

**F**  **OLK CAMPS**

0208 123 2136

[www.folkcamps.co.uk](http://www.folkcamps.co.uk)

[info@folkcamps.co.uk](mailto:info@folkcamps.co.uk)

# Extent

The Newsletter of  
Folk Camps Society Ltd.

Autumn 2014



## **Welcome to the Folk Camps Spring 2014 Extent Newsletter**

Welcome to our Autumn 2014 Folk Camps newsletter: "Extent". This contains information about the launch of our 2015 programme of holidays and various other Folk Camps news. Find out more about our holidays including prices, staffing, dates, venues and booking at [www.folkcamps.co.uk](http://www.folkcamps.co.uk).

### **Contents**

|                                                           |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 2015 Bookings Launch Date                                 | 2  |
| 2015 Summer Camps - a choice of venues                    | 2  |
| Our 2015 Summer Sites                                     | 3  |
| Changes to Regular Weekends                               | 3  |
| Reunion – November 15th                                   | 4  |
| Barry's Retirement                                        | 4  |
| Why Do We Need New Campers?                               | 5  |
| Folk Camps "Introduce a Friend" Reward Scheme             | 5  |
| Defibrillators                                            | 5  |
| IT Assistance - Valuable Experience Available             | 6  |
| Camp Staffing on the Web                                  | 6  |
| New Camper Discount                                       | 6  |
| Office Matters – A message from Mic                       | 6  |
| Loyalty Reward Scheme                                     | 8  |
| Litter                                                    | 8  |
| Bursary Changes                                           | 9  |
| Are you Updating Your Will Soon?                          | 9  |
| Future Camp Staff                                         | 9  |
| Births, Deaths, Marriages, Obituaries, Announcements etc. | 10 |
| Site Finding                                              | 10 |



## 2015 Bookings Launch Date

For this year we are publishing the programme of Folk Camps in advance of opening bookings. This will allow you to think about the camps that you want to attend and to discuss them with your friends before we start to take bookings. We intend that this will be fairer for those of you that want to attend the camps that may sell out quickly. It will also give you the chance to encourage your friends that have not yet discovered Folk Camps to also book while there are still spaces.

The bookings will open in person at the reunion weekend, on 15th November. Then bookings by post and online will be available from Monday 17 November.

## 2015 Summer Camps - a choice of venues

For this year, we have 6 summer week camps, all with leaders with a track record of filling their camps. We have expanded our summer capacity by finding a village hall a bit larger than usual so there should be space for you to invite those friends that you think would really love Folk Camps. And we have improved our "Introduce a Friend" scheme so that you benefit from every new camper that you introduce whether to a weekend or a week. In the 2014 season we successfully filled all 4 weeks of marquee camps, and we know that a few of you didn't book a camp at all, possibly because some of you believe that you should only go to a particular week. However we know that trying something new often leads to finding new friends, or even those people that you met on camp a few years ago and haven't seen for a while.

Some members seem to believe that "Marquee camps are for families" and that "hall camps are for an older generation". Well, we disagree! Folk Camps are all for everyone. In the past Folk Camps have had leaders in village halls that attracted young people and families and the world didn't end!

So this year we have Walter Pohl, Lizzie Mounter and Paul Weir leading our 2 weeks in the Cotswolds at Chedworth Village Hall.

We have 4 weeks of marquee camp at the beautiful Peak District at Knockerdown, near Carsington Water. The Knockerdown camps will be led by Barry Pollard, Karen Dietz, Dan Mason and Jacqueline & Stuart Beattie. All 6 weeks have leaders with a wide appeal and a track record of filling camps.

We hope that you will be spoilt for choice!

Please go the website for full details of the rest of the staff at each camp, locations and dates: <http://www.folkcamps.co.uk/Booksummary.asp>

## **Our 2015 Summer Sites**

We have arranged the 2015 summer catered Folk Camps in 2 stunning areas of the country: the southern Peak District and the beautiful Cotswolds. We hope that you will find plenty to do and see in these parts of the UK.

### ***Knockerdown - Marquee***

The summer Marquee Folk Camp is at "Knockerdown" (our favourite site name for a while!), which is set in glorious scenery on the edge of the southern Peak District. Knockerdown is close to Carsington water – a mecca for cycling, walking, canoeing and more. Close to Matlock and Bakewell, the Tissington Trail, a plethora of stately homes, and many other attractions, a chance to explore the beautiful county of Derbyshire and enjoy Folk, Friends and Fun.

### ***Chedworth - Hall***

The summer Hall site is at Chedworth village hall in the glorious Cotswolds. Chedworth lends its name to the largest Romano-British villa in the country, accessible on foot through delightful wooded valleys. The disused Cheltenham to Cirencester railway is a nature reserve to delight wildlife lovers and geologists. The Regency town of Cheltenham is close by as is Cirencester. There are many other places within easy reach worthy of a visit, the choice is yours. Be sure to bring your walking boots and check out the web sites for the area.

The hall is on the outskirts of the village with the camping field being relatively private.

## **Changes to Regular Weekends**

Our Bank Holiday North Folk Camp in August moves to Bampton in Cumbria – which has already been the venue for a summer camp and also Singers North in 2014. Close to Haweswater and Ullswater, this is the weekend camp that is not to be missed. It is only a few miles from the M6 so easy to access from all points of the compass.

Our Spring Bank Holiday South camp is changing dates this year. We will start on the Saturday morning (23 May), and finish on Tuesday 26 May. This will allow families to get there without having to either take children out of school, or have a difficult Friday night journey. This follows feedback from the last couple of years from some of the regulars at this camp. We hope that the change of dates is helpful. And for future years we are looking for a different venue (possibly to the North or West of London), to simplify the journey for more of you. See the Site Finding section in this newsletter to see how you can help.

## Reunion – November 15th

Ticket prices for the ceilidh are only £5 with Barry Pollard and Dan Mason as MCs, Jenny Newman and Andy Glass providing the music, and new this year, a music workshop in the morning with Holly Sheldrake and a song workshop in the afternoon with Cat Kelly. We are looking forward to a musical day and a chance to catch up with Folk Camp friends. Remember: coming to the reunion is the way to be among the first to book your 2015 Folk Camps holidays.

## Barry's Retirement

As you now probably know, Barry Moule has at last retired from his contract role as Equipment Manager. Barry has been involved with Folk Camps since the 1960s and has carried out many volunteer roles including staffing camps, being a member of Folk Camps Council, being Company Secretary, setting up camps, looking after equipment, the list is endless, the effort was massive, his work was tireless.

In the early 1980s when Folk Camps was on the brink of bankruptcy, Barry and Roger Conway stepped up to run the organisation for no payment to ensure that Folk Camps continued to exist. Eventually Folk Camps recovered and they were then paid for the subsequent work that they did for us. Without both of their efforts we would not have Folk Camps today. More recently Barry has been our Equipment Manager, which involved setting up summer Folk Camps, maintaining our equipment and providing valuable advice to Council.

At the last week of 2014 Summer Marquee Camp, Barry was a guest at dinner, so leader Paul Weir and Folk Camps Chair Patrick Self were able to make a presentation to Barry to thank him for everything that he has done to enable our lovely holidays to continue. We



presented Barry with an award of an annual week of Folk Camps holidays for 2 for life. So he can't escape from us! We also gave him 2 books of Folk Campers memories and thanks for his contributions to Folk Camps.

Then Barry's replacement contractors (Graham Clements and Steve Porritt) gave him some special presents, of pure gold(!): a spray pump shower and a golden gas spanner key. These will help Barry to remember his work for us (in case he is in any danger of forgetting it all).

If you missed the chance to sign the books of memories and thanks over the summer, then you can still send a message to Barry via Mic in the office.



## **Why Do We Need New Campers?**

We heard a story that one Folk Camper said "The weeks I go to are always sold out, so surely there is no space for more Folk Campers". Well, that is not true. Even if we sell out some camps, we always have spare capacity at others. We always need new Folk Campers, whether it is to fill our existing capacity, or to replace those people that choose not to return to camp every year.

The best way to find new Folk Campers is via you recruiting those of your friends and acquaintances that you think will enjoy an activity holiday of music, song and dance with us. So when you are discussing your holidays with friends, then please let them know about how wonderful Folk Camps are.

## **Folk Camps "Introduce a Friend" Reward Scheme**

To encourage Folk Campers to introduce new people to Folk Camps there is a Reward Scheme.

The scheme is improved for the 2015 season onwards.

For any new person that you introduce to Folk Camps, we will reward you with a credit of 10% of their total first year of Folk Camp bookings. You can redeem this credit in subsequent years.

For instance, if you introduce a family of 4 to a summer week camp, in 2015 this could equate to a reward of about £70. Or introducing a family to a bank holiday weekend, your total reward could be about £20. A new family coming to two camps like this in one year could earn you a reward of £90. You would be able to redeem this in 2016 as a discount from your camp bookings. Introducing several families could pay for your holidays!

In order to claim this, then please ask your friends to mention your name on their Folk Camps booking form.

Though just as important as any financial reward: you get the pleasure of sharing a unique holiday experience with more people, full of participation and community spirit. We are sure that most existing Folk Campers know other people that enjoy music, song and dance, who would love to discover Folk Camps holidays.

## **Defibrillators**

Folk Camps cares for our members' wellbeing, and now has defibrillators as standard issue for camps. The eagerness of some staff to use these was obvious, jumping the gun before the start of the summer camps, but we are glad to report that both Steve Lane and Ann Tracey are on their way to full recovery.



### **IT Assistance - Valuable Experience Available**

The Folk Camps database and website now needs some IT Support. This could be an opportunity for a young person or two to gain valuable experience and CV enhancement. In these days of a very competitive workplace for young people we would like to do all we can to help the younger generation of Folk Campers. Or maybe you are a little older but you have IT skills and a bit of time and want to make a back office contribution. We welcome expressions of interest from people willing to learn, and with one or more IT skills such as databases or websites.

### **Camp Staffing on the Web**

If you want to see where your favourite leader or musician will be staffing a camp in 2015, then you can look at the camp staff web page <http://www.folkcamps.co.uk/seasonstaff.asp> This may also help you find an extra weekend Folk Camp that you may enjoy.

Though please consider trying a camp with an unfamiliar leader or musician; you might be surprised and really enjoy yourself. If the Folk Camp you thought you wanted to go to is fully booked, be adventurous and book something different.

### **New Folk Camper Discount**

New in 2015: to encourage new people to Folk Camps, we offer a 10% discount on their first camp booking fee.

To claim this discount, please mention that you are a new camper on your booking form, fill in the "where you heard about Folk Camps" box, and if you have been introduced to Folk Camps by an existing camper, please also mention their name.

### **Office Matters – A message from Mic**

So another season bites the dust and planning is well under way for the 2015 season of Folk Camps.

So what about 2014, I hear you cry? The report that will be published with the AGM papers will give a rundown of the highs and lows. Council strives to give you the best experience possible but they don't always get it right. The problem is that it is impossible to predict the response of you the members to plans that have been committed to months in advance. So the Winter Warmer had to be cancelled. 24 people booked and were disappointed when the numbers were not viable socially, financially or for the hotel.



One catered hall camp week had to be cancelled because numbers spread across the two weeks were not sustainable. The consequence was that we had to pay a premium for the hall and the field so costs went up. At the same time there was a waiting list for marquee weeks! I know of one family that did book for a week when their friends weren't going and guess what? They enjoyed it and met new friends!

More people than ever attended the workshop weekends but the bank holiday weekends in the South took a sudden dive! I'll leave you to try and figure that out.

Questions have been raised about the provision of a skip rather than recycling bins at the marquee camps. I can assure you that every effort is made to provide recycling. This year South Norfolk Council could have done so but their collections were fortnightly. Just imagine what food waste would have been like after 2 weeks of Folk Camps – flies, maggots, wasps etc. The company we used recycle as much as possible of the waste that they collect. See their website at this link: <http://www.vccooke-ltd.co.uk/page/recycling> Now we head into the 2015 season. It starts with a bang with the Craft Break when there are currently only vacancies in the chalets. These have one or two double rooms and kitchen facilities.

Ever optimistic, Council is again planning four catered marquee weeks and two catered hall weeks. Why not try a camp you have never been to before?

And while all this was going on I have moved house and the Folk Camps office has a new address. Thank you to those who sent their good wishes. It takes a while for everything to settle but we seem to be getting there. The telephone number and email addresses remain the same and you can find the address on the website and in this newsletter.

I would like to give special thanks to Barry Moule who retires this year as Equipment Manager. Over my time as a Folk Camper he has been a constant rock. I know that he will still be Folk Camping and staffing so his help and advice will not be lost to us. Thanks Barry!

**Mic Spenceley - Administration Manager**

Folk Camps Society Limited

219 Penrhawceiber Road

MOUNTAIN ASH

CF45 3UN

0208 12321 36

[micspenceley@folkcamps.co.uk](mailto:micspenceley@folkcamps.co.uk)





## **Loyalty Reward Scheme**

As a bonus for loyal Folk Campers, we have a reward scheme. Each holiday with us that you take earns loyalty points, and you can redeem the points for a Workshop Weekend. Our database records your points and we will email you to let you know when you have enough points for a camp (40). You don't have to do anything except book a Workshop Weekend using points when we let you know that you qualify.

Small print (!):

Points are awarded to over 18s.

Points are awarded for Folk Camp places that have been paid in full. (i.e. Not for free places awarded to volunteer staff).

Points are awarded on the following scale:

- 2 points for a weekend
- 5 points for a 5 day camp (e.g. the Craft Break)
- 10 points for a summer catered week

Points are awarded for Folk Camps since November 2009.

Using your Loyalty Points for place at a Workshop Weekend reduces your points balance by 40.

Points are not transferable.

The number of Loyalty Point places at each Workshop Weekend is limited.

Workshop Weekends at which you can redeem points are: Session Weekend. Musicians Weekend. Singers Weekend. Dance Weekend.

## **Litter**

Tent pegs, small pieces of plastic and other litter are lethal to animals – domesticated or wild, and it is the responsibility of all campers to be aware of litter and make sure that when we leave a site it is pristine. The landowner could simply refuse further bookings. The warden cannot be expected to do a litter pick at the end of a camp – please make sure you do your bit.

If you have been camping with teenagers or young adults who pitched their tents away from yours, then please check their area too before you leave the site. Generally we are proud of our young people and how well they clear up after themselves, but even the most diligent teen may forget to tidy up thoroughly in the rush and sadness of leaving a Folk Camp holiday.



## **Bursary Changes**

For 2015 we have updated the Folk Camps Bursary scheme so that it is now open to anyone over 18 (previously only available 18-30).

- Either: active in the folk arts: musician, dancer, storyteller, folk- singer; you may be a gigging professional, a student or a keen amateur.
- Or: with skills that could help to publicise Folk Camps, for example with your own blog, an active social media presence or good photography or video skills.

What is important is that you have a passion for our traditions and would like to share them with other like- minded people of all ages, from the very, very small to the very old.

By offering Folk Camp Ambassador Bursaries, we hope to increase the number of folk artists who attend our camps. We hope that you will have the experience of a lifetime, make friends, network (many Folk Campers also organise festivals and clubs), tell people you know about us, and return another year. Part of our charitable purpose is to preserve and pass on the folk traditions of the British Isles. We want more people to know about Folk Camps, about our great holidays and the role they can play in preserving and developing traditional music, song and dance. To this end, we hope that you will be a true Ambassador for Folk Camps and help spread the word.

There is more information about this on the website.

## **Are you Updating Your Will Soon?**

We are very grateful for Yvonne Hunt for the legacy that she left to Folk Camps in her will which has financed the Bursaries. If you update your will, and intend to leave a bequest to charity, then please consider Folk Camps as a destination for a charitable donation. We could use this to finance opportunities for more people to learn, improve, share and promote music, song and dance.

## **Future Camp Staff**

Our Camp Staff are volunteers and we need many people to make sure all the camps run smoothly. If you think you would like to become a leader/musician/warden/caterer – take a look at the online information and see where you might fit in.

You can talk to an existing member of staff, to Mic in the office, or to a member of Folk Camps Council to find out more.

And if you think of someone that you think would be good in one of the staff roles, then please twist their arm to step forward and also suggest their name to us.

**Births, Deaths, Marriages, Obituaries, Announcements etc.**

The members section of the Folk Camps website contains notices and obituaries, including that of Alan Farrow who died a year ago, and whose obituary was published on the site this year.

**Site Finding**

Do you ever come across a village hall which makes you think 'what a brilliant place for a camp?' Then please make a note of the contact details and send them to the Sites Committee via Mic in the office. Our ideal village halls are away from main roads and nearby houses, with suitable adjacent camping space.

What about that elusive flat field in a spectacular area? Please let us know if you have a candidate. Typically we find that farmer's fields are much more suitable for a Marquee camp than a venue that is already used for other events. (Our experience is that if a site is already used for festivals, weddings or shows then it is usually too commercial and expensive for us). But a fairly flat farmer's field, in a quiet, beautiful location, with access from a minor road may be just what we need.

If we use a field or village hall that you suggest, then we will reward you with £100 Camp Credit.

**Extent Newsletter** is published twice a year by:-

**Folk Camps Society Ltd.**  
219 Penrhiwceiber Road,  
MOUNTAIN ASH  
CF45 3UN

Telephone 0208 12321 36  
Email [info@folkcamps.co.uk](mailto:info@folkcamps.co.uk)

Folk Camps Society Limited is a company limited by guarantee (Reg no 931434) and a registered charity (no 255901)  
Registered address: Drummond House 6 Pittville Crescent CHELTENHAM  
GL52 2QZ