



FOXLEASE SINGING CIRCLE AUTUMN 2007 NEWSLETTER

HELLO!

Welcome to the Autumn 2007 FSC Newsletter!

At last the November weekend is in sight, but before we get too excited, let's check out some of the things that went on back in June...



Flutes & Recorders



Hand Chimes

Gloucestershire Sing



Samba Band

**Saturday's
Mini Meet**



Guitars

Rounds & Part Songs



SHOPPING MALL UPDATE

Again there were some super items to be had on our shopping mall 'stalls' and quite a few were seen over the course of the weekend pouring over newly acquired old songbooks! So if you have surplus songbooks, cards or other crafts, badges etc. and want to sell at the next weekend, just complete the appropriate bit of the application form (Ali declares it will be there this time!) and include an extra £1 for the privilege.



A WORD FROM FRANCES

Just a note ♪ (or two) to remind you that Hilary is flying down from Edinburgh to lead the November weekend... (not to be missed!) Didn't we have an Irish feast on the Sunday of the May weekend?... many thanks to Fay for such an enjoyable, fun-filled day! Thanks also to all those folk who (with arms twisted behind their backs.... not easy when you're donging a hand chime.. or playing a flute!) led sessions on the Saturday... a good time was had by all participants, apparently!

The next time we'll have a mini-meet will be in 2009.... and after recent discussions with Mary Gentry, it seems like a session on camp-fire leading could be useful? We are concerned that there aren't enough youngsters coming on to fill the shoes of those of us who have been leading singing for 'rather a long time'!!! An exception to this is of course, Jacqui, whose skills are coming on in leaps and bounds!!

Is there anything else you'd like to be included 'session-wise' in May 2009? ... anything you have always wanted to have a go at? Looking forward to seeing you all soon! Don't forget to bring some Spring Chickens!!! Frances P

THE JOY OF SINGING TOGETHER

by Rachel Clare

Hopping towards the barn on Friday evening, snatches of 'The Joy of Singing Together' reached my ears and suddenly all the worry, pain and frustration of the last week seemed to melt away. I had made it to Foxlease for what promised to be a fantastic weekend – and indeed it was. After tucking into our delicious dinners, Mum and I thoroughly enjoyed the evening session before retiring to our bunks in the Barn (bottom bunk for me!)

Saturday morning started with a sing all together, and then I hopped my way to beginner guitar. I finished the session having picked up lots of great tips that would help to improve my playing and my confidence! Djembe drums was next and, again, I thoroughly enjoyed the session, learning lots of new rhythmic skills. An outing to Lyndhurst for lunch, and then the afternoon was rounded off with fun and percussion playing in the 'Gloucester Sing' session.

After a lovely dinner all together, there was much flag-waving to be done for the Last Night of the Proms fun sing. Then, determined that I was not going to miss anything having actually made it to Foxlease, I hopped my way to Night Sing for more music-making and merriment.

Sunday saw fantastic sessions led by Fay and, before I knew it, requests had been sung and it was time to leave. I learnt many new songs, met friends old and new, and experienced so much musical talent, kindness and laughter. Thank you everyone for an amazing weekend. I am already looking forward to the next time we meet, for what is, without a doubt, 'The Joy of Singing Together'

What Rachel doesn't realise is that we know also what happened next...

Of course, it wouldn't be a Foxlease weekend without a Clare adventure...

We left the Barn on the Sunday and put our things into the car. Because we had so much stuff, Mum balanced our tray and the plastic container of Waldorf salad on the roof of the car. (Can you see the mistake here!?) Then we got into the car and drove off down the drive.... We turned out of the gate of Foxlease and were driving up the road through Lyndhurst when, as we went round a bend, there was a crash and we saw something fly away from the back of the car. At first we thought it was a tree branch, but then we remembered the tray! Mum pulled over quickly, jumped out, and ran back down the road to see what the damage was. Amazingly, the tray was intact (Mum was pleased because it was a nice one with bears on it!) and the Waldorf salad was upright, still in its container!!! We had it for tea that night!

LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS!



Everyone got stuck in singing, playing kazoos and waving flags...
...well almost everyone.
"I'm not doing that - it's ENGLISH!"
But she cheered up when we sang Danny Boy!



THANKYOU!

I just want to say a huge thank you to all those members who have supported me and my fundraising efforts through sponsorship, buying the cards and especially the generous gift of £1000 from the special fund. When I phoned my dad he was speechless - not a common occurrence I assure you! To date we have approximately £17,500 - almost half of what we are aiming for! This would not have been possible without the generous support from you all.

I can finally report that I am continuing to respond to the latest treatment and now only stay in hospital every 12 weeks rather than every 4 weeks. This makes a big difference to life!

Alison Wallwork - Pemphigiod Project Fund

THE LAST WORD

Hilary

I'm really looking forward to being back with everyone and leading the weekend. Don't have a theme yet - but there's pretty well bound to be a reference to Christmas at some stage, and I know I'll take the opportunity to do a bit of choral stuff. Let the rest be a surprise - to you, if not to me!! I'm leading the Netherurd Singing Circle weekend the weekend before FSC, but can't double up on very much (unfortunately!) as it's our biannual fund-raiser and quite different from a 'normal' singing circle weekend, if indeed such a thing exists. Anyway, love to all, and roll on November!!



Dates for Your Diary

16-18 November 2007

Hilary Stokes

20-22 June 2008

21-23 November 2008

SEE YOU IN NOVEMBER!