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Extent

Publication Spring 2008

I think spring must have arrived at long last - it snowed last weekend and today we enjoyed torrential hail (I enjoyed it because I was in the warmth and comfort of home!) and buried the garden in a layer of ice an inch deep. The only thing on my mind was - a warm fire and a snug house ... Folk camp and all its joys was nowhere in sight. And, then Spring arrived - the telephone rang - and Mic asked how Extent was coming along - "ooops" - that one snuck up on me unexpectedly ... Actually I was bracing myself for an earlier publication date - but was held up by available material (actually a total absence of material) and then while I was frantically busy directing a stage show it all arrived - so - here we are ...

Be pleased to note that Spring has sprung - the McNamara Family have gathered together the required survival equipment, walking boots, thorn proof trousers, safari Jackets and pith helmets - along with sandwiches and thermos flasks of strong coffee laced liberally with whisky - maps, compass, and first aid kits - and we are nearly ready to enter the badlands of our attic and see if we can find the pieces of camping equipment we put up there after last years Folk Camp. It's time to forget the chilly winter and to brace ourselves for the 2008 SEASON OF CAMPING ... Which is just about to start ... Mind you, I'm still not sure how we're going to get the trailer tent out of the attic!!



Administration Matters

Well the 2008 summer season of Folk Camps begins in just over two week's time with the May bank holiday weekend at Wildhern (2-5 May).

Folk Campers are reminded that balance payments must arrive at the office one month before the start of each camp. Any payments or bookings after the due date will be charged at the higher rates as listed on the booking form.

There are still places available at Wildhern, so those wishing to attend this early season camp should book this week either on paper (a booking form can be downloaded from either website) or on line from either website.

Loxwood spring bank holiday camp (23-26 May) remains full, but the waiting list has shrunk, so anyone wishing to attend should contact the office as soon as possible.

The Dalton spring bank holiday weekend (23-27 May) does have places available. This is a great weekend led by "Team North" Brian Pollard and Bob Carter, with musicians Hilary Vare and Jean Carter. For this particular camp those attending get the added bonus of being able to stay over Monday night if they wish. Unfortunately this is not available to those of us at Loxwood.

The summer marquee camps at Bedingham have just 8 places available for week 1 (19-26 July). The remaining three weeks are full.

The summer hall camps at Hanley Swan (26 July - 2 August and 2 - 9 August) do have places but the second week is almost full with only 6 places available.

Current state of camp bookings

May Bank Holiday
2 - 5 May 2008
Wildern, Hampshire
places available

Loxwood dancers
23 - 26 May 2008
Loxwood, Sussex
FULL

Dalton sword dancers
23 - 26 May 2008
Dalton,N.Yorkshire
places available

August Bank Holiday
22 - 25 August 2008
Whixley,
North Yorkshire
places available

Gazebo folk
August Bank Holiday
22 - 25 August 2008
Oaksey,Wiltshire
places available

Specialist self catering weekends

Dancers weekend
30 May - 1 June 2008
Beckford Village Hall,
Worcestershire
spaces available

Musicians weekend
27 June - 29 June 2008
Beckford Village Hall
Worcestershire
spaces available

All Change at Halsway Manor

At its March meeting Council of Management reluctantly decided that it was not viable for Folk Camps to continue with the summer 2008 camp at Halsway Manor. Bookings were at 18 including the staff.

However, all is not lost, because Halsway have agreed to take on responsibility for running the event themselves. Same staff, same format and lower prices! Because Folk Camps will not incur the cost of running the camp or handling the bookings, Halsway will pass the savings onto the customers in the form of reduced charges this summer.

Those people already booked have been contacted by FCS and offered the choice of a full refund or transfer to another Folk Camp. Those who choose the refund will of course be free to rebook directly with Halsway for the event as will any other Folk Campers who want to attend.

For contractual reasons we must emphasise that the summer event at Halsway will be run by Halsway Manor NOT Folk Camps, so we could not simply transfer across the existing booking deposits. Attendees will be subject to Halsway's terms and conditions, prices etc. Halsway will of course be able to promote the event to their regulars outside the Folk Camps orbit and perhaps broaden the clientele.

With Bob Carter leading and Philip & Joyce Rowe providing the music, it should be the usual recipe of fun, walks, song and dance. Folk Camps wishes Halsway Manor the best of success with the event.

For more details or to book, contact:
Halsway Manor, Crowcombe, Taunton, Somerset TA4 4BD
01984 618274
office@halswaymanor.org.uk
www.halswaymanor.org

Singers weekend
Thursday 10 July - Sunday 13 July 2008
Miserden Village Hall
Gloucestershire
spaces available

Bedingham Marquee Camp
19-26 July SPACES
26 July-2 August FULL
2-9 August FULL
9-16 August FULL

Hanley Swan
26 July - 2 August 2008
2 - 9 August 2008
Places available

Winter Warmers

23-25th January 2009
"Winter Warmer" weekend
HALSWAY MANOR
Crowcombe, Somerset
Book now for 2009
Note announcement (left) re Summer bookings at Halsway Manor

SYMONDS YAT CRAFT
16-20th February 2009
Craft week
Paddocks Hotel
Symonds Yat,
Herefordshire
book now for 2009

Don't forget to keep a regular check for the latest information at the members website www.members-only.org.uk

The Glorious 40th!

Folk Camps 40th Anniversary Reunion at Cecil Sharp House. 22 November 2008

Mr Gubbins' Bicycle: Caller John Kirkpatrick
Tickets £8 in advance £9 on door (if available).
Under 16s free (accompanied).

Reserve your tickets now to be sure of a place! Tickets will be going on sale to EFDSS members in October, so Folk Campers shouldn't leave it until the day – you may be turned away.



John Kirkpatrick and Mr Gubbins' Bicycle

Hurry to Hanley Swan!

No, we're not joking. Summer's camp bookings have been coming in so fast that the marquee weeks will be almost full by the time you read this. But it's not too late, because there's still space at Hanley Swan at this year's hall site. Our Site Finder In-Chief has decreed that sites henceforth should be "beautiful" and he's certainly achieved his vision with Hanley Swan where, from the camping field behind the village hall, you will enjoy wonderful views. This delightful English village with a green, a duck pond and a pub nearby, sits at the foot of the Malvern Hills. But do hurry and book before it's too late.


The Malvern Hills

In summertime on Bredon, the bells they sound so clear ...

...melodeons, concertinas and fiddles you may hear.
Yes, if you've never been to Beckford nestling below Bredon Hill you've missed a treat. Music is central to this short weekend which runs Friday to Sunday afternoon 27th to 29th June. Led by Alan Corkett, with musical guidance from David Bradley and domestic matters handled by Jenny Walton, this popular weekend will concentrate on matters instrumental. It's a weekend for players of any and every kind of instrument but there's bound to be dancing too.

WHO DO YOU KNOW? .....

Who do you know who would enjoy folk camping? Most of us have a very good idea of the sort of people who would enjoy folk camps. So have you thought about spreading the good news? Most new campers arrive as a result of hearing friends or relatives enthuse about the great time they've had. Do help us spread the word.

Aunt B's Handy Folk Camping TIPS (2)

Sleeping on a double air bed? When your partner turns over, do you wake? When one of you gets up, does the other 'hit the deck'? The solution is to construct a bed where both occupants are supported independently. You can do this by putting two single air beds into an old duvet cover, side by side. Sweet dreams!

A View of the Symonds Yat Craft Camp

Lyndsay Bird and Mic Spencely made the trip from Tonyrefail to The Paddocks Hotel in Symonds Yat for their first Folk Camps Craft Week. Mic reports :

We weren't quite sure what to expect as neither of us are "crafty" people, but the idea of five days in February at a hotel seemed quite appealing, especially as we could take advantage of using one of the chalets which enabled us to take our two dogs, Badger and Meg. Now, after an extremely enjoyable break from the office we've already booked for next year as have quite a few of this year's other attendees. The time just flew by. Both of us enjoyed Dave Pattenden's music workshop each morning then while Lyndsay took part in the yoga session after coffee, I got on with creating a greetings card with straw craft scanned into the laptop.

While this was going on there were other workshops all led by volunteers who had booked for the holiday. Nine bird boxes were built; silk scarves were painted; pots were hand painted (to be later cooked in our chalet oven); wax melted with electric irons was used to create abstract pictures; mirrors were decorated with collage creations; pictures were mounted and framed; cards were created from sequin waste; wool spinning was done with drop spindles; necklaces were created; slates were painted; paper was folded into designs to make greetings cards.

Can you believe that all that was crammed into 4 mornings? Whilst some guests continued their craft activities during the afternoon, the dogs insisted that we spent that time walking in the surrounding countryside. Roger Conway led a walk each afternoon and we were lucky enough to spot a Peregrine in the craggy rock face of the gorge.

Our return to the hotel was followed by tea and biscuits with sessions on hand bell change ringing led by Pete Hendy and Teresa Moule, and ocarina playing led by this year's camp leader Christine Corkett.

Yes, there was a ceilidh each evening with dancing to various callers, including 11 year old Ed Pipe, to the music of Dave Pattenden and his volunteer "orchestra" followed by a singaround.

The hotel is really comfortable with a fantastic ballroom for dancing and some of the crafts. The food is excellent with plenty of choice and the whole thing is rounded off by friendly and accommodating service by the hotel staff.

If you haven't been to the craft camp for a while or ever before, then I can thoroughly recommend you make the trip in 2009. It will be from 16 to 20 February (half-term for the whole country) with musician David Pattenden and leader Jenny Walton. You can download a booking form from either website www.folkcamps.co.uk or www.members-only.org.uk and you can also book on line.

To quote from the comments book:-

"We have had another lovely week. Great company, lot's to do and it was good to have a walk every day and some new faces. Valentine's dance was super. We can't wait for next year! Those who don't come have no idea what they are missing out on! Folk Camps best kept winter secret!"

Mic

Pictures from Symonds Yat















Folk Camps 2008 -2009

We've had great reports about the Halsway Winter Warmer, just completed. Halsway Manor administration is undergoing a complete reorganisation at present with the Trustees returning the Society to its core objects of promoting folk music, dance and song. As part of this, the post of Manager has gone and a new post of Chief Officer has been created. If you know anyone who might be interested in taking up the position, please check out the details at www.halswaymanor.org and follow the link to "Halsway Jobs". Those attending the Winter Warmer reported a great atmosphere with a new chef, excellent food and the usual excellent staff service. There are now three en-suite rooms available inside the Manor, so it can be even more luxurious!

The Folk Camps Council will be assessing the viability of the Halsway summer week (26 July to 2 August) see page 3. And now the latest news about bookings for the rest of the Folk Camps season.

Bookings are coming in for the specialist weekends, dancers (30 May to 1 June), musicians (27 to 29 June) and singers (10 to 13 July). Of course the word "specialist" does not describe those attending, who cover beginners to advanced, but it does describe the main activity of the weekend. It is intended that all of these Folk Camp self-cater weekends should be open to all comers and are often the introduction for new Folk Campers. If you know anyone who would be interested in attending, then please pass on the details of the website www.folkcamps.co.uk.

The Bank Holiday weekends remain ever popular with good numbers for Wildhern in Hampshire (2 to 5 May) and Dalton in Yorkshire (23 to 26 May). The Loxwood Spring Bank Holiday camp remains full with a waiting list.The end of season August Bank Holiday weekends in Whixley and Oaksey tend to be booked later in the season, but booking for these should not be delayed too long as the cost goes up on 22nd July and they tend to be pretty full by then.

That brings us to the main summer camping weeks. The first marquee week (19 to 26 July) at Bedingham has just a few places left. This year the week clashes with the last few days of the school summer term in many areas, and so is not possible for some families. Walter Pohl and Paul Weir are the ever popular joint leaders, and these last places will undoubtedly fill. The remaining three marquee weeks have been full for some time and have waiting lists.

Of the two hall camps at Hanley Swan in the Malverns, the first week (26 July to 2 August) remains the most viable option for those still wishing to

book for a family or adult party. The second week (2 to 9 August) is almost full and this Jason Rosser / Doug Brown week of mayhem has attracted the usual large group of older teens who seem to hurl themselves into the Folk Camp atmosphere from noon till the early hours of the morning. Strangely they don't seem to be evident for the first half of the morning! It's great that this age group is so enthusiastic as statistics show that it is a period in their lives when the appeal of Folk Camps is superceded by other summer activities.

Don't forget to keep up to date with the latest news at the members website www.members-only.org.uk .

Flashback to 1964

It's always a joy to get contributions from our members - and I really do encourage you all to make the effort - your positive stories about Folk Camp are particularly welcome - they countermand the few negative comments we hear each year!

Dear Jon

At the Folk Camps AGM, somebody mentioned having written an article about Folk Camps 'a good few years ago', for the magazine of some organisation that he was involved with. This reminded me that many, many years ago I wrote an article on my first ever folk camp for my school magazine. I contacted the school archivist, who managed to find it in the issue of 1964, and send me a copy. I thought you might be interested.



Liz Breuilly

Singing Too-Ra-Li-Ay

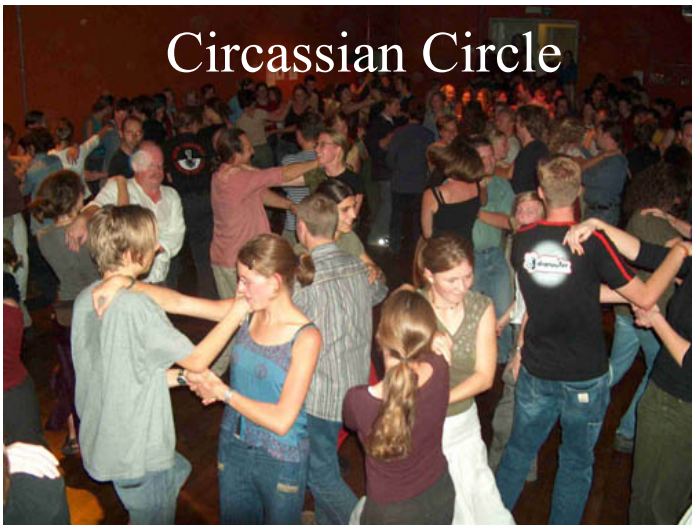
"What d'yer do this for, then?"

He was about fourteen, leaning on his bicycle on Bideford quay side, regarding our festival dress with a mocking smile. Resting after the country dance, we were watching the morris men.

"This" was not only dancing in public, but spending a fortnight under canvas in rain and mud, at a folk-dance camp in Devon. But there was a marquee, dim, green and slightly musty inside, a dry haven hemmed in by the rain, the scene of every activity in camp. In the driest corner the band would practice for the evening's

dancing, while groups of people copied out words of folk-songs from their friends' collections. If a space could be cleared between trestle-tables, small children and accordions, someone might offer to teach a difficult dance, and if he could find three couples, would spend the rest of the afternoon unraveling the knots they got into. -

In the evening we danced, old dances like "Morpeth Rant", "The Waves of Tory", "Bonny Breast-knot" and "Drops of Brandy", the marquee brightly lit with Tilley-lamps. At nine o'clock everyone gathered into a circle to sing, and the dancing then continued to about eleven, while the air became hotter and hotter until everyone crowded out into the cool night, the older ones to go to bed, the younger ones to cram about twenty people into one tent and sing into the small hours.



Then there was the dancing in the streets. The busking party would set off early, and dance wherever there was room—a wide pavement at Croyde, the sea-front at Lee, the river-side at Bideford, where unwary spectators might get dragged into a dance. Our questioner, the boy with the bicycle, was not quick enough to escape this fate, and had to stumble through "Circassian Circle". He was lucky—I began with "Devil's Dream".

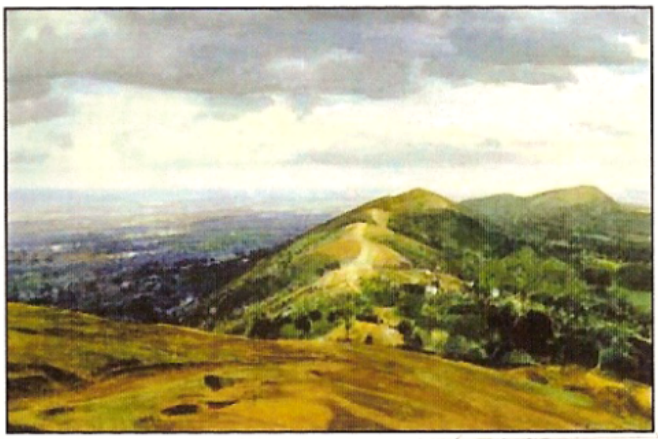
ELIZABETH BROWN, Upper VI.

Thank you Liz - a delightful reminiscence - and a great reminder that the Folk Camp Formula has been working very successfully for over 40 years - even to the pre Society days since we shall be celebrating our official 40th anniversary at the reunion in November ... Don't forget to book and buy your tickets - before they all go!

More on Summer Camps

I really envy the people who are going to Hanley Swan (WR8 0DA)this year - not that I won't be very happy at Bedingham - but because somewhere deep in my sub-conscious - I really belong to that part of the world. Well, I was born in a nursing home just north of the North Hill (Malvern Wells I think) and spent my first couple of years there as my mother lived on with her parents - until the war ended, Father was de-mobbed and moved the family to London - where essentially I grew up until I was nine when we moved to Bishops Stortford. While I didn't really grow up in Malvern - once a year until my late teen years I was put on a train (care of the guard) from London to be met by my grandparents and looked after for the Summer. So I feel I belong there - so please enjoy your visit there for me (take lots of pictures for me!!).

What to do in the area ... Well the Hills are simply there to be climbed - so go climb them - it's a bit of a steep climb up to the Worcestershire Beacon where with good eyesight and imagination you can see seven counties! Actually last time I was up there was the year of the "Ladybird plague" and all the rock cracks were crawling with the darn things - quite bizarre! If you walk to the south you will come eventually to the Herefordshire Beacon - or the British Camp - sort of in the middle of the hills - oh and if you find a bench there dedicated to the memory of Kathleen Elizabeth (Beth) McNamara - do take a picture of it - my parents spent their courting days in the area and my Father always loved the place. If you're really brave a walk along the whole ridge is an amazing way to spend a day ... But you do need to arrange the transport to get back home afterwards!



For more details try : http://www.malverntrail.co.uk/interest.htm

In Malvern itself there are some interesting places to visit (as long as you can get up and down the pavements - some are so steep they put rubber studs in them to improve traction!) - the Priory and of course the Malvern Water Wells. If you like a bit of social history then the story of Malvern as a spa town is fascinating.

I have always enjoyed a visit to the Winter Gardens - because it is one of the few places I can remember from a small child - wading around in the streams in the gardens and slipping over onto my bum and having to go back to my Gran's place cold, wet and with a green slimed backside! (If you're looking for the swimming pool there is one by the Gardens. The other place I always want to visit is Ledbury - a very pretty little town - redolent with history - explore and enjoy!

For the musicians in the party - well this was the home of Sir Edward Elgar - there's a local museum - and even an Elgar Trail - personally I have not explored it. Bredon Hill is quite close and worth a visit - or for the more adventurous you can pop over the border into Wales.

Looking further afield - for the National Trust member there is Hanbury Hall (WR9 7EA) some 21 miles away - and Snowshill Manor (WR12 7JU) some 26 miles away ... I remember visiting Snowshill some years ago when staying at Bredon Hill and it was fascinating - I also have a vague memory of a steam train in the area!

Bedingham (NR35 2DD)

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 birdwatchers' 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!

For the National Trust members there are three great houses to visit Blickling, Felbrigg and Oxburgh Halls - Of which Blickling is the closest at about 27m and Felbrigg is about 35m in much the same direction (North) - so could be done in a single exhausting day! Oxburgh Hall is about 50m to the West.

Norwich is of course a place to head for - a splendid mixture of the ancient and modern. On one hand you have the bland facade of a standard UK town/city with all the usual shops and very few surprises - and then a half mile away you find yourself walking up the medieval charm of Elm Street - I can still remember stumbling on it for the first time many years ago (well it is cobbled!) and being totally stunned by it. If that isn't enough to make up for the City Centre - go and explore the covered market (n.b.: public toilets at the town hall end of the market) - or find the Cathedral ... or the Castle Museum (some rather nice "folk" dragons) - and there are other museums all worth a visit (on a wet day!) The Mustard Shop, Strangers Hall, and the Bridewell museum all await your attention.

For the nautical - there are traces of Lord Nelson to seek out (mainly North Norfolk), for the faithful there is Walsingham, for the steam buffs there are a number of steam railways - for the lovers of magnificent mechanical music machines - there is Thursford, for the intrepid folkie you can always seek out the spiritual home of the Kipper Family - around Trunch ... But that is well to the north of the county, for the sailors in the family there are the Broads - maybe not quite the placid playgrounds that they used to be - but still a way of getting away from it all and a pleasant potter around the waterways at 4mph with a picnic hamper and something mildly alcoholic to drink can help a lot to unwind tension - well until the Motorboat appears

around the corner!! But what ever you find to your taste - for everyone - there is the glory of Norfolk
see: http://www.tournorfolk.co.uk/wheretogo.html

A Summer Camp Project!!

If you like really impossible projects to theme your holidays - then give the children a camera (digital!) and then on your journeys around the county - collect pictures of the village signs - there are apparently over 400 to find.





Normally they depict an aspect of the village - it's history or a claim to fame. A rather nice web site will tell you more:
http://www.colin.cunliffe.btinternet.co.uk/signs/l_signs/index.htm
[and by the way Happisburg pronounced "Hazeburgh" !

Noel Coward apparently summed Norfolk up by saying "Norfolk is Flat", and he has a point. I'm sure its the reason for the old Norfolk warning that "Norfolk do have lazy winds - they don't blows 'round you - they blows through you" so my advice is to take at least one warm pullover!



Obituaries

Tony Millington died on 2nd November 2007 from a brain haemorrhage. For those who have come to Folk Camps more recently, Tony was company secretary and administrator of the Society from 1974 to 1983.



It was during Tony's tenure that summer camp bookings hit the 2,000 mark! He came to the camp at Lympstone in 2006 as our guest on some evenings and was guest of honour on the boat trip. He also helped us out with local contacts and was very pleased to be back at a folk camp after so long.

Tony grew up in Exmouth before joining the RAF in 1958. Ten years later he married Clare and the newlyweds made their first home in Cyprus. Tony was allied to the Vulcan bomber Squadron at RAF Acrotiri as part of the ground crew. It was the start of a love affair with flying and in particular the Vulcan. Just two weeks before he died Tony saw one of his life-long ambitions realised. For years he had been a part of a campaign called "Vulcan to the Sky" which aimed to save one of the bombers. On October the 18th this year that plane finally took to the skies over RAF Bruntingthorpe, much to Tony's delight.

Tony left the RAF in 1971 – the same year that Tony and Clare welcomed their first child Christopher into the world. Back in Devon Tony went to work for the Folk Camps Society and settled into life in Exmouth where Nick was born in 1974. Polly arrived in 1978 a year after their move to Shear's Place in Lympstone.

Tony also loved singing and possessed an excellent voice which led him into village concerts where he became particularly famous for his own version of the Westcountry classic Devonshire Cream and Cider. There were few dry eyes in the audience during his presentation of the Moulin Rouge song Nature Boy which he delivered at a concert earlier last year despite his failing health.

Tony left the Folk Camps Society in 1983 and went to work for the West Country Tourist Board where he stayed until 1999.

Since then there have been some significant joys. Just a week before slipping into a coma, Tony had confided in close friends and family that he felt, as he put it, his job was now done. He had seen his son Nick married to Nancy with his two grand children Isabel and Adam whom he adored, seen son Chris and his wife Jennifer set themselves up in a home and successful business venture and seen daughter Polly settle into her new home in Torquay with her partner Mark.

Many of us who have been on folk camps for long enough will remember Tony as a very nice man and a good friend. He also had a gift for persuading people to staff on camps or volunteer for things like driving equipment vans through the night to set up sites for folk camps!

Paul Weir

David Cooper died on 7th December 2007 peacefully in hospital after a short illness.

David was one of the original Folk Campers in the 1960s and his daughter, Penny Martin, recollects that Folk Camps was a big part in the family's life when she was a child.

With his Forestry Commission connections he found us 2 excellent sites in the Forest of Dean, and we also had an excellent catered Whitsun camp for 2 years in his barn and field at Candovers.

Bryon Bonnett, often seen on Folk Camps in the sixties and seventies and later as musician for similar camps with Mains Unies, Bryon Bonnett died on 30th January 2008. He was a lovely man who touched the hearts of everyone he met, one of the stalwarts of the early years of Folk Camps.

Bryon's musical career started as a church organist, and in the 1960s he 'graduated' to folk music. The Ranters Band (later to be known as the Yetties) asked him to help them out as lead accordionist, thinking him to be an expert. He had only owned his accordion for one day. Talk about learning on the job!

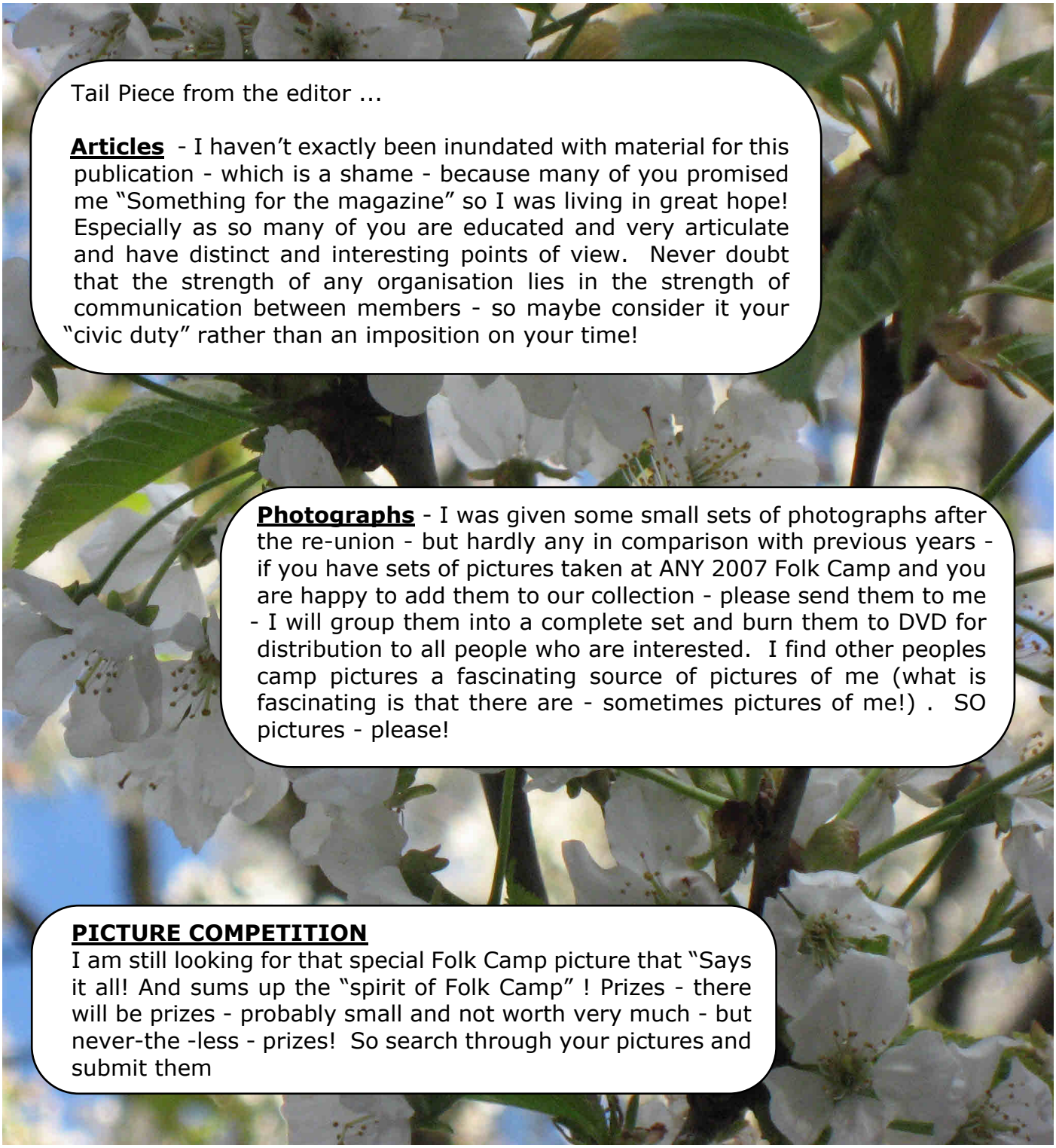
I cannot remember Bryon without thinking of Barbara. It was Barbara who in 1965 persuaded me to go to my first family camp, near Swanage. That was where I first met Bryon. I was an absolute beginner on the accordion and, like so many of my contemporaries at his workshops, I became inspired to try and try again. He taught us the waltz Northern Lights and how to finger sweet harmonies: it was the tune of the camp and for Bryon and Barbara, it became their 'special tune'.



Bryon, together with Barbara, went on to be musician at many more Folk Camps. Particularly memorable were those at Morfa Nefyn in the early 1970s. His tune "256 Special" which is in the Folk Campers Tune Book is just named after a hotel room but Bryon also had a wicked sense of humour and "S H Reel", another of his tunes in Trial Run", is dedicated to the name of the place where he was sitting when the idea for the tune came to him. It was at Folk Camps in the seventies that lasting friendships with the Bonnetts were made. We count ourselves immeasurably lucky to have been on their Christmas card list for over thirty years and to continue to meet up with them, from time to time, even after they had stopped coming to camp.

It is a privilege to be able to write this tribute to Bryon, a talented musician, a patient teacher, a loyal friend and a kindly, modest and sometimes humorous man. It is people like him who keep us going to Folk Camps today. Their legacy is the inspiration and passion for the music, and we hope Bryon's music, will live on for ever.

Jill Hammond



Tail Piece from the editor ...

Articles - I haven't exactly been inundated with material for this publication - which is a shame - because many of you promised me "Something for the magazine" so I was living in great hope! Especially as so many of you are educated and very articulate and have distinct and interesting points of view. Never doubt that the strength of any organisation lies in the strength of communication between members - so maybe consider it your "civic duty" rather than an imposition on your time!

Photographs - I was given some small sets of photographs after the re-union - but hardly any in comparison with previous years - if you have sets of pictures taken at ANY 2007 Folk Camp and you are happy to add them to our collection - please send them to me - I will group them into a complete set and burn them to DVD for distribution to all people who are interested. I find other peoples camp pictures a fascinating source of pictures of me (what is fascinating is that there are - sometimes pictures of me!) . SO pictures - please!

PICTURE COMPETITION

I am still looking for that special Folk Camp picture that "Says it all! And sums up the "spirit of Folk Camp" ! Prizes - there will be prizes - probably small and not worth very much - but never-the -less - prizes! So search through your pictures and submit them

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