

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.folkcamp.co.uk> .

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

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

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A Message from the Chairman

Few of us remain untouched by recent events. The unremitting toll on lives and livelihoods seems to have no end. And our wonderful Society has not escaped unscathed.

Folk Camps is all about socialising around folk music, dance, singing and craft. So the impact of the coronavirus epidemic has been particularly hard felt for us all. The mental uplift of the shared experience of a Folk Camp cannot be underestimated.

The drive to socialise has seen many fantastic initiatives under the Lockdown banner and I thank all those who have contributed. But I personally cannot wait to be back in a muddy field with the sound of music and joyful activity all around from dawn to dusk and beyond.

Rest assured that your Council and contractors are working hard to bring back our camps as soon as they can be safely run. In the meantime, I send you many virtual hugs and look forward to seeing you all on camp in the not too distant future.

Marcus de Frettes

Covid-19 from the Council View

The Covid pandemic continues to present difficult choices to us all - in our work, our domestic life and in society at large. Holiday and leisure businesses and organisations are similarly affected.

While we hope to be able to run some folk camps in 2021, it is too early to know if it is safe or sensible to do so. The current situation with the Covid pandemic means that we cannot know what the position will be next year. If a vaccine has become widely available and normal life has become possible once again, we hope to be able once again to enjoy the camps we all love.

If, however, there is any significant risk - be it health, social or financial, we will not go ahead with any camps that cannot function 'as normal'. There is clearly a further risk in how confident our campers will be to book or attend, depending on their individual circumstances. This is why we are removing deposits for 2021 so that you can cancel without penalty if circumstances change.

Decision dates for 2021 Camps

The Council of Management has decided to set some clear dates to ensure that members know exactly what is planned. For 2021 only, bookings will not open until a decision has been taken to run a camp, and there will be no deposit required for bookings. However, the full payment will be required 4 weeks before weekend camps or 8 weeks before summer weeks. The programme is the same as that for 2020 - the same sites, almost the same dates and broadly the same staff.

Camps will be split into 3 groups, with decision dates for each group:

1. Craft break (February in hotel)
 - Bookings open: 1st November 2020
 - Final go-ahead / Pull the plug date: 1st November 2020
2. Spring weekend camps
 - Bookings open: 1st March 2021
 - Final go-ahead / Pull the plug date: 1st April 2021
3. Summer camps (weeks and August weekends)
 - Bookings open: 1st April 2021
 - Final go-ahead / Pull the plug date: 1st June 2021

Opening bookings indicates that Council is confident that the whole group of camps will run but they may still be cancelled up to the 'Pull the plug date' if circumstances change.

Bookings for the Craft Break will re-open on 1st November if it can be run, otherwise all existing bookings will be refunded.

2020 AGM and Reunion

This year our AGM and reunion will be held online using Zoom. The date will be 21 November 2020. There will be an opportunity to vote and to ask questions in the AGM. In the evening there will be a virtual ceilidh with Chris Jewell and the Band in the Cupboard, MC Paul Weir with guest callers and floor spots. Full details will be sent out shortly, with the AGM notice.

Folk Camps Council

Your 2021 Camps

This is a reprint of last year's information – as our programme is staying the same!

There will be two new sites for the 2021 camps – Rolvendon 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.

Rolvendon

Hole Park in Rolvendon, Kent, is going to be our summer camp for five weeks of 2021. 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.



In addition to this information, remember that for any new person that you introduce to Folk Camps, we will reward you with a credit of 20% of their first Folk Camps booking. You can redeem this credit in subsequent years.

Anthony Keen

Addiction Poem

The Lockdown Poetry Workshops elicited some interesting verse. At the first one it was suggested attendees might try writing about a particular subject. The suggested topic the group chose was addiction. This contribution seems particularly apt for publication here.

ADDICTION

I tried, yes I tried, through the ages
I tried giving up believe me
I tried just weekends in grand houses
I tried longer breaks at the sea

I engaged with experts in chair making
It was hurdles we made one weekend
Farmhouses and cottages plenty
With wood burners and four poster beds

I once tried a cruise up a river
Centre Parcs, Butlins, all had appeal
And those nights in a yurt in the woodland
I embraced all the glamping with zeal

You can call it addiction, why don't you
There's one thing about which I shout-
From the rooftops, if given the chances
It's folk camps I can't live without.

Sue Malleson

Coronavirus Square

A dance inspired by and for the new Coronavirus normal!

CORONAVIRUS SQUARE

SET: Big square

TUNE: Oh, you New York Girls, Can't You Dance the Polka.
(Singing call)

Circle left, but don't join hands
Stay two metres away,
Shake your hands, shake off the virus
Back the other way.

Wash your hands and gipsy,
Then you count to ten,
Wash your hands and do-si-do
And wash your hands again.

CHORUS
And it's oh, take it easy,
Dance any more, you'll tire us,
Oh, you New York girls
Don't you catch the virus.

Heads go in for a right hand star
(Just think it where you stand)
Before you consider a left hand star
You sanitise your hands.

All in now for a Grand Chain
(Your nervousness please smother)
Let me see you step out wide
As you circle round each other.

CHORUS

Ladies' chain without a touch
Not an easy task
Smile at your partners - they won't know
'Cos you've all got on your masks.

CHORUS

George Middleton

Solstice New Release

Solstice, folk prog-rock band that includes folk campers Andy Glass and Jenny Newman, has just released their latest album – *Sia* – along with a new band member Jess Holland, another Folk Camper!

The album can be purchased on Giant Electric Pea's [website](#)¹ on CD and vinyl in late November. You can listen to a teaser [here](#)²



Magazine *Prog* also included a feature on Solstice which we have reprinted here. Next month they will be receiving a larger feature, so keep an eye out!

SOLSTICE START NEW CHAPTER WITH SIA

Folk-proggers' sixth album introduces new line-up for 40th anniversary.

Folk prog rockers Solstice, who celebrate their 40th anniversary this year, release sixth studio album *Sia* (pronounced "See-er") via their new label GEP at the end of October. It features new vocalist Jess Holland, who replaces Emma Brown.

"Me and Jenny Newman, our fiddle player, have known her for ages," guitarist Andy Glass explains. "We play in a dance band that visits all the folk festivals, and Jess is the bass player. I was writing some stuff, Jess sang on it, and it kind of turned into a Solstice album. She's really brought so much energy to the band."

Signing with GEP is like coming full circle, since label boss Mike Holmes supported Solstice at the London Marquee 40 years ago as a member of IQ. "Mike totally understands what we are trying to do and he's great to work with," Glass says.

As the only remaining original member of Solstice, he feels that *Sia* and the latest line-up represents a new chapter. "I'm thrilled with the way it's turned out," he enthuses. "This is the one where it all comes together. There's some high-energy stuff on it, but I listened to it late one night recently and I actually found it soothing!"

To mark the band's 40th anniversary, *Sia* features a new version of *Cheyenne* from debut studio album *Silent Dance*.

For more, visit www.facebook.com/solsticeprog. **AR**

Link 1: <https://www.gep.co.uk/>

Link 2: <https://youtu.be/IPTT-GCgJO8>

Anthony Keen

Jenny's Folk Camp Year: 2020

What a strange year we have had.

In February I went to the Craft week in Symonds Yat. The waters started to rise on Monday and by the evening the water stopped access along the normal road and was coming up through the Ballroom floor where we would usually eat, craft and entertain ourselves in the evening. The hotel managed to spread us around the hotel, and we helped by clearing away things in the small eating area so we could use that space between meals.



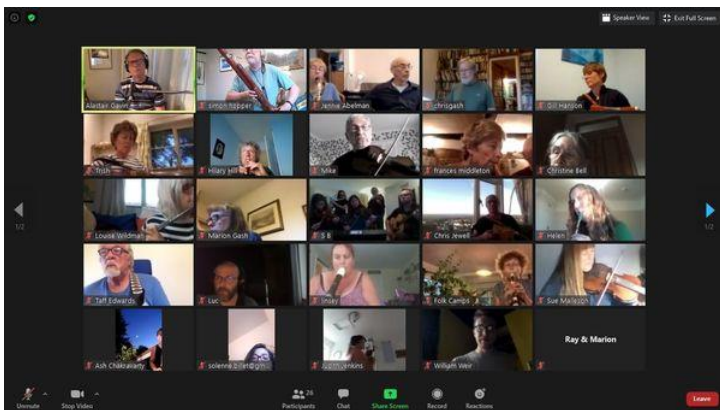
Crafting in the breakfast area

As Provisions Manager, I have my busiest time usually during June to August, so being in lockdown, my garden has appreciated me being at home and all the attention Simon and I have put in it. We have missed seeing our folk camp friends, but at the end of July there were some virtual activities instead of week 2 & 3 camps, which we enjoyed virtually on our computer.



This building houses the Ballroom. The other area should have been a large carpark.

Luckily, it didn't reach the kitchen. It started going down by the Tuesday although some major roads in the area were still closed. We were fine, though one or two missed getting in on the Monday night and when the other main roads opened it was too late to try. In true folk camp style, we took it in our stride, and people stood up to challenge and helped each other and the organisers.



Music session



Camp meeting



Walter used playmobil figures to help call the dances in the Ceilidh on party night. I didn't have any but found these in my local care shop. Can you guess which dance they are doing?



Regular Kids Ceilidh's were offered on Monday afternoons, which I sadly missed, but the virtual Ceilidh's we did over the summer were fun. I was pleased I had a partner, so didn't have to dance with my Teddy or Floor mop. We did join in with some of the Song Circle Zoom sessions which are continuing now on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

I offered two potato peeling sessions which, as at happens at camp, turned in to a good chinwag. On the first one we found out what the restrictions were like near Dubai from Rowena and Chris and I actual did peel some vegetables.



Judith organised a nature walk, unfortunately her signal was not good but Lindsey and the children (in West Sussex), and I in Vale of Belvoir managed to send photos on WhatsApp of the interesting things we found on our walk. Then Marion and Chris Cash joined Judith at Coed Hafod (nr Betws y Coed).





I missed Professor Llusern's story telling about 'Fantastic welsh beasts and where to find them' so I'm hoping he might do some more at half term.

In September, Flossie (our campervan) took us up the north where we caught up with Anne and Pete Guthrie in East Lothian and stayed in their lovely wood. We called in to see Kenny and Karen where I finally saw their lovely town of Dunbar. We also stayed overnight with Anne and Richard Kenyon after visiting my cousin in the Borders. It was great to catch up some folk campers in the flesh.



What will happen later this year and in 2021 we don't know, but I look forward to seeing some of your faces on the screen.

Jenny Hopper

The Lockdown Jig

The Lockdown Jig

Sue Malleson



32 bars

One person, with enough room for four steps forward, four back, four sideways left and right.

(Can also be danced in couples facing, or lines of people holding hands, but only if living in the same household!)

A1 Four steps forward, four back, slip four steps to right, four to the left.

A2 Four steps forward, four back, slip four steps to left, four to the right

B2 Fall back four steps, forward four, set right and left, turn single

B3 Fall back four steps, forward four, set right and left, turn single

Repeat ad nauseum

Sue Malleson

Working River: Song and Music of the Thames

WORKING RIVER

Songs and music of the Thames

GFTU and Folktree Recordings have come together to produce a CD of the untold story of working people of the Thames through music and song. Lightermen, bargemen, the match girls and dockers strikes, fishermen, smugglers, mudlarks and mutineers... It's all here in a wonderful 21 track musical journey. Also included is an illustrated 16 page booklet charting the history behind the music, all for just £12.99 (including p&p).



Available at folktreerecordings.bandcamp.com and gftu.org.uk

This vast majority of these songs and tunes have been recorded especially for this project including many penned by the performers themselves dealing with mutinies, migration, strikes, disasters, the barge and fishing trades, smugglers, mudlarkers and lovers.

“The Thames runs deep in the national psyche and forms a fundamental part of our identity. As such it has inspired artists for centuries yet the many times voices of the working poor are lost on the tide but not today.

“The fact that we have many new songs and young performers alongside established songs and veteran singers really shows that this is a living tradition which keeps giving,” he said.

Copies of the CD and accompanying educational booklet are available for £12.99 plus P&P from GFTU¹

Link 1: <https://gftu.org.uk/>


Mark Robinson

Old Joe Clark

This Ukulele piece is an arrangement by Zoe Ann-Wadey, and transcribed onto Sibelius software by myself. Every time I have offered a workshop for Ukulele they appear out of nowhere and at Meonstoke 2019, 8 of us did a little show in the sing around!

Old Joe Clark

Traditional



The sheet music is for the traditional song 'Old Joe Clark'. It is written for two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff. The key signature is one flat (Bb), and the time signature is 4/4. The music is arranged in four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. Chord diagrams for C, Bb, and C are provided above the treble staff at measures 1, 5, 9, 13, and 17. The bass staff contains fret numbers for the left hand.

Mark Orchin

Ever Thought of Donating to Folk Camps?

At the end of the day, Folk Camps is a society built to preserve and share folk culture in the UK. But what many forget is that just like any other charity, you can donate money to keep us going. This money goes towards our bursary and development funds, letting more people go on our camps or start their dream folk projects that they may not be able to achieve without support.

As well as typical donations, you can also leave Folk Camps money in your will – this is actually quite tax efficient.

If you're interested in donating to Folk Camps in this way, please contact Folk Camps and we'd be happy to point you towards solicitors or organisations that can help (some of which may be Folk Campers themselves!)

Anthony Keen

Obituaries

Dave Bennett

Dave first Folk Camp was Morfa Nefyn in, we think, 1970, (Mum can't remember exactly, I'm sure someone will know) and was a regular camper ever since.

Folk Camps was the ideal environment for Dave to fulfil a number of roles. Ever an avid Morris dancer he would frequently be found teaching a children's Morris workshop, and wearing his colourful tail-coats to go busking. The memory of him teaching my girls how to dance the Morris is a particularly happy one.

Most evenings he could be found calling for dancing or dancing himself (after the early evening, pre-prandial "happy hour", of course).

Being a profoundly practical man, he took on the role of Warden with aplomb, even extending this role outside of the camp, with outings to the beach turned into major earthworks, as castles were constructed, moats were dug, and children were buried up to their necks. This practical side also extended to his hobbies, and I am sure many of you may have items of treen turned by Dave in his garage.

Normally reserved, Folk Camps also allowed Dave to show other sides to his artistic side. Firstly, as a reluctant singer – I remember him being quite proud that a musician had told him his natural singing key was somewhere between F# and G. Secondly, as an author – party night was an opportunity for song parodies or mumming plays, usually with a scurrilous bent, and as many family members involved as possible.

He was also a raconteur, from the terrible, and the longer the better, shaggy dog stories, to tales of his life and work, and general trivia. There was this tortoise...

Of course, everyone has their dark side, but this is not the organ to detail his secret life as an illicit dealer in sows' bladders, procured from a contact at the abattoir, then trafficked around the country to other fertility magic enthusiasts.

Dave made life-long friends at Folk Camp, and for those of you who knew him I hope you will remember him like me. A caring father, grandfather and loving husband to Ann, he was clever, funny, entertaining, helpful and great company. His was a life well-lived, and his presence will be missed by all who knew him.

Tim Bennett, number three son



Shirley French

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you of the passing of Shirley French in May this year. Mum was 85 and was diagnosed with Alzheimer's about 10 years ago. But she always loved folk camps and attended her last one at Knockerdown in 2015 with my father Cecil.

She was a teacher at a school in Hove when they met at Shoreham folk dancing club and when they started dating, she came to her first camp in Europe run by Bill Rutter in 1969. Dad was a widower and had 2 daughters. They'd started folk camping a couple of years before and it was a perfect holiday for a family who loved to folk dance every evening.

They were married in 1971 and had me, Elizabeth, then my brother Matthew and continued folk camping as it had something for the adults, teenagers and children in our family. After a decade or so of summer camps in both the UK and France they added in May and August bank holidays weekends too and then the Halsey Manor winter warmer which was eventually replaced by the Symonds Yat craft camp for their winter fix!



Everyone seemed to know Mum even though she didn't do too many workshops, she had a big smile and spoke to anyone she was standing near; washing up, in the dinner queue etc. She was actually a grade 8 piano player in her teens but at folk camp she preferred to do lace making or teach children long sword. She and Dad loved the eclectic song circle every evening, in later years with blankets over their knees, as long as it didn't replace too much of the dancing, which was their favourite part of folk camps.

They built up a beloved group of friends over the 40 or so years they came to camps, especially the Brittany and Normandy regulars, and never was this so evident as when Mum tripped down the caravan steps in Holland and broke her hip. Their friends on camp were so helpful and looked after her and supported Dad until they could drive home to get Mum pinned back together ready for next year's camping.

They were a familiar site pulling into the field with their little folding caravan (which tucked under the kitchen window and didn't block the view across the road when at home) and Dad would soon be on the calling rota and they'd both be signed up to make evening cocoa during the week. Even in the final years after Dad passed away, when we were visiting her in her care home to tell her we were off to folk camp she'd ask us to say hello to everyone she knew that we saw and she also enjoyed seeing a few photos of old and new friends when we got back.

Even though her funeral was during this strange time of restrictions, we had a wonderful service with most of her close family, remembering happier times, many of which were at camp with her family and folk camp friends. We will be having a larger party to celebrate her life as soon as circumstances allow.

Elizabeth Middleton

Terry Rutter

One of key the founders of the Folk Camps Society died in July at the age of 94. Terry Rutter, was the power behind the throne with Bill Rutter – very much the ideas man!

Bill and Terry also founded the Sidmouth Folk Festival and were instrumental in setting up Halsway Manor.

As a teacher, Terry taught country dancing at the schools where she worked, and she started ceilidh dancing classes near their home in Clyst Hydon. Dancing was always important to Terry and with that came the music, the camping and the travel - so establishing Folk Camps with Bill and others fitted in very naturally. Bill and Terry were regular attendees at Folk Camps in the 60s and 70s as well as running the organisation from the EFDSS office in Exeter.



Bill became the Director of the Sidmouth Folk Festival and Terry assisted him in managing it. She was given the Sidmouth Award in 1969 by the English Folk Song and Dance Society and Halsway Manor awarded her a vice-presidency in 2001.

The Sidmouth Award citation said: *“Conferred on Teresa Rutter who quietly and unselfishly has always been on hand when work was to be done. At events throughout the area and particularly at the Sidmouth Festivals, she has for years given of her time and energies without stint. Warm-hearted, cheerful, generous, tireless, she has shown a concept of service which has been an example to all and which, by its extent and sincerity, has enabled hundreds to find enjoyment in singing and dancing.”*

Paul Weir adds: “I met Bill and Terry in 1972 and was quickly persuaded to get involved with many of their activities – both at Sidmouth and Folk Camps. Bill also roped me into assist with the setting up of a new festival in Stroud. Bill was the leader of a camp in Brittany in 1973 of which I have many fond memories. The last time I saw Terry (apart from at Bill’s funeral) was in the early 80s when I took my kids for lunch in the garden at Clyst Hydon. They were the perfect hosts.”

Photo shows Terry on a holiday in Madeira attacking a kebab!

Thanks to Andrew Robson and Paul Weir for these recollections

Dennis Brown

Dennis and I first came to Folk Camps as a family in 1988, although I had camped with friends in my teenage years at Family Camp and Youth Camp. In the intervening years I had lost touch with the camps, and it was Dick Stanger who revived my interest and suggested we join him at the French camp at Doulas. It was just what we all needed – our sons Andrew and David were 10 and 7, both just starting to play music and enjoy the dancing, and they soon made new friends as did Dennis and I. Dennis was a keen morris dancer and musician, and contributed to the morris and rapper workshops. After Doulas we hardly missed a year camping, though some years we only managed to attend one or two weekend events.



Dennis enjoyed Folk Camps as a complete relaxation from the stress of work. He loved to play music, and was often to be heard practising his Northumbrian pipes or recorder at our tent ready for the evening session. He favoured his pipes and recorders more than his fiddle – he never practised the fiddle, but would bring it to morning music workshops. He was a quiet man, a man of few words, but would come out with the occasional gem. He had a gentle sense of humour, which he never lost during his long stay in hospital.

In January this year Dennis was admitted to the Royal United Hospital in Bath suffering severe acute pancreatitis. He fought the illness for 14 weeks, most of that time in Intensive Care, first in Bath and later at the Bristol Royal Infirmary where he died on 28th April. For the last five weeks in hospital I was unable to visit, but fortunately David and I were able to be with him when he died. His funeral on May 22nd was a very small ceremony due to lockdown restrictions, with only six family members attending. One of his piping pupils, Sarah Willcox, played for him at the start and end of the ceremony. We couldn't let him go without some of his favourite Northumbrian music. Dennis will be greatly missed by his family and his many friends, but especially by his five-year-old grand-daughter Genevieve, whom he loved dearly.

Stephanie Brown