



# FOXLEASE SINGING CIRCLE SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER

## HELLO!

It's been a while! You may have noticed that 2009 was a year without newsletters, but we're back in 2010 with a new system for gathering the stuff to fill them up! So look out in June for comments sheets so you can let us know about your FSC weekend as it's happening.

## SINGING CIRCLE IN THE HOUSE!

Frances Parrett

Despite the decision taken by all of the Singing Circle to have our 2009 Winter weekend in the house, we all had many misgivings - because of limited numbers - because the meeting rooms were smaller than the Barn - because we weren't having our own catering - well, you name it!

The booking process seemed to go on for ever.. some people waited right up to the last week to see if they had a bed and a room... and I guess you may decide in the future that it was more trouble than it was worth.

BUT - what a delightful weekend it was! There seemed to be so many little corners where you would come upon people catching up - enjoying a moment of relaxation and having a giggle. The room that I will always call Scotland (sorry) - was really too small for us... and became rather hot... but didn't we have a wicked time with our Gospel duo! Oh Mary, Oh Martha... you can't help yourself... occasionally it just pops out!!!

The catering was different... but we all enjoyed it... The option of having a bar was definitely enjoyed by many... and it HAS to be said that it felt good having everyone together for meals.

Hilary provided us with a House Quiz that made me wonder at things I'd never noticed before... The campfire evening was great fun and sessions were brilliant! In fact LOTS of people helped to make the weekend most enjoyable. THANK YOU to all of those people who contributed in any way to the November weekend; Crafts... Sings... whatever...!

We're back to normal this June, and we'll be welcoming Maggie O'Connor once again on the Saturday - Pat has kindly agreed to 'do' Sunday for us. Don't forget to bring your swim suit for Saturday afternoon! Looking forward to seeing you all in the Forest!

Don't forget that Ali and I will be bowing out from our Secretary and Chair roles in November. You may need to start approaching people in June, so we can continue to have a balanced representation on the Committee?

Here's hoping Spring comes soon!! To those of you who are going to Waddow - have a WICKED time!

All the best,  
Frances

P.S. We haven't counted out the possibility of having another Music Day next year... but at the moment it seems a bridge too far! If you know of a school in Wiltshire South that would be suitable PLEASE let me know!!!

## FSC MERCHANDISE

- Sweatshirts  
£16.00
- Polo Shirts  
£15.00
- Rugby Shirts  
£23.00
- Available in  
Red or Green
- Neckers  
£2.50
- FSC Badges  
£1.60



Merchandise will be available to purchase at the June weekend.

Orders are placed periodically so if you are looking for something particular that is not currently available, we will probably be able to get it for you.

## SHOPPING MALL

If you have things to sell at the FSC Shopping Mall in June, don't forget to book your stall on the regular weekend booking form.



The room is packed. It has reached standing room only. Those gathered forming a circle in order to be as inclusive as possible. Some of them have resorted to sitting on the floor, or the arms of the sofas, due to a lack of chairs.

The light in the high ceilinged hall is bright, glaring; contrasting with the intimate feel of the gathering.

There is a haze of coffee in the room, mixing with the scent of corn chips and chocolate. A sugary taste is in the air from the cocoa.

The voices of those gathered rise in song, echoing up to the ceiling high above. The harmonies being sung building, amplified by the room.

It is late, the end of a day of singing; everyone's voices are tired, but there is no let up in the volume. Each person is there for the joy of the singing. The sweet sounds heard are as fitting for a cathedral as a Guiding hall.

In a flash you find yourself listening to the words, rather than just the music. You realise that the heavenly sound you are hearing is actually The Midge Song; and the sublime becomes the ridiculous.

## NOVEMBER 2009 in the HOUSE!

A leisurely drive to Foxlease for an enjoyable week of singing... or so I thought as I dropped Jess and Shadow off for the weekend at the farm. Little did I know what lay ahead. I stopped in Lyndhurst, crossed the road, met the ground and ended up in the minor injuries unit at Lymington where an x-ray revealed a fracture to my left arm! I arrived at Foxlease just before the evening meal to be met by smiling faces. A weekend of discomfort was improved by a group of good friends who gave help and support, and above all the singing. Thank you to you all - especially Jane and Frances who will get me home! Alison Baillie

If you want to have fun while you sing  
You will find FSC just the thing  
Simply fill out a form  
Pay £2 - it's the norm  
And we'll see you next time full of zing!

We 'gospelled' until fit to bust  
A clap and a step was a must  
"Now use a big voice -  
No, you don't have a choice!"  
So we did, and we all got it sussed.

The singing went into the night  
Didn't care if the notes were all right  
For we sat among friends  
Harmonised to the end  
When we all went to bed at first light!  
Helen Knox

'Be Prepared!' What a brilliant weekend! I was prepared by cutting down my luggage, but wow! What an extra special delight to have such amazing gospel singing and to be transported into a gospel choir so quickly - we sounded good, believe me, I recorded it! Apart from gospel, there was great food, a lovely house full of friends and a dream come true - a stay in South Africa! I renewed my promise on the veranda as part of my centenary challenge. Thanks to all the team for taking so much time to prepare for us. Now I'm preparing for the next FSC weekend! Thank you. Mandy Rowe

Wow! - another fantastic weekend!  
The highlight - of course - the amazing  
Gospel Singing experience.  
I feel ethnically enriched, culturally  
moved and have felt the spirit move.  
Thank you SO much.  
Sue Askew

The songsters came from afar  
They travelled by train and by car  
For sessions from Fay  
And Becky today  
And the bookshop turned into a bar!  
Ann Swabey

The Sunday moment is just a lovely oasis in the run of a very busy week.  
Caroline

## DIARY DATES

### June 11th - 13th 2010

**Saturday - Maggie O'Connor**

Maggie came and led a day for us back in November 2004. She is a Freelance Community Musician and runs "SoundsLively" Singing for Health on the Isle of Wight, "Women Singing for Fun", "Blue Sky Natural Voice Choir" and "Chesil Chanters Parkinsons and friends singing group" in Southampton and is experienced in Health and Early Years music. She is a member of the Natural Voice Practitioners Network.

**Sunday - our very own Pat Hobden!**

### November 19th - 21st 2010

**All weekend - Mary Gentry!**

### June 10th - 12th 2011

### November 18th - 20th 2011

**We don't have anyone booked for the 2011 weekends yet... any ideas? Please pass them on to the committee!**



## The HISTORY of our SINGING CIRCLE NECKER

Back in 1981/82 following the introduction of the necker into the Guide Uniform, Marjorie King and Sue Stevens thought it would be helpful if the Foxlease Staff wore a necker so that visitors to the house and estate could recognise them.

Marjorie and Sue visited Netherurd, and Sue spent a little time researching the history of H.R.H. The Princess Royal after whom the house is named - Princess Mary House. Princess Mary was a Royal Stewart, and Marjorie and Sue returned with Royal Stewart tartan neckers which were worn by the house staff for many years.

Following the inaugural meeting which led to the formation of the Singing Circle in 1983, the council at CHQ were approached to see if we could be called Foxlease Singing Circle. The council agreed and Foxlease Singing Circle was formed. Green was chosen as the colour of the necker, with the Royal Stewart tartan edge to celebrate our link with Foxlease.



## WADDOW 2010



This year, the National Singing Circles Meet is being held at Waddow.

At a recent London Guiders Singing Circle, one of our members heard them planning their 'turn' for one of the big sings at some point over the weekend... we knew nothing about this but thought we better get ourselves organised too! Jacqui has written a song especially for the occasion which can be emailed as an MP3 for you to listen to in advance, and we'll get together and learn it when we're there.

So, if you are going, please get in touch with Sarah Jenkins (caerdydd2@gmail.com) so we know who to look out for at Waddow.

## 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?**

Our songbook stall at Foxlease Singing Circle has been a great success so far. Our aim is to try and make it easier to get hold of the books we regularly use, including those that are now out of print. Getting hold of these books is a challenge, so if you hear of folks in your districts and divisions with old Guiding paraphernalia they are clearing out, why not check to see if there are any songbooks stashed away!

Come and have a look at the next 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.

## FSC on the WEB

Did you know that as well as our website, we now have a facebook page so you can become a fan of FSC! There is a link to our facebook page from our website: [www.foxleasingsingingcircle.org.uk](http://www.foxleasingsingingcircle.org.uk)



## SEE YOU IN JUNE!

Foxlease Singing Circle - email: [foxleasingsingingcircle@gmail.com](mailto:foxleasingsingingcircle@gmail.com) or post: FSC Secretary, 6 Clyst Heath, Exeter, EX2 7TA