



FOXLEASE SINGING CIRCLE NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2006

HELLO!



Welcome to the FSC Autumn 2006 Newsletter which for the first time is being sent out by email!

I wonder what you remember about the June weekend? Is it the glorious sunshine?
Is it the sound of Djembe Drums?!

Here are some thoughts from a few of our folk...



MY FIRST WEEKEND AS CHAIR

Frances Parrett

My memories of the weekend are a real mixture...

- Ali Crooks was there early and everything was ticking over smoothly by the time I'd escaped from work and thundered down to Lyndhurst. Members were signing up and volunteering to do jobs... all was well with the world... I needn't have worried!
- All those badges that had the wrong counties...!
- All those folk who somehow didn't HAVE a badge! How could it have happened?!?! I thought I'd been meticulous!!!
- What a lovely buzz... everyone was smiling... (what a relief - they DIDN'T mind having to move all over Foxlease grounds to get to the next session!!)
- All the caterers were there... all the trainers were there... phew!
- Nobody complained about having the sun in their faces in the Barn during sessions... phew again! I had *really* wanted to turn the seating around... (that view is too good to turn your back on)... I'll find a way of conquering the early evening glare for next June!
- Everyone seemed to appreciate Sunday's contemplation powerpoint... (despite my sound hiccups... I definitely had the right 'angel' to hand there... I might even be brave enough to do another for November...) Hooray!

I have to admit that I haven't 'stayed' for a weekend for quite a long time. Sundays tend to be school preparation days so a quick Saturday zoom down to the weekends has been as much as I've allowed myself. Having made the 'chair' commitment, I'm going to be better organised and bring my overnight bag! Despite the above worries and concerns I really enjoyed myself and realised what I'd been missing! I hope you all had a great weekend too!

Parts I'll treasure...

The way everyone was so enthusiastic about helping Jacqui with her music course; the gentle late night 'sing' in the Barn (apparently the caterers fell asleep during it!); the way everyone really welcomed and looked after all the folk from the House during the Saturday night 'campfire' sing; the fun and friendship that was happening in every workshop session; and yes, even the 7.30am committee meeting on the Sunday morning?! (Our committee are ALL treasures!)

Guiders are great organisers, so you all know how much organisation goes into making an event happen successfully! Even so, I was surprised at how time consuming the weekend preparation was. Ali and I were in daily contact through e-mails... she put in innumerable hours, I know! Thank you to all those folk who over the years have organised such weekends for us and kept Foxlease Singing Circle going.

It's a joy to be part of such a lively, friendly singing circle - let's keep it like that and make everyone feel valued and welcome! I look forward to another mad month of preparation in October... but above all, I look forward to seeing you all again in November!

What will I worry about then? Will the Shopping Mall work? Will Mary Gentry feel welcome and happy? Will the AGM be amicable but slick? Will the Powerpoint work? Will the new 'duty' rota work? Will I get the badges right *this* time!? How *will* folk react to a Saturday evening that is Movie Quiz plus singing? (...by the way, who WAS it who offered to do a couple of rounds of questions.....???) *Plenty* to worry about! See you soon!

FUTURE DATES

17-19 November 2006
Mary Gentry

9-11 March 2007
Taster weekend

22-24 June 2007
Mini-Meet

16-18 November 2007
???

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Amy Winterson

'Come on and sing with me?'

Despite my sister's enthusiastic reports (she's always enthusing about some Guiding weekend or other!) I was slightly unsure what to expect from my first weekend with Foxlease Singing Circle! Did I know enough songs to keep singing for a whole weekend? Would people be friendly? What if I sang a wrong note? Would it matter that I don't have the enormous sack/basket/trolley of song books that everyone else seems to carry to these events?

'Evening is here the board is spread.'

I arrived to a lovely meal - the first of many - then a quick tour of the accommodation. Everyone was very friendly over dinner, and I recognised a couple of familiar names and faces. So far so good!

'Let us sing together'

(...and drum... and play the recorder!) I didn't know nearly enough songs to fill a weekend, but really enjoyed learning so many new ones, especially some of the African ones, and I'm sure several of Philippa's songs will be appreciated by my new Brownie pack in September. The flute and recorder workshop provided a good opportunity to dig out my rather rusty recorder. Not having the right books was no problem at all; everyone was happy to share.

'Say when?'

When's the next one? I enjoyed my weekend and will definitely be back... maybe dragging a couple of local guiders with me. Many thanks to all who made everything work so smoothly.

A MAGIC PLACE

Irene Surgeson

It's June, it's Friday night and it's Foxlease in the Barn - there is a buzz in the air, greeting old friends and meeting new ones. There is a feeling of anticipation, but something is different... of course, there has been a complete turn around! Suddenly there is silence, and then "The Joy of Singing Together" and another Foxlease Singing Circle has begun.

Saturday was different - there were workshops covering all musical tastes and talents, from a "Summer Holiday" with Pat to an Irish hour with Fay and a Kazooing interlude with Francis, 25% musicality - 75% fun, to mention but a few. Saturday night was our usual enjoyable miscellany of entertainment and "Songs for All Sorts".

Suddenly it was Sunday and a day of "Something Old and Something New". How many times can you sing "Nkosi Sikelel' I Afrika"? All too soon it was time for Ali to Sing "Lord, oh Spirit" followed by the traditional "Irish Blessing" and time to say goodbye.

Thanks to Frances and the committee for all their hard work in creating another sensational, inspirational singing meet - a little bit of something for everyone - a lot of talent - a lot of fun - "Music (certainly) joins us together" in both friendship and song.

Finally to quote from Pat's new song "Come Sing" - "There's a magic place where the music will take you", and that place to me is back to Foxlease in November - hope to see you there!

TASTER WEEKEND

**If you would like to be part of this NEW exciting venture...
FIND YOUR TICKET!
...she can be 18-25 years old (ish!) and needs to love singing!
Bring her along to the SPRING CHICKEN Music Weekend!**

We are trying to keep costs as low as possible and hope to enthuse lots of young Guiders and Young Leaders about Foxlease Singing Circle and give them a chance to get to know each other before the June or November weekend.

FORMS AVAILABLE SOON!

SHOPPING MALL UPDATE

If you want to sell anything at a Singing Circle weekend, you need to register your interest when you apply. The application form will include a section asking you to indicate what you are selling and for what cause.

We are asking for a small fee (£1) to cover any costs; these should be minimal and any surplus will go to the Special Fund. You will be allocated a space & time to sell, according to demand.

In the past, people have offered badges, craft items, quiz sheets and songbooks, but we will consider anything legal and not too large!

Hilary Jenkins

THANKYOU!

When I first thought about applying for some money from the special fund for my training to run Acapella Harmony Workshops, I wasn't even sure if it was the right sort of request to make, but decided to ask for £350 and just see what happened. I'd had little success in raising the funds and was beginning to wonder if the project would even happen at all!

I have to say that I was completely overwhelmed by your unanimous decision not only to give me the money, but to increase the amount to £500! Suddenly my dream could start to become a reality - thanks to you all!

I have since received further grants giving me a total so far of over £4000, and have started training alongside a professional workshop leader. I am looking forward to being able to use my new skills back here at FSC... where it all started!

Jacqui Ford