

Extent – Summer 2024

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>

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

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Message from the Chair

I am looking forward to our summer Folk Camps which are approaching fast. I have booked to go to two summer camps, because one week is not enough for me(!). What about you? Two summer weeks are just about full, so make sure you book soon. And if you have friends that would enjoy a Folk Camp, then please encourage them to come along too.

The feedback I received from our spring Folk Camp weekends all sounded successful, with many people enjoying music, song and dance together. There are currently places on our August bank holiday events, which often get booked late in the season once people realise they still need a bit more Folk Camps fun. Though it helps our organisational planning if you book early please.

The Folk Camps Party Band is continuing to promote Folk Camps at the events they play at, despite Folk Camps not providing any further funding. The expenses of running the band are now self-funded by members of the band, but if you want, you can help them via their [Kofi link](#). This year at the Towersey Festival they will have a large marketing presence staffed by Folk Camps volunteers. The band also provides a valuable musical experience for the young Folk Campers who are a part of it, some of whom are likely to be Folk Camps musicians in the future.

We have some new marketing leaflets for this summer. They will be available for you at our summer and August camps. Please take some to distribute to friends, acquaintances and those you meet at any suitable folk events that you attend. Or please contact the office for some. Folk Camps mostly gains new members via word of mouth, so anything that you can do to encourage new people to attend Folk Camps is good for the continued flourishing of the organisation. Also, please see the article in this issue of Extent about ways that members have used Folk Camps Development Grants to build and promote their own folk activities, with a side benefit of also promoting Folk Camps. I hope you enjoy your summer dose of Folk Camps community!

Patrick Self, Folk Camps Chair

Our Site For 2024

There are still bookings open for our upcoming season of summer marquee weeks in picturesque Rolvenden, with a site conveniently located in the grounds of Hole Park. This offers a myriad of different activities to explore from the house itself, local beaches and a range of other historic



attractions (alongside our usual suite of folk-related activities!) The full listings of dates and staff for these weeks can be found on our website, and with spaces still available it's the perfect time to book your holiday with us!

Development Grants

Since 1996, the development fund grant scheme has been supporting projects promoting folk. We have already helped our members broaden their knowledge, record for use and for posterity, as well as introduce our music, dance and song to a wider audience. You can submit an application to help fund your folky project by up to £1000 to help the good work continue. If you are a governing member, you have a good idea and you know who to call, maybe we could help to make it happen. Get in touch to find out how you could be a part of it.

[Development Fund Grants](#)

The Development Fund & Bursary Working Group

Development Highlight - SELFolk

In 2012, Richard Jones set up a folk orchestra with the following aims:

- to encourage those in the area to participate in music making and other related Folk activities
- to provide a hub for information on local Folk related activities
- to provide a link to local Folk musicians and other services

The folk orchestra started running sessions for all ages and abilities, with any acoustic instrument. They learned a varied repertoire of folk tunes by ear and with music every Saturday morning for 2 hours in term time.

The folk orchestra, with a little help from a [Folk Camps development fund grant](#), has now blossomed into the South-East London Folk Orchestra (SELFolk). Often attracting upwards of 50 participants from the local area, SELFolk regularly perform at local community events. As well as having a broad range of folk tunes to play, SELFolk's gigs include songs, dancing and solo performances from their members. As well as spreading the joy of folk, they are great advocates of Folk Camps, advertising what we do and regularly attending.

To date, members of SELFolk have attended, joined the bands, performed, called and staffed both weekend and week-long Folk Camps. Thanks to Richard and those at the beginning of SELFolk's journey for fostering so many people's inner folkie!

If you are interested in finding out about local folk events in your area, would like to share folk-related activities you are involved in or might be interested in starting a group like SELFolk please get in touch via the office. We are planning a new section of the Folk Camps website (the Members' Network, as mentioned in the previous Extent) to provide information on local events or groups our members are involved in and are putting together guides on how you might start a folk group in your area.

Watch this space!

Barry Pollard from the Folk Camps Development Fund

Catering Notice – Cold Food and Drinks

Do you need to keep drinks or personal food cool at camp? Don't forget your food cooler box... Please remember that due to health and safety advice, we are not able to store your food or drink in the Folk Camps kitchen fridges.

There are many great cooler boxes and bags you can get nowadays – do bring yours to camp. If you invest in some ice from the supermarket you can keep food and drink nice and cold!

Allergies and diet requests: Folk camps operate a camp kitchen staffed by very capable and willing volunteers. A day in the kitchen is hard work and it has been made harder over the past few years by more and more dietary requests. The caterers respectfully ask that all campers try to limit their requests to necessary changes in the menu due to severe allergies.

If you have a dietary issue, the caterers will discuss those with you before the camp. You can look at the menu for the week and see what adaptations you can make to the meal e.g choose vegetarian option for one day, eat fruit instead of the dessert or provide some food for yourself that night.

Most vegetarian options are vegan so both vegetarians and vegans are catered for as well as meat eaters. We can provide options for gluten free diets or take nuts out of the menu but can't guarantee that there is no contamination in any of our food as the kitchen is small. The caterers and the cooks of the day will always try their best, but we cannot always create food that suits all people all the time.

Camper's Guide

Are you a new camper, one returning after a couple of years out or simply looking to confirm what would be a good idea to take and how the camp day will be structured? Our Camper's Guide is a good primer for getting you up to speed with Folk Camps and Folk Campers, while also helping any new campers find their feet if there's anything they're unsure about. Find it here [on our website!](#) There are guides for both summer weeks and weekend camps.

Fire Buckets

Due to the circumstances of our camps (and especially with some of the recent years being affected by increased temperatures and little rainfall), Council are advising that campers going forward bring along fire buckets to place alongside their tents, on top of the ones that are usually around camp. Though it can be tempting to store drinks or other items in them to keep cool, please do not do so as in the event of fire these could hamper any attempts to use the buckets for their intended purpose.

Folk Camp Council Annual Engagement Session

Following a change in how Folk Camps is running our regular AGM which is now online, we have made sure that we still have the chance to interact with members, hear any concerns and maintain a link between Council and our membership. Therefore, Council will be running a question-and answer session at one of the August Bank Holiday weekend camps each year going forward, with the first being held at the Northern camp in Bampton. Please, feel free to come along and ask anything you'd like to members of Council, who can then answer or investigate anything that comes up.

Folk Camps Merch!

If you want to wear some Folk Camps branded clothing, we have you covered. We have partnered with Impact Trading to provide a range of options for you at bargain prices.

There are high quality t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies and even branded bags: maybe an ideal way to store your camping crockery, your folk camps music books, or to take your towel to the beach!

More info on the website: <https://folkcamp.co.uk/folk-camps-merch-t-shirts-bags-and-more/>