

Extent: Autumn 2022

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

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 Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/folkcampholidays/

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Message from the Chairman

Despite everything, I think we can mark 2022 as a successful year for Folk Camps.

After two years of no Folk Camps due to the pandemic, we returned to camping. It was a bit tentative early in the year; Council had to keep up with whatever was going on in the UK with the health situation, and make (and change) our covid policy to keep up. But in the end, we were able to run camps pretty normally. Thank you very much to all of you that carried out Covid tests in advance of camps, and a special big thank you to the few people that tested positive and who unfortunately had to cancel, keeping everyone else safe. I thought that the camps I attended felt normal to me, and everyone was just so pleased to be at Folk Camps again. A big thanks to our volunteer camps staff who made everything run smoothly.

At our summer camps, we had a brilliant time at our beautiful new site at Hole Park near Rolvenden in Kent. The trees around the field were especially welcomed for shade in the mid-30s Celsius temperatures in July and August. We will definitely return there in future. But we have another new site for 2023, at Peakhill. This is Peakhill Farm, Honeypot Lane (what an attractive name!) in Suffolk. The field is flat, I have no idea why it is called Peakhill Farm! It is close to beaches and other places of interest, more details elsewhere in Extent.

I was really pleased to meet so many new people to Folk Camps this year, they made up a higher proportion of campers than usual. Several said they were made to feel very welcome by regular Folk Campers, they (and I) loved the feeling of community at a Folk Camp. Within a few days, many looked to me like they were already life-long Folk Campers. I hope to see them all again for many future years. They found out about Folk Camps from several sources: Facebook posts, from seeing the Folk Camps Party Band at various festivals over the last few years, or by word of mouth from friends who already attended Folk Camps. I thank all of you that attracted so many new campers.

Our overall numbers were down this year, possibly from some people still being Covid-wary. I hope that next year we can get back to usual numbers, and that you all bring more people into the Folk Camps family to share music, song, dance and a feeling of a special community together.

Patrick Self



Our Site for 2023

There will be a new site for the 2023 camps – Peakhill.

Situated North-East of Ipswich, some campers may recognise the area as near our Beddingham site we camped in some years ago. Whilst the name may suggest a slog up steep inclines, the site at Peakhill offers nice flat field and excellent surroundings.

Peakhill is near not one, not two, but three excellent beaches – Southwold, Aldeburgh, and Dunwich beaches all a drivable distance away. The pier at Southwold also boasts beautiful views as well as some seaside sites to fill your (hopefully) sunny days.



For those with a more peaceful inclination, historical Leiston Abbey is sure to be of interest, as well as the plethora of protected green space sanctuaries east and south of the site – make sure you pack your walking boots!

Peakhill looks to be an excellent site for a new year of camping, and we can't wait to see you there, Summer 2023!

Anthony Keen





Camper's Comments

Every year, Staff urge campers to leave notes in the comments box. The efforts are so strong mainly because it is the best and easiest way to get feedback on how the year's camps were run – they are your 'reviews' of the camp, what went well, and what we could do for next time to make your holiday even better.

Whilst it's impossible to respond to every single comment individually, this Camper's Comments section is here to respond to the comments we got about similar things, as well as those comments Council is specifically acting on.

Overall, thankfully, in our first year back after a... mysterious hiatus, most of the comments were positive! Campers had a good time and enjoyed their holidays. There were, in particular, a lot of positive comments about the new site – Rolvenden. There are clearly a lot of nearby attractions, and the site had a lot to offer. As such, Council is looking into its future use in the coming years. Now, to answer a few specifics:

Catering

As detailed in our previous edition of Extent, the catering menus saw quite the shakeup this year to better cater to the changing diets of our campers. The food was received positively by campers, and the varied nutritional offering was gladly received.

Of course, Changes here and there are to be expected as these menus are put into practice – whilst one dish is incredible to eat, it might be a headache to make, taking much longer than is fair for someone on cook's duty (which we'll get to in a second). As such, expect that same variety in future camps, along with some changes to try and streamline the process for everyone.

Duties

Duties are a cornerstone of Folk Camps – a week would be impossible to run without them. However, as has been long discussed by campers over hot mugs of cocoa waiting for Singaround to begin, some duties seem bigger than others, and working out exactly what a duty entails can be a difficult task when you're a new camper.

The ethos behind duties that all should theoretically take the same number of hours to complete across a week. Some duties take a whole day, but only that day. Some take small chunks of time across a whole week – this is on purpose, to best cater to every camper's differing needs. However like to make this clearer on the outset, before campers even set foot on-site.

To aid this, on our booking forms and on the website, Folk Camps will be adding some short descriptions of each duty, helping campers be as informed as possible for when it's time to put their name down on the warden's duty sheet.



What Three Words

'What Three Words' is a geolocation system that attributes its namesake to small squares of the world, in theory ensuring if you have those three words, you can find a precise location. It's a system that has been used by Ambulance services for some years now and has been suggested by multiple people to employ in camp information, helping people find the site itself. We'll be sure to add this in for future seasons.

Hopefully, these responses go some way to show that your voices are indeed heard! Your opinions and ideas are the main way we can go from strength to strength every year and offer an even better holiday to you in 2023.

Anthony Keen

February Craft Break – Moves to Halsway Manor

Our February hotel-based Craft Break has a new venue this year: Halsway Manor in Somerset. We have moved from the previous venue due to an unsustainable price increase. You may have been to Halsway Manor in the past for folk events.

At the time of writing, there are just 5 rooms remaining at the hotel for this event, so if you are interested, then make your booking quickly! Also, the price will increase to the late rate on 6th December, another reason to book and pay soon.

Or you can even stay in your campervan at a reduced fee (Brrr!)

The craft break includes music, song and dance, with many craft workshops too. In a hotel setting with all meals provided. Monday 6th February 2023 to Friday 10th.

More details here: https://www.folkcamps.co.uk/camp/?camp=309

Patrick Self



On Catering

Everyone likes to eat well on holiday... but at Folk Camps we have a bit of a dilemma as all our food is cooked by volunteer cooks of the day. We need to make sure that the menus are easy to cook, nutritious, tasty, and do not take too long... and need to be cooked in a camp kitchen. I am frequently amazed at the creativity of the cooks of the day and the delicious food that comes out of the kitchen each day. I am also aware of how tiring the day cooking can be and am wanting to try to improve things for campers.

We also have another problem as the tastes of people are changing. We have more vegans and vegetarians. We also have some issues with suppliers – as Bookers is no longer supplying big quantities of some things we have used for years. This is particularly true of the pudding mixes we use frequently to make desserts such as crumbles and sponges.

The catering committee is going to think about our menu and whether there are changes that should be made.

It would be really useful to have feedback on the current menu, cooks of the day duties and possible menu changes.

Please email <u>cateringideas@folkcamps.co.uk</u> with suggestions and thoughts relating to this so we can include your input into our discussion.





Liz Cooper Catering Committee



A Thank You to Graham

This year, Folk Camps says goodbye to Graham Clements. Don't worry, whilst some may suspect as they see the image of Graham teetering on top of the marquee – this is not an obituary.

Graham has been Folk Camps' Equipment Manager since 2015. Alongside Steve Porritt, Graham has maintained, serviced, delivered, and set-up all of Folk Camps' equipment for our camps. Before Week 1, he and his team are working tirelessly to ensure your camp is as enjoyable and safe as possible.

On behalf of all our membership, Folk Camps want to give a huge thanks to Graham and all the work and expertise he has offered the society.

And with the farewell to Graham, we also say hello to our new Equipment Manager – Brian Flower! You may have had Brian as a Warden on our Week 4 camp this Summer just gone. Our marquee camps are now in his very capable hands, and we give him the warmest of Folk Camps welcomes!

Anthony Keen





Putting catering contract out to tender

Following Jenny Hopper's decision to retire from the role, we are looking for a Provisioning Contractor for Summer camps 2023. We would like to thank Jenny for all her hard work as Provisioner since 2013 – she has done a fantastic job.

The Provisioning Contractor will be responsible for negotiating with traders for the supply of food and provisions to summer catered camps. In 2023 there will be one site at Peakhill Farm, Theberton, Norfolk with four weeks of marquee camps only.

This role will involve liaising closely with the Catering Sub-committee of the Council of Management to establish the requirements for each camp and translate these into orders with a Cash and Carry company and local suppliers. It involves finding local suppliers and establishing a good working relationship with them. The role will also involve the creation of folders with all paperwork relating to Food Hygiene requirements, ensuring the kitchen has all items relating to Food Hygiene and that caterers are aware of their responsibilities regarding Food Hygiene.

The provisioning contractor will be expected to be available to support set up and break down of the kitchen including liaison with suppliers at these points and sorting out/ disposal of any surplus food at the end of the camps.

As well as the specific tasks outlined above, the contractors will be expected to attend the council meetings on Zoom and some face-to-face meetings.

This post is paid, on a self-employed, contract basis, initially for 12 months. We estimate that this role will involve approximately 200 hours' work over the year.

Please contact Liz Cooper if you want more information, by email: cateringideas@folkcamps.co.uk (Please email to arrange a call if you would rather speak to someone).

The closing date is **31st December 2022**. If you would like to apply, please send an email outlining how and why you think you can fulfil the role.

Liz Cooper





We're Going on a Site Hunt

Finding new sites for future Folk Camps is not an easy task. In an effort to get some results, we will be reinvigorating the Site Finding Working Group. If you'd like to help us find future sites, get involved and email findsites@folkcamps.co.uk — Sue Malleson even has a handy song to help out too!

We're going on a Site Hunt!

We're going to find a good one. What a beautiful day! We're not lost. Oh-oh! Reeds!

Long, thin marshy ones.
We can't camp on them.
We can't camp near them
We'll have to walk through them
Squish! Squish!



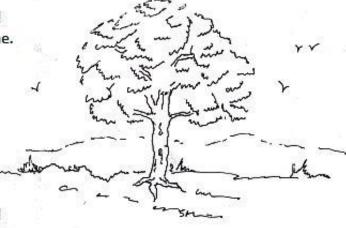
We're going to find a good one.
What a beautiful day!
We're not lost.
Oh-oh! Tight corner
On the access to the field.
We can't get caravans under it
We can't get them over it
We'll have to squeeze them through
Scratch! Scratch!

We're going on a Site Hunt!

We're going to find a good one.
What a beautiful day!
We're not lost.
Oh-oh! No water pressure
Not a dribble in the morning
We wash hands without it
We can't make tea without it
We'll have to bring buckets
Slosh! Slosh!

We're going on a Site Hunt!

We're going to find a good one.
What a beautiful day!
We're not lost.
Oh-oh! Overhead power line
Buzzing like a hornet
We can't camp under it
We can't camp near it
We'll just have to leave it
Trudge! Trudge! Trudge



We're going on a Site Hunt!

We're going to find a good one.
What a beautiful day!
We're not lost.
Oh-oh! Lots of bumps
And gradients
We can't camp under them
We can't dance over them
We'll have to roll down them
Bumpety! Bump!

We're going on a Site Hunt!

We're going to find a good one.
What a beautiful day!
We're not lost.
Oh-oh! Muddy entrance
Thick sticky smelly mud
We can't camp near it
We can't drive over it
We'll have to choose another field
Squelch! Squelch!

Quick, hurry back through the marsh,

Around the corner, past the water drip, The power line, the bumps and the mud Jump under the duvet and dream Of your very first folk camp!



The History of Lemon Jousting

Mark Butler read this at Week 4 this year, and we loved it so much, we thought it best to print it into Extent for everyone to see. Enjoy!

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen. It was with surprise and great pleasure that I was invited to give this evening's lecture.

This lecture would normally be a virtual reality, 3D multi-media experience but due to the short notice, I don't have my PowerPoint pack with me, so I am sorry that today you will have to make do with the abridged version. If you are so interested you will be able to find the full 6-hour version of the lecture on YouTube where I delivered it to the Oxford Union Society.

"The origins, history, and myths of Lemon Jousting"

So, we start with...

Out of Africa. Early man documented their lives in cave paintings, and it is here in the rudimentary but charming illustrations of the joust that we see our very first evidence of the use of basic tools; this early period known as the 'Lemon Age' predates bronze and other tool-use and it is some millennia later that we see anything more sophisticated than the jousting spoon.

Ancient Egypt was renowned for the religious elevation of 'the joust' and it's in the tomb of Tutankhamun where we find many treasures including the beautiful gold lemon spoon grasped by the tragic young boy king as he lay cold in his sarcophagus.

The game was played in Roman times of course, evidenced by the many intricate Roman mosaic tiled floors with illustrations of it being played in the gladiatorial arena. Of course, the Roman variant was played to the death and had the added element of danger and excitement with one participant holding a wasps nest and the other a tiger. So loved was the game in Roman times that it was played far and wide across the empire, indeed there is the famous and tragic game captured at Pompeii fantastically caught frozen in time with the lemon in mid-flight between spoon and arena floor.

The Indo pacific game is an interesting variant, a beach game, played with coconuts rather than lemons which as you would expect, requires the use of slightly larger spoons.

The game briefly appears in England's early history with a much debated two possible references to King Henry the Eighth playing it at court, but it's not clear whether he used lemons or some form of an alternative. Although it is known for certain the game was accompanied by a folk camp band playing the harp, the lute, the fife, the flute and the cymbal.

Looking at the modern game as we know it in this country; its roots can be traced back to the Industrial Revolution where Cornish tin miners would play a rudimentary variant of it the using picks, shovels, and pasties. The winner of each joust would receive their



opponent's pasty as their prize; the most successful and well-known player was John 'the slim' Williams, who sadly missed his chance of achieving true greatness when he was at his peak, due to the great Cornish pasty drought of 1786 to 1790.

The Political version is often a long and sometimes dull game, lemons played over the years include 'the Poll tax', 'Brexit' and of course more recently 'party gate'. The game has become so deeply embedded within our adversarial parliamentary system that the mace and orb, always present in the debating chamber are obvious symbolic representations of the lemon and spoon. Indeed, it wasn't until 1903 that the weekly joust between opposition and government was replaced with Prime Minister's questions.

Now I must mention that sadly, in England, it wasn't until 1928 that women were allowed to publicly play the game. This change was brought about by the brave heroines of the 1925 Lemon riots lead by the courageous Emily Roberts with her 'Justice Is Fair' campaign, her followers collectively known as the JIF Lemongettes

Like many sports there is a dark side to the game with secret unlicensed bare-knuckle lemon jousting popular in some deprived areas, resulting in the twin problems of gambling and poor-quality folk bands. All in all, this dark side sometimes gives the sport a rather edgy reputation.

So, what of the future for the modern game? It is exciting to see it listed as an Olympic exhibition sport in the Paris 2024 Olympics and hopefully it will be fully adopted by the 2028 Los Angeles games. With so many young, talented, and exciting players coming into the game, the future looks bright.

My personal hope is that the lure of big money and global TV rights on offer doesn't take the game away from its grass roots origins, but I'm confident that it will have a popular following for many generations of players and spectators – especially at Folk Camps.

Mark Butler



A Folk Camps Graduation

Having recently passed the viva for my PhD in Creative Writing I badly needed a break. I was dismayed to discover, with a few weeks to go, that the graduation ceremony fell right in the middle of our preferred (long awaited! Finally for the first time after lockdown!) marquee week at Folk Camps. I'd never been to a graduation ceremony despite being eligible for four(!!) over the years and had always promised myself that if I ever got a PhD I would attend. I thought about swapping weeks but in the end, I just picked Folk Camps over the ceremony and made my peace with it. Or so I thought.

Either myself or my husband must have mentioned the situation to someone, because on the very day my ceremony was happening (far away in Bath), something wonderful and very particular to the kind of community that is built during Folk Camps happened to me.

The song circle started out as usual: an eclectic combination of performances, every one unique and entertaining. Then suddenly, there was a commotion. Someone 'collapsed' while someone else called for a 'doctor', and the next thing I knew my children had adorned me with a golden gown (curtain) and a mortarboard (made from cereal packets and duct tape). I still didn't really know what was happening until I was ushered across the marquee to be presented with my PhD 'certificate.' I

couldn't stop smiling.

Afterwards, I swore to wear the cap and gown forever (but had to give it back for party night of course).

One of the best things about what happened was the thought that went into it, the team effort. Jonny and Jess set up the whole thing with their amazing acting, Louisa made the mortarboard, the gown was borrowed from Jenny. Other campers leapt up to help with the 'ceremony' as it turned out Rachel had recently presided over the degree ceremony at the university she worked at. I was 'presented' by Patrick (chair of Folk Camps) and awarded the degree by Regine (our leader that week).





Turns out I made the right choice when I decided Folk Camps would be the best option over my degree ceremony. Despite only knowing some campers for the short time we'd been at camp, they'd gone out of their way to do this for me, to make up for what I'd missed, with this kind, funny, creative gesture. So touching, and so totally Folk Camps. Also, everyone called me Dr Mel for the rest of the camp, which I pretended not to enjoy immensely.



PS If interested, my novels Little Darlings and The Replacement are available from every good bookstore!

Mel Golding



What Shall We Do with the Shrunken Trailer?

At one of the Kent Folk Camps this summer, there was much talk about song writing, and at one point, Marigold admitted that she had long wanted to write a song called 'What Shall We Do with the Shrunken Trailer'!

The camp set to, and a sheet of paper was put out for suggestions. At Party Night dinner the following was sung – of course it was to the tune of 'What Shall We Do with the Drunken Sailor?'

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE SHRUNKEN TRAILER? WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE SHRUNKEN TRAILER? WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE SHRUNKEN TRAILER? EARLY IN THE MORNING

- 1. Fill it full of rice and wet it all over
- 2. Stick it in a solar oven till it rises*
- 3. Put in a mouthpiece and make it a tuba**
- 4. Attach it to a porta-shower pump like crazy
- *There was a 'solar oven' workshop at camp
- ** There was a wind section too

Keith Gregson



Bursary Applications

A reminder of our Bursaries Scheme:

We would like to welcome people to contribute to Folk Camps, to help keep folk traditions alive and make our holidays even better. We are all about volunteers so here's a way to help you be a part of it!

Two different bursaries are available for our current season:

- **Discover** bursaries are open to people active in folk traditions (musicians, callers, singers, etc.) who are new to Folk Camps.
- **Promote** bursaries are open to all and intended for people who can propose and enact a specific project to make Folk Camps more widely known. One successful project is a video of what happens on a summer week.

As well as a nearly-free holiday, the bursary is a great opportunity for you to develop your musicianship, calling or singing (perhaps in learning new repertoire or in honing your workshop skills); to improve your skills in promotion, publicity, or marketing; or just to try out something we think is worthwhile!

If you think you are eligible to apply for a Bursary, go onto our website's Bursaries section and follow the instructions to apply.

Please note that bursaries need to be submitted at least one month before the starting date of the camp you wish to use it for!

Anthony Keen



Update to Camper's Credits Policy

Folk Camps gives credits to our members for 2 reasons:

- Staffing a camp where we reward our volunteer staff. In addition to their free place, the member of staff gets some credit to bring a partner or family member etc. Usually, it is spent on the camp at which they staff, but if they don't spend them all at that camp, then some credit remains for a future holiday.
- Introducing someone new Anyone that introduces a new person to Folk Camps gains some credit. See the Introduce a Friend policy, here: https://www.folkcamps.co.uk/introduce-a-friend/

These credits cannot be turned into cash, they can only be used as a deduction from the price of a future Folk Camps holiday.

These credits usually get used within a season or two, because most people book more holidays than they are awarded credits.

However, sometimes the credits remain allocated to someone for a long period of time.

Our accountant pointed out that the camper credits appear in our Company Accounts as a liability. And we needed a policy to ensure that they do not remain forever.

The Folk Camps Council of Management ("Council") discussed this issue and have decided that we need to add a time limit to any credit, to ensure that they do not last forever. We have decided that from the time of allocation, credits should be used within 5 years, otherwise they will lapse. For any credits earned before 2022, the clock starts as of now. Therefore, no credits will expire for at least another 5 years. Don't Panic! In future, we may use expired credits to fund training or bursary places.

We will email anyone who has a significant credit balance to let them know what they have. If you have credits, you can use them for paying for family and friends to attend a Folk Camp.

This year, Kerstin put extra effort in to ensure that anyone who booked a Folk Camp and who had any credit for anyone in their booking party, that the credit was used before requesting any cash payment. This was a pleasant surprise to a few people.

The full details of the Credits Policy (including small print, terms and conditions, etc.) are on the website here, along with various other policies. https://www.folkcamps.co.uk/policies-and-legal/

If you have any questions or concerns, then please contact me.

Patrick Self



Folk Camps AGM

The Annual General Meeting of The Folk Camps Society Limited will take place at **2pm on Saturday 19th November 2022**, However there is a myriad of activities taking place throughout the day.

The AGM will be in person at Toddington village hall. We will have a full day to meet up together for the first time for 3 years.

It is a chance to meet up with friends you met at Folk Camp this year, or those you missed this year but want to see again. You can come to as much or as little of the day as you want. There are workshops in the daytime, a ceilidh in the evening, lots of time to socialise, and the official business of the AGM in the afternoon. Make sure you bring an instrument along!

Timetable for the day

- 11am Village hall opens for you to meet and chat to your Folk Camps friends all day. Plan your next year's camps. Coffee, tea, cakes, biscuits available
- 11.45am Music Workshop lead by Chris Jewell
- 12.45pm Lunch (soup and a roll)
- 2.30pm AGM (see below)
- 4pm Tea, coffee, cakes and snacks available in the hall
- **5pm** informal music session in the hall anyone can play, lead or join in
- **6pm** Hot food available in the hall (jacket potatoes)
- 7.30pm Reunion Ceilidh.
- Band: Jenny Newman, Andy and Alfie Glass
- MC Patrick Self with other Folk Camps callers

There is no bar, so please bring your own drinks

Reunion Tickets

Ceilidh tickets £5 on the door (accompanied under 16s free and don't need a ticket).

Annual General Meeting and New Council Members

All members, both Governing and Associate are entitled to attend and speak but only Governing Members can vote. If you are not yet a Governing Member, then sign up via the website. We have five candidates for Council, and so no need for a vote.

Folk Camps Council



Obituaries

Doug Brown

If you are not sure if you had ever met Doug Brown, then I would be fairly confident in saying you hadn't. As a couple of people wrote on Cold Bogmarsh, "he was truly a force of nature" and "I can't think of anyone at folk camp who inspired more genuine affection and sheer pleasure at being in his company." So, it really was once met, never forgotten.

He was a fine musician, even though he seemed to like to belittle his unquestioned talent. He definitely liked a challenge although I suspect the fiddle was one challenge too far. I remember him telling me he had spent weeks trying to master an accompaniment for a song on the melodeon – in the key of E on a G/D box! I can assure you there were easier options. Hearing Doug and Kate sing 'The Fish in the Deep' will be with me and in my head forever. (Kate recently sent me a link to the original version, and to me it sounded like a fairly ordinary song without Doug's magic harmony dust sprinkled on it.)

He enjoyed the challenge of calling, and rarely chose the simple option. He revelled in a bit of chaos and confusion – it was all part of his plan. I am not sure that I ever saw him use a microphone for calling dances, as he preferred to use his charisma and undoubted presence to get the instructions across.

Since 1986 he has led and been musician at too many camps to mention. Several generations of Folk Camp children (and for different reasons – parents) will remember him for his 'field rides for kids' and his infamous water slides – a cunning way of making sure they all had a good soapy wash during the week. His modus operandi was a concern to numerous Folk Camp Councils regarding health and safety, but in all the years there were no serious incidents. Doug was of course secretly more sensible than he let on.

Doug always had a glint in his eye and was always, always genuinely interested in everyone and everything. He made everyone he talked to on any subject believe they knew more than he did. In reality, that was rarely the case. The world was an amazing and wonderful place for him and his engineer's mind.

For many of the last 40 years, I have spent a week in his company at a Folk Camp. I can honestly say they were all a joy and pleasure to be in his company – although perhaps one week a year was enough! I feel sad for the way of his passing, but so lucky that our paths crossed, and that I – like so many of us now have the memories to treasure. He will be remembered with so much affection for years to come, and I hope his memory and the stories will live on for ever in the Folk Camp family.

Chris Jewell