

Folk Camps Election to Council 2019.
There are 10 candidates for 6 places

Candidate statements



Rebecca Boram Proposer: Lou Tribus, Seconder: Marcus de Frettes

Friends, Romans and Folkcampers, lend me your tent pegs! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to run for council. I have recently returned to Folk Camp after attending when I was young with my extended family. I have very fond memories of these holidays including learning new tunes, dancing and general silliness. There is always so much to explore and appreciate at camp. I remember running around fields in all-weathers, going on adventures and people taking time to teach me tunes. I truly cherish these memories of inclusivity and musicality that these holidays always provided me. It is this that has stayed with me and why I wanted to return as an adult.

I have recently moved to Bristol and work for a large multinational company in HR and Analytics supporting Europe, the Middle East and Latin America. In my role I am responsible for collating and interpreting data to help inform decisions and implement continuous improvement processes. I have been fortunate to work in several sectors and countries; each with their own unique challenges and opportunities. Outside of work I love to play the flute and regularly play in trad sessions.



Amanda Colman Proposer: Anthony Keen, Seconder: Lou Tribus

I have been going to Folk Camp for 15 years, since I was 11 years old. I represent the generation of young adults who respect the history and tradition of folk camp, but also recognise that change is sometimes needed. I have worked in heavily administrative roles since I finished university in 2015, and I also have experience engaging with and managing students. When I worked at Oxford University I organised the open days and interviews for incoming candidates, most of whom were the same age as the young adults in Folk Camp. I have a particular interest in promoting music amongst the younger generations of folk campers. I think that the work the Party Band is doing is unprecedented both for Folk Camps and for young musicians, and I would be most interested in engaging with projects like this.



Anne Guthrie Proposer: Lou Tribus, Seconder: Marcus de Frettes

I first learnt about Folkcamps from a flier in a north-eastern folk magazine in the late 90s and thought it looked fun. So eventually in May 2000 myself, partner and two year old went to camp at Dalton knowing no-one else! It took a few years to venture further south to week-long camps and a little longer for me to volunteer as a caterer. I enjoy dancing, and sometimes singing, but do not consider myself a musician. I do join the band using a series of different sized recorders and am enthusiastic rather than proficient.

I am a retired teacher (of Maths – there do seem to be many of us at folkcamp). I have previously run a DofE scheme and volunteered in other outdoor education groups. I am treasurer of the Northeast Recorder Orchestra and active in my local branch of the national Society of Recorder players. I am numerate, logical, reasonable and usually articulate.

I am standing for council because I feel that having enjoyed the environment of folkcamp for nearly two decades I should take some responsibility for making sure it runs efficiently. I have no particular allegiance to any of the many aspects of the community – singers, musician, dancers or just people! I am aware of the implications of our charitable status and the requirements which that places upon us. I also see the need to attract new campers and would like to keep an open mind about emerging ideas and consider them carefully

As a member of council, I would be interested in supporting those campers who like me, at the beginning, were a little flummoxed by the customs and mores of the smooth functioning of a camp. Although folk camps are friendly and welcoming places it is not always easy for newcomers to fit in to long established groups.



Mel Horton Marcus de Frettes, Seconder: Patrick Self

I first came to Folk Camp in my early twenties, invited by Caroline Self – a friend I had met at work – a weekend at Chiddingly where the sun shined all weekend, the boys could dance and everyone, young and old welcomed me and encouraged me to join in. This was something quite different! I had no idea at that moment how important folk camp would become to me, my family and friends. I returned after quite a big gap with my young children to Amroth in 2003 – we loved it and have returned every year but one ever since. My kids, Oscar and Indie have grown to love this summer holiday together and I hope one day they will bring their partners and children to be part of the experience

I'm standing for election to Council because I would like to help ensure Folk Camp continues to be a fantastic holiday for as many people as possible... current and future musicians, dancers and community minded folk. Over the years I've become more involved in the Folk Camps organisation, serving as a caterer. I've enjoyed helping to make peoples' holidays memorable through delicious food. Bringing people together in a kitchen has the potential to create laughter, friendships and creative cuisine. It's the part of folk camp I feel most confident to nurture. For the last couple of years I've got more involved in the Caterer's group and been invited to cater for the Council working weekend and this has persuaded me that perhaps there is more I could contribute to the running of the camps.

In my work life I'm a Change and Communication consultant so I hope I can also bring some of those skills to help council with its work in managing Folk Camp holidays. In this time of significant change, in our country, for our businesses and for voluntary organisations like Folk Camps, there are many changes we have to grapple with. Folk Camps has a long and important history that we need to build on, but also faces many challenges in remaining a vibrant, sustainable, fair and accessible Society so that its aims can be furthered in bringing Folk music, dancing and traditional skills to its community. I think my background in Business and Communication could be helpful but am also aware staying true to our values and roots is fundamental to our success. It's an important balance.

Finally, a bit about me. This is the hardest bit! Folk Camps has a special place in my heart because it embodies values that are important to me – cooperation and collaboration, fun and laughter, community and helping others, being outside, live music and creating your own entertainment, diversity and giving everyone the chance to contribute to something that is bigger than the individual parts. Please give me your vote if you think I can help sustain and create Folk Camps for our generation and the next, being true to our values but also adapting so we appeal to campers now and in the future.



Sue Malleson Proposer: Kate Brown, Seconder: Marion Garnett

I stand for election with a group of highly-experienced candidates who, with other Council members and our skilled contracted managers, will move the Society forward to ensure that it continues to provide affordable folk camps. At this critical point in the history of Folk Camps Society, after a period of trading losses, it is essential that a combination of folk camping experience and business expertise is in place to return the Society's financial strategy to stability. If the decline is not arrested, Folk Camps will become unsustainable.

My folk camping started 55 years ago, my childhood having been accompanied by the sound of morris bells, folk tunes, songs and mummers plays. I have already had the privilege of serving for six years on Folk Camps Council. It is my greatest pleasure that I now attend folk camps with my children and that my grandchildren are now experiencing that magical experience, so hard to define, which we all cherish.

As a leader of both weekend and week camps, I understand what it is that makes a good folk camp however I am particularly mindful of our mission: "to preserve for the *benefit of the public English folk dances and songs and other folk music, dance and song (including singing games), and to make them known and to encourage the practice of them in their traditional forms.*" We should never lose sight of that purpose. If elected my aim is to steer the Society, in line with its mission, to a position of stability.



Tony Mealings Proposer: Derek Appleing, Seconder: Ann Appleing

I stand for election with a group of highly experienced candidates, who, with other Council members and our skills contracted managers, will move your Society forward to ensure that it continues to provide affordable Folk Camps. At this critical point in the history of Folk Camps Society, after a period of trading losses, it is essential that a combination of folk camping experience and business expertise is in place to return the Society to strong financial stability. If the decline is not arrested, Folk Camps will become unsustainable.

With a professional background of managing schools and music services, I also bring over 10 years experience as a trustee of both local and national bodies. I am a practicing musician and have been folk camping for over 30 years, during which time I have undertaken various staffing roles and served on Council, as well as introducing many young people to the organisation. I am committed to the aims of the Society to promote traditional folk music and dance in all its forms.



Lesley Pearcey Proposer: Brian Pollard, Seconder: Barbara Pollard

I first took part in Folk Camps in the early 1990's and had some very enjoyable holidays but various commitments meant I couldn't attend for the next few years. About ten years ago a friend announced that they were off to Folk Camp and I decided a return visit was long overdue. The Camp was just as good as I had remembered and since then I have been a regular attendee at the Bank Holiday weekend camps in the North of England.

I think it is important to continue to attract new people to Folk Camps. The idea of bursaries to encourage new campers and develop good ideas from existing campers is an excellent one and could possibly be linked with the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, so that the residential challenge (an essential part of the Gold Award) could be undertaken by assisting at a Folk Camp.

People hearing about Folk Camps may feel they do not know enough to decide if they will enjoy it or may find it too daunting to go to a camp for the first time where they don't know anyone. Setting up an email 'buddy' scheme would allow new or prospective campers to be put in touch with a volunteer camper, who could answer their questions and provide a 'friendly face' when they first arrive at camp. A simple and straightforward pricing structure, emphasising that there are no hidden extras and the excellent value of the catered summer holiday weeks will also help to encourage new campers. The summer week long camps tend to be towards the South of England and among other things I would hope to assist in finding likely sites further north, to broaden the possible audience. In addition to working with young people and managing staff as head of department I have many years experience of stewarding at folk festivals, including several years as team leader on the festival campsite at Whitby Folk Week, looking after about 20 volunteer stewards and 150 or so campers. Having taken early retirement from teaching, I now have time to become more involved in Folk Camps and their future development. Usually at the northern bank holiday weekends I am to be found dancing rapper or playing the whistle (neither of them done particularly well but with enthusiasm), drinking numerous cups of tea and enjoying the company of friends both old and new.



Patrick Self Proposer: Marcus de Frettes, Seconder: Barry Pollard

I was honoured to be co-opted back onto Council this August, and am now standing for election.

I was previously on Council for 6 years between 2010 and 2016, when I was chair for 4 years and also vice chair for 1. In that time I was involved in finance, marketing: including the proactive emails to members, the recruitment/replacement of all of our contractors due to retirements, setting up the bursaries, on the development fund committee, editing Extent and working on the IT committee. In my time on Council I put effort into upgrading some of our internal processes to be more suitable for the modern world. This is an ongoing activity which we need to continue. I built the current Folk Camps website after I finished on Council. My experience in the real world as a business analyst is helpful to Folk Camps: I have to deal with diverse stakeholders with conflicting needs and opinions to

reach a satisfactory consensus. I consider myself a doer, rather than someone that just talks about what should be done.

I have been a Folk Camper for my whole life, and recently have turned that experience to calling for dances at Folk Camps and also at external ceilidhs, where I have been surprised that people enjoy my calling and even pay me for it! At Folk Camps I dance and generally muck in with something practical to make things flow smoothly.

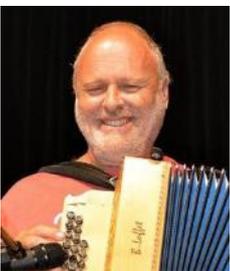
I am aware that Folk Camps needs to expand so that it can continue for another 50+ years. We need new campers, and also new staff, which means both developing our existing members and recruiting new people, via many different means. To attract new members we need to appear professional and safe, but also small and friendly. A careful balance. But for someone new to commit a week of their precious holiday to this unusual organisation we need to gain their trust and provide exciting reasons for them to be a part of it.



Mic Spenceley Proposer: Sue Malleson, Seconder: Andy Malleson

I stand for election with a group of highly-experienced candidates who, with other Council members and our skilled contracted managers, will move the Society forward to ensure that it continues to provide affordable folk camps. At this critical point in the history of Folk Camps Society, after a period of trading losses, it is essential that a combination of folk camping experience and business expertise is in place to return the Society's financial strategy to stability. If the decline is not arrested, Folk Camps will become unsustainable.

Having served Folk Camps as administration manager for almost ten years, I know what does and doesn't work. With the support this time of other experienced Council members I know that the Society can return to financial stability while maintaining the ethos of the Folk Camps Family.



Paul Weir Proposer: Derek Appleing, Seconder: Ann Appleing

I stand for election with a group of highly-experienced candidates who, with other Council members and our skilled contracted managers, will move the Society forward to ensure that it continues to provide affordable folk camps. At this critical point in the history of Folk Camps Society, after a period of trading losses, it is essential that a combination of folk camping experience and business expertise is in place to return the Society's financial strategy to stability. If the decline is not arrested, Folk Camps will become unsustainable.

I have served on Council for three periods - in the 1970s as a younger camper, the 1980s as Chair and 2004 to 2010 as Chair. In the "great marquee debate" of 2004, I produced the figures to successfully prove that marquee camps could continue profitably, as they did. With the arrival of Mic Spenceley as Admin Manager we refined an accurate financial model that assisted us to make pricing decisions, and adopted policies which ensured that Folk Camps' reserves grew in a sustainable manner. I would like to see us move back to a model of providing affordable holidays that attract enough campers to cover our operating costs.