



FOXLEASE SINGING CIRCLE AUTUMN 2008 NEWSLETTER

HELLO!

Hello again to all you lovely singing circle folk!

Hope that everyone managed to find a bit of sunshine over the summer. The months between the June and November weekends always seems to fly past, and once again it's nearly time for us all to come together to sing and have fun.

Forms for the weekend went out a few weeks back, so if you haven't received yours then get in touch with Ali straight away. And don't forget that even though the closing date for applications is 25th October, places will be allocated on a first come - first served basis, as will specific requirements such as single beds, bottom bunks etc. So don't delay, get your form and cheque sent off today!

FOR SALE...

SONGBOOKS

Do you have any duplicate song books you want to sell? Is there a book missing from your collection that you would like to buy?

We are trialling a songbook stall at Foxlease Singing circle to try and make it easier to get hold of our books. Stocks currently include the Foxlease books, Anglia (Meet and Sing etc), checked books, London Guiders, Diamond Jubilee, Scottish Sing and Have Fun and various others. Why don't you come and have a look at the November weekend and see if we have anything you need? Also bring along second hand books you would like to sell, and let us know if you could purchase any new books from other sources for us to sell on.



COMING SOON...

21-23 NOVEMBER 2008
Jan Evans & Catherine Dodd

24-26 APRIL 2009
'Bring a Friend' Weekend
PML Only - 30 places

12-14 JUNE 2009
Sue Mann

3 OCTOBER 2009
SW Region Music Day
More information coming soon!

FSC MERCHANDISE

Sweatshirts
£16.00

Polo Shirts
£15.00

NEW! Rugby Shirts
£23.00

Neckers
£2.50

FSC Badges
£1.00



ANOTHER GREAT WEEKEND

Deborah Lafferty

As one who is not overly confident in my musical expression, I am always surprised when my reticence is overcome by the Singing Circle programme, as was the case at the last weekend. Our Saturday sessions were good fun. I enjoyed the group challenges and was delighted by the creativity of the people we have around us. I particularly enjoyed singing Belle Mama on Sunday in which I found myself comfortable enough to meander in and out of the other singers as we all maintained our own part. It gave the music a three dimensional quality. My favourite part of the weekend, however, was learning the two African songs, Mamizolo and Famba Nayé. Because I found the songs so dynamic, I wanted to know more about them and thought I would share what I found.

The two songs are in the Isicathamiya style, the South African (Zulu) tradition of acapella singing that aims to achieve a particularly harmonious blend using many voices. Sometimes it is sung in conjunction with other styles such as "call and response" or "mbube", loud and powerful singing. The singers move in lightly choreographed rhythms with periodic clapping or stomping to keep them in time. African women have adopted the style to give voice to their concerns about social issues and have sometimes paid a dear price.

After learning more about the musical style, I further appreciate how a singing circle of Guiders is the perfect place to sing these songs and support the circulation of gendered African music. Many thanks, Foxlease Singing Circle, for another great weekend.