

# Folk Camps Extent - Winter 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>.

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

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## **Our Summer Site For 2025**

We're very happy to announce that for our next year's summer site, we'll be returning to Rhayader, in the heart of the beautiful Elan Valley in mid-Wales. This area offers outstanding views, access to hiking and mountain biking as well as the local Elan Valley Visitor Centre for information about local sights and activities.



Bookings for 2025 camps are now open, and we very much hope to see you at one of our week-long or weekend Folk Camps next year!

**Oscar Roberts**

## **Paying for your Folk Camps Holiday**

When you book your 2025 Folk Camps holidays, you will now pay the deposit by card as part of the booking process. The website booking form will charge £20 per person in your booking.

This mechanism will reduce the admin steps that need to be carried out for each booking; this will save Kerstin time and effort, which also reduces Folk Camps' costs and helps us minimise price increases. This payment with booking will also remove the need for you to remember to make a bank transfer for your deposit.

You will still be responsible for paying the balance by bank transfer before each camp. The balance is due one month before weekend camps, and two months before summer weeks and the Craft break. If you do not pay the balance in time, then you lose the “early bird” price, and the higher rate is due. A few members find it helps their personal cashflow by spreading the payments of the balance over the year. E.G. by making monthly payments. If you want to do this, please contact our Admin Manager Kerstin Jewell, via [bookings@folkcamp.co.uk](mailto:bookings@folkcamp.co.uk).

**Patrick Self – Folk Camps Chair**

## Responses To Your Comments

Thanks, as always, for the feedback you provided on the range of holidays we ran in 2024. We have looked at all of your comments at the Working Weekend and, where there is a clear trend or preference, we will discuss how to make improvements.

Thank you for the positive feedback on our marquee site for the summer. Hole Park proved popular again and will remain on our list for sites in the future. However, we have listened and will look to rotate sites across the country starting with next year when we plan to go back to Rhayader in Powys. Thank you also for the suggestions of possible new places to camp, keeping our sites team busy. Don't forget to check out the guidance on site finding to give us a head start on any new find! <https://folkcamps.co.uk/finding-new-sites/>

We are also spending our time carefully looking at the cost of camping, cleaning products at camps and, a favourite, toilet facilities. Watch this space for news and don't forget to attend the online AGM on January the 18th for the chance to ask questions.

We take all of your comments seriously and try to tread a balanced approach that meets everyone's preference as often as we can. If you have a burning idea to improve Folk Camps and cannot believe we haven't made that change yet, you have the chance to make a real difference by joining Council. <https://folkcamps.co.uk/council/>

**Barry Pollard - Council Member**

## Books available from the Folk Camps Office

Did you know that Folk Camps sell copies of 4 publications that have been produced by current or previous members of Folk Camps? **A Companion to Join the Band** has music transcribed from the ever-popular orange book in to Bb and Eb notation. It was produced by Jill and Derek Hammond and costs £6.95 plus £4.00 p+p.

**In a Cottage in a Wood** was produced by Jean Blomfield (Auntie Jean) and is a fantastic collection of children's games. They include words and actions for 25 games including: Three Blind Jellyfish, Punchinello, I'm a Little Teapot. This is a fantastic resource for Folk Campers and teachers and is available for just £5.95 + £4.00 p+p.

Pete Hendy produced a book with accompanying CD from The Downfielders called **Teaching Children Country Dancing - when you are no expert yourself**. It contains an extensive guide on how to teach country dancing to young people, and instructions for 25 dances suitable for teaching to children and young people. Cost for the book and CD is £16.00 + £4.00 p+p.

Finally, Mic Spenceley's book **The Callers Manual** teaches the intricacies of being a Social Dance Caller and contains instructions for 30 dances written by Mic which draw on his 50 years' experience as a caller. If you ever fancy calling a dance at a Folk Camp, then this is an invaluable book to have. Cost is £5.00 plus p+p.

All of the books are available from the Folk Camps office. We will only charge you one lot of p+p if you purchase more than one item - so why not get one of each! Also **Folk Tunes for Recorders** is a collection of folk music arranged for recorders by the late Geoffrey Ginn. You can play midi files for each part and download the score - and what's more - it is free to download from the Folk Camps website. <https://folkcamp.co.uk/folk-tunes-for-recorders/>.

Other publications of interest are available from Gennie and Darren Grainger. Details are on the Folk Camps website. <https://folkcamp.co.uk/publications/>  
**Chris Jewell**

## Announcing the 2025 Folk Camps T-Shirt Design Competition

Calling all Folk Campers of every age and artistic talent! We're excited to announce a special opportunity to showcase your creativity on our limited-edition 2025 Folk Camps T-shirt. We invite you to design an original artwork that celebrates what Folk Camps means to you. The winning design will be printed on our exclusive 2025 Rhayader T-shirts, worn with pride by fellow campers, and will forever be a part of our Folk Camps legacy.

### Details:

- Who Can Enter? All Folk Campers, of all ages, are welcome to submit designs!
- Judging: The winning design will be selected by the Folk Camps Council based on creativity, relevance, and originality.
- Prize: The winner will see their artwork featured on the limited-edition 2025 T-shirt, get a free shirt for themselves and receive a £30 Folk Camps credit.

How to Enter: Submit your design as a digital high quality scan or print to [marketing@folkcamp.co.uk](mailto:marketing@folkcamp.co.uk) by the submission deadline of \_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_. Don't miss this chance to leave your mark on Folk Camps history!

Also, as a reminder, you can order our existing catalogue of merchandise at <https://folkcamp.co.uk> for any Folk Camps-mad friends and family!

## **Folk Camps Party Band 2024**

Though no longer funded by Folk Camps Society, the Folk Camps Party Band still helps to inform audiences about Folk Camps.

Not only do the band have a good following at festivals and Cecil Sharp House for being an upbeat, joyous, colourful, party-vibe Ceilidh band, but Jenny & Andy also deliver workshops at festivals in the style of morning workshops at folk camp.

At all events they mention that musicians in FCPB are folk campers and how to find out more about FCS holidays. Thanks to all FCPB members and their families for their time and help this Summer in promoting Folk Camps.

Three self-promoted events together with workshops, concerts and ceilidhs at Sidmouth and Towersey Festivals, have continued to grow their presence on the folk scene. To be playing the Sidmouth Festival Bulverton Late Night Extra and the Towersey Grand Finale really was beyond any wildest hopes when they first started. They closed the season with a Knees-Up Ceilidh at Cecil Sharp House, London, in October.

It has also been a joy to see the younger players grow in confidence and ability. Their personal and musical development, as well as their involvement in trying to promote Folk Camps, is of paramount importance and is something we are very proud of.

Hopefully 2025 will be another eventful year. They have already secured Bromyard Festival and are working hard to generate more.

Thank you to everyone who has given the band their support!

**Susie Savage, Jenny Newman and The Folk Camps Party Band Team**

## Towersey Festival 2024 – A Folk Camps First



This Summer we had our first ever Folk Camps stall at a festival. The stall was free to Folk Camps as Towersey's organiser, Joe Heap, was so grateful to Jenny Newman for all the support from Folk Camps Party Band over the years. It was a great opportunity therefore to test the interest level at a small festival.

Throughout the five days of the festival there was a steady trickle of interested parties engaging in conversations about Folk Camps. It was nice to have the time and space to answer people's questions. Possibly as many as 25 folk campers generously gave their time by helping out doing a shift on the stall. Thank you all! I think it is fair to say that we all enjoyed spreading the word about folk camps and trying to explain it, which isn't easy in 5-10 minutes! The stall was also a bit of a meeting place for folk campers (including the valuable plug board for phone charging!), so was quite social and this helped attract people to the stall. Many people signed up to our mailing list and took promotional leaflets and cards.

A variety of ages showed interest and we had some very positive reactions. Some people came over who were past folk campers and hadn't been for a long time, many had never heard of us - some saying "how do I not know about this?" Families and young single adults were the groups most interested. Obviously the real test is if any people from Towersey book for next year – so we won't know the real impact until next Summer.....

I think it is worth doing a stall again and trying other festivals with a core of folk music and dancing. Towersey was the right size at about 3-4,000 attending and had a definite 'fit' regarding the type of people at this kind of festival who

enjoy Ceilidhs and workshops all day long, a wide range of music, music sessions, lots of craft activities and family activities. It had a friendly, community atmosphere very comparable with the Folk Camps experience.

If a group of campers are planning to go to a festival next year and wish to run a Folk Camps stall, the gazebo, banner, and posters can be supplied to you. If anyone is interested in this and wants more information, **please contact Susie Savage on Facebook or via the FCS office.**

**Susie Savage - Council Member**

## **Recently Deceased**

Folk Camps are sorry to hear of the deaths recently of long-standing Folk Campers and previous members of staff. **Shoi Finn** and **Roy Nicholls** were both a big part of Folk Camps from the mid 1960 onwards.

We also learnt recently of the death of **Roger Conway**, who was a significant member of Folk Camps, having been Administration Manager and much more.

**Judy Pierce** also passed away recently, who was also a Folk Camper of many years.

We send condolences to all their families and know they will all be remembered fondly and much missed.

We are hoping to provide obituaries in the spring edition of Extent.

## The Folk Camps Archive – Now Part Of The Vaughan Williams Memorial Library



Members may be interested to know that Folk Camps Society historical papers have been archived at the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library, part of EFDSS at Cecil Sharp House in London.

This includes minutes of Council meetings and AGM/ EGMs going back to 1967, Accounts, copies of Extent and Development Fund Applications.

If you wish to view these or any other items in their archive collections or journal back-issues, they need to be ordered 3-4 working days in advance of your visit.

They also have many books, songs, sound recordings and current journals in their library. The library is free to visit (you don't have to be a member of EFDSS) and they have a wealth of material. If you are searching for a book, poem, song or dance, they will be very pleased to help you.

**Opening hours:** Tues-Fri: 10-5, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat of each month: 10:30-4

Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7AY

**Website:** [www.vwml.org](http://www.vwml.org) **Email:** [library@efdss.org](mailto:library@efdss.org)



**Susie Savage – Council Member**

## **Adding To Our Weekend Programme – Young Adults**

Over the last year, Council has been exploring the possibility of creating another weekend camp to add to our calendar to help our members engage with Folk Camps and foster our community focus. With that in mind, we're proud to announce that we're looking into the creation of a new weekend camp aimed for early summer, better equipped to cater to our younger adult members (18+). Not yet definite for 2025, but we are working hard on finding a suitable location. Details and booking information are to follow, but for now please feel free to contact myself and the rest of the marketing team at [marketing@folkcamp.co.uk](mailto:marketing@folkcamp.co.uk) or another member of Council if you or a family member would be interested!

**Oscar Roberts**

## **Covid and Illness at Folk Camps**

You may have noticed that there is no longer any specific reference to Covid on the Folk Camps website. We follow the UK Government guidance regarding Covid. We now respond to Covid in the same way as any other infectious disease.

If you think you have Covid or any other infectious disease while at camp, please isolate until your symptoms cease and let a member of staff camp know. We form a close-knit community at each Folk Camp and do not want to spread any illness.

Folk Camps no longer provides Covid tests. Individuals are responsible for their own health whether they suspect Covid or any other illness.

See [booking condition 6](#) if you have any infectious disease, either just before or while at camp.

**Patrick Self - Folk Camps Chair**