone* on the River Exe.

Surrounded by open fields, our site in Haresfield has views of the river estuary, and the sandy beaches of Exmouth are less than 4 miles away. Dartmoor and Exmoor are just a drive away and if you feel like reaching "hands across the water", Rattery isn't too far either.

The Exe Estuary at Lymstone itself is just 1.5 miles away - an area of outstanding natural beauty and a protected wildlife site with a magnificent range of waders and sea birds. Among the area's many attractions are Honiton, Ottery St Mary, the South West Coast Path and Powderham Castle as well as the cathedral city of Exeter.

The third week of the camp coincides with the world renowned Sidmouth International Festival – about 12 miles away. For those arriving by train, Lymstone station is just 1.4 miles from the site.

For further information visit :

<http://lympstone.org/>

<http://www.exmouth-guide.co.uk/lympstone.htm>

<http://www.britannia.com/lympstone/lympstone.html>

Message from the Chairman



Things are shaping up for an even better season of Folk Camps in 2006. Last year saw a significant boost in numbers and we broke even on trading for the first time in several years. Bookings for 2006 are surging ahead with some camps close to a sell out already. We are expecting lots of new campers to join us this summer, so the message is – get your bookings in fast or you may be turned away!

I am pleased to announce that a new Events Manager is joining us from 1 February. Brian Bull has been a folk camper since the early 1970s when he and wife Carol brought their young family on holiday. In recent years they have returned with their grandchildren in tow. Brian is now retired from his work as a manager with British Steel and British Gas, and therefore has more time to devote to helping with some of the management of Folk Camps. Brian will take over part of the work covered by Roger Conway, who continues to handle the administration and bookings side of the Society's business.

Last year Roger announced his intention to ease himself into retirement from Folk Camps in a phased handover. To this end, Council will shortly start the process of looking for a person to take over the Administration part of the role (accounts, bookings, office admin, AGM etc). We anticipate that the new person will start with us in June, ready to hit the ground running with planning for the 2007 season. Roger will mentor the new person and has offered to assist with the preparation of the end of year accounts ready for the AGM. We will let you know about the new Folk Camps office address in good time, but meanwhile until later this year, Roger's address and phone are still your first port of call.



Our thanks go to Roger for assisting us to ensure a smooth handover during 2006.



Next issue I'll be telling you about Council's desire to tap into the skills and ideas of our members. We already have a team of enthusiastic volunteers planning a new look for the 2006 Reunion. If you have any thoughts (place, timings, format etc) about what YOU would like to see at the reunion, please email Sue Malleson c/o malleson@bowbrickhill.com.

Paul Weir
Chairman

Council needs YOU!

Yes, I know we haven't even started the new folk-camping season, but now's the time to start thinking about where we want to have our next reunion and AGM. Ideally the venue would be on a mainline rail route, well-served by trunk roads, in a nice attractive hall with plenty of space for dancing and ideally some separate rooms for workshops, crèche, etc. Nice pubs and restaurants within walking distance are also a must. So if you can think of somewhere more or less in the middle of the country with all these features, then Council would like to hear from you.

And yes, believe it or not, Council is busy sourcing some new sites for 2007 and we need your help for this too. Just think of all those halls and playing fields that you may have visited over the years. Are any of them situated in picturesque surroundings with some nice hostelrys within walking distance – maybe a general store not too far away too? Is there enough space for, say, 60 or so tents? Would our presence upset neighbouring residents? Is the hall tucked away somewhere off the main road? Are there any nice local tourist attractions? In short, would you, folk camper, like to spend a long weekend in that location? If so, then let Council know as much information as you can about the proposed site. We'll do the rest.

