

Extent: Autumn 2021

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.folkcamp.co.uk>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/folkcampsholidays>

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

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Message from the Chairman

So, in the end Covid-19 has cost us two complete seasons of Folk Camps. But we mustn't look back. Now it is time to look forward to the mega re-launch in 2022!

Don't we all feel the yearning for physical presence? Music-making (without the Zoom delays), dancing (in sets of more than two), singing (not just to yourself), hugs (rather than pixelated waves) and banter (without being told to unmute first). We can look forward to revelling in the sheer joy of shared experience on camp with a much greater appreciation of what it brings us.

The 2022 programme will be launched in November and Council and contractors alike have done everything possible to make it as good as ever with fantastic locations, staff teams, and with prices that recognise the hardships that the pandemic has inflicted on many campers.

In the meantime, thanks to the efforts of many, Lockerdwn continues to allow us to socialise and make music together until next year.

I will be standing down from Council at the AGM in November. My six years on Council have been immensely rewarding and it has been a great honour to serve as Chair for the last four years. I would like to thank all the Folk Campers that have served alongside me on Council, for their commitment and willingness to participate in the consensus building approach that I have adopted throughout.

Being on Council has given me a deep insight into just how much the success of Folk Camps depends on the good will and effort of so many people: council members, contractors, camp staff, governing members and campers. I thank you all.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Marcus de Frettes

Summer Camp Intros

There will be two new sites for the 2022 camps – Rolvenden and Welbourn. Originally slated for 2020, they're ready and waiting for us next year.

Can't decide which to book on for the season? We've put together a little bit of information on both areas to help.

Rolvenden

Hole Park in Rolvenden, Kent, is going to be our summer camp for four weeks of 2020. Hole Park Gardens is a great place to visit in itself and has beautiful flowers and arrangements for you to see.

Rolvenden is also just 25 minutes from Camber Sands in the south, and Hastings, complete with its Old Town, cliff railways, museums and historical sites.

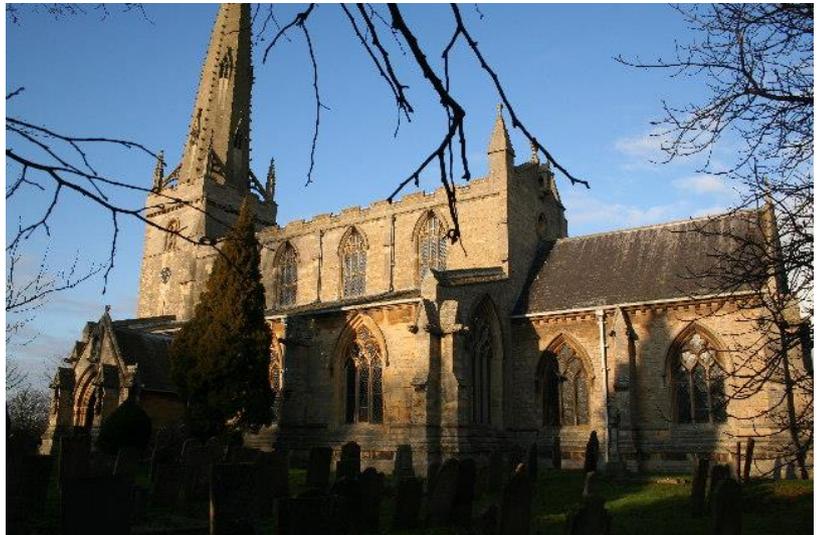


Welbourn

Our hall camp is just south of Lincoln in the midlands. Welbourn is ideal for families with great attractions such as the Whisby Animal Centre and Hartsholme Country Park.

Welbourn town is a sleepy little village with the St. Chad's Church, parts of it dating back to the 12th Century.

If these little titbits interest you, be sure to look out for the Folk Camps 2020 programme to be published on the website very soon!



Anthony Keen

Reprinted from our Autumn 2019 issue

Lockdown Update

Lockdown was very successful again, but not quite as many events as before. The music sessions were particularly popular but the event which surprised most was the demonstration of 'weird instruments'. A big thank you goes to all those who took the time to facilitate the sessions.

Sue Malleson



Folk Camps AGM Council Candidates

This year there are two places becoming available on Folk Camps Council. As there are only two candidates, there will be no need for an election – but here's some information on your incoming council members

Liz Cooper (*Proposer: Patrick Self, Seconde: Jacqueline Beattie*)

A seasoned camper since I was 10 weeks old, I have tried a variety of other holidays but always come back to Folk Camp. I have worked as Caterer since 2011 and am currently on the Catering committee have previously served for 6 years on Council; with my last year as Chairperson.

Although I am not particularly musical myself, I enjoy listening to music and dancing. I have brought my stepchildren to camp and enjoyed the Folk Camp effect on them. It has made such a difference in their lives. I am hoping that my experience and passion for Folk Camp will help the council in what has been a very turbulent period. My calm and pragmatic nature means I love helping set up new projects and improving ongoing ones.

My experience as a Special School Headteacher means that I understand the effects of Covid on the public sector and have knowledge of systems that are in place to enable schools to keep going through this period. I am also aware of the importance of health and safety risk assessment and safeguarding. I think these skills would all be very useful as a member of Council and hope that I can help move Folk Camps forward over the next few years.



Sarah Richardson (*Proposer: Anne Guthrie, Seconder: Sue Malleson*)

Sarah first attended a Folk Camp in 1968 at the age of three, and has dipped in and out ever since. In 2015 she was appointed Administration and Events Manager, and served in that role for over four years, running four full camping seasons.

This experience in the nuts and bolts of running Folk Camps events and administration will be useful to assist members of Council who joined just before the pandemic curtailed our activities, and to the person who takes the role of Admin and Events Manager going forward.



Folk Camps provided me and my family with holidays over many years, but it is more than that, it is a unique and valuable service for the folk traditions and a community with a precious history and hopeful future. Having run the background service, I am now looking forward to being an active part of the strategic and operational planning for its next post pandemic phase.

A Remote Field

A remote field
Warm Summer night time
We're at Folk Camp
What a week it's been
Magic Music mayhem
Laughter tears and laughter again
Hugs, hugs and more hugs

It's dark now and I've been asleep
I emerged from the tent
And there she is in all her glory
The magic marquee all lit up

I walk across the field
Smell of wet grass on the breeze
It's warm
The sky is full of stars
Old Joe Clark soars across the campsite
The band are really on their game tonight

I approach the marquee entrance
The generator whirring quietly away
I pause outside for a minute
Am I really allowed in?
Of course I am
Open the entrance flap
And into the light
Music light and laughter everywhere

The place where the midnight pancakes that never happened
Happened...
Sessions at midnight
With the utensils clanking in the entrance to the kitchen
The lights dimmed and candles on the floor
Quiet songs and poems
Whisky bottle being passed round
Or "Special" Cocoa slightly re-enforced with Kraken
I'm back home...

And so to bed finally, it's very very late!
Then the farewell look through the tent door at the marquee
Illuminated ghostly white, the magic still lingers until dawn
Then it will be as though we were never here
Returning back to the real world
Tired but happy
And maybe changed a little bit for the better...

Steve Mundy

Obituaries

Hilary Vare

We first met Hilary when she joined Roy in the band at Folk Camps. She then staffed with Ann Steward as musician for many years. John New joined her when Ann retired. She also spent many happy years leading dance sessions on the Isle of Wight.

She always worked hard during weeks and weekends as musician, teaching music for a couple of hours then playing the music for various workshops, and a workshop on advanced dancing for an hour. She worked the whole evening as leader of the band. Her support to the various callers during that time was invaluable, always encouraging new callers.

Her concern for how various members of my extended family were coping I found very supportive – she never forgot anyone’s name! She was a very private person whose memory was superb. Hilary would turn up at camp, often having got up at the crack of dawn, and put her own tent up, then, if on staff, organised the equipment for the band, and was still doing this till Bampton 2019, the last time we saw her.

Gary’s memories of her were that her energy and fiddle playing combined were astonishing, leading the Dalton Folk Band for many years. Also of the World Record for Devils Dream – 63 turns. Her calling was done with such clarity and dry wit, particularly for Playford dancing which was her forte, providing the anecdotal history of the dance as well as the instruction for the dance moves.

Keith’s comment was ‘I worked with Hilary on many occasions as a folk camp leader, musician and dancer and enjoyed every minute. She was great fun and a fountain of knowledge. She will be a great loss to the world of traditional music and dance.’ His son chimed in with a strong memory of sharing comments and laughter with her outside the hall whilst having a ‘tab’.

Barry remembers how supportive Hilary was with him, especially with respect to calling, and her wicked sense of humour. Also, how she was one of the first people to greet him on camp and always remembered particular facts about his work or personal life they had talked about, often a year before.

We all will miss her so much.

Barbara Pollard together with Brian and Barry Pollard, Claire and Gary Mycock, Barbara and Keith Gregson