

Welcome to the Folk Camps newsletter. This issue has news from Folk Camps and information about this year's holidays.

Find out more about our holidays including prices, staffing, dates, venues and booking at the website: <http://www.folkcamps.co.uk>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/folkcampsholidays>

Twitter: @FolkCamps <https://twitter.com/FolkCamps>

Contents

Message from the Chair.....	2
Cold Bogmarsh and the Folk Camp Archive.....	3
Adopting a Musical Approach.....	4
Adopting a Musical Approach – the Review	6
Caterer's Comments.....	7
Keith Gregson Music	8
Summer Camp Intros.....	9
Becoming a Folk Camps Staffer	10
Folk Campers 'Did You Know'?	11
Camper Comments.....	12
The Folk Camp Reunion	14
'Poem of the Week'	15
Saltmarsh Square.....	17

Message from the Chair

Folk Camps has been in a difficult financial situation for years – although cash reserves rich, we have been making a trading loss every year since 2011. This year 2019 started with the expectation of another hard year. Indeed, the whole travel industry has suffered greatly this year.

Hoping to buck the trend, great locations were secured, and fantastic staff teams were put together. The best possible diverse programme was on offer.

As the season unfolded it became clear that the trading environment was even worse than anticipated and Council realised action was needed to boost bookings of certain weeks. They devised a promotion which had two aims – to attract more campers on certain weeks (whilst compensating those who had already booked on these weeks) AND to achieve socially viable numbers on all weeks. We did not want a repeat of the previous year when we had to cancel a summer week.

Our promotional efforts were successful, and we were rewarded with a 2019 season where all weeks, although not full, were financially viable, happy weeks with the many new campers integrating well.

Alongside day-to-day running and monitoring of business, Council supported the Party Band in their effort to promote Folk Camps for the longer term and undertook a Facebook advertising campaign to recruit new campers. The campaign targeted an audience of around a million that had a folk interest of some kind and reached about 10% of these. In total over 7,000 people visited the Folk Camps website as a result of the Facebook campaign and 132 of them signed up to be contacted in future. As a side-effect we saw a dramatic increase in the number of 'friends' of Folk Camps by over 60%, many of which have not yet camped with us.

The disaster year has been averted for Folk Camps. Not all can claim the same and the demise of Thomas Cook is a case in point. Our projected trading loss of over £20,000 in April is now likely to be around £7,500 (compared to over £12,000 in 2018).

Looking to the future, we expect our trend towards a trading balance to continue and we hope to turn the corner next year with substantially increased marketing efforts capitalising on the many Party Band and Facebook leads that have been acquired this year. The successful Facebook campaign will be continued and augmented with a similar Instagram campaign aimed at twenty something campers.

I personally look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the AGM on 23rd November 2019.

Marcus de Frettes

Cold Bogmarsh and the Folk Camp Archive

Where do folk campers go during the winter?

Cold Bogmarsh of course, where it rains all the time, the tea is always luke-warm, and the mud is pretty thick!

No, don't worry, it's not a real camp but an invention of fiction; a virtual camp on Facebook, where you can exchange news and views, photos and memories and make plans for the next season. Just search for the group, answer a couple of questions and request to join.



The Unofficial Folk Camps Archive is now on Facebook and the archive is building fast with photos going back as far as 1962. While away the autumnal hours by scrolling through the hundreds of images of folk camps past. Seen here are members of the Yetties folk group and other early years pioneers of Folk Camps.



Adopting a Musical Approach

As we all know, there are lots of fun things you can do at Folk Camp, but last year I found myself sat in my tent listening to the sounds of fiddles and melodeons, writing an application for a Folk Camps Development Grant. (I should perhaps point out that you don't have to actually be at Folk Camp in order to write one!) The Folk Camps Development Fund is a fantastic initiative whereby Folk Camps governing members can apply to the society for a small pot of money to put towards a particular project - it can be a small thing that only takes you a few weeks, or you can put the money towards a larger piece of work. Large funding bodies usually require you to raise a certain amount yourself before they will give out a grant, so in my case having some funding from the Folk Camps Development Fund meant I was then able to apply for a larger grant from the Arts Council to fund my new project, Adopting a Musical Approach.

Adopting a Musical Approach is a project designed to help adoptive families use music to improve their relationships, communicate together, and have fun!

For the project I have written and recorded an album of brand-new music aimed at primary-age children and their adoptive, foster, or Special Guardianship families. I've also written a book to go along with the CD, with a chapter devoted to each track, explaining the science behind the songs and giving examples of other similar songs, games and activities you might like to try, and I've just finished an eight-show tour bringing the songs to groups of adopters in England, Scotland, and Wales.

What's so special about the songs?

Each song on the album serves a specific purpose. For example, the song What a Funny Sandwich is designed to help a child with making choices, and Little Fish's Big Journey can be used to explore feelings around moving to a new family. In much the same way as you might use stories to explore a concept with a child, I believe that song can be a valuable tool for learning - with the added benefit that music often seems to find its way to the deepest parts of the brain in a way that we don't entirely understand yet.

Communicative Musicality

Music is an innate part of being human - we are all musical by nature. For this project I wanted to tap in to the most natural, instinctive part of human musicality: the way in which parents communicate with their babies. Infant Directed Speech (IDS) - which you'd probably call 'babytalk' - has been shown to have musical properties that are consistent across different people, and across different cultures.

When you talk, even though you're not trying to 'sing', your voice will naturally go up and down; there's an element of melody to it. When you talk to a baby, you instinctively modify

your voice: you'll talk at a higher pitch, and you'll emphasise the up and down (melodic contours) in your speech. A psychologist called Stephen Malloch called this 'Communicative Musicality' as a way of describing the musical way in which parents and babies communicate with each other.

Research in to IDS indicates that there are particular melodic patterns of speech that carry specific information, regardless of the words that the adult is using. When we talk about this we use the word 'contour' to describe the shape of the melody, so for example a rising contour is a melody that starts off at a lower pitch and then gets higher. Scientists have repeatedly found that parents use a rising contour in order to get their child's attention, but when they already have it and want to keep it, they use an up and down wave shape. Questions usually have a rising contour, except for questions that use 'wh-' words, which have a falling contour. All of these things and more have been found in different studies across the world.

The really fascinating part is that none of this is deliberate. Parents all over the world use these exact patterns in their speech to babies and children, without even realising they are doing it. So therefore, we have to conclude that these musical patterns are really important for development - of communication skills, social skills, and potentially even the relationship between parents and children.

How is this relevant to the songs?

For the songs in this project, I have been taking these melodic, information-carrying elements of IDS, and incorporating them in to the songs I've written. As adoptive parents we are taught to 'fill in the gaps' of a child's development, and to give them the experiences they may have missed out on, and children who have suffered neglect in their early years may well have missed out on some - or all - of these vital early interactions I've described above.

Some children may like to pretend to be a baby (my son throws himself in to this role with great gusto!), and have their adoptive parents address them in babytalk, but for others this might not be appropriate, or they may not feel safe enough to do it. What I'm hoping to achieve is that by incorporating the key elements of IDS in to my songs, children can still benefit from the exposure to these speech patterns, but in a much less threatening way. Whether this will work in the way I think it will or not we're yet to find out, but early reports coming back from parents that have bought a copy of the CD are very positive, and it's fascinating reading about how their children are reacting to the songs.

If you're interested in the project - or if you just want some new songs to listen to with your family! - then you can order the book and CD from my website <http://catmcgill.uk>. You can also follow me on social media for updates and next steps - I'm on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube as @folkycat.

I'm very grateful to Folk Camps for their help and support with this project, and to the Folk Campers who supported the project personally by donating via Kickstarter.

Cat McGill

Adopting a Musical Approach – the Review

Adopting a Musical Approach is so much more than just another kid's album. Not only has Cat used her years of education and personal knowledge to create something supremely suited for looked after children but the songs are themselves addictive and beautiful - whatever your age. Two personal favourites are "I will love you" and "The River" - although "Don't worry Ted!" is firmly stuck in my head on a loop and has been since I heard it.

The quality of the arrangements and production is high, and wonderfully, both of Cat's children were involved - listen out for them, it's very sweet!

All of this produces an album which feels like a big welcoming, reassuring and warm hug in a box. All in all, I highly recommend the album (and the accompanying book) to anyone with children, a children's mind or even the slightest interest in psychology.

Beci Kijko



Caterer's Comments

Thank you for all the good comments campers left this summer. It must be remembered that most of the caterers and cooks in our kitchens are not trained chefs and only cook for over 100 people once a year. They also do it in a kitchen that, they don't really know very well, has a limited supply of ingredients and there is no corner supermarket to pop into. There are also only 2 relatively small fridges to store items at the marquee camp with a freezer and larger fridge usually over a mile away. All the chilled and frozen food come in, a once a week delivery from Bookers so these are reasonably full. The other thing to remember is the 'Cooks of the Day' are serving the food they have made at the end of a full day before they have their own meal.

Although the menus had a major change this year, we only had a few hiccups, which should be rectified in 2020. We are pleased that the opt into a veggie evening meal was better received. We will be still working on improving the manuals and reducing the pressure on the 'Cooks of the Day' so making a day in the kitchen as pleasant and less tiring as possible. We will continue to make the meals well balanced especially the special diets. We are continuing to simplify the lunches and party food. Everyone needs to be aware when serving ourselves that we don't cross contaminate special needs food eg. meat going on to vegetarian / vegan items, we will endeavour to keep them apart.

Some people have asked for toast and coffee machines at a marquee camp. Can I remind you that we don't have electricity in a marquee kitchen. And the generator is not powerful enough for a toaster! To make toast over a gas hob for 100 people would be very time consuming. We will continue to provide hot water if you prefer to bring your own coffee and cafetière. If you want treats like crisps and sweets, please bring your own.

We will investigate cereal dispensers to reduce recycling waste, getting a foot operated tap for the kitchen sink, look to get local cheeses and consider brown rice. The Caters will be discussing portion control.

Jenny Hopper

Keith Gregson Music

Former folk camp leader and musician Keith Gregson has been busy writing and composing.



Keith (who can be caught up with each year at Dalton and Bampton) has a number of musical videos on YouTube and a jukebox of his tunes and songs on his website. The same site also has details of two online books he has recently published – one on Sport and the First World War, and one on Family History.

He is still giving talks on Family History research at Fairs and Conferences across the country and would love to meet up at any of them with old Folk Camp friends. Keith can be contacted through his web-site too: <http://www.keithgregson.com>

Pictured Above – A French newspaper cutting from the late twentieth century. Keith kneeling with sons Tom and John at front left. George Unthank standing with rapper sword and one of his (now famous) daughters. Some of the others will be recognised by many (Go on – have a guess!)

Keith Gregson

Summer Camp Intros

There will be two new sites for the 2020 camps – Rolvenden and Welbourn. Can't decide which to book on for the season? We've put together a little bit of information on both areas to help.

Rolvenden

Hole Park in Rolvenden, Kent, is going to be our summer camp for five weeks of 2020. Hole Park Gardens is a great place to visit in itself and has beautiful flowers and arrangements for you to see.



Rolvenden is also just 25 minutes from Camber Sands in the south, and Hastings, complete with its Old Town, cliff railways, museums and historical sites.

Welbourn

Our hall camp is just south of Lincoln in the midlands. Welbourn is ideal for families with great attractions such as the Whisby Animal Centre and Hartsholme Country Park.

Welbourn town is a sleepy little village with the St. Chad's Church, parts of it dating back to the 12th Century.



If these little tidbits interest you, be sure to look out for the Folk Camps 2020 programme to be published on the website very soon!

Anthony Keen

Becoming a Folk Camps Staffer

There are a number of ways you get to be more involved in Folk Camps, and volunteering as staff is one of them. Perhaps someone has talked to you about doing a job at camp, maybe someone mentioned it to you in the past and now is the right time, or just possibly you were at a Folk Camp and thought, 'I could do that'.

However you came to the idea, there are some simple but important steps to take to help make your decision...

- Talk to someone who does this role at the moment, or who has done in the past to get their perspective and advice.
- Ask that person if they would recommend you to Council for the role.
- After that, we can help to get you the relevant support in taking the next step.

Apprenticeships

It doesn't matter who you are, what you have done and when you get to the idea of staffing at Folk Camps, as apprenticeship can help give you the support to succeed. You will get an experienced member of staff to mentor you through the camp, feedback on the process and a clearer idea as to whether the role is for you. Usually we will place you on a camp to give you the best opportunity, but as we have to fit this into our programme and you are helping us out by volunteering to undertake this role, Folk Camps will fund your place.

Being an Assistant

Once you have successfully undertaken an apprenticeship or if you are ready to take the step straight away, we will invite you to become an assistant to a full member of staff. This will involve taking on much of the work related to that staffing role but having a more senior member of staff there to take overall responsibility. Your place will be funded, and you will be provided with expenses to help with the cost of travel.

Getting your first full role

Once you have had a go at being an assistant, it went well and you feel ready, then you may be asked to take on a full role. This might be alone or jointly with a fellow member of staff. During your first full staff role you will also have access to a mentor who has agreed to be at camp to provide support if you need it. They will be there as a guiding hand or a sounding board. From that point on, you are a full member of staff and a great help to keeping Folk Camps going – well done and thanks!

Finding out more

If you would like to talk about the possibility of staffing, please do not hesitate to contact the Folk Camp Council staffing coordinator by emailing the office.

Barry Pollard

Folk Campers 'Did You Know'?

Did you know...?

Sometimes things get lost in the mist of time, so I thought I would dig through the archives, roll out a musty old box of parchment and tell you a little about it.

Our founding documents, also known as our Memorandum and Articles of Association (Mem & Arts) lay out the whole purpose of Folk Camps. We all enjoy getting together during the year to catch up, meet new people and do a bit of camping (sometimes the sun even shines); but the reason behind the organisation is in the name - 'folk'!

As well as who we are, what we can do and how we can do it, there is a key statement in the Mem & Arts (section 3 to be precise) detailing our purpose. That is to...

...preserve for the benefit of the public English folk dances and songs and other folk music, dance and song (including singing games), and to make them known and to encourage the practice of them in their traditional forms.

So, we are not just a part of this to enjoy ourselves (you heard it here first)! It's even something you can do in your spare time, so what are you waiting for?

For further details, please find the full Memorandum and Articles of Association published on the Folk Camps website at:

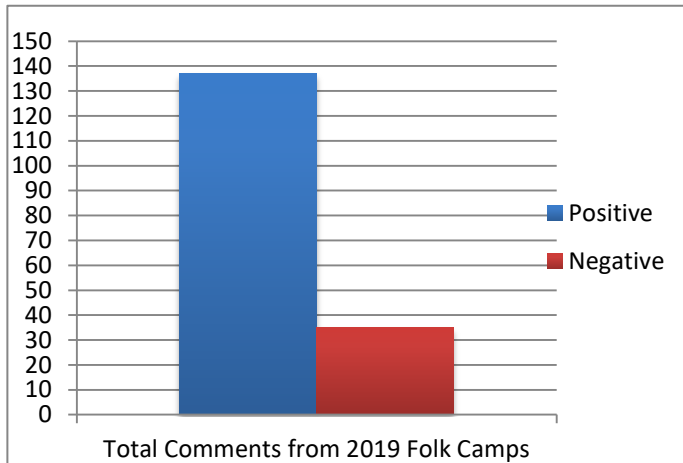
<http://folkcamps.co.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2017/09/MemorandumArticles.pdf>

Barry Pollard

Camper Comments

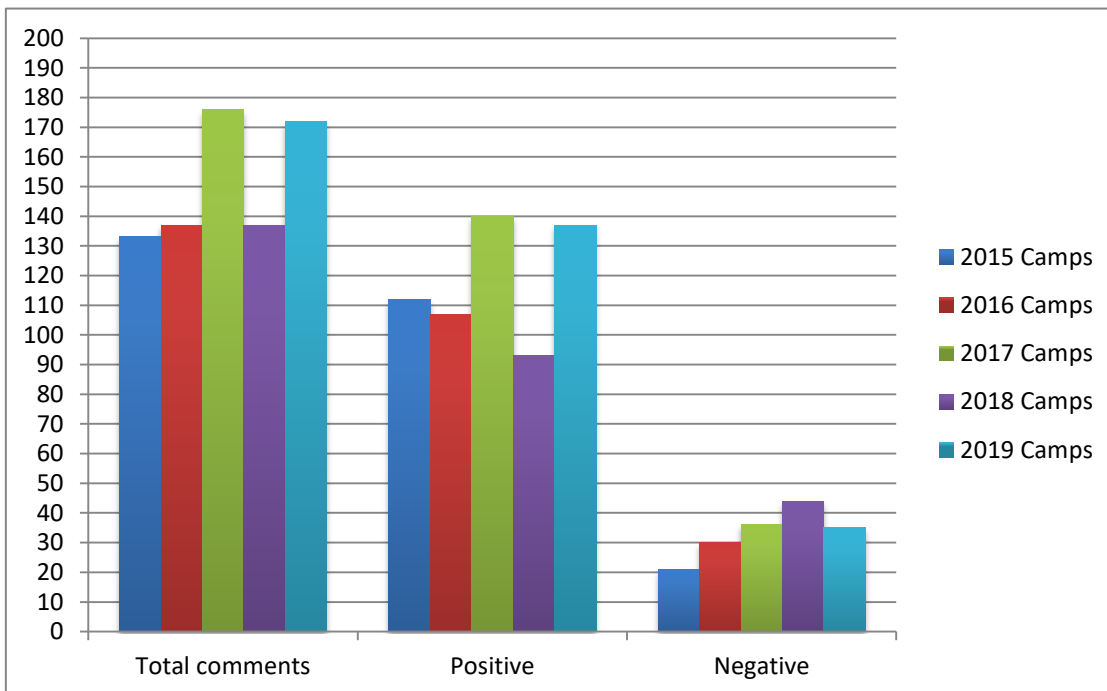
Overwhelmingly, camper comments for the 2019 Folk Camp season have been positive. The graphs below show how campers felt about the 2019 camps.

Camper comments are subjective, so it's difficult to quantify them and turn them in to an objective numerical analysis. These charts only reveal part of the picture.



Out of a total of 172 comments slips, 135 were positive (80%). As shown on the chart below, this is comparable to past years.

Folk Camp Comments over the Last Five Years



Although some negative comments were specific complaints, there were no criticisms about the Folk Camp experience itself. Most of the negative comments took the form of constructive ideas and Folk Camps council have already taken action on the following suggestions:

1. We plan to extend the Session Camp at Miserden for an extra day, to the Monday.
2. A shower tent will now be supplied at all Workshop Weekend Camps (not just some).
3. We will ensure that each week-long camp (hall and marquee) is supplied with a variety of arts and crafts supplies in sufficient quantity for the week. Our provisions contractor will order craft supplies at the beginning of the season and camp staff will monitor craft supplies each week.
4. Our caterers and provisions contractor will be meeting in November and will discuss the many comments and suggestions we have received regarding food.
5. Our wardens and equipment manager will also be meeting in November and will discuss the many comments and suggestions we have received which they can address.
6. There were two specific incidents this past season that generated negative comments. Arrivals of new campers or new staff at the Friday evening party can be very disruptive, especially if camp staff haven't announced that new people will be coming on camp. In both instances this summer, there were special circumstances including foul weather. Council recognised that having new campers arrive and come into the hall or marquee on a Friday evening can be unsettling and can change the atmosphere of the evening. We are reminding all staff to notify their campers if new people are due to come on camp at any time, and we remind staff arriving on Friday night to tell all campers that arrive with them to not interrupt the party night.

Lou Tribus

The Folk Camp Reunion

The AGM will take place at 2.30pm at **Toddington Village Hall, Leighton Road, Toddington, Bedfordshire LU5 6AN.**

All members, both Governing and Associate, are entitled to attend and speak but only Governing Members can vote (see FAQ on our website for an explanation of the types of memberships).

The current and previous AGM papers are available on our website.

Timetable for the Day

- **11:00 am** Photoswap & Coffee Meet your folk camping friends over coffee, exchange photographs and happy memories and plan your next year's camping season. Watch the slide show!
- **11:30 am** Music workshop leaders Sarah Malleson and Simon Hopper
- **12.30 pm** Lunch Tea, coffee and snacks available in the hall. Lunch options at 'Jenny's Café'.
- **2.30 pm** Annual General Meeting

All are welcome to attend the AGM of Folk Camps Society Ltd and may speak but only governing members may vote. Review the report and accounts, elect the new council members and make your voice heard during the informal discussion after official business is concluded.

- **4.30 pm** Tea, coffee, cakes and snacks available in the hall.
- **5.00 pm** Singing workshop leader Cat McGill
- **6.00 pm** Hot food available in the hall. Jacket potatoes, pasta, veg chilli etc. for dinner at 'Jenny's cafe'.
- **7.30 – 11.00 pm** Reunion Ceilidh

Dance the night away with band led by Richard Jones. Ceilidh tickets £5 and can be purchased on the door (accompanied under 16s free and don't need a ticket).

Feel free to bring your own alcohol, as there is no bar.

Anthony Keen

'Poem of the Week'

The Theme for party night was 'Tribal'.

It's a parody of Tom Lehrer's We Will All Go Together When We Go, which, for the uninitiated, can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=frAEmhqdLFs>

When you attend a Folk Camp you'll, probably find that sooner or'll..
..later, those you love will attend one too.
You'll be witness to some magic, and discover some new aject..
..tives describing the amazing things they do.
But don't you worry

If you like baldrics and sashes, and jingling bells and asses,
The Morris tribe will open up to you,
But if the wind that fills your sails is full of planks of wood and nails,
Then the Warden tribe's the one to see you through

And we will
All camp together when we camp, we'll walk around at night sporting a lamp
When the breakfast cooks ring their call-out, from sagging tents we'll crawl out
And meet our breakfast tribe though somewhat damp

And we will
All play Old Joe Clarke when we play, we'll get a little better every day,
With Newman, Glass and crew, our tribe and neighbours too,
Join the band will drown out 'hey nonnie ney'

And we will
All cook together when we cook, we will pay due regard to recipe book
With Debs and Mark so solid, we will serve up nothing horrid
A willing tribe is really all it took

And we will
All help each other when we hel-p, from veteran old-timer to young whel-p
When something just needs doing, we'll not just leave it stewing
But take action to resolve it very well-p

And we will
All dance together when we dance, when caller says 'long line' we will advance
When Cam calls Levi Jackson's, all tribes unite both Danes and Saxons
Some will skip and some will hop while others prance

And we will
All sing together when we sing, Kate and Beci will help our voices to take wing
When we all sing rolling home, we're all one tribe no-one's alone
Then something Folks Camps does so well is happening

And we will
All go to a workshop when we go, Regine will contrive to make it so
Might be a dance with Rab and Mary or a midnight walk so scary
Dawn to dusk our different tribes will be on show

And I will
End this little ditty when I end it, I'll take up no more time to extend it,
Tomorrow this tribe will disperse, yet be remembered in this verse
As our long journey home we slowly wend it.

Stuart Beattie

Saltmarsh Square

Well, what about Saltmarsh Square?

We were walking on the North Norfolk coast, and saw two other couples doing the same. They walked towards each other, and then changed their minds and reversed direction – which put me in mind of the double do-si-dos in the dance.

Here is the dance...

Square set 32 bars

A1: Head couples double do-si-do (as couples, passing lady to lady with a promenade hold); side couples do-si-do their partners.

A2: Side couples double do-si-do; head couples do-si-do their partners.

B1: All turn right and promenade in single file.

B2: Ladies stop in their home place while men overtake them on the outside, go around the next lady and swing their new partner.

George Middleton