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Extent

Publication Spring 2010

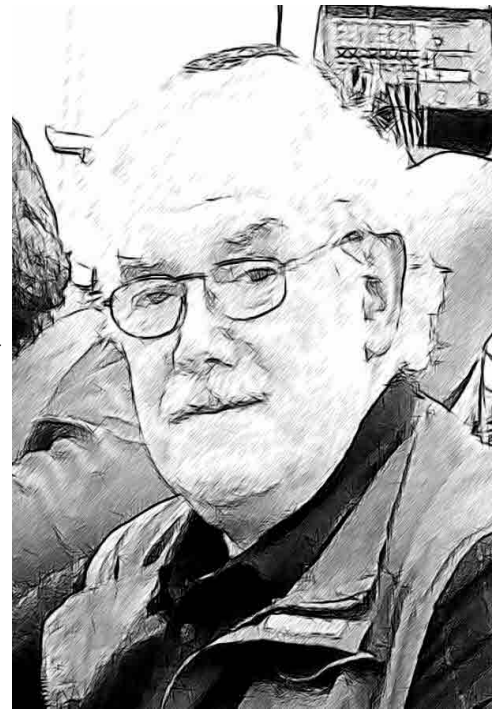


It's going to be wonderful!



Here we are again ... 2010! Winter already a vague chilblained memory, the bulbs in the garden racing into life and flower before they are strangled by the weeds (equally abundant and equally energetic in their growth). What was yesterday a crystalline Arctic desert today is a verdant jungle crying out for the attentions of the lawn mower! ... Suddenly, with Easter egg stained lips I find myself pouring over the brochures and maps wondering just what this Summer will bring.

Four weeks of Marquee camping, two weeks in France and one week of Hall camp equals some eight hundred weeks of camping holiday for the Society or sixteen years of camping experience for a single person - brilliant! To organise all this stimulating relaxing there is a great team of hard workers - the Leaders, Wardens, Musicians - and most important (I've been told to say this!) the Caterers. So keen are they all to ensure that you have the best possible holiday that they gave up a whole Sunday to confer together, swapping ideas and, in general, making sure they were providing the best possible working practice to the camps. A report of the day from Ren Thompson will be found later, along with photographs of the teams and some wonderful poems from the pen of our own Folk Camp Laureate - Cheryl Moskowitz.



Also you will find a few words about Cheryl's latest publication "Can it be about me? Later on. No, I'm not going to write a review because I simply think it is a wonderful thing (and you can buy it and review it for yourselves) and, like me, I'm sure you'll enjoy having a small piece of Cheryl's love and kindness to illuminate those "dark moments" in your lives.

What else might you find in this Extent - a delightful item from Mick Green (who was very reluctant to submit it) about his "Ideal Folk Camp". Mick provides us with his view from the office window and various leaders regale us with reasons for making a little extra effort and attend some/all of the weekend specialist camps. There are staffing details of all the camps, some ideas as to what Wales can hold for us (I might be able to scrape up a few lines about Butley but must confess that the French camp is right outside of my (limited) knowledge zone having done very little foreign travel).

For those who want to know there are some very interesting comparative costing for the Hall, Marquee and weekend camps presented by Paul Weir in response to a question at the AGM plus other interesting items from folk camp and folk campers - including a picture of "Sex - on the beach" (don't blame me - I'm only the editor) and a report of what it was like to perform on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square. All told, a veritable feast feast for you - never let it be said that Folk Campers are dull people!!

Jon McNamara

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The office point of view

Here we go into another season of Folk Camps - my fourth in the job of administration manager. It is amazing how Folk Camps is more than just a holiday for most of its members. For a normal holiday you just book it and forget about it till it's time to start the packing. With Folk Camps people watch the website regularly (www.members-only.org.uk); they want to know who the camp staff will be; they email questions about camps; they keep in touch with each other on Facebook, Twitter etc; they attend the Reunion and AGM (20 November at Milton Keynes Irish Centre); they read this magazine. Whoever coined the phrase "Folk Camps family" was exactly right.



Folk Camps staff turned out in great number for a staff conference at the beginning of March to try to ensure that your holiday is as great and inclusive as it can be in 2010. You'll find a report on that later in this edition. Some travelled hundreds of miles for the event but found it well worth the effort. Council thanks them for their commitment.

From the look of the current booking statistics, the recession is biting this year more than last year (even though it's officially over). The weekend camps are the ones that seem to have suffered the most with numbers down on nearly all of them. The catered week camps are all doing well including the French weeks, so if you haven't yet booked then do so soon before it is too late. We have been offered a 10% discount on Brittany Ferries, so email the office if you want more details.

You can help Folk Camps and also have a great weekend by having another think about those weekend camps. All the details are on the website and also in this edition of Extent.

The Symonds Yat Craft Break 2010 was another great success and the 2011 one (21 to 25 February) is already two thirds full. Lyndsay and I go every year now and wouldn't miss it. If you don't think you're into craft then there's lots of music, evening dances, walks and fun activities like hand bell ringing and bodging (pole lathe). Give it a try - you won't regret it.

On an administrative point. For some reason this year members are booking on line and requesting to pay by cheque (not a problem) but they are then completing a paper booking form and sending it in with their cheque. This can be most confusing and time-wasting, so when you send your cheque in just write something on the back of it or include a simple note.

See you soon,

Mic Spenceley - Administration Manager

Staff Conference March 7th

On Sunday March 7th 2010 a conference and training event was held for Folk Camp staff. All current and prospective staff members were invited and around 40 turned up for what proved to be a very productive day. The event was held at Brackley Junior School where we were able to make use of the large hall and four of the classrooms.



The Leaders Team

The training event was led by experienced folk camper Ian Welborne who divided the day into a series of large and small group discussions with feedback in between. The first task of the day was to generate The Key Characteristics of an Ideal Folk Camp Staff Team. Our ideas included being strong and united, good communications within the team, the ability to

respond creatively to any problems and to listen to, and be supportive of, the campers.

We then split off into the classrooms for smaller group discussions, leaders in one room and mixed talents in the other rooms. This time leaders discussed how they saw their role and also what they required from the rest of their team, whilst the team members discussed what they needed from their leader and what they understood their role to be within the team. This was a soul searching exercise and gave the most interesting feedback of the day with all groups coming up with very similar ideas regarding communication, organisation and inclusion of all campers. All groups also thought that each team member should be aware of the pressures and responsibilities of the others and make sure that **every** team member has a chance to join in with the camp and have a good holidaystaff are volunteers after all!



The Wardens Team



The Musicians Team

After a delicious buffet lunch provided by Ann and Caroline Tracy, we split into 'job' groups to discuss ways to improve future camps. Among the ideas discussed were ways to avoid an overlong song circle, responsibilities regarding food allergies and intolerances, delegation of camp chores and meeting the needs of a large range of musical

abilities. We came up with many solutions to these and other issues, but the general consensus was that we are constantly improving so to keep up the good work!

The day was very productive and the ideas generated are certain to be taken on board by council and camp staff. It was also a very relaxed and enjoyable day, meeting up with old friends and making new ones, almost a mini folk camp in fact. The council's grateful



The Catering Team

thanks go to Ian and Ann for all their hard work, but I must also mention the ever eloquent Cheryl Moskowitz whose poems, punctuating each discussion session, really caught the essence of the day and can be found in this issue of Extent.

A more comprehensive report on the day will be sent to those who attended the event and can be sent to others on request.



"Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."
Andrew Carnegie

Caterer's lament

*We like to have things ordered
 and we're not just talking Bookers
 It's positioning of boilers,
 fridges, cereals and cookers*

*We're already on our feet all day
 It's nice if we don't have to travel
 just to fetch more milk and butter
 across fields and roads and gravel*

*We like to know the difference
 between allergies and fads
 We don't want tummy aches or rashes
 or to make anybody mad*

*We want to be responsible
 but we are not magicians
 We have signed up to be caterers
 and not fancy dieticians*

*We want cakes to be plentiful
 and cake making to be fun
 But we also need to know
 that there's a time when baking's done.*

*We're happiest when campers are
 full bellied and contented
 Satisfied camp caterers
 are not to be lamented!*

"Coming together is a beginning.
 Keeping together is progress.
 Working together is success."
Henry Ford

Delineation

*Responsibilities of the team
 are not as onerous as they seem
 To be prepared, and to support
 our leader in whatever they want (within reason!)*

*To be responsive and aware
 but know how to delegate and to share
 Though we all have to do it, the leader should most
 act as face, front-person, conduit, host.
 And shortly, thereafter, the rest of the team
 can enthuse the campers with their own dreams.*

*To support our leader in their role,
 we must not taunt, trip up, cajole
 As important as the first impression
 is warding off Folk Camp depression.*

*The leader needs us all to be
 as passionate as he or she!*



Do's and Don'ts

*Camp is not fun when there's too much splitting
or where the leader takes over in ways that aren't fitting,
or when staff are too lazy, too crazy or mean,
when enjoyment is rationed as well as the beans*

*Folk camp is magic when the team is united,
when it's all right to be different and wrongs can be righted,
when staff become campers and campers can lead,
but safety and discipline is carefully heed (-ed)*

*When the camp feels enough like a family to
be a place where there's space for a me and a you!*

dos & don'ts

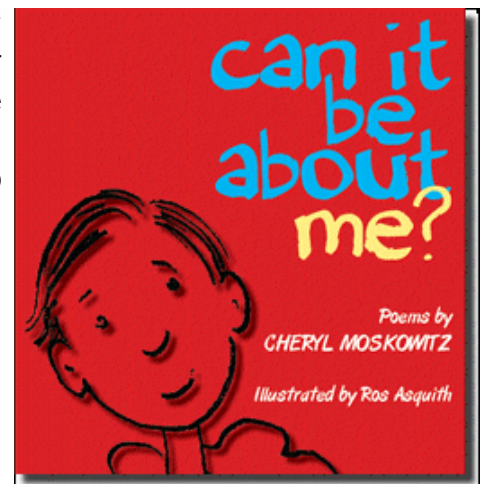


Poems by CHERYL MOSKOWITZ
our very own camp Laureate
and caterer. Cheryl recently
published a book "Can it
be about me?" I suspect
anyone with children or
who has worked in the
Primary School
environment will relate to
this delightful book.

Details:

collection (poems for
children) - Can It Be
About Me?, Circle Time
Press, 2009,
ISBN 978-0-9564082-0-
4. £5.99

See: <http://www.circletimepress.co.uk/>



Just a Suggestion ...

It would be rather nice if people treated the Marquee rather like their own front rooms at home ... With regard to muddy footwear!! Last year of course it was extreme - however the simple action of having buckets of water and brushes by the entrance to clean off the worst of the muck - and *changing into some other footwear* while in the marquee could have prevented some potentially catastrophic falls - and also eliminated the dust cloud created when people danced! To respect the Marquee/ Hall is to respect your fellow campers - if it's your home from home - treat it like a home and lets leave the mud outside!!

Summer camp costs

At the AGM I presented the running costs of a summer marquee camp, primarily to demonstrate that we now spend almost as much on toilets as we do on the marquee!

There were requests at the meeting to publish these figures more widely and to do the same analysis for a summer hall camp. Here are the figures. You will see that the profitability per head of the two camps is broadly the same. The reason that the marquee makes a reasonable profit despite high toilet costs is mainly down to the higher number of campers covered by the same fixed costs. You will also see that we make a small loss on the 11 weekend camps.

Paul Weir, Chairman

Hall and marquee costs before overheads 2009

Exceptional costs removed

4 weeks marquee			2 weeks hall		
	full cost	per head		full cost	per head
Food	£15,400	£33	Food	£6,750	£37
Staffing places	£10,450	£22	Staffing places	£4,250	£23
Marquee hire	£6,150	£13	Hall hire	£1,150	£6
Toilet hire	£3,000	£6	Toilet hire	£250	£1
Sewage disposal	£2,650	£6	Sewage disposal	NA	NA
Rolling road hire	£0	£0	Rolling road hire	NA	NA
Field hire	£1,650	£4	Field hire	£1,000	£5
Equipment transport	£1,000	£2	Equipment transport	£500	£3
Skip hire	£730	£2	Skip hire	£200	£1
Kitchen tent	NA	NA	Kitchen tent	£400	£2
Total	£41,030	£87	Total	£14,500	£80

Once overheads are factored in the margin per head is:

	Margin	People	per head
4 weeks marquee	£7,000	470	£15
2 weeks hall	£3,600	182	£20
11 weekend events	-£1,000	723	-£1

And to distract you from the above!

Here's the picture I told you about. I went into Bude with Brian and Anna Franks, and Guilane Bernard. Anna had her swimming costume and wanted to swim. So I volunteered to hold the towel for her, and Guilane snapped this great picture. I told Anna about it, and she said she didn't mind if I sent it to you for Extent or some other Folk Camp thing. What ever you do with it, please keep my caption : "Sex on the Beach". Cheers, Lou Tribus



Sex on the Beach

Camps 2010

DATES	VENUE	TYPE	LEADERS	MUSICIANS	WARDENS	CATERERS
30 APR 3 MAY	WILDHERN	MAY BH	BEN THACKERAY	CHRIS JEWELL	DAVE HULL	
28 MAY 31 MAY	DALTON	SPRING BH NORTH	BRIAN POLLARD	HILARY VARE JOHN NEW	DAVE RICHARDSON	
28 MAY 31 MAY	HANLEY SWAN	SPRING BH SOUTH	JASON ROSSER	JENNY NEWMAN, ANDY GLASS	DON THOMPSON	
4 JUNE 6 JUNE	BECKFORD	DANCERS	JOHN TURNER	PETE & MOIRA GUTTERIDGE	JENNY WALTON	
11 JUNE 13 JUNE	BECKFORD	MUSICIANS	RAY GARNETT	PETE & MOIRA GUTTERIDGE	JENNY WALTON	
18 JUNE 20 JUNE	BECKFORD	SESSION MUSIC	KARL STEVENS	DOUG BROWN	BARRY MOULE	
8 JULY 11 JULY	MISERDEN	SINGERS	JAY PARRACK, KAREN DIETZ	BOB SHATWELL	STEVE PORRITT	
24 JULY 31 JULY	RHAYADER	MARQUEE WEEK 1	CHRIS JEWELL	RICHARD & BELINDA JONES	DAVE HULL	SALLY CLAYDEN, MARY FILLAN
31 JULY 7 AUGUST	RHAYADER	MARQUEE WEEK 2	JASON ROSSER, WALTER POHL	ANDY JOHNSON, ED RIDGEON	DON THOMPSON	SIMON REYNOLDS, GERRY THOMAS
7 AUGUST 14 AUGUST	RHAYADER	MARQUEE WEEK 3	PAUL WEIR	ALASTAIR GAVIN, EMILY FAREWELL	GRAHAM CLEMENTS	CHERYL MOSKOWITZ, HILARY McNAMARA
14 AUGUST 21 AUGUST	RHAYADER	MARQUEE WEEK 4	KAREN DIETZ	JENNY NEWMAN, ANDY GLASS	KARL STEVENS	HUGH MALLESON, LIZ COOPER
31 JULY 7 AUGUST	BUTLEY	HALL WEEK	JAY PARRACK	MIKE McDAID	STEVE PORRITT	HUGH MALLESON, LAURA PARRACK
31 JULY 7 AUGUST	ST DENIS LE GAST	FRANCE WEEK 1	BRIAN POLLARD	SHANE & JULIA DAY	DAVE RICHARDSON	ANN TRACEY
7 AUGUST 14 AUGUST	ST DENIS LE GAST	FRANCE WEEK 2	TONY ASHLEY JOHN DELL	KEITH GREGSON	RICHARD KENYON	ANNE KENYON' ANN TRACEY
28 AUGUST 31 AUGUST	WHIXLEY	AUG BH NORTH	DAN MASON	JOHN NEW, HILARY VARE	RICHARD KENYON	
28 AUGUST 31 AUGUST	KINGTON LANGLEY	AUG BH SOUTH	SUE MALLESON	ANJA PETER, SARAH MALLESON	PAUL HARRINGTON	
21 FEB 25 FEB	SYMONDS YAT 2011	CRAFT BREAK	DOROTHY SEEDHOUSE	PETE & MOIRA GUTTERIDGE		

Spring Bank Holiday Hanley Swan

The bookings for the weekend's camp at Hanley Swan, 28th to 31st May, are going ok, but we could always do with more of you fine people for what will be, without doubt, the best late May Bank Holiday camp in Worcestershire for the past 75 million years.

We have superb musicians (when don't we have?), a great, free-draining camp site, excellent hall, lovely location - the Malvern Hills are a very short car ride away (slightly longer by bike), Upton-upon-Severn just down the road, The Three Kings Public House, undoubtedly one of the top ten best unspoilt pubs (they don't sell lager and do like live music) in the country within easy walking distance at Hanley Castle, superb caterers (yourselves), plus the added attraction of one of life's most optimistic realists as your inglorious leader - er, that'll be me.



We shall have inspiring workshops, with (perhaps) such diverse subjects as Robin Reliant maintenance for beginners, solar-powered bag-piping, how to do the Telegraph crossword in 327 easy steps, advanced animal husbandry and tadpole sexing. These will be preceded by "Join the Band", which will bring you all up to the standard of Les Dawson on speed (whether you like it or not), and the evenings will be royally stuffed with terpsichorean magnificence and vocal gymnastics to rival the near-perfection and sublime joy of Jedward - that strange, enigmatic two-headed beast from the Emerald Isle.

What is there not to like?

If you are sitting on the fence, if you are waiting to see the outcome of the General Election, if an elderly relative has promised you a large inheritance if you spend the weekend combing her little Shitzu, throw caution to the wind and come and join us - we happy band of brothers - and sisters; you won't regret it - much!

Jason Rosser



The dancers weekend Beckford

Have you ever wondered what the difference is between a "star thru" and a "swing thru"? A "rant" and a "double step"? A "duple minor proper" and a "contra"? If you don't understand any of that or if you enjoy dancing at Folk Camps or clubs then the dancers weekend is for you.

Folk Camps has enticed John Turner to lead this weekend from 4 to 6 June at Beckford in Worcestershire. John and wife Hilary have gained a reputation in the dance world of leading great weekends of dance around the country. This

particular weekend will bring them and their motorhome to the beautiful Cotswolds in the picturesque fruit growing area of the Vale of Evesham and there may be a plentiful supply of soft fruits available in the area.

Beckford hall is part of a small village complex that includes a social club with a bar. Those attending the weekend are given temporary membership of the club and so have access to the bar in the evenings.

There will be plenty of opportunity for both beginners and advanced dancers to improve their skills and learn some new dances. Music will be provided by Dampiers Round and Jenny Walton will be there as warden to ensure that all runs smoothly. The joys of this weekend include a "bring and share supper" on the Saturday evening, lunch time trips to one of the delightful local pubs, and of course the now traditional cream tea to finish the camp on Sunday. The camp attracts members from all parts of the country so why not book yourself in and get your dancing feet set for your summer camp?

Weekends for musicians

What's the difference between the musicians weekend and the session music weekend? They each attract their own loyal participants.

The **musicians weekend at Beckford** (11 to 13 June). The lead musicians will be Moira and Peter Gutteridge who will run workshops aimed at all abilities and concentrating on playing arrangements and linking tunes together. They will be producing music in advance in pdf format on their workshop so those attending can download it in advance and get some practice in. Ray Garnett will be in charge of the social aspect of the weekend and as in all Folk Camps there will be opportunities to call, sing and play. Of course there will be lunchtime pub sessions and warden Jenny Walton will again be organising a "bring and share" supper on the Saturday evening and a cream tea on Sunday afternoon. A great weekend and not to be missed.



The **session music weekend at Beckford** (18 to 20 June) will be lead by Karl Stevens with musician Doug Brown. The emphasis of this weekend is on playing together, mostly without music, but for the workshops there will be some dots available. A local pub is used for lunch time sessions and there will be the normal Folk Camp evening ceilidhs.



Whichever weekend you go for you are guaranteed lots of playing and fun. You might even like to try both weekends!

The singers weekend, Miserden

The singers weekend at Miserden village hall in Gloucestershire (8 to 11 July) is a great opportunity to spend time with a whole bunch of people who love singing. While you get the usual Folk Camp mix of dancing and

music, the emphasis of the weekend is truly on song. This is not to say that you shouldn't go if you're not a singer, nobody is going to MAKE you sing. Jay Parrack and Karen Dietz lead the camp, combining their expertise, unique styles and beautiful voices to facilitate an inclusive and inspiring weekend for all.



As the site is so beautiful, there are normally a good few people who go along to relax, enjoy the countryside and socialise. Miserden is set in beautiful

wooded hills and valleys between Stroud and Cheltenham, Miserden is in a walker's paradise. Historic Cheltenham is just 9 miles away and Cirencester and the Cotswold Water Parks are well worth a visit. Ask the locals the history of Whiteway.

This weekend is unique in the Folk Camps calendar in that it starts on the Thursday evening and ends on the Sunday. It is the only "long weekend" event that is not over a bank holiday.

Laura Parrack

Ideal Folk Camp

Someone suggested that I should write about "my ideal folk camp". I think the idea is that it may become a regular *Extent* feature.

Virtually everybody says that, for them, a folk camp begins with the people. For me, it begins with the site. I want a beautiful site in a beautiful setting. I like my field to have character. Hopefully it's not square. L-shaped would be nice. There will be a few mature trees within the field itself and some woodland on one or two of its boundaries. It will have different levels, maybe a hillock for the kids, but with flat areas for tents, games and, of course, for the marquee. If we're very lucky wild flowers will grow amongst the grass. A little stream will run through it or it could have a pond (fenced-off of course!) The boundaries which are not treed have slightly unkempt hedges made up of various native species. Beyond these hedges are wonderful views to hills and maybe mountains. We are remote from habitation, off a hardly-used lane, and there is no noise from distant major roads and railways or overflying planes. There are sounds in plenty but all are natural: animals, birds, the wind, even the rain. Walking in the area is superb and there are good local attractions but not the sort which announce themselves as such. The unspoilt coastline with cliffs, wild beaches, caves and rock pools is about a dozen miles away and a pleasant ten-minute walk brings you to a friendly and charming pub.

We will have an early breakfast call, then a vibrant band session followed by a rich variety of workshops. Apart from perhaps a beach picnic on one day of the week, there will be no organised whole-camp activities. Whenever possible all tables will be moved out of the marquee for al fresco meals. The food is as good as ever. Better in fact, because the caterer and the cooks work even harder than usual in order to rely less on ready-made mixes, especially for cakes, puddings and sauces. After dinner, **all** the tables are folded and stacked and a large area for dancing is created. Children's games, children's dancing and then at 8.30, a marvellous and good-sized band, featuring a wide range of instruments but definitely melodeons/accordions and violins, will begin to play for a terrific dance session which will go on until midnight. Dancing will be the sole focus of the evening and not merely a peripheral activity which has to compete with drinking, playing cards and generally larking around. Lots of good callers will present interesting,

exciting and complex dances, not forgetting the old favourites. Novelty dances will be few and far between, circle dances non-existent. We will have a timed song circle and campers will exercise restraint and not sing every evening. After midnight, the usual informal singing, drinking and chatting will go on into the early hours, mindful of those who sleep. Party night will not have a theme but the marquee will be decorated with stuff gathered from the woods and hedgerows.

By now you must be wondering, what about the people? Folk campers are generally, by their very nature, friendly, resourceful, creative, kind and helpful. I have never attended a camp where that would not be a description of the vast majority. Folk campers are people I enjoy being with. I take that as a given. At my ideal camp, there will be lots of old friends but also a good leavening of new faces and there must be several very witty people.

And the staff? A good musician is vital. Someone not only excellent as a player but with the ability to encourage, teach and enthuse people with a wide variety of skill levels. The warden will be an angel. The caterer will be superb and we already have quite a few like that. The leader? I think there can be a bit too much focus on the leader. S/he must be friendly and inclusive but should above all be a facilitator and bring out the best in all who are there. Some years ago I went to a camp where the leader encouraged and was the centre of a veritable "Cult of the Personality". This I didn't like.

Within reason, I don't really mind how far I have to travel to get to it. I remember a great camp in Dumfries and Galloway. Although fine weather is a lovely bonus I don't care too much if it rains or blows, as long as it's not too extreme.

Oh yes, I nearly forgot - every evening we will dance that most exquisite of dances, "The Geud Man of Ballengigh", to the tune "Hunt the Squirrel".

This of course is my personal never-to-be-realised ideal. Every camp must necessarily be a massive compromise between the ideals of many and the demands of the real world. Still, it was pleasurable to reflect on it and, after all, it isn't as if I don't thoroughly enjoy every camp I go to.

Mick Green

FolkCamp(er) on the Fourth Plinth

I didn't think I'd be selected. I only applied for a giggle. But when I opened my email one day in late July, I was overjoyed. And more than a little scared, for I had a place on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square.

For ideas, who best to ask but some of the most resourceful and fun loving people I know? I asked every folk camper I could find and while the results varied enormously, the main theme ended up being one of song and dance. While I might not be as involved in the folk scene as I would like, music, and folk music especially, makes up such a huge part of who I am that I could hardly ignore it. So, with some encouragement, I decided to sing, traditional and modern folk music and if I could, get people to dance. I gathered songs some of which I just love to sing, like John Tams' (obligatory) "Rolling Home", some of which I thought would be perfect to sing, like Robb Johnson's "London Eye" and some which I felt said something about us, as a whole nation and world - "Hard Times of Old England", to show that nothing really changes, "Landlord Fill the Flowing

Bowl", showing that even our attitude to drinking hasn't changed all that much and Maggie Holland's "A Place Called England".

I didn't want it to be about me, because our traditions are not just about one person lording it over someone else, it's about what we have in common. So I asked everyone I knew to be there. I didn't expect it would garner much support but I was hopeful. Soon enough, people were passing the link to my web site to their friends and they were getting excited. I began to worry that I wouldn't be able to fulfil expectations (I'm an expert at this, if nothing else). As September 26th loomed, I couldn't help but wonder if it wouldn't all be just a massive let down. In the week before, I developed a cold and I feared I wouldn't be able to sing at all.

Thankfully, while not perfect, come the day, I was at least able to carry a tune.

I arrived at Trafalgar Square early enough to centre myself a little, see for myself how high the plinth was and see the lay of the land for myself. I saw the cherry picker with its big green basket and (pew) the safety netting around the outside of the 4.4 by 1.7 metre platform which was going to be home for an hour. I was lucky to catch a dear friend as he passed through especially to say hello, but sadly he couldn't stay. As the time ticked towards 6:30, I left Mod to fend for himself while I went to meet the One and Other crew in their offices. I was interviewed by the Wellcome Trust and the tape will be kept as an historical record, I had my photo taken and a security brief. I watched the girls go before me, one raising awareness of the Bone Trust, the other a 17 year-old who was more terrified than I was, highlighting issues which mattered to her.



Soon it was my turn, and as I walked out from the other side of the square, the crew kindly carrying my amp, all I could see were a crowd of familiar faces coming into focus slowly. They were all smiling, waving and laughing - it was a joyous sight. I remembered that people were going to watch me from home, not to laugh at me but to support me and to join in. Suddenly, it didn't matter that my legs were like jelly and I didn't know what order I was going to sing my songs in, it didn't even matter that I didn't know half of the songs!

I shook for about half an hour (my legs are still achy, two days later), I was a bit flat and mispitched my songs too high but no one cared, that wasn't the point of it all. We even managed a dance or two. The hour went too quickly and even now, I don't remember half of it. But I do remember looking down and thinking what a fantastic bunch of people Folk Campers are, to turn out and tune in on a September Saturday night to cheer me on. A massive thank you to all of you who gave me encouragement, sent messages, watched online or came. I honestly could not have done it without all of your support. Special thanks to Chris Butler for playing Gallopede in what can only be described as "interesting" circumstances. And finally, thank you to those who demanded free toast.



It will always be one of the highlights of my life. If you would like to see what we did, you can see it at http://www.oneandother.co.uk/participants/rebecca_b

Rebecca Brown

And Suddenly ...

It's the last page for me - multiples of 4 are the editorial requirement - and I haven't the energy (or time) to create another five pages. What I would have done is tell you all I have found out about the potentials of the Marquee Camp at Rhayader! Since almost everyone these days has access to the internet - what I will do is give you some references - and let you do the exploring! Why not nip out in the kitchen and spend 20 mins making some Welsh Cakes (see below) and a large mug of tea - and start exploring!

Rhayader appears to be unique in that it is in the centre of very little except vast tracts of country side suitable for all sorts of outdoor activities

Try http://www.walesinfo.com/wales_north.html for general tourist information. or <http://www.tourism.powys.gov.uk/> - the latter reference giving access to a series of brochures you can order - or download

e.g. <http://www.exploremidwales.com/brochures/Activities.pdf>.

The sea is some 30 miles away but Rhayader does have a Leisure Centre - with swimming pool (and shower!!) <http://www.powys.gov.uk/index.php?id=2408>

Rhayader Leisure Centre has excellent facilities including fitness suite, squash courts, swimming pool, sports hall, snooker room, recreation areas, etc, etc . Other references www.elanvalley.org.uk : The Elan Valley dams miles and miles of walks and cycle trails and spectacular scenery. www.lionroyal.co.uk Pony-trekking is available in the town at the Lion Royal. www.rhayaderangling.co.uk : For all the information on Fishing. www.welshcrystal.co.uk The Royal Welsh Crystal factory and shop. www.gigrin.co.uk : The Gigrin Farm Red Kite feeding centre where the Red Kites and much more are fed daily .

<http://www.radnorshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/gilfach.htm> : Gilfach Nature Reserve Situated in a beautiful setting at the confluence of the Marteg River with the River Wye in the Cambrian Mountains of Mid Wales. www.llandrindod.co.uk Llandrindod Wells spa town for spa waters, lake , Victorian architecture and the famous Victorian festivals which are held each year in August - and that's just scratching the surface. If the weather is half as good as the last time I camped in Wales - this is going to be one of the best possible camps to go to - and on top of which there will be all you wonderful people - heaven! Mick Green talks about his ideal Folk Camp - I think I might even attend my ideal camp - this summer!

Welsh cakes are a delicious tea time treat. Welsh cakes were originally cooked on the hot plate of a coal oven but can easily be cooked in a heavy non-stick frying pan or griddle.

Ingredients:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| * 8 oz/ 225g self rising flour | * 1 large egg, beaten |
| * 4 oz/ 100g butter | * A pinch salt |
| * 3 oz/ 75g fine or caster sugar | * A little milk to blend |
| * 3 oz/75g mixed currants and sultanas | * Rind of half a lemon, grated |
| * 1 tsp mixed spice | |

Preparation:

* Sieve the flour, salt and spice into a mixing bowl. Rub in the fats until the mixture looks like fine breadcrumbs. Add the sugar, lemon rind and dried fruit. Pour in the beaten egg and stir to make a firm dough.

* On a floured board, roll or press the dough to approximately 1/4"/5mm thick. Cut into discs with a 1 1/2" or 2" /4 or 5 cm cutter. Or cut into squares, you will not need to keep re-rolling if you use this shape.

* Bake the Welsh Cakes on a medium hot griddle, turning once, until golden brown on both sides but still a little soft in the middle. Dust with fine/caster sugar while still hot. If you do not have a griddle you could use a heavy base frying pan, lightly buttered.

Welsh cakes are best eaten while hot but will keep for up to 10 days in an airtight container. You can also serve them with lightly whipped fresh cream and preserves.

Recipe courtesy of True Taste of Wales.

MEET YOUR FRIENDS AT THE 2010 FOLK CAMPS REUNION!

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The Pavilion Manor Fields, Watling Street
Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK2 2HX

BAR

BAR

7:30 to 11 pm
a Folk Camps Ceilidh
music led by Chris Jewell
MC Paul Weir

tickets in advance £7
(£8 on the door)
accompanied under 16s free



11:30 am meet your friends,
watch the slide show, swap your photos
tea, coffee and snacks available all day
courtesy of world-famous Kemp's Kitchen

12:30 pm session in the bar
2:30 pm presentation and AGM
come along and have your say!

Full details on the members website
www.members-only.org.uk