



FOXLEASE SINGING CIRCLE SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER

HELLO!

Jacqui Ford

Welcome once more to the Foxlease Singing Circle Newsletter! There are lots of things to tell you about, and at last you can begin anticipating our next weekend together!

A WORD FROM OUR SECRETARY!

Rachel Clare

After a year in post as secretary and now having been on the committee for both a June and a November weekend, I feel I am finally getting to grips with things and really enjoy the job! Thank you to all the people who have helped me learn the ropes and have been patient with my mistakes! I have already learnt so much about our Singing Circle, from its inaugural meeting to present day, and must admit a secret addiction to reading the archive folders to learn more about our history and to plan for things to come. I have also greatly increased my knowledge of spreadsheets, photocopiers and the FSC cupboard and develop palpitations if I cannot find the FSC memory stick!

The committee have been hard at work over the winter months and we have lots of news to share on the next page...

I hope to see many of you in June and hope that those attending the 'Big Sing' in Washington have a fantastic time.

As always, please let me know any thoughts or ideas that you have.

Rachel.

INTRODUCING KATE!

Leading us at our June weekend is a first time visitor to Foxlease Singing Circle. We shall be very pleased to welcome Kate Welch from County Durham in North East England. Here's a little introduction...

"I have been in Guiding since I was a Brownie in Wiltshire, then a Guide in Durham. I am a Guide and Senior Section Leader in Chester-le-Street, County Durham and have been singing all the way through. I gained my Campfire Leader's Certificate in 1981 and have been County Arts Adviser and leading our County singing circle almost continuously since then. I am also a trainer, tutor and County Training Adviser. I've led singing at Waddow, Broneirion and with the London Guiders Singing Group and regularly at North East Songswap, so really looking forward to Foxlease."



THE MEET, HAUTOBOIS



Around 185 singers are booked to attend the meet at Hautbois at the beginning of May, with a good contingent representing Foxlease Singing Circle.

We need to go ready with a song to perform as a group. As no-one has been in touch with any ideas, I wondered whether we should do a reprise of the song we did for the last meet? I've actually added another bit to it since then so potentially we could have 6 parts!!! Here's a reminder of the last time... <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzsJbmCnQUo>

Do let me know if you have any better ideas!

If you are going, please will you email me asap so that I can send you all our song in plenty of time to learn it!

Jacqui - jaxtimford@gmail.com



ROCK THE MALL 2012

Janette Walker

Our numbers have reached 29 and we are now registered to attend 'Rock the Mall' which includes a T-Shirt and patch.

Some of us are staying at Karen's home, and others are sleeping in her local Church hall, and we will be singing in the Church on the Sunday. Karen's housing complex boasts a swimming pool which I am sure will be well used by our group!

As it is the Queen's Jubilee Celebration whilst we are away, we plan to hold a street party at Karen's House and light a beacon [registered in UK] on the Monday evening.

Look out for a full report with pictures in the next newsletter!



Membership Badges

We have ordered the metal membership badges, as discussed at the AGM. They will be the size of a Promise badge and the design is a combination of the older blue FSC badge and the present design used on the clothing and cloth badges. One of these will be given to every current member and then to new members henceforth. If you are unable to attend the June weekend then I will send your badge to you.



Percussion

You may recall that instead of room sponsorship, we had planned to buy some more percussion for the House, but following discussions at the AGM it became apparent that we first needed to do an inventory of what already existed.

I spent some time emptying cupboards and drawers in Surrey West room (above Devon training room) and have thrown away a few completely broken items, mended some others and compiled an inventory. Everything is now sorted into labelled boxes and cases entitled "Things to bang", "Things to blow", "Things to shake" etc. so that these instruments are accessible for all and I will leave an inventory in the room so that people know what should be there.

To give you a taste of what is available, the selection includes:

- A complete set of chime bars
- 5 cymbals, 4 tambourines
- 7 maracas, 15 small pairs of castanets
- 8 ocarinas, 13 kazoos(!), 11 tin whistles, descant and tenor recorder
- 5 triangles, 6 woodblocks
- 258 Maori sticks (no, I didn't pair them up...!)
- Bicycle horn!



I also tidied the songbook cupboard in Devon training room and updated that inventory to reflect what is there at present.

So it seems that we may need to rethink the type of percussion that we buy. I think that a few more bongo-style drums could be good and potentially some newer types of percussion and instruments, such as boomwhackers. What do you think?



Again, any thoughts to me or the committee please.

Bench in memory of Marjorie King

I have been discussing with Foxlease the best possible location to site the bench. One thought is to put it outside the Barn, where we can use it during our weekends. Another idea is to site it in the Quiet Area/Chapel. Please let me know if you have any thoughts on this.

We plan to arrange delivery and construction of bench and plaque during the summer months, with the hope of good weather facilitating the bench-building and treating of the wood.

Many thanks to Alison Baillie, who has prepared the wording for the plaque (and has also been busy producing many more FSC neckers).



'Everybody Sing' Book



We are currently communicating with the printers to organise another print run of 'Everybody Sing'. Many thanks to Jo Wheeler, who has been helping with this.

Maintenance

I have read and collated all the evaluations received after the November weekend - thank you for taking the time to complete them - the committee have discussed various points. A number of maintenance issues arose, many of which we had already reported to Foxlease. I am on the case about getting things improved before our next weekend!

In the summer, my sister's Ranger Unit plan to visit Foxlease and, as part of their community service for this year, form a working party to undertake many small maintenance/housekeeping tasks, particularly in the Barn and PML. Foxlease were very pleased to have the 'womanpower' to undertake such work - if you can think of any more things that could do with attention, please let me know.



YOUR MESSAGES

A Plea!

When I came to the Singing Circle in June 2011, I had with me my original Foxlease Singing Circle metal pin badge, amongst others. This is an enamelled badge, about the size of our current Promise badge. It has a blue background with our logo depicted in the metal colour. I had other badges with me but managed to lose only this one! If anyone has one that they no longer want or knows of someone who no longer comes and would be willing to let me buy it from them, I would be very grateful. I have had it safely all these years and then it just seems to have vanished into thin air!

Meriel Dunham

November 2011

It was nice to have "in house" leaders again this weekend. As we all know them it was very relaxing and fun.

Hilary's description about her ascent of Kili was really interesting. As my daughter went up there last year and I know Rhys Jones, one of the instructor leaders very well, I loved hearing a different view about the ascent. Altogether a really good weekend.

Regards, Eve Wort

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 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'.

Thank you
Hilary Jenkins

FSC MERCHANDISE

Sweatshirts
Polo Shirts
Rugby Shirts

Available in
Red or Green

Prices to be confirmed

Neckers
£2.50
FSC Badges
£1.60



DIARY DATES



2012

4th-7th May - National Meet, Hautbois

8th-10th June - FSC Weekend

9th June - Rock the Mall, Washington

7th July - Friends of Foxlease Garden Party

16th-18th November - FSC Weekend

2013

7th-9th June - FSC 30th Birthday Weekend

15th-17th November - FSC Weekend

FUTURE WEEKENDS

Who would you like to see leading future weekends?

Please email your suggestions and preferences to

foxleasingsingingcircle@gmail.com

or pass them to the committee



LOOKING FORWARD TO SINGING TOGETHER SOON!