



FOXLEASE SINGING CIRCLE SPRING 2007 NEWSLETTER

HELLO!

Welcome to the Spring 2007 edition of the FSC Newsletter!

November seems a very long time ago, and a lot has been going on since then! For those of you who didn't manage to hatch any eggs for the Spring Chicken weekend, keep reading and you'll find out a little of what went on. But first, cast your mind back to a stormy night just over 5 months ago...

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Gill Clare

Friday lunchtime in the staffroom and weekend plans are being discussed. I mention that I am off to Foxlease in the New Forest to a singing weekend - on my own - and no I don't know anyone else that's going. The staff already suspect that I am mad from previous Guiding adventures, and this just confirms it in their eyes.

8.30pm - I have battled my way across East and West Sussex and on into Hampshire, through windy, wet and very wild weather, but here I am at last, and the lights of The Barn shine out across the car park.

Bag in hand, a few doubts creep in, but deep breath, throw open the door - and there's Caroline with a big smile, a warm and friendly welcome, plus a delicious dinner.

Sunday 4pm - Back across the car park with my bag, and behind me a fantastic weekend!

I arrived knowing nobody, and left with many new friends who shared books with me, invited me to join them for lunch in Lyndhurst on Saturday and who were my team mates for the quiz.

I arrived with no song books, and left with four - the collection is growing, Santa was very helpful.

I arrived tired and apprehensive, and left happy and relaxed, with memories of songs and friendships that will last me through the winter.

So thank you everybody for an amazing weekend, and for confirming my belief that in Guiding you have friends wherever you go.

Hope to see you at the Spring Chicken Weekend!



Hen and Chick!

Gill did indeed make it to the Spring Chicken weekend, bringing her daughter Rachel who is now a member too!

SHOPPING MALL UPDATE

Eight people had items for sale at the 'Shopping Mall' at the November weekend, and went away with less items and more cash!

So if you have surplus songbooks, cards or other crafts, badges etc. and want to sell at the June weekend, just complete the appropriate bit of the application form and include an extra £1 for the privilege.

Priority will be given to new vendors if space is tight.



FUTURE DATES

2007	22-24 June	Saturday: 3 Mini-Meet Sessions	16-18 November	Hilary Stokes
		Sunday: Fay McMullan		
2008	20-22 June		21-23 November	





SPRING CHICKEN WEEKEND!

A WORD FROM FRANCES...

Hens and chickens totalled 36.

Some came by day, others came just for a day... but PML was busting to the seams.

Everyone came with a smile on their face; including the mother and daughter who had broken down and had to request help from a friendly RAC man on the way... and everyone continued to have fun and throw themselves into the light-hearted madness of the Spring Chicken Weekend.

Thank you to Caroline Rickard for planning, preparing, buying, organising... and all the other myriad things that QMs do, in order to feed hungry singers. Fantastic job!

Other very kind helpful people included: Hilary Jenkins, who organised and provided a totally whacky wide game which lasted 90 minutes... Helen Knox who entertained us on Saturday evening with a noisy, fast and furious 'chicken drive'... and Lisa Upward who delivered a superb Sunday 'moment' on the theme of 'a smile' which made us do exactly that!

The spring chickens were great! They womanfully tackled and learnt a huge bank of songs, but were happy and confident enough to contribute some of theirs too... they laughed in appreciation throughout all the activities and the hens grew very attached to them! We look forward to seeing some of them at future FSC weekends.

My MAJOR thanks must go to Ali who helped the weekend to come about. I think she, and the committee, thought I was a little bats to suggest such a thing... Ali put hours of work into it and was Mrs Supportive!
THANK YOU!

Tremendous thanks go also to the FSC members who persuaded very musical young ladies to give us a try and organised their arrival! Can I ask ALL members to extend their usual warm welcome, please, to any chicks who come to June or November weekends... they are very musically talented and will enrich our circle!!!
Frances

WHAT DID THE CHICKS THINK?

Q: What was enjoyable?

"The laughter, the music, the company; I really enjoyed myself because everyone was so welcoming and friendly."

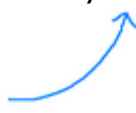
"I learnt LOADS of new songs and enjoyed most the ones with movements and actions, however, when everyone sang together in harmony it sounded beautiful! "

"A fantastic weekend; I enjoyed meeting other people who appreciate Guiding songs as much as I do. Now I need to get even more songbooks!"

"I enjoyed the variety of activities and games as I could get to know people better."

"I have met lots of new people and enjoyed the beautiful surroundings and the very comfy bed!"

So where did she sleep??!!



These Musical Spring Chicks demanded evaluation forms!

Q: Will you come back to FSC?

"I would come again because everyone was so nice and I had so many laughs."

"I will be coming back as I really enjoyed this weekend."



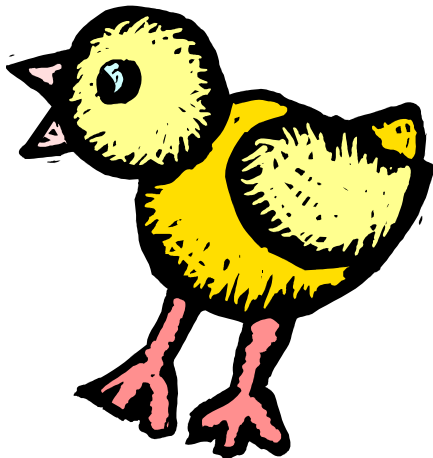
A POEM BY IRENE SURGESON...

How can you explain;
When you get home from the meet,
The family always asks,
What did you do?
Just what is there that you can say .

How can you explain;
That there were some spring chicks and a few old hens
And we sat down together and we all just sang.
Some sang high and some sang low,
Sometimes in parts and sometimes as a whole.

How can you explain;
We sang and we ate and then we laughed and sang some more
We slept a little, we ate too much and we sang again and again,
We laughed a lot and we talked a lot
And made new friends galore.

How can you explain;
We played a wide game
And dastardly deeds were afoot.
And we laughed till we cried and much more beside
Just trying to feed our own chick.



How can you explain;
We performed on the kazoo,
The entire last Night of the Proms,
Some beat on a drum, and other just strummed,
While others beat a tube on a chair.

How can you explain;
About a smile that came in a balloon.
And how we watched Marilyn Monroe metamorphose into a Troll.
And explain why the Tortoise and Hare were an exceedingly clever pair.
And a haunted house had a ghoul.

How can you explain;
When a silence descends
And you're listening as Ali sings
And the hairs on your neck are standing on end
And the feeling of peace that it brings.

How can you explain;
The sadness you feel when it's time to say goodbye
Taking the memories we shared
Holding them close in your heart
Till the time comes when we can do it all again.



What ARE they up to? It's all to do with a laid back hare and a rhythmic tortoise!

SEE YOU IN JUNE!