

Fosbrook Folk Education Trust

Providing music, dance and song opportunities for

'YOUNG FOLK' IN THE NORTH WEST'

Spring Newsletter - 2018

Dear All,

This weekend is the last Headstart before Easter so I thought I would take the opportunity to let you know about a few things which are coming up in the near future.

STOCKPORT SCHOOLS' CHOIR FESTIVAL

Well done to the Fosbrooks who form the largest part of the school choir this year. Their event is next Tuesday (27th) at Stockport Town Hall. Their medley of traditional songs come from different regions of the British Isles to fit in with the theme 'Everyone and Everything'. I particularly applaud the final lyrics of the medley which suggest that 'Summer is a Coming in!' **Roll on the better weather.**

WEATHER

Apologies that school was closed for two days due to heavy snow. All the staff except David Usher will make up the lessons they missed. David has not charged us for them so this will be reflected in your invoice this time.

RESIDENTIAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

It is our Easter Camp at Abney Hall for the intermediate performance groups (*4.30pm band and upwards*) This will be on the 12th, 13th and 14th April. There will be a separate letter about the arrangements and invitations to the joint performance between Fosbrooks and the Northumbrian Ranters.

Later in the summer it will be the junior residential at Hayfield. This will be a 'sleepover' at Hayfield Scout Hall on Friday 20th July. There will be a separate letter about this.

LOCAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

There will be a performance for all the students who are attending Easter Camp as a follow up to their training there. This will be at Banks Lane Junior School at 7pm on Saturday 14th April.

There will be performances for all students at the Summer Fair which is on the 19th May. I particularly want the littlest ones to perform in costume so want these in to check sizes and have them ready on a rack to change into at the end of Headstart on that day. There will be another letter about this but please put the date on your diary.

PERFORMANCES FURTHER AFIELD

The older intermediate group will be performing at Wimbourne Festival in Dorset on the 9th and 10th June. There will be a separate letter about this.

The senior group will be performing at Cugand Festival in France from the 20th to the 26th August. There will be a separate letter about this.

Based at : Banks Lane Junior School, Hempshaw Lane, Offerton, Stockport SK 1 4 PR

Office Address : '7 Cock Robin Row', Highgate Rd., Hayfield, High Peak. SK 22 2 JL.

Tel : 01663 746089 (Evenings, Sundays & Mondays)

Email : fosbrooks@btinternet.com

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PERFORMANCES IN THE FUTURE

Next year there is an invitation to go to France from Les Petiots who are our friends in the Loire Valley. They will also come here to visit us.

COSTUMES

Audrey is keen to renew and replace some items of costume - particularly the ones belonging to the smaller children. After Easter we will need all junior costumes in. This is probably a good time to have a 'costume amnesty' too. There are lots of Fosbrooks costumes hanging in wardrobes around Offerton doing nothing. Over the years people have hung onto items and not returned them. This next sentence is particularly for student members : Please return anything you have which is not currently being used. If you have friends who have been members in the past, ask them about their old costume.

ANNUAL DRAW

We always have a grand raffle and it is usually at this time of the year. Tickets go out this weekend. The junior member who sells the most gets a cash prize and the seniors can use anything they sell over £10 to save up for trips. There are big cash prizes for this raffle so do your best to sell some tickets for our funds. It all helps with costumes, education, the instrument bank and travel. First prize £150, second prize £75. third prize £50 plus various runner up prizes.

SPRING FAIR

It will be our Spring Fair on 19th May. This will be at Banks Lane Junior School. Please could members start collecting 'bric a brac', items for the tombola, 'crafty' items, pot plants etc. Cakes on the day would also be appreciated. There will be music and dance performance by all age groups and a singing spot too. Audrey is looking for helpers to man stalls and help with refreshments. Please let her know if you can help by ringing her on 07505394112.

DAVID USHER'S RETIREMENT

Our senior violin tutor David Usher is retiring this Easter. He has been at Fosbrooks for over 17 years and was previously Head of Strings at Chetham's School in Manchester. We wish him all the very best for the next phase of his life. I have bought him a Camellia bush for his garden to remind him of his happy days amongst the 'Flowers in the Fosbrooks'.

ANOTHER ENDING

It is also the end of an era for the Stockport Schools Folk Dance Festival. This event is finishing after 65 years. Banks Lane have been involved in all 65 of these and I have been to a huge number of these and produced some amazing teams for the event over the years. Congratulations to this year's performers and many thanks to the organisers at Saint Paul's, Brinnington. We will arrange another special performance for spring for our juniors to participate in to replace this on our folk calendar.

Have a lovely Easter.

From Liza and the Team

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