



# FOXLEASE SINGING CIRCLE AUTUMN 2012 NEWSLETTER

## HELLO!

Jacqui Ford

Apologies for this rather late newsletter... rounding up all the contributions proved somewhat challenging this time, and then life got completely hectic... still, with less than 2 weeks until we are together it should get you in the mood!

## BACK IN JUNE...

Rachel Clare

We welcomed Kate Welch from Chester-le-Street, North-East England, as our main leader for the weekend. Using the theme of 'My Guiding life in song' Kate led us in a wide variety of songs, new and old, accompanied by many amusing anecdotes and memories from her Guiding adventures. The Friday evening session was led by Sally Molligoda and Saturday evening by Frances Parrett and Jane Withey. We had booked the campfire circle for Saturday evening, but sadly high winds and persistent rain turned campfire area into a bog and meant that an indoor session was the safest and warmest option! We were not, however, without a fire, as the Barn chimney and fireplace had been recently cleared and so after a little wooding and fire construction we soon had 'flames flickering, embers aglow'!



## THANK YOU

Hilary Chittock



A huge thank you to everyone who agreed at last years AGM to the donation of £50 from the Foxlease Singing Circle Special Fund to be given to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Since conquering Kilimanjaro just over a year ago, Liz, Denise and I have been giving talks & slide shows up and down the country and The Roger Burnley Tribute Fund now stands at £31,000. We know that this money will go directly towards research into the causes of this fatal and devastating disease.

On behalf of "the 3 amigos" thank you for your support!

## UPDATE

Rachel Clare

As I sit at my desk with my cup of tea and watch the rain lash down outside, it seems that autumn is well and truly upon us and this means that the November weekend is fast approaching! As always, my spare bed is covered with Singing Circle paraphernalia and the postman has been struggling under the increased weight of his bag as the forms come flooding back through the letterbox.

First of all, thank you to everyone for their help and support in June, when many committee members were with us in spirit but not in body! Everywhere I turned, there was someone saying "How can I help?", which was lovely and I hope you all had as enjoyable a weekend as I did.

We look forward to a great weekend of singing and merriment led by Frances Parrett and Jane Withey, which will also include the Foxlease Singing Circle AGM.

This year we say a huge thank you to Becky Winterson, Chris Adamson and Fay McMullan as they leave the committee after a five-year term of office. I am very grateful for their support and encouragement, especially when I was first getting to grips with the secretary role! We will, therefore, be looking for three new people to join the committee - IT COULD BE YOU!!!

Each member of the committee has responsibility for a particular aspect of our weekends, such as organising the clothing & songbook stall, finding optional session volunteers, helping to write the duty rotas etc. These jobs are flexible, so don't be deterred by thinking "I'm not sure if I could take on that role" - come and chat to us, we will do their best to persuade you! At the end of the day, we are just looking for people who are keen to help!

We are also looking for further volunteers/ideas for optional sessions on Saturday afternoons. If you feel that you may like to lead an optional session, but are unsure how to go about this or just terrified by the thought, DO NOT FEAR! We plan to start a 'buddy' system, where new session leaders are supported by those experienced in leading sessions, so that you have someone to bounce ideas off and provide general musical and moral support!

If you have an idea for an optional session, even if you don't want to run it yourself, please let the committee know. These sessions don't have to be music-related - previously we have had craft sessions, short walks, House tours, swimming pool sessions etc.

Anyway, it seems to have got dark so I'd better get on with dinner! Looking forward to seeing many of you very soon!



# ROCK THE MALL 2012

Lucy Faulds



In June, a group of us accepted Karen Brown's invitation to visit Washington DC for the Rock the Mall event to celebrate 100 years of Girl Scouting. Of course, it was too far to travel for a short event on a Saturday afternoon so we turned the trip into a fabulous week of sightseeing - and singing!

On Sunday we were invited to sing in church; On Monday we visited the US Capitol, and took a sightseeing Duck Tour of the city.



The rest of the week we shopped, we visited the various Smithsonian museums (and got very used to the airport style security to get into them!), we saw the Pandas in the Zoo, we wandered round Arlington Cemetery, we went to a Baseball Game and of course there was the obligatory visit to the GS shop, and a number of trips to local craft stores!



We were in the USA over the Diamond Jubilee weekend, but we took the celebrations with us and had a marvellous red, white & blue "driveway party" at Karen's, which a number of local Girl Scout leaders were invited to. We had a wonderful blend of UK & US food, complete with tea served from a teapot, introduced our US friends to "Pass the Parcel" and ended with a toast to Her Majesty.



Each evening we were joined by an ever-increasing number of Girl Scout leaders who wanted to sing with us, including ladies who had written some of our favourite songs.

One evening, someone was heard to remark "It's just like being at a World Centre" and it was - with people from England, Scotland, Canada and all over the USA all singing together!

Rock the Mall, the event we had really come for, was on the Saturday. It was hot. It was crowded. It was fabulous! The singing itself was not quite what we had expected, with less "group singing" and more "performances" but the scale of



the event was phenomenal! Our Union Jack brolly & flag on a long stick acted like a magnet - every time we turned round there was somebody there asking "Are you really from England?" We traded thousands of swaps, had hundreds of photos taken, signed numerous t-shirts and spoke to Girl Scouts from all over the USA.

Whilst we were sad to miss the June FSC weekend, Rock the Mall was a fabulous event and the memories of our trip to Washington DC will remain with us forever.

If you want to hear more about our trip, talk to somebody who went, or take a look at the book of our adventures at the November weekend!



# FSC 30TH BIRTHDAY

Looking forward into next year... 2013 marks the 30th birthday of FSC and plans are already underway. Although the first ever weekend was held in October, we are having our main celebrations at the June weekend as we hope the weather will be kinder to us than in November (although looking at the last couple of years, perhaps not....!)

We started collecting ideas last June and will be asking for further thoughts at the forthcoming November weekend... themed sessions? particular session leaders? special guests to invite?

We also hope to create red and green FSC bunting, so if you have any spare red or green material, or a pair of pinking shears, please bring them along to the November weekend and we will make triangles! We have found someone who is going to sew it into nice bunting for us.



And of course we have asked for 30th Birthday badge designs - there's still time before we meet in November to get your creative hat on! We'll try and use all designs submitted at some point through our whole Birthday year.

# CONCORDIA RANGERS' SERVICE WEEKEND

Sarah Clare

The FSC committee had received a lot of feedback regarding maintenance and housekeeping issues in PML - combine this with a Ranger Unit looking for a service project and you have.... Concordia Rangers' service weekend!

Concordia Rangers & leaders (including the Clare family!) spent a weekend at Foxlease and during this time carried out a number of maintenance tasks in PML, which included the following:

- ☺ Scrubbed blue chairs
- ☺ De-cobwebbed high ceilings in hall & on stairs
- ☺ De-limescaled taps & showers
- ☺ Unblocked shower & sink drains  
(...you should have seen the hair we got out!)
- ☺ Cleaned shower curtains
- ☺ Fixed toilet seats
- ☺ Fixed wobbly bunk beds & ladders
- ☺ Added baskets in showers for shampoo etc.
- ☺ Added mirrors to bedrooms
- ☺ Fixed hooks in bedrooms & next to showers
- ☺ Cleaned windows (inside) & the lift
- ☺ Scrubbed shower floors

We were also hoping to repaint & fix the gateway to the Quiet Area which was originally funded by FSC. However, parts of the gateway have become rotten and are going to be replaced by the Foxlease maintenance team in the near future, so the painting may be another project!



PML was looking very clean and shiny on the Rangers' departure... we hope you will notice the improvements in November!



## YOUR MESSAGES

My grateful thanks go to Peggy Douglas who used to come to the FSC some years ago for allowing me to have her original blue FSC metal badge. I lost mine at the November 2011 meeting and put out a plea to anyone who had a badge or a spare to replace mine. Peggy has given me hers and I am so pleased about this. I shall, of course, make sure that I do not lose this one. Many thanks again, Peggy and to Joyce Blackwell for delivering the badge safely to me. Meriel Dunham

THANK YOU to everyone who came and sang at Friends of Foxlease on July 7th. Two of my drummers were completely blown away with the lovely sound you made... I think we may have gained some additional members!! I'm sorry the weather turned it into one concert instead of gentle background on the lawn music, and the late arrival of the drummers caught in traffic made the rehearsal into a mad scrabble! Especially considering many of you had only had one quick run through, the performance was fab! Thank you for getting yourselves to Foxlease to help on such a vile day!!! Frances



Oiling the Bench

## MARJORIE'S BENCH

We have had very good feedback regarding Marjorie's bench - lots of people have noticed and appreciated the addition of a bench outside the Barn and it has been used a great deal.

Many people remember Marjorie King and are very pleased that the bench is in memory of her.

P.S. There are actually two benches now, as a matching 'FSC 30th Birthday Bench' had been added too!

## SENIOR SECTION AT FSC

We have had a number of queries recently about the possibility of 16 and 17 year old coming along to FSC weekends so we thought it might be useful to mention it in the newsletter. It's a real dilemma and one that we have discussed a lot as a committee as obviously we want to pass on our rich musical heritage to a new generation, but accommodating those under 18 would be very difficult.

Our weekend is an adult weekend away, but if we allowed under 18s to attend, then basically we would have to run a separate Senior Section residential event which joined with us during the day to share catering and activities. We would have to appoint someone with a Senior Section holiday/camp licence, and at least one other Senior Section leader to be responsible for the younger attendees. Residential Event Notification forms would need to be completed and sent to various Commissioners, Advisors etc. and full consent forms would be required for each young person.

On top of this, any under 18s would need sleeping and bathroom facilities separate from the main adult group which obviously is not at all straightforward considering the accommodation we use. We are still growing in number and we often use every bed, especially in November.

Taking into account all of the above, I'm sure you will understand why we decided that we had to stick to 18 as the lower age limit for membership of Foxlease Singing Circle and for attending our weekends.

## DIARY DATES



2012

16th-18th November - FSC Weekend lead by Frances Parrett & Jane Withy

2013

7th-9th June - FSC 30th Birthday Weekend  
15th-17th November - FSC Weekend

2014

2nd-5th May - National Singing Circle Meet  
6th-8th June - FSC Weekend  
14th-16th November - FSC Weekend

Who would you like to see leading future weekends?

Please email your suggestions and preferences to

[foxleasingsingingcircle@gmail.com](mailto:foxleasingsingingcircle@gmail.com)

or pass them to the committee



LOOKING FORWARD TO SINGING TOGETHER VERY SOON!