

YORKSHIRE GARLAND NEWSLETTER 23.05.10

Welcome

There are only two items in this, our third newsletter, but there is much to say about each. Once again I will reiterate my hope this will become a two-way communication. We welcome your comments, both good or bad. If we are doing anything wrong we need to know about it.

If you wish to suggest an aspect of work we might consider in our next phase of activity please get in touch. Contact details can be found on our website (see below for link). All this becomes especially relevant in the light of the second news item below, we have no idea how you might become involved with us unless you tell us what aspects of our work you are interested in.

One-day seminar: Yorkshire Museum of Farming, Murton Park, York. 26.07.10

Our first one-day seminar last year brought in some very positive feedback, including many requests for more practical workshops at the next one. To address this clearly expressed need we have engaged the services of Pete and Sue Coe. This time the whole event will consist of practical sessions, with Pete and Sue presenting simultaneous song and dance workshops throughout the day.

Last year we funded the entire event but this year we need to ask a small charge towards the cost of the event. Admission will be £5.00, which for a full day event is not going to drain anyone's bank account, but will help us enormously. To book your place, please contact Steve Gardham, either by Email:

gardhams@hotmail.com or by telephone: 01482 850819

Last year we rounded off the day with a fine supper and singaround in the upstairs room of The Black Swan. This was a wonderful chance to get to know each other and share our songs. If enough people are interested it would be fun to repeat this enjoyable experience.

Yorkshire Garland volunteers

If you are unsure what this entails, the fault lies with us, not with you. We do not have a clear policy about this, and indeed there couldn't really be one. Because you all have different levels of desire to be involved, availability and proximity or experience and skills, I suppose we just hoped in a vague sort of way this would simply evolve. If as a result you have felt left out we apologise and will seek to remedy things here.

For those of you who are happy just to stay on the list and be kept updated about our activities nothing needs to change. Others amongst you may wish to become more actively involved but are unsure how to proceed. A good starting point might be to attend one of our meetings. If you have something definite to suggest we would love to hear what you have to say. Even if you have nothing specific to say, something in the meeting may spark off an idea you would never have otherwise had. If you can't attend a meeting, the committee contact details are all on the website and the minutes of previous meetings can be sent to you. If you let us know you are interested we will try and involve you in something that suits you.

One problem for us is that we don't always know what we need until it presents itself. For example a volunteer attended our last meeting with an interest doing some singing. When we asked him about himself it turned out he also had all the IT skills necessary to create annotated maps for websites - just what we needed to illustrate song distribution throughout the county. **Bang!** What a gift, and this was sitting undetected at the same table as the rest of us. Another lady turned up at the same meeting with a portfolio of work she had been doing in her local schools. Her project had culminated in successfully selling CDs of children performing a history and song project she had prepared with them. She had done the whole thing herself, including organising the school participation in the first place. Discovering such enterprising capability was a joyful and quite humbling experience. The problem is not just one of communication. Imagination is a great factor, and yours could far outweigh ours in these respects. If you are willing to take on odd jobs that may arise please let us know. This might be something like typing up song texts, taking words or music down from recordings or even very straightforward tasks such as helping serve coffee at our seminars.

For our part we need to discuss at the next meeting what we can suggest to you. The main thing to understand is we would welcome you with open arms if you wanted to be involved, but wouldn't want to pester you if you are happy to be left as you are.