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Extent

Autumn 2009



2009? That were
jolly muddy!!



FROM THE EDITOR:

I'm sure, in hindsight, it was an omen - there I was getting our trailer tent ready for its annual outing to Folk Camp - debating if we really needed to take the Wellingtons and the waterproof coats again this year... when, out of an ink black sky and with a crack of thunder that shook the ground came a roaring hail storm with lumps of ice as big as marbles flying in through the tent door and hitting me! In a few moments, such a weight of ice had piled up on the roof, that it threatened to split the canvas!! So, having heaved the ice off the roof - I packed the foul weather gear!!

Can I say in everyone's defence that when we arrived at the Marquee campsite on that first Saturday it looked magnificent - the grass was a bit long - the woods looked a bit spooky and the bottom of the field was very green ...but it was a really beautiful looking camp site.

We soon were told there was a small problem in that the toilets had been condemned as unusable (I'm sure I recognised them from a folk festival ten years ago - and apparently they hadn't been cleaned since then!!) - but, we were assured that hopefully toilets were expected at any minute ... Or on Monday - so all was well with the world!

And so we settled in, tents were erected, old friends greeted, tea and doughnuts eaten and suddenly home and hassles seemed a long way away. Then the rain started! And it rained and it rained, and it rained - no problem we thought - we can do rain - we've done it before! Asda quickly ran out of Wellington boots, some cars were finding it tricky to get on and off the field - I'd had to use the four wheel drive - but I was showing off! Then, after three/four days, after more than a month worth of rain had fallen - it happened. Like a Sci-Fi horror film the field shuddered, gurgled and turned instantly into liquid mud (I have this on good authority from a mellow camper who was wondering which Marquee to head for!)

What really struck me about the whole camp was the brilliant way people pulled together and worked to support each other and the camp. OK, some people were quite upset by the conditions - but they smiled and got "on with it" and it was very obvious that a Folk Camp is more than the campsite - the camp is the people - the love and friendship, the generosity of spirit, the sharing. I realised that a firm dry campsite and sunshine are bonuses and, while welcome are not essential to having a good time. All that is good about "Folk Camping" was there in abundance - people, food, music, dancing and caring and, when eventually, on the Wednesday the palatial Portaloo turned up things got even better.

As ever - at the end of the second week I was reluctant to go - well, some stability had returned to the field - tons of liquid mud had been removed and the rest had dried out a bit, and it was becoming firm underfoot. The sun had been shining ... and the weather forecast suggested that a great improvement was "On the way". Overall, while it "were jolly muddy" - the camp was brilliant!



Your Editor: camp party week 2: dressed as his mother: garish shirt, cigarette, moustache, dark glasses, head scarf and a little tipsy!!

WHO IS IN CHARGE?

One of the joys of folk camping for parents is the freedom it gives to children. We all share a common desire to keep an eye out for the welfare of the camp's children but this common duty of care shouldn't be misunderstood.

Anyone who books a child onto a folk camp be they parent, uncle, aunt, grandparents, sister, brother – or, as in some cases, no relative at all - is effectively in charge of that child all the time. It is not the job of the Leader, nor any other member of staff, to be in charge of other people's children. The responsibility always lies with the adult who signed their booking form.



If you want to place someone else 'in loco parentis' (in the place of the parent) that's fine, but please make sure if you go down to the pub or need to pop into the nearest town and leave the child behind, that you do so. Don't just assume that the rest of the camp will take charge. You must always nominate a named adult to act in your place, obtain that adult's permission and ensure they know when you are going off site and for how long they are acting 'in loco parentis'.

This simple rule is an essential precaution which allows camps to operate safely. It also ensures specific operational requirements for our organisation, so please make sure you observe it at all times.

In more general terms, while you are at camp the behaviour of your child is your responsibility. If you see them doing something antisocial or potentially dangerous please don't leave it to others to be the ogre. This includes excessive late night noise on the field or in the marquee.

CAMPBOOT REGULATIONS!

Wellington boots worn on site should be Camouflage Green - see Wikipedia "Shades of Green" - in order to minimise the visual intrusion of campers upon their surrounding environment. This advice comes from **OfCamp** the new UK body for overseeing temporary residential sites which comes into being in the spring of 2010. It follows a ruling by the *Committee for Residential Apportionment Policy* and Europe's *Standard Hierarchy of Information Treaty*.

Currently, matching clothes, tents, groundsheets, cars, marquees, dance floors and small children in shades of mud is optional! (<http://www.colourlovers.com/color/523F15/mud>)



More information should be available on 01.04.10.

And while we're on the subject of MUD:

ALL YOU NEED IS MUD

- by Sharon Hopwood - Woolsery 2009



Mud, mud, mud (do-be-do)
Mud, mud, mud (do-be-do)
Mud, mud, mud, mud
(do-do-do-do-do-be-do-do-be-do)

Nothin' you can wear that can't get washed.
No rumour about sun that won't get quashed.
No precipitation that ain't good for your circulation
It's e-easy...

No car in the mud that won't get shifted.

No leader's kilt that won't get lifted.
And the porridge pot's easy when
it's been standin' out in the rain...
It's e-easy...



All you need is mud (da-de-da-de-da)
All you need is mud (da-de-da-de-da)
All you need is mud, mud.
Mud is all you need.



No song you can sing that won't turn folky.
No dance you can't do – even without a blokey.
Nowhere on earth where so much love can see you through
It's e-easy...

All you need is love (da-de-da-de-da)
All you need is love (da-de-da-de-da)
All you need is love, love
Love is all you need.

All together now....

**Opening
the
Portaloos**



And, almost a last word on the subject!

BENEATH THE SURFACE

or

“What happens when things go wrong...”

Folk Camps is like the proverbial swan. Usually it looks serene and calm, swimming up stream, but beneath the surface the legs are thrashing away to maintain progress against the current.



This is fine until there is a storm and suddenly the stream becomes a torrent. That pretty well describes the 2009 camping season.

The weekend camps all went swimmingly. The craft break at Symonds Yat was excellent. The bank holiday camps both north and south were their usual successes. The specialist weekend camps continued to build their numbers and the new session music weekend had a smooth hatching and flourished quickly to become an established event.

THEN THE RAINS CAME!!

The highest rainfall for July and August in more than a century triggered Herculean efforts by both the camp staff on site and the managers back in their respective offices. Add to that a last minute relocation of the hall camp, provisions for combating swine flu and an un-useable toilet block turning up at the marquee camp and you can see that all of our little legs were flapping away under the surface like there was no tomorrow!

Well we made it. This was in no small part also due to the amazing Folk Campers' spirit which carried everybody through the challenge of the Woolsery mud.

Fortunately Folk Camps finance is robust and provision is made annually for the unexpected. In fact we always expect the unexpected. This year was helped by an overall increase in camp bookings and so, financially, we still managed to come out on top.

So what of 2010? You'll see in the following pages that Folk Camps are planned in both favourite and exciting new venues. Will it rain? Definitely! Will the sun shine? Probably! Will you all have yet another wonderful Folk Camp holiday? Without doubt!

Mic Spenceley, Administration Manager.

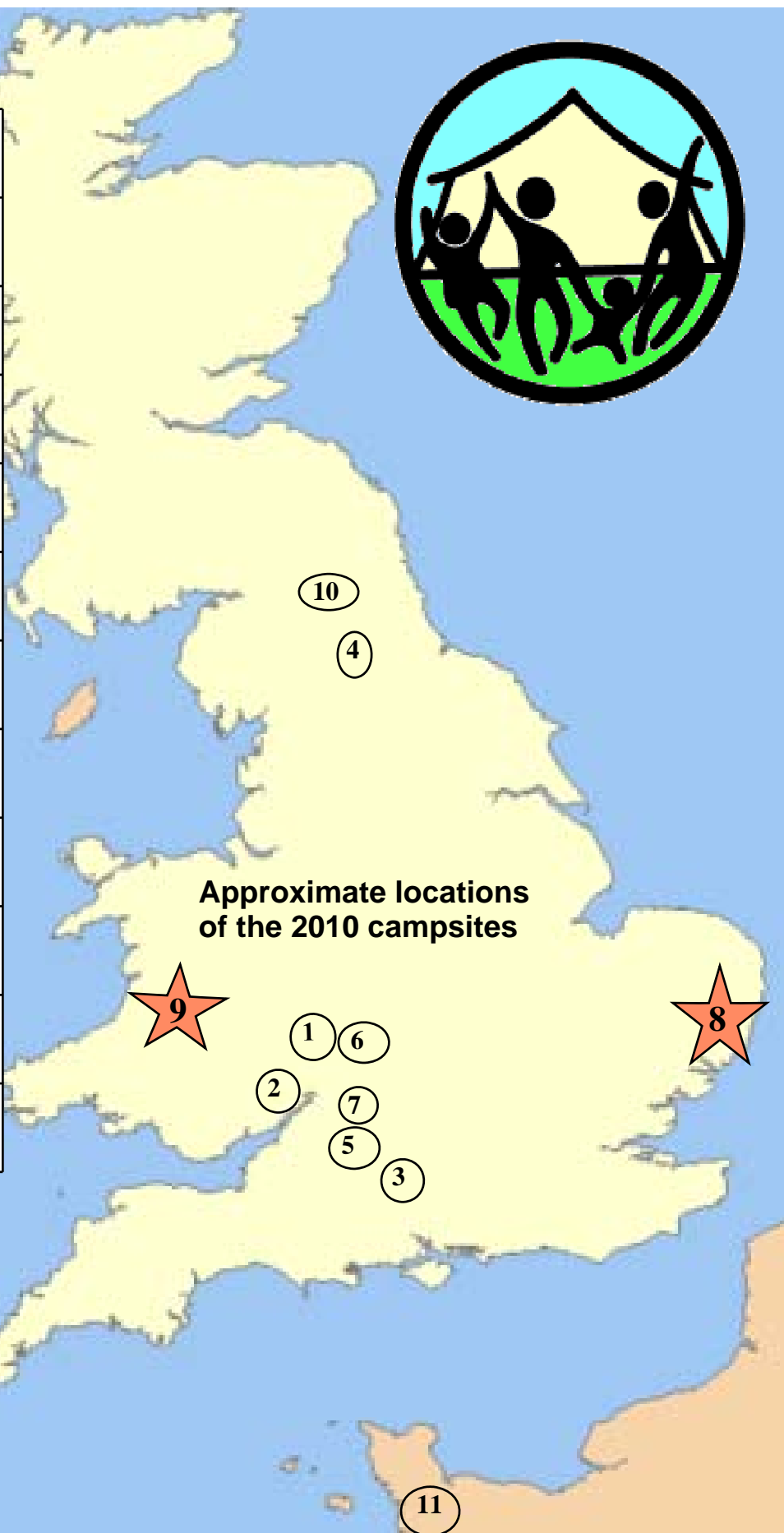
FOLK CAMPS PROGRAMME 2010

CAMP	TYPE	VENUE	2010 DATES
Craft Week	residential week	Symonds Yat Paddocks Hotel	15 - 19 Feb Mon to Fri: 4 nights
May BH	Self cater	Wildhern VH	30 April- 3 May Fri to Mon: 3 nights
Spring BH North	Self cater	Dalton VH	28 - 31 May Fri to Mon: 3 nights
Spring BH South	Self cater	Hanley Swan VH	28 - 31 May Fri to Mon: 3 nights
Dancers w/e	Self cater	Beckford VH	4 - 6 June Fri to Sun: 2 nights
Musicians w/e	Self cater	Beckford VH	11-13 June Fri to Sun: 2 nights
Session w/e	Self cater	Miserden VH	18-20 June Fri to Sun: 2 nights
Singers w/e	Self cater	Miserden VH	8-11 July Thu to Sun: 2 nights
Hall	Catered	Butley VH, Suffolk	31st July to 7 Aug Sat to Sat: 7 nights
Marquee 1	Catered	Rhayader	24-31 July Sat to Sat: 7 nights
Marquee 2	Catered	Rhayader	31 July - 7 Aug Sat to Sat: 7 nights
Marquee 3	Catered	Rhayader	7 - 14 Aug Sat to Sat: 7 nights
Marquee 4	Catered	Rhayader	14-21 Aug Sat to Sat: 7 nights
Europe 1	Catered	France? * St.Denis le Gast	31 July - 7 Aug Sat to Sat: 7 nights
Europe 2	Catered	France? * St.Denis le Gast	7-14 Aug Sat to Sat: 7 nights
Aug BH North	Self catered	Whixley VH	27-30 Aug Fri to Mon: 3 nights
Aug BH South	Self catered	Kington Langley VH	27-30 Sep Fri to Mon: 3 nights

* Note : the French camps are subject to confirmation of site and prices

2010 CAMPSITES

	Camp site
1	Hanley Swan
2	Symonds Yat
3	Wildhern
4	Dalton
5	Kington Langley
6	Beckford
7	Miserden
8	Butley Suffolk
9	Rhayader Elan Valley
10	Whixley
11	St Denis le Gast



Elan Valley (marquee 4 weeks)

A strong contender for "most beautiful marquee site ever", 2010 sees our first ever visit to the Elan Valley, in Mid-Wales. Less than 2 miles from the attractive market town of Rhayader our huge and level field is also close to the Elan Valley, with its spectacular mountains and lakes. The Elan Village Visitor Centre is close by and the 9 mile long Elan Valley cycle track runs near our site. It runs (car free) right from Rhayader to Graig Goch. Rhayader has some friendly shops and even a café with high quality cakes and cafe latte (our chairman has tested them). A strong roster of leaders for all 4 weeks including Chris Jewell, Jason Rosser, Paul Weir and Karen Deitz will ensure an early sell out. All this and sheep too!



Butley, Suffolk (Hall 1 week)

A welcome return to Butley, near Woodbridge and the Suffolk coast. Attractive heathland abounds and campers have been known to go to the village pub, close to the site. Trips out may include Aldeburgh (home of Snape Maltings, Peter Piers and Benjamin Britten), Southwold and Walberswick together with the fleshpots of Ipswich. Minsmere RSPB bird reserve is in range and there is a boating lake close to the famous 'House in the Sky' at Thorpeness. All this and Maggi Hambling's famous steel sculpture of a scallop on the beach. Leader for this week is Jay Parrack so a lot of fine singing is guaranteed!



St Denis le Gast, Normandy France (hall 2 weeks)

A return to France for our Francophiles, and a return to the friendly village of St Denis le Gast, where we have always had a great welcome from the villagers. In the past we have had music sessions in the bars of the village and an evening soiree at the hall where we have swapped English and French dances. The evening meal is served in the school hall next to the Mairie, cooked for us by a local chef. Many things to see in the area including the D-Day Landing beaches, The Tapestry at Bayeux and Villedieu les Poêles with its famous bell foundry. For those who fancy a swim there are some beautiful uncrowded sandy beaches at Les Salines near Bréhal. Leaders include Brian Pollard, who already knows the village and the locals very well.



My understanding is that if the French camps go ahead (and we are assuming they will), then there will be 1 week of hall camp in the UK. If the French camps don't happen then there will be two weeks of hall camp in the UK.

A little reminder concerning diets at camp

SPECIAL DIETS AT CATERED FOLK CAMPS

Folk Camps catering is done by volunteers under the supervision of a voluntary staff caterer. If you have requested a special diet at a catered Folk Camp you need to be aware of the following information.

1. Vegetarian diets are catered for
2. Vegan diets can be catered for but availability cannot be guaranteed
3. Particular dislikes are NOT catered for
4. Special diets for medical conditions and allergies may be catered for as far as practical under the circumstances

If someone in your party is allergic to a particular food then you must be aware that Folk Camps cannot guarantee that this food is not present in any of its meals.

If someone in your party can produce a severe allergic reaction to certain foods, it is your responsibility to ensure that you carry the appropriate medication at all times.

Particular foods cannot be supplied by Folk Camps or used in catering. If someone in your party needs to include a particular food in their diet, then it is your responsibility to provide and prepare that food. The cost of such food may be considered for repayment by Folk Camps on request.



AUNT B'S HANDY FOLK CAMPING TIPS (5)

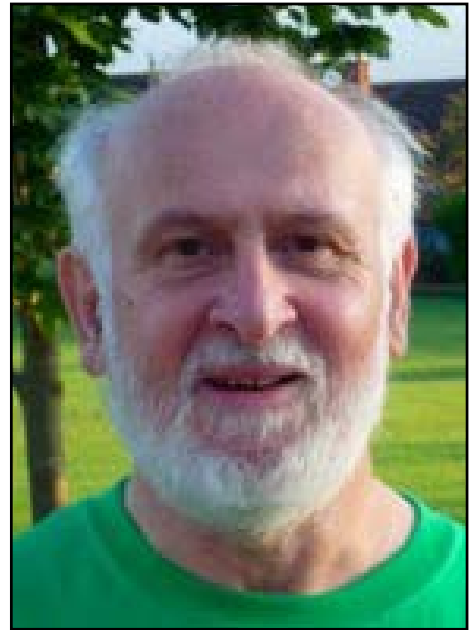
Whether you are in a polyester dome or a canvas frame tent, the chances are that you'll want to hang up something. Metal hooks can easily damage the fabric of your tent so choose instead a set of plastic shower curtain hooks. You'll be amazed that you managed without them because they're light and flexible as well as just the right size to hook round poles. They'll quickly become an essential part of your camping equipment.

A very welcome update from Roger Conway

IS THERE LIFE AFTER FOLK CAMPS?

Hi Everyone, amazingly it is almost 4 years since I gave up my Events Manager's role and 3 years since leaving the Administration Manager's job. It certainly doesn't seem like it. Linda and I are still in touch with a number of our FC friends (some directly, others via Facebook) and we are regulars at the Symonds Yat craft camp.

For anyone contemplating retirement, my advice is to do it as soon as you can and certainly whilst you are fit enough to enjoy the opportunities. As you would expect from an old workaholic like me, retirement does not mean sitting in the armchair with daytime TV waiting for the inevitable, but is the chance to get to grips with new challenges, but with the added bonus that you always have the option of saying no if you don't like what you are asked to do.



We hit our new life running, with 2 months in New Zealand. What a wonderful place, if we had gone 30 years earlier, we would have probably stayed. We did a little blog of our trip if you are interested in seeing what NZ has to offer (www.communityorchard.org.uk/nz/NZ.htm)

As keen walkers we have become more involved with our local Ramblers and I spent 3 years as Chairman of our local group. Now if I ever thought that FC Council has a tendency for the irrational, I hadn't at that time experienced the disfunctionality of the Ramblers Association and the culture of 'total control' emanating from the top! Anyway, we are now just walking members. We have our little cottage in Brittany and can now get there for longer period than when we were working. This year we spent half of May and the whole of June in France and during that time we organised a group of friends for 5 days walking to include the massive Tro Menez Area charity walk (blog at www.communityorchard.org.uk/tma09/tma09.htm)

I'm continuing to play my melodeon & whistle for Exeter Morris & Dr Turberville's Morris and we remain the guardians of Bishopswood Mummers and the Christmas performance programme.

I think that many of you will remember that I'm an Exeter City football supporter. The club is almost unique in that the supporters, via a Trust, own 63% of the voting shares. The Trust is managed by a Board of Trustees and I have been an elected Trustee for the last 3 years and I've also had a spell as Trust Secretary. The football club, after 2 promotions in 2 seasons needed to modernise its structures, including the Board of Directors and in April I found

myself appointed to the main Board and also invited to take on the role of Company Secretary. This means is that I'm effectively working full time again, but for no pay, just the glory!

It has some compensations though; lunching with Delia, who is charming; hosting an enthusiastic and ebullient Pete Winkleman; looking after a visiting director with, allegedly, Mafia connections who arrived with his 2 PA's, each of which was over 6ft tall & 4ft wide and the very dubious pleasure of visiting a Boardroom where I was left open-mouthed at the home chairman's language, which was worse than anything shouted on the terraces that day. I was also very pleased to be able to take Keith Gregson as my Boardroom guest to Carlisle, the club he has supported since a child. It was a super weekend, that unfortunately ended with me suffering a broken arm at Bristol airport on the way home. Those of you who know me won't be a bit surprised to learn that communications have commenced regarding the 'avoidable hazard' on the walkway to the terminal building

So yes, there certainly is life after Folk Camps.

Wassail
Roger

Quick Notes....

Find a site that gets used and get a credit for £100 to be used at the following year's camps

Recommend a family new to Folk Camps who book a week's camp and get a credit of £25 to be used at the following year's camps

Make a "low-tech" Whistle from PVC pipe:
<http://guido.gonzato.googlepages.com/whistle.html>

**An excellent new program to handle those "abc" music files :
abcexplorer <http://abc.stalikez.info/abcex.php/> - this can also be found
via a link on the abc notation page : <http://abcnotation.com/>**

Don't forget there are more than a dozen pages of music ready for download on the members page notice board <http://www.members-only.org.uk/> ... When used for playing for the dancing they form a useful common repertoire to play from. Karl Stevens has used them quite a lot and they seem to work!

Look forward to seeing you all at the reunion - in the meantime - how about some of your contributions in Extent!!

I'm told one of the features of the AGM (see back page) will be a slide show/ display of photographs from the archives ... As a little taster Mic has supplied just one picture from 1969 ... It's good to see that after 50 years it looks very familiar - though for a frightening moment I thought I recognised the tables!!



1969 **BREAKFAST, LUNCH or DINNER?** Theo & Sylvia
Self, Chris, Trudy, Nick & Jacky Green, David, Paddy,
Penny & Liz Cooper, Wye family? Sheila & Viv
Baker, Betty Connor

*Jacqueline
+ Shaishung
Finn*

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And just when you thought there was nothing more you could say about mud
Noah's Ark, Woolsery 2009- Lou Tribus

(based on Genesis, chapter 6, as told to Lou Tribus by a higher authority)

The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on earth had become, that every inclination of his heart was for Burger King, KFC, Big Brother, Michael Jackson and the shopping Channel.

And the Lord was grieved and said "I will wipe them from the face of the earth and begin again."

But a small group, the Folk Campers found favour in God's eye. So God spoke to Jason, saying "I am going to put an end to all people for the earth is full of wickedness, fast food, bad music and reality television."

"Make yourself a marquee of PVC and rope. Make it 20 feet high, 20 feet wide and 40 feet long. It should be a 2-pole marquee. Beware the 3-pole marquee, for in that direction lies damnation."

"Bring into the marquee all the Folk Campers and their families. Bring also one of every instrument on earth, wind,



string and percussion (including banjos). And don't forget to bring Andy Johnson."

So Jason gave the specs to Don, who did as the Lord commanded him.

So the Folk Camp was established at Woolsery, and the rain began to fall. Jason and all the Folk Campers entered the marquee to escape the flood.

On that day all the floodgates of heaven opened and rain fell on

Woolsery for three days and three nights and the mud rose and covered the fields, while the Folk Campers in the marquee kept warm and dry – ish.



On the fourth day Jason set forth to search for a pub. It would be a sure sign that the mud was receding. But Jason found the pub was closed.

Then Don, the Lord's chosen warden came into the marquee declaring that he had seen a rainbow arching across the heavens.

“God has sent us a covenant – a sign that he will never again flood the fields of Devon. Now is the time for Folk Campers to rejoice and go forth to repopulate the earth and bring true music and dance to the world!”



Unfortunately, A rainbow is not recognized as a legally binding covenant under European law so the rains fell again. And the mud rose higher and swallowed 10 pairs of wellies, 4 teenagers, a shower tent, a camper van and a melodeon.

But to compensate the Folk Campers and reward Don and Jason for their great labours, on the fourth day God sent his chosen Folk Campers new toilets.

And the Folk Campers rejoiced with feasting, drinking, music and dancing. And Jason and Don saw that it was good – muddy, wet, cold – but GOOD!

Noah's Ark, Woolsery 2009

Some facts about Noah :

1. Noah is a major figure in 3 world religions. Christians call him Noah, Jews call him Noach, and Muslims call him the Prophet Nu.



2. The flood was God's punishment for man's wickedness. Only Noah was deemed good enough to be saved, along with his extended family.
3. The Ark was made of cypress wood and it was 4500 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet tall. Roughly 11 times longer, 2 ¼ times taller and 4 times wider than a 2-pole, Folk Camp marquee!
4. Noah was 600 years old and still messing around with DIY boats. (Mrs Noah : "You are not building an ark until you finish the last two boats you started! And no more pets in the house either!")
5. Noah had 3 grown up sons who had to be at least 300 years old but were still living at home and expected Noah to provide food and shelter.
6. Noah's other hobby was home-made wine. When the ark landed and they could live off the land again, Noah planted a vineyard and made his own wine. He promptly got very drunk, took off all his clothes, and fell asleep in a cave. His behaviour so embarrassed his sons that they covered him up and kept him out of sight. (Mrs. Noah : "Not again! Even before your old vineyards were flooded, you were the only one who could bear to drink the stuff! What kind of example are you setting for your sons?")



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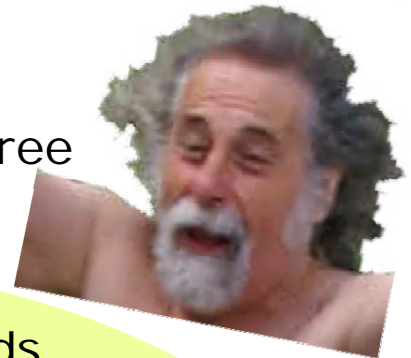
Saturday 21 November at Wing Village Hall
Leighton Road, Wing LU7 0NN

**NO BAR
BYO DRINKS**

7:30 to 11 pm
a Folk Camps Ceilidh
music led by Doug Brown
MC Brian Pollard



tickets on the door £8
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 pub session nearby

2:30 pm presentation and AGM
come along and have your say!
crèche available

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