

EXTENT

2026 | Spring



in this issue...

- A Loxwood Tune
- Obituary – Steve Mundy
- May Day Bank Holiday Weekend

...and much more!

Extent – Spring 2026

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/folkcampsholidays/>

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Message From the Chair

Summer is here (or so they say)! There is a lot to look forward to, not just a change in the weather.

This summer we are looking forward to going back to Orcop. Although it is a village hall, it is nowhere near a village in a quiet countryside with lovely views. We do have more limited space because of the size of the hall, so have had to cap our weeks at a lower level than for a marquee site. Spaces are going quickly – **weeks 1 and 3 are already full** – so if you haven't booked yet don't hesitate!

As we approach the end of our early bird pricing for the summer weeks, it is also nearly time to pay the balance. Please respond in a timely fashion to our requests for payment – there are people on the waiting list who will be offered your place. Don't forget the deadline is **2 months before the start of your camp!**

The season has already kicked off with the Craft Camp at Halsway Manor and Loxwood over the May Day bank holiday weekend. Both events were well attended and enjoyed. Thanks to all the staff and everyone who contributed. Next up are our two late May bank holiday weekends in Dalton and Miserden – don't forget to book your place to get that early holiday feeling.

I had a great time at Loxwood getting my tent out for the first time this year and enjoying much more sunshine than predicted in the forecast. We had music, dancing, singing and even the odd trip to the pub. To top all of that, we also debuted the new all-electric shower pump. If you are not familiar with this innovation, you have something more to look forward to at a Folk Camp near you. Early feedback seems to agree that it is a wonderful addition to our camping experience:

“Brilliant innovation of the all-electric wonder shower.”

Also, if there was any further doubt as to how good a time we all have there, check out the article showing how one family felt after attending their first ever Loxwood!

We are running the weekend for younger people again this year at Little Horwood – our Knees-Up Weekender was a great success in 2025 and we are hoping to build on it this year when we repeat the event on 3rd July. For more information check out our website and look for the article later on in this edition.

This is my first note as Chair, so I would like to take the time to thank everyone for their continued support in making the holidays that we all enjoy run successfully. Thanks to my fellow council members, the contractors, all of the volunteer staff and everyone that contributes with workshops, performances, jobs on site and just generally joining in the singing, playing and dancing.

Here's to a great summer – see you in a field soon.

Barry Pollard
Folk Camps Chair

Our Summer Camps 2026

Our week-long hall camps are set to make a grand return this summer at



Orcop, a secluded hall nestled in the south of Herefordshire. Having gone eight years since our last camp at the site, it promises to be a solid mix between the upsides of a traditional marquee camp in peace, quiet and the picturesque views of nature, from the surrounding countryside to up at the stars. while also bringing better

facilities than a long trudge to the toilet block first thing in the morning. Spaces for our summer weeks are quickly filling up, with two weeks already fully booked, so if you're still yet to book your place don't hesitate!

Oscar Roberts – Landscape photo credit: Steve Porritt



May Day Bank Holiday Weekend

As I mentioned in my letter, we had a lovely time at Loxwood this year and have been going there for the early May bank holiday for some time now. However, it hasn't always been the case! We have used other sites, such as Wildhern and Chiddingly and, at one time, didn't have a holiday then at all. Next year, we won't be able to use Loxwood for the same weekend so we had a decision to make – where should we go? We were able to speak to those of you who attended the camp this year and think about where else it might be possible to go. Lorna and Brian did a lot of research into the places we are using at the moment and have used in the recent past. After consulting and deliberation, we came up with a solution we hope you all like.

In 2027, we plan to run the early May bank holiday weekend at Miserden, a beautiful little village near Stroud in the Cotswolds. We will then hold the later May bank holiday weekend at Loxwood, as they have availability then. If you want to find out more about either of these locations, just follow the links to the current camps and hopefully we will see you there.

While we are on the subject of sites, don't forget that we are always on the look out for new sites, either with halls or for marquees. Generally speaking, sites that are out of the way, with a large flat field and in a beautiful area of countryside are what we hope for. If you want to help out, have spotted something with potential in a place you would love to go on holiday, or if you're just interested in the process, please check out our guide for finding a suitable site [here](#).

Barry Pollard
Folk Camp Chair

A Folk Camps Donation From Roy Nicholls

Many of you will remember Roy Nicholls who has featured in many peoples' Folk Camp memories. At his funeral there was a collection, and his daughter Paula kindly donated this collection money to Folk Camps and asked that it be used in a way to encourage young people to play folk music. This, she said, is what Roy would have wanted.

Therefore, Folk Camps Council decided to purchase 20 copies of Join The Band which will now be available for use at all of our summer weeks. They have been marked and labelled in big letters as belonging to Folk Camps so hopefully none of them will be lost. I personally think these should be now known as the 'Join Roy's Band' books from now on, so that his memory lives on with every use of the book.

There was also enough money to buy 5 more copies of The Unexpected Polka books to replace the copies that have 'walked'. These will also be labelled in big letters, so if in future you see anyone using a Folk Camps copy of either of these books outside of Folk Camps, please ask them to send it back to the office.

Chris Jewell

Speciality Folk Camps

As we all know, a normal Folk Camp will include different workshops in a wide variety of folky things, but almost guaranteed to be represented at every camp are singing, dancing and playing tunes.

That is why Folk Camps have run 'speciality' camps in all these 3 things for many years. At these camps, the majority of time will be heavily weighted towards the title.

The **Dancer's Weekend** is from **5th-7th June** at Miserden Gloucestershire. There really is no mystery - it is for people who like dancing - and I am leading it this year with Peter and Moira Gutteridge providing the music. If you think that Levi Jackson, Devil's Dream and Bucksaw Reel are the best dances ever, then prepared to be surprised. Great dances they are, but in my opinion there are so many more just as good and better. It is so satisfying when a slightly tricky dance all knits together, and that is what I am aiming for.

For musicians, there are 2 camps. The Session Camp has been renamed this year to '**Musicians - by Ear Weekend**'. For musicians among you, you will know that a 'session' is usually many tunes played in a pub by ear. Our 'session weekend' has never been anything like that so it was felt that the name was misleading. What does happen is the learning of a handful of tunes by ear by various and different methods - and lots of repetition. The music is handed out for those that want it at the end of the weekend, but anyone can have it at any point if they want. This year the camp is led by Dave Ball and Ben Thackeray - both with huge experience and significant folk music CV's, and takes place at Miserden, Gloucestershire from **12th-14th June**. So you need to book quickly if you wish to attend. There is also dancing in the evening and maybe some singing too!

Our other musicians' weekend is the '**Musicians - with Music Weekend**' run by Peter and Moira Gutteridge at Beckford in Worcestershire. For this

weekend you will be given music and parts to play according to your instrument and ability. This year, it is also happening from **12th–14th June**. The '**Singers Camp**' at Miserden in Gloucestershire runs from **17th – 21st June**. Of course, most of the workshops are singing, but you will also find a bit of dancing happens in the evenings.

And lastly but by no means least, **The Knees Up Weekend** is a specialist camp for young people. Late nights and a later start in the mornings maybe, but still based on the traditional Folk Camps Model. It runs from 3rd – 5th July in Little Horwood in Buckinghamshire.

These weekends need support! We have sourced expert leaders and musicians, booked lovely village halls and fields and ordered glorious weather, but if people don't support them, don't be surprised if they don't happen next year. So please support any weekends that appeal to you – and bring your friends too!

Chris Jewell

*Jenny has brought her fiddle a pleasure to be heard
With perfect fourth position and sweet harmonic thirds
She'll play her jigs and polkas till the middle of the night
Don't ask her though to sing a song she'll probably die of fright*

Paul Cooke

Obituary – Steve Mundy

It is with a heavy and broken heart that I have to announce the passing of Steve Mundy in January of this year. He fought a long battle with cancer, but eventually it got him in the end, he died peacefully in my arms.

He loved going to Folk Camp from the very first time we went. Every year he looked forward to where the camps would be pitched, especially the Marquee and would book nearly every camp that was running year after year. He really enjoyed the many friendships that he made and valued them all highly. He often said the Folk Camp



was his family, a sentiment that I also feel, especially since January.

He loved playing his music and used to say that music was in his DNA. Often he would play from the early morning practice to the late night sessions. He enjoyed the song circle, playing himself and listening to other musicians and performers.

Another part of Folk Camp that he enjoyed was doing the duty in the cooks tent and helping out where he could around the camps. Folk Camp gave him the confidence to begin writing his own stories, songs, music and to start singing.

Thank you to everyone in Folk Camp who knows us, you have given so much enjoyment, love and music to both of us over the years.

Steve was the greatest husband, soul mate and best friend I could have wished for. I lost my better half in January.

Three Companions

*We are three companions
Walking down the road of life
Two in front, holding hands
Talking to each other*

*The other, silent behind
We never speak him
But know he is always there*

*We all walk together for a while
Through the verdant
And colourful countryside
Among trees, rivers, mountains and fields*

*But there comes a time
When you release my hand
And walk away
With our silent companion*

*I am left to walk on my own
Where once we were three
Now there is only one
But the countryside has lost its colour
And the path is rough and rocky
My footsteps are heavy*

*After a time our silent companion
Who is always dressed in black
Comes back alone and walks behind me again*

*Where once we were three
Now there are only two*

*In time I know I will walk away
From the road of life
As you did before me
And we will be together again*

*I love you
I will always love you
There will be no end*

Irena Mundy