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Extent

Publication Autumn 2007

Memories, Musings, Future Programme - and much more!





A Few Words From the Editor -

This is the "few words from the Editor" bit - following along in the ways of my predecessor Beci Brown (who I have now met- but only briefly). The autumn Extent - the "big one" - quite a daunting task - but with the pleasure of knowing that this issue will bring you news of where part of your holiday will be spent next year!

However, before I turn to the future - and article from a Folk Camper who attended the second camp EVER! For me it all started while I was peeling spuds at Holton Lee - someone came and found me to tell me there was a gentleman here wanting to chat to the editor of Extent! As ever, when "summoned" I couldn't help but wonder just what I'd done wrong (I was never very good with Headmasters!) only to find myself being offered an article by an "original" camper - Nicolas Wadsworth who lived close by the campsite. So before we meet the future I give you "Once Upon a Time ..." and an early taste of Folk Camping - enjoy!

Which - to throw me onto a tangent - scratched one of my "little obsessions" - as Chairman of the International Concertina Association (just over 50 years old) I have been horrified to discover that for all those years no-one had saved - deliberately - any archival material. Asking around I suspect that a similar situation might exist within the Folk Camp Society (though there was some talk of "someone collecting stuff"). Maybe it isn't my position to do so - but I do feel a society without an archive is like a tree without a root - and we all know what happens to them when the weather gets rough!

Taking up one regular theme - can I thank all the good people who took the time and trouble to tell me just how much they enjoyed my attempts to create Extent last time - I love the praise - so please keep giving it - along with ideas on how to improve the publication, articles and photographs ... The more you give the more you'll get!

A plea from the heart - I'm a klutz with two left Crocs (plastic clogs!) and what I really need is someone to teach me how to dance! Oh I know I can get up and muck in - and muck up - but that really puts me off - I would really like someone to show/teach me the steps - and the meaning of the various twists and turn in the dances - how to parade, how to everything! So if someone - preferably at the first week of the Marquee camp can take me "in hand" I would be delighted - though they will have their work cut out - me being slow and clumsy ... Maybe a few articles in Extent on the same subject ... With diagrams eh!

Finally - photographs - I'm still very happy to receive your folk camp photograph collections to combine into a mass pictorial extravaganza of Folk Camp 2007. I will sort out the collection roughly and burn the pictures all to DVD which I will supply to anyone who is interested and willing to pay £5 (to cover media, a small piece of my time - and packaging and postage). Last year we collected over 2000 photographs - I only have about 10% of that figure so far this year! And on the subject of photographs - a small competition - for the picture that "Sums up the spirit of Folk Camping" - it's the picture you show your friends when you try to explain just why you spend your Summer Holiday in a field with a crowd of relative strangers - dancing and playing music! Prize - the equivalent of the Extent Editors annual salary plus a box of chocolates!

So, keep the letters coming in (or at least send them this year!) and I'll see you at the reunion on Dec. 1st or at a camp - somewhere - next year!

Kind regards

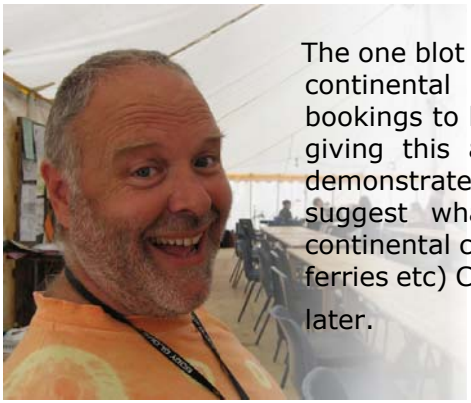
Jon McNamara

A message from the chair

Hello campers!

We've had a bumper summer this year, despite floods, plagues of mosquitoes and pestilence!

All the main summer weeks were either sold out or nearly sold out and numbers rose for most of the weekends camps. With bookings back on an upward trend, we are adding an extra hall week next summer to cope with growth.



The one blot on our escutcheon this summer was the continental camp which didn't attract enough bookings to be socially or financially viable. We are giving this a rest in 2008 but if enough people demonstrate a commitment to going again and can suggest what they would like to see from a continental camp (dream staff team, location, dates, ferries etc) Council hopes to put it back on the menu later.

2008 camps

For 2008 we have all your favourite weekend events, plus a summer week at Halsway Manor, two hall weeks at Hanley Swan near Malvern and four weeks marquee camp at Bedingham near Bungay in Suffolk.

Quite a few people were unable to book for the camp they wanted in 2007, so the message is clear – if you want to book for a particular camp – it pays to book early!

A plea from the heart

A plea from the heart to all our members to remember that volunteer staff on camps and Council are not being paid and may not be completely perfect 24 hours a day! Expectations have gone up in recent years and I know that it is deterring some very good people from staffing because they are put off by either criticism or through sheer exhaustion! The same goes for our sites. Every year members of Council spend literally days searching for new sites and most of them are a compromise.

We have yet to find the perfect site which combines beautiful scenery with flush sanitation, mains drainage, exclusive use, a level dance floor, no public access, perfect drainage, a good beer guide pub 250 yards from the entrance, lots of things to do in the area, no other tourists in a ten mile radius, no traffic on local roads, lots of wildlife but no mosquitoes and within a 2 hour driving distance of every member in the UK. Oh and of course no rain either.

Thank you

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of council for their hard work on behalf of the members, especially those who are retiring after a 6 year tour of duty – Chris Butler, Ann Tracey and Brian Pollard! Some of the remainder are up for re-election so you may not have seen the last of us yet! I'd also like to thank our three contractors Barry Moule, Brian Bull and Mic Spenceley. Barry continues to be the "wise old man" of Folk Camps and the new boys Brian and Mic are rapidly picking up the reins. From my personal dealings with Mic, I have to say that his enthusiasm and appetite for innovation is refreshing and he works VERY hard – more than most members will ever know.

Yet more thank yous go to all our volunteer staff this year who have made so many people's holidays so enjoyable. Here's to an equally good 2008!

Paul Weir paulweir@folkcamps.co.uk



A peaceful moment - the view to Poole Harbour from Holton Lee

Once upon a time

by Nicolas & Eva Wadsworth



Nicolas Wadsworth

"From £5 per week (adults), to £1 per week (children under 2). Daytime nothing is organised; evenings there are games, dancing and singing in Marquee with a wooden floor for the children. A special spot for teenagers to sing their heads off lateat night and general dancing for everyone. Some of the staff include Brian Heaton, Bill Rutter, Leigh Dyer, Geoff. Rye, John Tether, but you can help too. Musicians are encouraged to play in the band and anyone who wants to can take the dancing or lead the singing. Very good for those who Camp and do not dance or for those who dance and do not Camp. Numbers are limited so early application is definitely advised."

This advertisement appeared in "English Dance & Song" in December 1962 ,We had heard of the experimental camp, organised by Bill Rutter the previous year, so we paid our fees and went along. We were hooked, and
went to a Folk Camp with our family for most of the next twenty-odd years, and once or twice after that.
Things were rather different in those days. These are some of the things

Organisation, and Relations with EFDSS

The camps were organised by Bill Rutter, the South West Area Organiser of the EFDSS (and, among other things, an ex- Butlins Redcoat) who was also developing and running the Sidmouth Folk Festival. He thought it all served to publicise Folk Dancing and get people involved, but Cecil Sharp House did not know quite what to make of it. There were rumours that it was unkempt and that some of the scratch Morris sides were not quite up to the standard Cecil Sharp would have approved of. Also many of their area staff disappeared to the camps for weeks on end in the summer, when they should have been on call. And it was all a long way from London. The EFDSS were also said to be worried that they would lose money if the camp was not a success, and Bill was worried that the EFDSS would take his reserves if it was. Occasionally an uncomprehending official would come down from London to slum it for one night to see what went on. We never heard what happened, but clearly Bill emerged victorious and the camps

continued. Presumably all this eventually led to the formation of the separate Folk Camp Society.



Marquee

The marquee had a wooden floor, made of planks, from the start. Fortunately Bill Rutter regarded that as essential for dancing. At the time there was only one [illegible] floor in the Southwest of England and it was also used for the [illegible] at Sidmouth. So folk camp could not start [illegible] was over (and anyway Bill had to be at both). When one arrived at Folk Camp on a first Saturday, there was the marquee, but with a grass floor. Eventually a lorry would arrive with the planks, and the contractors who had taken the floor up at Sidmouth that morning now proceeded to nail it back together again. With luck it was down in time for supper.

At first marquees with central poles did not come with any way of stopping the rain coming in through the pole-holes in the roof, so the floor got wet and slippery. The canvas "hats" were a great innovation. (It was also interesting to see the erectors sending a boy to climb up the tent to fix them!)

The wooden tabletops sat on separate collapsible trestles and had wooden benches for the sides. There were a few chairs, intended for the band at night, which were much in demand as the only place one could hang a child's hook-on car seat to make a highchair.

As the 1962 advertisement made clear, there was a separate tent some way away from the main camping area (actually, in the next field) for the teenagers to collect in after dancing was over for the night. It avoided everyone else being kept awake. We do not think the arrangement lasted many years.

Lighting



There was no electricity. The marquee was lit by "Tilly" lamps. These were pressurised paraffin lamps, rather like old-fashioned Primus stoves but with a control tap, which were pumped up and then heated by a mentholated spirit heater before being lit. The hot vapour then lit a delicate gas mantle. They were very effective, but you tended to bang your head on them if they were not suspended high enough. Of course they had to be kept away from the canvas tent. The loos had paraffin Hurricane lamps, the sort with wicks and a windproof glass cover. A Lights Monitor had to keep all the lights topped-up

and working, with the wicks trimmed, and make sure they were lit each evening.

Water supply

The first year we were there a pipe from the water supply to the nearest cattle trough fed to an open metal tank in the field somewhere near the marquee. The tank had a plastic bucket floating in it so you could bail out water to use for drinking or washing. There were strict instructions not to put the bucket down on the muddy ground before returning it to float in the tank, and not to dip your own bucket in the tank. Children were forbidden to sail boats on the water.

The next year the water supply led to two taps, fixed to wooden posts in the field, one for water for the loos and one for everything else. Plastic pipe for mains water was still fairly new, and not so readily available.



Tents

Tents were smaller and heavier in those days. Mostly family tents were ridge tents of one sort or another. We had an A-frame tent (bought second-hand in 1936), which had bamboo poles, decorated with pokerwork and varnished, joined with brass ferules. Large teenagers seemed to have very small, light, cotton, ridge tents without flysheets; so their feet stuck out and if it rained they got wet. If there was strong wind and rain at night it was common to find in the morning that the marquee was full of 'refugees', not all teenagers, whose tents had leaked or collapsed in the night.

Not everyone had cars. One family arrived by train, having packed their tent and belongings in a large wooden box and sent it by rail, for delivery to site, as "Passenger Luggage in Advance". This worked well, and at camp they used the box as a childproof playpen for their crawling infant.

Washing clothes

There was quite a lot of washing to do (there were few disposable nappies) and drying could be a problem. After some years there was a technological advance and we got hold of a wringer (mangle)! A friend who was clearing her mother's house gave it to us. We could not take it to camp in our car with our tents etc., but managed to get someone else to deliver it. The idea caught on and soon all the camps had them. Now the camp wringer seems to be very little used – perhaps current campers have had a spin

cycle on their washing machines for so long that they do not realise how effective a wringer can be: also modern clothes dry more quickly.

Loos

The camps had Elsan (chemical) loos, arranged in small square tents with one in each corner and sacking screens between. After a few years a washbowl was provided, with an (often soggy) towel. The bog squad had to tip the contents of the loos into a large pit dug in a corner of the field, with a small fence round it intended to keep inquisitive children off. In wet weather the grass floor of the loos soon got very muddy, and every so often a working party was formed to carry the tent to a new position and re-erect it.



Children's play area

At one period the camp had a play area for small children. The domestic quality garden slide, swing and seesaw did not last more than a few years. The first year there was also a sandpit.

Telephones

A few camps had a telephone on site, for use by the caterer, warden and leader. The Post Office (GPO) would provide a landline to a pole in the middle of the field. Connection charges were not so high in those days.

Kitchen and meals

The kitchen was in a separate tent, some distance from the marquee, to reduce the risk of a fire spreading (just like Grand Houses separated their kitchens from the Main House!). That made serving meals tricky if it was raining, and sometimes the food would be carried across underneath an umbrella. Soon the kitchen tent was put nearer the marquee and then a covered way was erected between the two, but it was not clear to us how that left a firebreak.



There was of course no 'fridge. We kept the milk cool by standing the churn in the ditch in the shade of the hedge, which usually worked very well. One year a churn of milk did go sour, so we made a lot of cream cheese which seemed to go on forever.

There was porridge for breakfast, made from rolled oats the previous evening and then left in a haybox overnight to finish cooking and keep hot till morning.

From the start the camp provided three good meals a day and cocoa in the evening (and tea on arrival on Saturday) but no other refreshments. On one very cold camp the leader decided something more was needed, and arranged for coffee or tea at mid-morning during the workshops. This had to be paid for separately at the time, as it was not part of the official package. After a bit, afternoon tea was added, also paid for by those who were there. It was some time before the organisation decided that fiddling around with petty cash in this way was more bother than it was worth, and included these in the week's price.



Meals were adequate. To ensure fair shares for all, it was served by the cooks and you got your ration. For packed lunches you made your own from the supplies put out, but you were limited to, say, "two pieces of protein". That is, two pieces of cheese or one piece of cheese and one piece of tinned pilchard, or whatev- er the choice was. There was plenty of bread for sandwiches.

If some of the bread got old the cooks made bread pudding to have with evening cocoa.

Bill was very keen that the teenagers with large appetites should not go hungry, and insisted that raisins and nuts (peanuts, not salted or roasted) were always on the tables at mealtimes. That did not last long after he ceased running the camps.

At one time there was a (paid for) Tuck shop, which came out after the evening meal.

Bands

No electricity meant no microphones or amplifiers in the marquee. In those days callers and bands knew how to make themselves heard quite easily, – and probably dancers knew how to be a bit quieter!



Accordions were fairly rare and for a few years the marquee was equipped with an upright piano.

9 o'clock and the under 12s

At 9 o'clock in the evening the dance/singing stopped for cocoa. After that all the under 12s had to leave the marquee for bed. Staying up later was a privilege tightly guarded by the over 12s. They had had to leave the marquee at 9 o'clock in previous years and were very short with any under 12s trying to sneak in and stay up. Being allowed to stay was an important rite of passage.

Morris and other display dances

There were usually enough Morris dancers to form a Camp Side. The difficulty was to find if they had any dances in common, decide on a repertoire, and teach it to those who did not know those dances. Border Morris hardly existed, (it was still a gleam in Roy Dommett's eye) so at least everyone did Cotswold traditions, and pretty closely according to the book. The camp usually had a set of Morris sticks.

Other traditional dances were taught when there was someone to do it. It was many men's first introduction to North Western, Longsword and Rapper. They soon discovered that a good Rapper step was not as easy as it looked.

Naturally women could not do these men's dances; however they were allowed to watch the men practice, which was more than was allowed at instructionals at Cecil Sharp House! They took up Clog enthusiastically and often did that in the public displays.

Morris workshops were organised in the morning, timed if possible to avoid clashing with the music workshops. There was also a Boy's Morris workshop, usually after dinner in the evening, which was many youngsters' first introduction, and has produced many lifetime Morris men. Our son was very disappointed when he returned home from one camp, and found that his friends did not know what you did with large sticks, except try to hit someone's head. After a time girls were admitted to the workshop too. For the Yetties, who came when they were still at school, the camp was their introduction to the folk scene outside Dorset.

Dance out on Wednesday, Public dance on Thursday

One of the functions of the pre- Folk Camp Society camps was to publicise the EFDSS and Folk Dance to the public. So the camp would try to work up a demonstration team, and on Wednesday would go en-mass to suitable local sites and put on a public display. With luck there were a number of

competent Morris Men, even if their kit did not match. The leader would cover this by announcing them as "The Morris Men of England", and point out with pride the many different areas they came from. There would be a display of social dancing, with as many as possible dressed in the approved "Festival Dress": black waistcoats, white blouses and coloured circular felt skirts for the women and black knee-breeches or grey flannels, white shirts and socks for the men. The display ended with a dance or two for all, and an invitation to the Public Dance the next evening. There was also a collection for the EFDSS.

On Thursday evening there was a public dance, either at the camp or, preferably, in the local village hall. The campers put on their most tidy clothes and hoped people would come. In the interval Bill would announce that there were similar dances held all over the country, and offer to put holiday makers in touch with a group in their area. He said that he sometimes had a sinking feeling when he knew the standard of the group he was "recommending" (there were some very snooty Playford-only groups around at the time, as well as the inevitable half-moribund ones). If the dance was not at the camp someone would have to stay behind to baby-sit the small children. Parents were encouraged to tie a handkerchief to their tent guys to show which tents had babies in.

Relations with the locals

Usually the camps were not too near houses and there was no problem. However at Uplyme the field was near the centre of the village and when we arrived the locals appeared hostile. It turned out that the farmer was trying to get permission for a permanent caravan park there, and the locals thought this motley collection of campers and tents was the thin end of the wedge. Dick Witt, the leader, spent most of the Sunday going round the village knocking on doors and explaining who we were – and that we were not that sort of Folk – (it was around The Summer of Love). He invited all the neighbours to come along that evening to reassure themselves, and we had to be on our best behaviour. Later that night a baby started crying in one of the tents and we were woken up soon afterwards by the arrival on the site of a Police car with headlights full on. It turned out that one of the neighbours had rung the police and reported a murder in progress. Of course the baby was fast asleep by then. Dick Witt had to talk his way out of it.

Friday night party

There was always a camp party on Friday night. Often there was a special meal, and the tent was decorated with flowers and greenery collected from the local woods and hedges. After the meal there was the children's party,

in place of their usual singing games. There would be a larger band and an audience, and the children would be encouraged to go on the "stage" (made of benches), and say a nursery rhyme or tell a story or a joke (and use a real microphone, if electricity was available).
The adult party followed. The idea was that everyone did a turn, inter- spersed among the dances. It started with the quieter turns, such as songs
or musical pieces, and progressed to skits and so on. Most people could

Exeter Bypass

This was before the days of motorways. The A30/A303 was the main road from London to the South West and at Exeter it crossed the A38, the main road from the North and Midlands. Both were small roads, and went through the middle of Exeter. There was a 'bypass', which avoided the very center but still had to cross the river by one of the few bridges. It was a notorious bottleneck and there were long queues in both directions every Saturday in the summer, since the traffic to and from Dartmoor and most other parts of Devon, as well as Cornwall, had to go along it. Bill Rutter, who lived nearby, pretended he did not know what the trouble was: he never had any problems with it. It turned out that he simply avoided using it during the middle part of summer Saturdays. That was not an option for us, who had to arrive on Saturday. We would sometimes choose to wind our way along many miles of very narrow country lanes to find a small bridge further north, hoping we would not meet anything large and have to back the car. Later Bill admitted that once he appreciated the problem he for years did his best to avoid having the camps beyond Exeter because of the difficulty of getting there.

What's In Store For 2008?

Mic Spenceley

With the dust of the 2007 season settling the office is now getting to grips with setting up for 2008. One thing I am anticipating is that your booking forms are going to come in even earlier for the new season. The experience of many of you was that you left it too late to book for your favoured weekend or week, or you were unable to book for two weeks. Because the capacity of each camp is capped at a manageable level, it really is going to be on a first come first served basis.



The Council has decided to add a second hall week. This will increase overall capacity whilst retaining the capped camp numbers and will enable those of you who like to camp for two weeks more scope.
Experience has shown that Folk Campers are not into time-shares... they prefer to spend their main summer Folk Camp somewhere different each year, so this year sees summer camps in two exciting new venues. The old favourites for the bank holiday and specialist weekends are still there, though, and the increase in their number of campers proves for these events it's the people that matter most.

The European camps have not been forgotten. They could return in 2009 provided there is sufficient commitment from campers wishing to attend them so make your views known to Council by letter or email via the office. There is a gradual build up of interest in the prospect of an additional specialist weekend for session musicians, who like playing tunes without the music in front of them. This looks like happening in 2009 if there is sufficient demand. Would you like to be part of such a self-catered weekend camp? It will happen if you want it, but you need to make your views known.

You will notice some changes to the booking form for 2008. Each camp now has two prices listed for each age group. The first (and lower) is what you will pay if you book early and pay your balance in time. The second (and higher) is what you will pay if you book late or pay your balance after the due date. For a family of four that could make quite a significant increase to the price you pay. The important thing to remember is that in both instances this will be ONE CALENDAR MONTH BEFORE THE START OF THE CAMP.

Why has this change been made? To minimise the amount of unnecessary office work generated by those of you who are late payers or late bookers. So please get your booking form and payment in early and this change will not have any effect on you at all.

I hope that as many of you as possible will come along to the Reunion on 1st December at Wing, and I look forward to seeing you there.

Mic Spenceley
Administration Manager

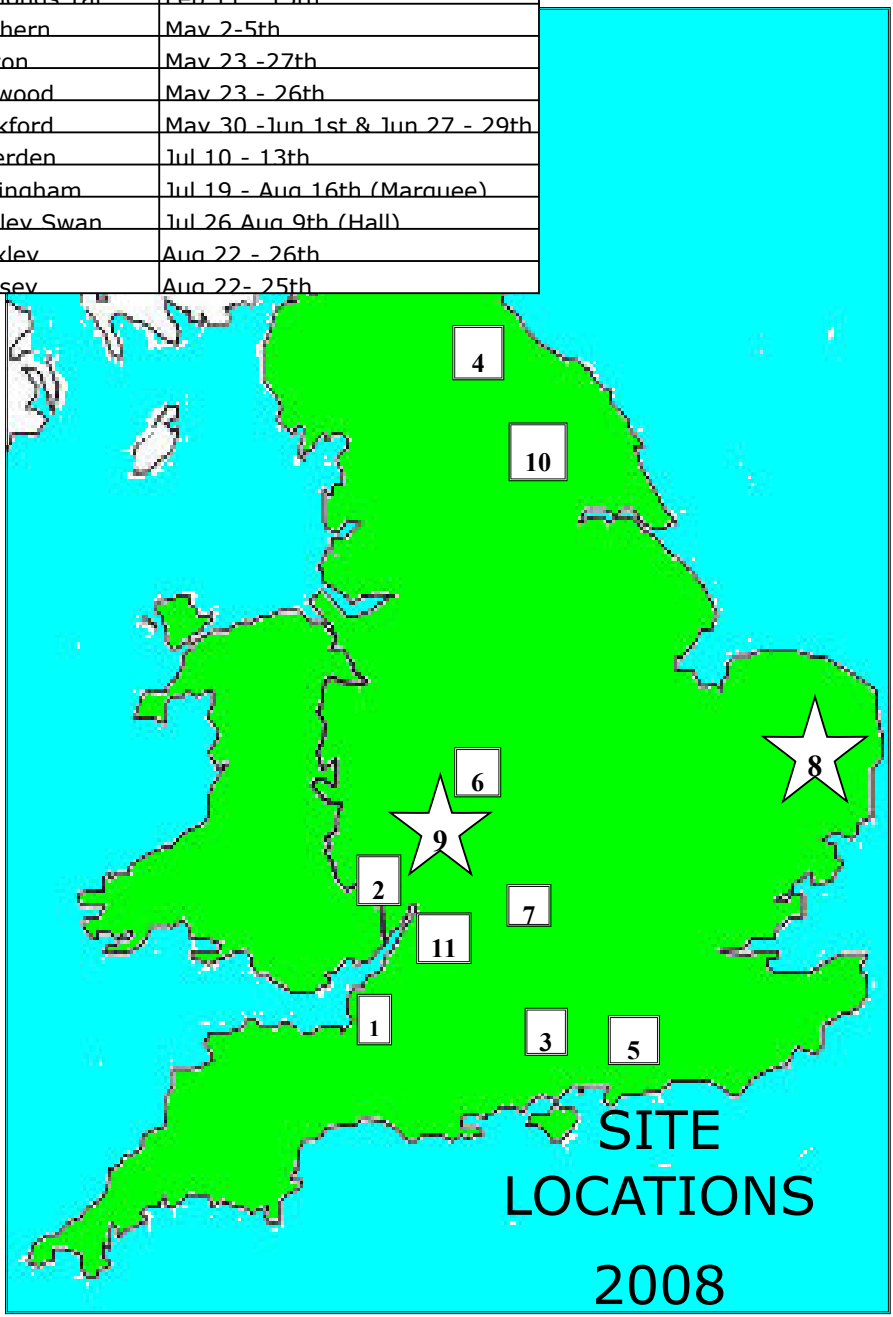
And on to the programme of camps for 2008

Folk Camp Staffing for 2008

REF	CAMP	VENUE	DATES	LEADER
01	Winter Warmer	Halsway Manor	25-27 Jan Fri to Sun 2 nights	Pete Hendy
02	Craft Week	Symonds Yat	11-15 Feb Mon to Fri 4 nights	Christine Corkett
03	May BH	Wildhern Hampshire	2-5 May Fri to Mon 3 nights	Ben Thackeray
04	Spring BH North	Dalton Yorkshire	23-27 May Fri to Mon 3 nights +1 free	Bob Carter & Brian Pollard
05	Spring BH South	Loxwood Surrey	23-26 May Fri to Mon 3 nights	Mic Spenceley
06	Dancers Weekend	Beckford Evesham	30 May - 1 Jun Fri to Sun 2 nights	Colin Hume
07	Musicians Weekend	Beckford Evesham	27-29 Jun Fri to Sun 2 nights	Alan Corkett
08	Singers Weekend	Miserden Cotswolds	10-13 Jul Thu to Sun 3 nights	Karen Dietz & Jay Parrack
09	Halsway	Halsway Manor	26 Jul - 2 Aug Sat to Sat 7 nights	Bob Carter
11	Marquee Week 1	Bedingham Norfolk	19-26 Jul Sat to Sat 7 nights	Walter Pohl & Paul Weir
12	Marquee Week 2	Bedingham Norfolk	26 Jul - 2 Aug Sat to Sat 7 nights	Nodge Norris & Paul Weir
13	Marquee Week 3	Bedingham Norfolk	2-9 Aug Sat to Sat 7 nights	Sue Malleson
14	Marquee Week 4	Bedingham Norfolk	9-16 Aug Sat to Sat 7 nights	Brian Pollard
15	Hall Week 1	Hanley Swan Malverns	26 Jul - 2 Aug Sat to Sat 7 nights	Brian Bull
16	Hall Week 2	Hanley Swan Malverns	2-9 Aug Sat to Sat 7 nights	Jason Rosser App Anis Finn
17	Aug BH North	Whixley Yorkshire	22-26 Aug Fri to Mon 3 nights +1 free	Jenni Pollard & Daniel Mason Mentor - Bob Carter
18	Aug BH South	Oaksey Wiltshire	22-25 Aug Fri to Mon 3 nights	Jay Parrack

MUSICIAN	WARDEN	CATERER
Dave Brown & Elaine Meechan	N/A	N/A
David Pattenden	N/A	N/A
Andy Johnson	Mic Spenceley	N/A
Hilary Vare App Jean Carter	Dave Richardson Asst Dan Bangs	N/A
Doug Brown	Doug Jewitt	N/A
Pete & Moira Gutteridge	Jenny Walton	N/A
David Bradley	Jenny Walton	N/A
Doug Brown	Steve Porritt	N/A
Philip & Joyce Rowe	N/A	N/A
Richard & Belinda Jones	Don Thompson	Cheryl Moskowitz & Hilary McN App Angie Crawley
Emily Weir & Alastair Gavin App Jason Sparkes	Karl Stevens	Hilary McNamara & Cheryl M App Ali Dale
Dave Young & Sarah Malleson	Steve Porritt	Hugh Malleson & Laura Parrack
John New & Jenny Newman	Simon Parrack App John Callaghan	Andy Malleson App Sally Clayden
Andy Johnson	Mic Spenceley	Ann Tracey & Anne Kenyon
Doug Brown	Roger Bangs	Anne Kenyon & Ann Tracey
John New & Hilary Vare	Richard Kenyon	N/A
Howard Kilner	Paul Harrington	N/A

	KEY	
1	Halsway Manor	Jan 25-7th; & Jul 26-Aug 2nd
2	Symonds Yat	Feb 11 - 15th
3	Wildhern	May 2-5th
4	Dalton	May 23 -27th
5	Loxwood	May 23 - 26th
6	Beckford	May 30 -Jun 1st & Jun 27 - 29th
7	Miserden	Jul 10 - 13th
8	Bedingham	Jul 19 - Aug 16th (Marquee)
9	Hanley Swan	Jul 26 Aug 9th (Hall)
10	Whixley	Aug 22 - 26th
11	Oaksey	Aug 22- 25th



Camps 2008

Summer family weeks (fully-catered)



BEDINGHAM, SUFFOLK (4 weeks) 19 to 26 July, 26 July to 2 August, 2 to 9 August & 9 to 16 August

For 2008 a new marquee site and a new area to explore close to the world renowned Norfolk Broads and the market town of Bungay. The site is a secluded meadow on the Bedingham Hall estate next to a small wood.

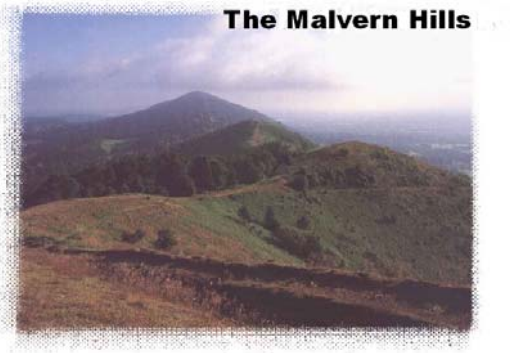
The village is just 3 miles from the edge of the Broads, Britain's largest (303 sq km) protected wetland. Bungay and Beccles beckon and there are award-winning beaches at Lowestoft (20m), Kessingland (20m) and Southwold (22m). The wetlands and some RSPB reserves provide a birdwatcher's paradise and the area also boasts the delights of Walberswick, Aldeburgh and





Adnams beer. And then there is the county town of Norwich, 12 miles away offering a large street market, ancient streets and buildings, a castle and two cathedrals. As if that's not enough a bit further takes you to the fleshpots and candy floss of Great Yarmouth!

HANLEY SWAN, MALVERNS (2 weeks) 26 July to 2 August & 24 to 9 August

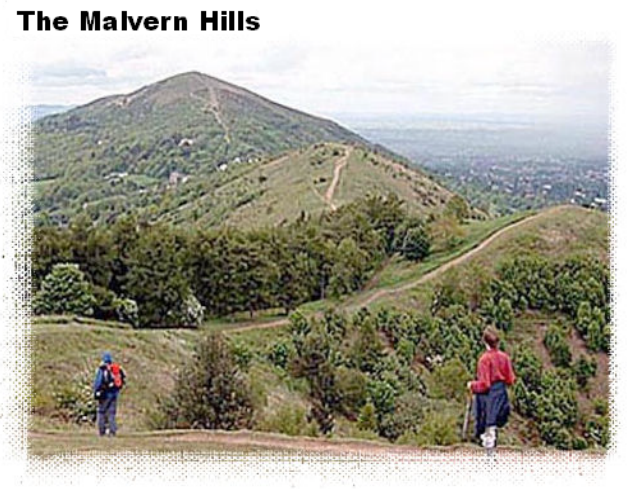


A delightful village with its own green and duckpond, Hanley Swan is just 3 miles from the foot of the spectacular Malvern Hills. You can see the hills from your tent and a few minutes drive will set you up for a stunning walk along the ridge of six peaks inculding the 425m Worcestershire Beacon.



The views on both sides of the ridge are wonderful as is the walk route itself. Nearby is the charming town of Upton Upon Severn, home to the famous morris stick dance which bears its name. And the lovely town of Great Malvern itself provides a step back in time to a more genteel era. A steep walk up to St Anne's Well is also rewarded with a tea shop.

Totally unfair - I find that two of my favourite areas of the country have been selected for camps this year ... Norfolk with its wide open sky and lazy winds is an area I have loved to visit all my adult life ... And the Malvern Hills - my birth place (just north of the North Hill) and the world of my summer holidays up to my teen years - both camps will be blissful - and I shall revel in the Marquee Camp - and envy all of you in the Malvern Hills - life isn't fair!! Editor





HALSWAY MANOR (1 week) 26 July to 2 August
Nestling below the spectacular Quantock Hills, Halsway Manor is the only residential Folk Centre in England. You have a choice of staying in the Manor itself or camping in the water garden. Either way you will be assured of excellent facilities and great food with waitress service and no cooking duties! Oh yes, there is also a bar on site. Walkers may choose between the smooth contours of the Quantocks and the rugged landscape of Exmoor. For children, the seaside is just a few miles off and the many visitor attractions include Tropiquaria, "the jungle of Somerset". Cider farms (for a little sampling) and Taunton, Somerset's County town, are both worth visiting. Further information: www.halswaymanor.co.uk

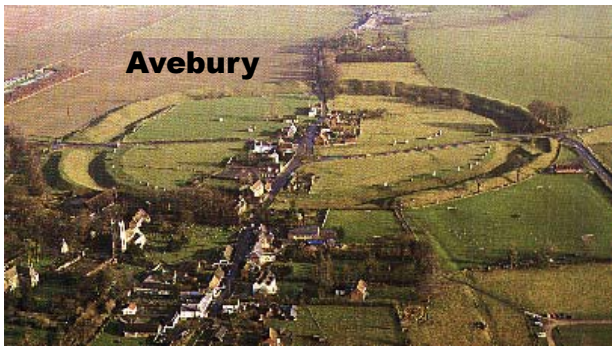
Winter Warmer
HALSWAY MANOR, 25 to 27 January
(Friday evening to Sunday late afternoon)
While the winds may be chill outside, our ever popular Winter Warmer offers the chance to dance, eat and make merry safe inside the warm embrace of Halsway Manor. Your meals are prepared for you and there will be the usual mix of fun led by Pete Hendy with music from Dave Brown and Elaine Meechan.

Craft Week
PADDOCKS HOTEL, SYMONDS YAT 11 to 15 February
(Monday to Friday)
Staying in the comfortable surrounds of the Paddocks Hotel, our craft week regulars enjoy a variety of crafts from volunteer instructors, led by Christine Corkett. The hotel provides excellent meals and in the evening you can dance to music from David Pattenden in the hotel's large ballroom!

Self-catering weekends

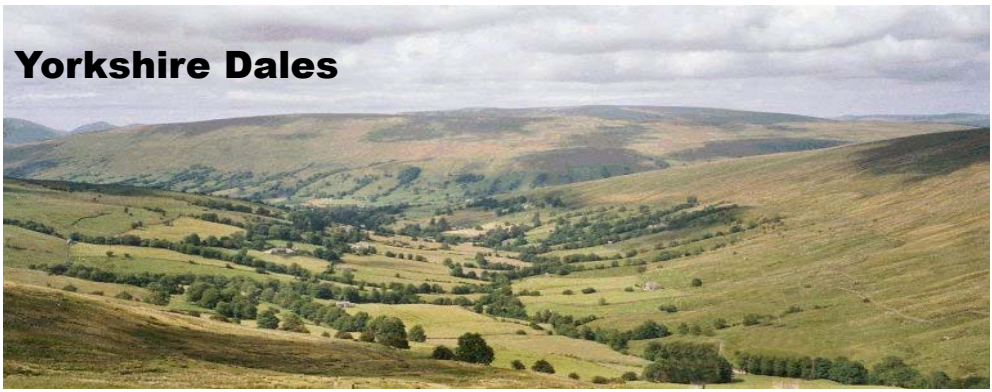
WILDHERN, nr Andover, Hants. (long weekend) 2 to 5 May
(Friday evening to Monday late afternoon)

Welcome in the spring amidst beautiful rolling countryside. The hamlet of Wildhern lies on the very fringe of the North Wessex Downs AONB, an area steeped in history including Avebury and Silbury Hill. The Downs offer so much to delight walkers and country-lovers.



DALTON (long weekend) 23 to 27 May
(Friday evening to Tuesday morning)

Set in an area of moors, valleys and rivers, exciting walking country and beautiful scenery, Dalton is less than 7 miles from the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The camp is not far from Richmond, Barnard Castle and Raby Abbey. The usual mix of Folk Camps activities will be on offer. Bob Carter and Brian Pollard lead, Hilary Vare and Jean Carter are the musicians with music workshop support from John New, Dan Mason and Pete Thornburn.



LOXWOOD (long weekend) 23 to 26 May (Friday evening to Monday late afternoon)


Loxwood

Leave it too late and you won't get in at our popular site in Sussex, need we say more? Some nice pubs to visit, the attractive town of Haslemere close by and the historic and fascinating city of Guildford is also within range, or you could just stay on site and enjoy the music and the company.

BECKFORD (dancers' event - short weekend) 30 May to 1 June (Friday evening to Sunday late afternoon)

A weekend targeted at the more experienced dancer with a focus on challenging dances to quality music. The village of Beckford sits beneath Bredon Hill, famed by Houseman's poem, which has truly wonderful views - and not a little magic. In addition to many lovely Cotswold villages, the towns of Tewkesbury, Evesham, Cheltenham and Winchcombe, with its fine abbey, are all within range.

Looking towards the Malvern Hills from the top of Bredon



BECKFORD (musicians' event - short weekend) 27 to 29 June (Friday evening to Sunday late afternoon)

A weekend for players of any and every kind of instrument. Lots of playing and a little bit of dancing. See dancers weekend for other details.

MISERDEN (Singers' event - long weekend - 10 to 13 July (Thursday evening to Sunday late afternoon)

Due to popular demand we've added an extra day to this event, which (please note) will start on Thursday. Led by two wonderful singers – Jay Parrack and Karen Dietz. Lots of singing with just a smattering of dancing. Miserden is a small village surrounded by beautiful Cotswold countryside. Gloucester, Cheltenham and Stroud are all nearby but the village is so attractive you may want to just sit in the field and admire the view. The village pub is very welcoming and campers often enjoy a session combined with a pub lunch.

WHIXLEY (long weekend) 22 to 26 August (Friday evening to Tuesday morning)

"The Northern Reunion". This will be our seventh visit to the village of Whixley, close to Knaresborough, a delightful town complete with 'petrifying' sights. Harrogate and York are both close by. A modernised village hall, enclosed camping site and a village pub that assures us a great welcome, make this one of the most popular events in our calendar, but it's really the people who make it what it is.

OAKSEY, SOUTHERN COTSWOLDS (long weekend) 22 to 25 August (Friday evening to late Monday afternoon)





The August Bank) event moves to a new site on the Wiltshire/Gloucestershire border. The small village of Oaksey lies between the old Roman town of Cirencester to the north east and the medieval town of Malmesbury to the south west. Other attractions in the area include the Cotswold Water Park, Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury, Stroud, the Cotswold Hills and more royal residences per square mile than any other part of the UK!

Bredon Hill
by AE Houseman

Bredon Hill
From "A Shropshire Lad"

In summertime on Bredon
The bells they sound so clear;
Round both the shires they ring them
In steeples far and near,
A happy noise to hear.

Here of a Sunday morning
My love and I would lie,
And see the coloured counties,
And hear the larks so high
About us in the sky.

The bells would ring to call her
In valleys miles away;
"Come all to church, good people;
Good people come and pray."
But here my love would stay.

And I would turn and answer
Among the springing thyme,
"Oh, peal upon our wedding,
And we will hear the chime,
And come to church in time."

But when the snows at Christmas
On Bredon top were strown,
My love rose up so early
And stole out unbeknown
And went to church alone.

They tolled the one bell only,
Groom there was none to see,
The mourners followed after,
And so to church went she,
And would not wait for me.

The bells they sound on Bredon,
And still the steeples hum,
"Come all to church, good people."
O noisy bells, be dumb;
I hear you, I will come.

Something for Everyone



Over the years more than one person has said they would love to be able to help with the Folk Camp Society - but they don't have the time - and they're wrong! The best help doesn't involve time - it involves being enthusiastic and "selling" the society by telling everyone just how brilliant you think they really are. So - don't forget to ask Mic if you need copies of the Folk Camps leaflet to give your friends, word of mouth is our best advertisement - and if you introduce a new family to camps we'll give you £25 off the cost of your own camping fee!

HOLTON HEATH - THE HOT WEEK!

I just wanted to say again how enjoyable this camp was, ably and cheerfully led by Barry Pollard and Sarah Malleson. They both worked so hard to give us all a marvellous week. Perhaps they were not responsible for the perfect weather, and the 24 hour contact with Barny, my little grandson, which were two major factors in my great enjoyment, but everything else was down to them.

Thank you very much for a super holiday, Barry and Sarah !

Folk Camps depend entirely on people like them, working tirelessly and without sleep to achieve a holiday week for the rest of us. And mostly it works supremely well, which is why we all like to come.

Thanks very much, everyone !

Fran Middleton
August 2007

AUNT B'S HANDY FOLK CAMPING TIPS (1)

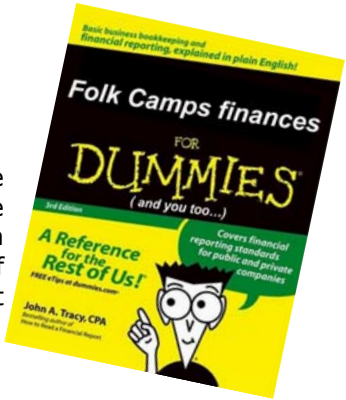
Use a small piece of carpet on the floor just inside your tent. Not only will it impress the neighbours but it fulfils a very useful purpose by stopping water moving along the groundsheet. Built in ground sheets are all very well, but often you can't enter a tent in rain without bringing in an enormous puddle. So I find that one of those cheap and cheerful silky pound-shop fireside rugs is the best.

They're very light, very absorbent and you can rinse and dry them easily – but any old carpet off-cut will do. In very wet weather rubber mats from your car will provide door mats for both inside and outside the tent, so you don't develop a nasty mud bath by the door.

MATCH, HATCH and DISPATCH

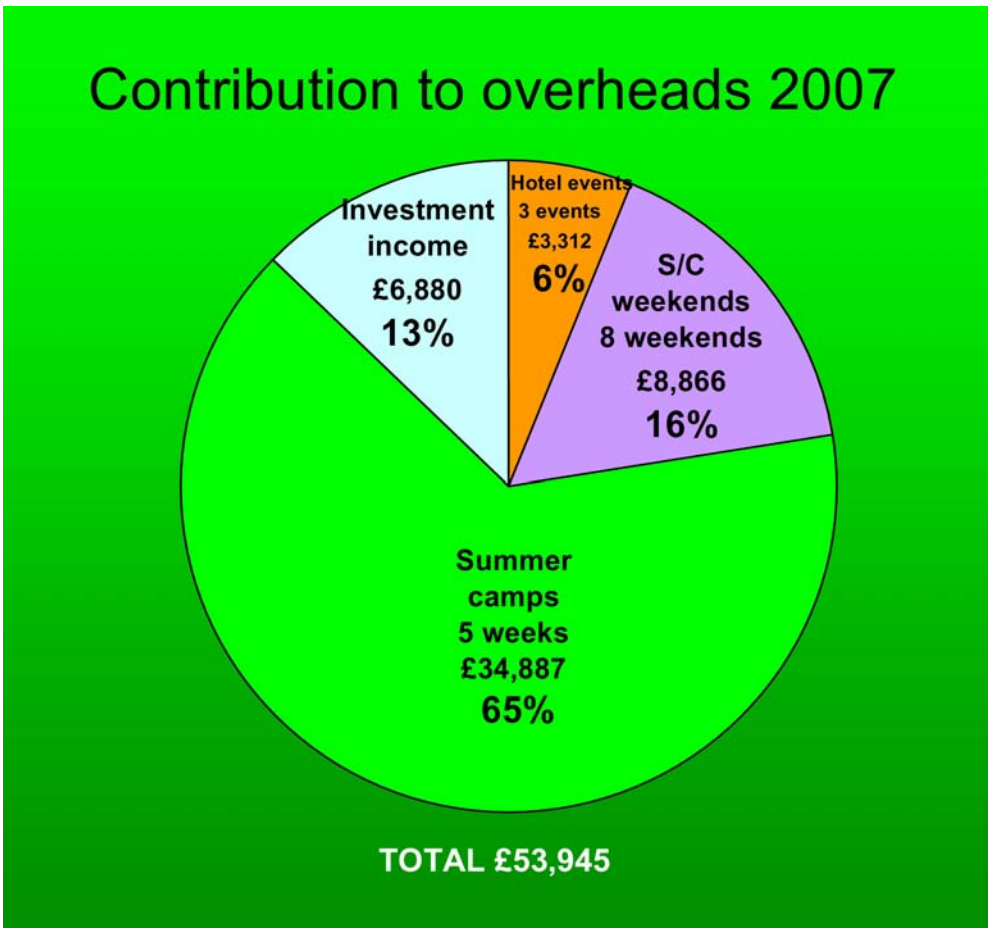
I'm glad to report that no deaths have been reported to me - sadly this exactly balances the numbers of births, engagements, marriages and other magical moment that could have been enjoyed by our members! I can't believe life for so many people has been so placid - so let me know - share your family news - good or bad!

Folk Camps finances for DUMMIES (and you too . . .)



These pie charts give a general idea of where the money to run Folk Camps comes from and what we spend it on. The income figures are the "contribution to overhead" left after all the direct running costs of camps (food, hall hire, site hire, marquee, skips, toilet hire etc) have been deducted from the money paid for places on camp.

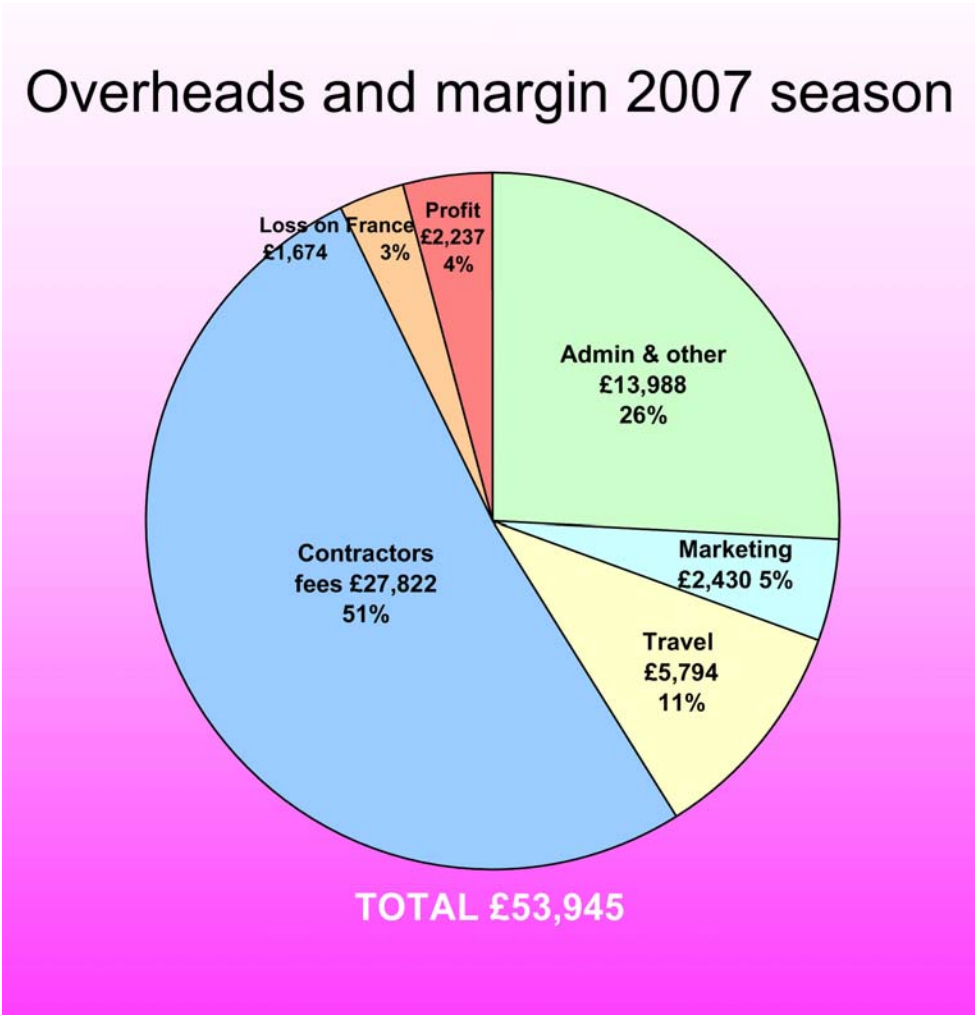
These figures are not quite the same as those in the audited accounts, which include all sorts of carry forwards, carry backs, accruals, write downs etc which are not for the faint hearted! You will see that we have made a modest profit . The interest on our investment reserve has been



balanced out by the final remaining costs of the transition to new contractors. Next year we will not have these exceptional costs. For 2008 Council is aiming for break-even plus a small safety margin. The camp prices have been set to achieve this but we will have higher costs for some of the sites and rising food prices to take into account. We also have to remember that the interest on our investment reserves is simply helping to ensure that they maintain their real value against inflation, so Council will aim to make a modest profit on trading without depleting the reserves.

These pie charts will be included in the pre-meeting presentation I hope to give at the AGM – don't miss it!

Paul Weir



Why Folk Camps?

What is it about folk camps that appeals to us? I suppose we might all have a slightly different view on this but I thought I might have a go at outlining why I feel such empathy with our chosen form of holiday.

For a start, I can't really think of any other kind of holiday that has the same sense of community. The numbers are small enough to get to know almost everyone by the end of the week. Then there's the DIY aspect of it. In this consumer age I love to be with people who make their own entertainment rather than pay someone else to do it for them. I love being in the great outdoors, enjoying the scenery and going for walks. I love the sheer old-fashioned, small scale, alternative, anti-celeb style of the thing.

And most of all I cherish the principle enshrined in our constitution, that our purpose is to promote the enjoyment of traditional dance, music and song. Did you know that it's that aspect of our activities that allows us to have charitable status and hence we don't have to pay tax like a commercial company?

Now I must confess that I've been sold on traditional dance, music and song ever since I first came into contact with it in the early sixties (yes, I know that makes me very old). So finding a society dedicated to enjoying and passing on this stuff was a lucky day for me. And we certainly do pass it on, don't we? I remember how much our kids enjoyed folk camps back in the seventies and our grandchildren right now. How many second generation folk campers can you think of, some of them now staffing for us? Talking of kids, perhaps we should put more emphasis on reviving children's games and songs. Such activities are under threat in the age of the play station.

Traditional singers and musicians performed for their own and their friends enjoyment, just like us. I would like to play a part in continuing that tradition. I'd like to encourage others to play a part in continuing that tradition. The English are the worst people in the world at valuing our own folk heritage; how often do you hear those trendy television types sneering at morris dancing or bearded folk singers? Well, most of the songs I sing have been around for 150 years at least and what's more I feel confident that someone, somewhere, will still be singing them in another 150 years. And that's more than you can say for most of today's pop music.



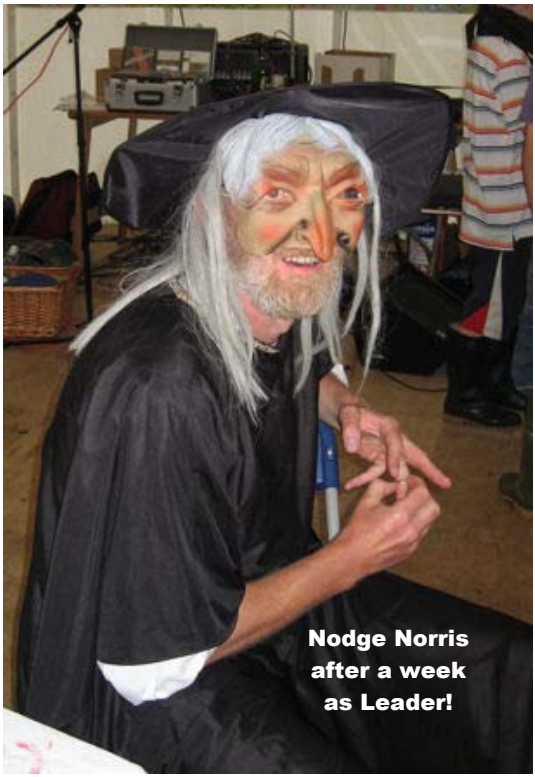
Now don't get me wrong, there are lots of other kinds of music I like but folk music is different. It's got roots; it's got longevity; it's small scale and intimate (you just wouldn't dream of putting it on in a stadium would you?). It's largely organised by amateurs for love, not money. In a way, it's downright subversive, the very antithesis of our consumer oriented, materialistic, capitalist, celebrity-obsessed society. I love it.
Quick, pass me my concertina, I feel a song coming on.

Brian Bull (Events Manager)

MUSIC FOR PRACTICE ... While nothing can take the place of a well turned out publication - and the Folk Camp Society does produce and sell some excellent publications (see the web site) - you can also find on the website some pdf files containing music - just download, print off and enjoy! We used these sheets as a resource for the early evening band during the first week at Holton Lee. I won't say they are problem free - but they might just represent a starting point for a common repertoire for musicians.



Sunset over Poole Harbour



Nodge Norris after a week as Leader!

NEW FOLK MUSIC EXAMS - 1st exams for fiddle & accordion will be held Oct. 2007 in Glasgow - to be expanded later. choice of playing by ear or by reading music.

RSAMD SCOTTISH TRADITIONAL MUSIC GRADED EXAMS LAUNCH
http://gradedexams.rsamd.ac.uk/

"The programme acknowledges the value of Scotland's traditional music to its contemporary culture and identity, and seeks further to strengthen traditional music's ties to education and lifelong learning. ..."These exams provide ...parity of esteem with the classical idiom "

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Meet your friends at the 2007 Folk Camps Reunion!

Saturday 1st December 2007 at Wing Village Hall
Leighton Road, Wing, Buckinghamshire LU7 0NN

7:30 till 11 pm Ceilidh
featuring the penultimate performance of



with MC Mic Spenceley

NO BAR
B Y O DRINK

Tickets on the door - £6
accompanied under 16s free

11 am - rolling slide show of 2007 camps
12.30 - pub sessions - bring your instruments
2.30 - AGM - Come along and have your say!
(afternoon creche available - please book in advance
phone 0208 12321 36 or email info@folkcamps.co.uk)

The world famous "Kemps Kitchen" available
for tea, coffee and snacks from 11 am till 5 pm
Local pubs and cafes for lunches and dinners

full details:- www.members-only.org.uk