



FOXLEASE SINGING CIRCLE SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER

HELLO!

Welcome to the Spring edition of the FSC Newsletter. Once more we begin to anticipate the approach of another weekend together, and especially to look forward to having our friend Hilary Stokes with us again.

INTRODUCING...our new Chair!

How time flies - soon another Foxlease singing Circle Weekend to be enjoyed. Meeting old friends and new, singing, harmonising and now... I have to stand up and speak! - but we have two ears and only one mouth, so listening and hearing what you wish for our singing circle will be important to me, and then trying to put ideas into practice with the help of our brilliant committee.

I have been asked to tell you a little about my Guiding life and me, so here goes...

I am still involved in Guiding as Unit Leader to both a Guide Company and a Brownie Pack, and have been an Associate Trefoil Guild Member for over 20 years!

I began Guiding at 7 years of age (and never left), as a Brownie in Malaya, firstly in a Pack who literally had 'Parties in the Palace' - the Sultan's Palace ('princess' was a Brownie), and then in a multicultural Pack in a fishing village - activities and games explained in four languages before we could begin - Malay, Chinese, Urdu and English - with a rota for being first/last to hearing what was going on. Swimmers badge was completed in a warm tropical sea, a knotted tank tow rope to denote distances, and with a view of white sand fringed with palm trees. Then a Welsh Brownie Pack, again by the sea, seven miles of beach (but not so warm!), rock pools, caves and sand dunes - and a firing range!!

I was enrolled as a Welsh Guide, then to England where my outdoor fun in Guiding took off. No local Ranger Unit so I became a Lone Sea Ranger, (land locked but I liked the uniform/hat!!) Then on to Warranted Guider, Lieutenant with my previous Guide Captain - and with the Guide Unit to which I returned following travels in UK and abroad with varied careers as radiographer/nurse/nurse practitioner and health visitor.

I still remember my first visit to Foxlease Singing Circle, (also my first visit to Foxlease)... arriving alone, knowing no-one, cruising up the drive, couldn't find the car park, couldn't find the singing circle venue, did find the Main House! And later was 'found' by Joyce and befriended by many - and now here as Chair. Still not sure how that happened - arms and twisting seemed to play a role and also a belief in the joy of singing among kind, fun loving and warm hearted Guiding friends in a special Guiding place in the Forest.

See you in June, Janet

NATIONAL MEETS

Most of us are probably aware by now that next year's National Meet is at Hautbois at the start of May.

We have just received the following information from Janette Walker:

"Netherurd Singing Circle and London Guiders' Singing Group have been discussing future National Singing Meets. It has been agreed that London Guiders will host the event in 2014 and Netherurd in 2016.

The venue for 2014 will be Sunbury Court, Sunbury-on-Thames, located just off the M25.

Plenty of accommodation for self catering and camping as well as catered facilities."

FSC ARCHIVES

Although we have been around for quite a while, very little FSC archive material exists at Foxlease.

Do you have anything - programmes, photos, newsletters - which you would donate (or lend for copying)?

As I am already involved in Foxlease archives I am happy to record/preserve/collate any items. Please bring anything you can offer to the next weekend, or leave it at Foxlease marked 'FAO Archives'.

Thanking you in anticipation, Hilary.

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

Email address: foxleasingsingingcircle@gmail.com



FSC MERCHANDISE

Sweatshirts
Polo Shirts
Rugby Shirts

Available in
Red or Green

Prices to be
confirmed



Neckers
£2.50
FSC Badges
£1.60

New stock 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.

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.

ANN DAWE & MARGARET BOWDEN

The following was received from Eve Wort just after our weekend last November:

"I thought I had better let you know that my friend died last month. She was my closest friend and has been going to FSC with me for nearly 20 years and she really loved singing. Last June was the first time she couldn't go and we hoped she would be able to come this time but it was not to be. Her name was Ann Dawe and she lived near Southampton. I was going to say something yesterday but I was fine until we sang a couple of Ann's favourite songs and then things began to fall apart a bit. Other than that it was a lovely weekend."

We also received a message from Vera Mangold on 20th April to inform us that Margaret Bowden passed away on Sunday.

THE POWER OF SONG

Just had to share this amazing quote from a book called 'The Elegance of the Hedgehog' by Muriel Barbery. The chapter is entitled 'A choir is a beautiful thing'. I think it sums up brilliantly how most of us feel when we come together to sing.

"Every time, it's a miracle. Here are all these people, full of heartache or hatred or desire, and we all have our troubles... and there's this life we're struggling through full of shouting and tears and laughter and fights and break-ups and dashed hopes and unexpected luck - it all disappears, just like that, when the choir begins to sing. Everyday life vanishes into song, you are suddenly overcome with a feeling of brotherhood, of deep solidarity, even love, and it diffuses the ugliness of everyday life into a spirit of perfect communion... I'm no longer myself, I am just one part of a sublime whole to which the others also belong."

DO YOU KNOW THIS SONG???

The following enquiry came through to our website...

"6 or 7 years ago I came to a 24 hour Campfire at Foxlease, I am still looking for the words of one of the songs we sang... Can any of your members help me?

It's a repeat after each line song and the first few lines went something like this:

Pizza... feed me... ???... eggs'n'beansy, eggs'n'beansy, I like eggs'n'beansy..."

If you know this, please let me know and I'll pass it back to the enquirer!



DIARY DATES

10th-12th June 2011 : Hilary Stokes
22nd October 2011 : Music Day in Reading
18th-20th November 2011
8th-10th June 2012
16th-18th November 2012



**Who would you like to see
leading future weekends?**
Please email your suggestions and
preferences, or pass them to the
committee

