

# Folletterre Steward circle Minutes

Association Les Amis de Folletterre  
Les Groulots  
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France

On 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2009 the Folletterre Steward Circle met in Bonn, Germany.

**Stewards Present:** Lappi, EW, Junis, Mikey, Dee Tale, Fauny, Harry, Wolf, Yan and Shokti

## Agenda

Allocate some time for a summary of our visioning circle

Discuss Folletterre and Eurofaerie merging idea

Discuss fundraising ideas

Discuss administration and communication between stewards and the organisation of 'Les Amis de Folletterre'

Sort out gatherings and community weeks (used to be called 'work week') dates for 2010

Discuss whether to accept or decline the invitation to transform the faerie prairie in some way

Discuss the creation of the newsletter

Discuss database access and confidentiality of the data it contains

Discuss the creation of a 'good gathering guide' for gathering organisers and a 'closing up the land guide' for visitors and residents

Discuss differing concepts of 'gender' and 'queer' within the community and how to create a broad understanding of the differing concepts.

## Minutes

### Vision

Dee to continue writing the mission statement to make clear our shared values and will send it to other stewards who attended the 2009 vision circle weekend to add to/check before posting it onto the folletterre06 email group.

## **The Idea of merging the Folleterre organisation with the Eurofaerie Organisation**

Various ideas on whether this is a good idea, bad idea and how this would happen if it did happen were discussed. It was agreed that the idea should be given time for people to think about and create proposals before discussing it at the great circle in the summer gathering.

The idea that the Eurofaerie and Folleterre databases of people who have come to gatherings could be merged was put forward.

It was discussed that the Eurofaerie stitching organisation may soon cease to exist because of a lack of interest and energy in sustaining it.

It was proposed that if the merge went ahead then the Eurofaerie stitching could give Folleterre €10,000. €3000 insurance money for gatherings and €2000 for to be used to improve access to gatherings for people with very little money, especially from areas of the world where money is very difficult to obtain. The other €5,000 could be given to Folleterre as a donation (subject to tax) or in goods needed for a project (not subject to tax).

## **Fundraising**

EW put forward his idea to contact members who haven't paid membership where they said they would and also non-members to ask if they would like to become members. His idea was accepted by the steward circle. It was agreed that at least one person per country should take on a responsibility for contacting the members in their chosen country. EW volunteered to contact members in Germany and Lappi volunteered to contact members in the UK.

To carry out this fundraising idea EW will need a list of people on the database showing whether or not they are a member from the secretary. He will also need a list of which members have and haven't paid membership fees from the treasurer.

It was suggested that we organise more gatherings to raise money for Folleterre. But decided that it's important to concentrate on maintaining and increasing the standards of gatherings while supporting gathering organisers with good guidelines.

Several ideas about creating merchandise to sell to raise money and promote Folleterre were expressed such as; books, bags, t-shirts, postcards, porno, calendar, seasonal cards, underwear, faerie-french post-stamps.

Wolf to look into pursuing the creation of a calendar of gathering photos, Lappi to look into pursuing the creation of Folleterre bags, EW to look into pursuing the creation of Folleterre t-shirts. Junis and Wolf to look into creating images to put onto the merchandise.

## **Administration and Communication**

It was agreed that the bureaucratic structure (of course inherently a bad thing but is a requirement of the French government and also helps make the sanctuary exist when we live so far away from each other) of the administrative council needs to be changed because there is a problem with recording who pays membership and who doesn't when they said they would. This will mean the creation of new forms and processes to replace the current forms and processes.

The secretary will approach the treasurer to see if together they can work out a beaurocratic structure which works just as well as our poo tower.

Shokti to coordinate with Beebalm about the changing of the paypal button on the website so that people can donate as little or as much as they want.

Dee Tale decided to mail the stewards to see if they want to create some text to put on a profile page of stewards on the website. It was decided doing this would help the steward circle to be more transparent and make it easier for people to contact stewards with specific enquiries/ideas.

The Steward circle agreed Mikey, Junis, Fauny and Dee Tale as stewards. Harry will add Mikey to the folleterre06 email list.

### **Gatherings**

It was suggested that 'workweeks' be renamed 'community weeks' because they aren't only about working, they're also about being together putting whatever visions we have into action and community, celebrating and creating community.

The following provisional gathering dates were agreed:

Beltane gathering 27<sup>th</sup> april to 3<sup>rd</sup> of may

Rheingold gathering – 13<sup>th</sup> may to 16<sup>th</sup> may

Summer community week – 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> july

Summer gathering – 22<sup>nd</sup> july to 2<sup>nd</sup> august

Lumbers 15<sup>th</sup> October to 26<sup>th</sup> October

We also agreed to look into having Spring time community weeks before and after the Beltane gathering as well as another skill share gathering. Yan and Shokti is to liase with Dimitri about the dates for the skillshare gathering. There's also a possibility of creating a Francophone gathering which Yan offered to look into. Also there's a possibility of having a Greyfox/Golden Girls gathering which EW felt inspired to organise.

Yan and Wolf suggested they will organise the summer community week.

Shokti suggested he could provisionally organise the autumn equinox gathering if another faerie would also like to help.

There was excitement about the idea of a solstice party to celebrate the 5 years existence of the Folleterre faerie community at one of the gatherings in the summer...let's party!

Lappi, Thames and Harry suggested they could organise the summer gathering with EW's 'dancing' theme and with the help of anyone else who feels like helping to organise the gathering together.

It was decided the date for the great circle should be moved from the last Sunday of the summer gathering to a midweek day of the summer gathering on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July. The circle had been

held on the last Sundays of summer gatherings in previous years to make sure people who were working in the week could make it. But it was discussed that it seems previously if the great circle had been in the weekday it wouldn't have otherwise have affected anyone. The reason for moving it away from the last Sunday of the gathering is because the great circle tends to not get enough attention when it's at the end of a gathering because people are leaving and there's not enough time to discuss and move consensus effectively. It was decided that the moving of the general assembly to mid week on the summer gathering would increase the attention people give to the great circle and give more time for discussions to happen. Also after the general assembly there will be made time for a steward circle.

It was suggested that it's a good idea to announce on gathering calls why gatherings start and end on what could appear to be odd days. This is to clarify why the dates start and end on odd dates for people who come to gatherings. However it was also said that there is not much space for writing on gathering calls.

Lappi to check on the publication dates of RFD to see if we can still send them two calls for Beltane and summer gatherings to advertise these gatherings as it was agreed in the last general circle to go ahead with this if we can get a reduced price.

It was suggested that, if they would like to, new people attending a gathering could be introduced to a person who has been to the sanctuary before and who can be a guide to help them settle into the gathering. Also it should be clear to gathering organisers, especially first time organisers that they can approach the steward circle for help and support.

### **Faerie Prarie**

It was agreed to clear the brambles on the faerie prarie in a community week in 2010 to see how the land is underneath and to clear more land for camping. The majority of stewards in the circle were against the levelling of the faerie prarie. This idea is to be discussed at the great circle and steward circle again after the brambles have been cleared.

### **Work and jobs to do on the land**

It was agreed that clearing brambles from the faerie prarie, digging out the pond (preferably by hand and after further discussion) and painting the rooms of the house are all low-cost (if not free) projects which are necessary to do this year and agree with the decision from the last steward circle to not do any major work this year so the nature of the land can settle and we can connect with it more as a community.

Wolf explained how the transformation of the wet barn into a heated shower area will cost up to £2500 which doesn't include the cost of transforming the spare stove into a water heater. The idea that costs could be cut by being frugal and thrifty was talked about but it was understood that this work can't go ahead this year because we're giving the sanctuary a rest of heavy work for a year.

### **Residency**

It was affirmed that it's important for people who want to visit or reside on the land to have been to a gathering beforehand so they have an idea of how to care for the land and an idea of

the Folleterre community and what the community and land mean for the people within the community.

The address of the sanctuary is to be taken off the website and given to people who contact the secretary with a wish of staying at the sanctuary. This is to avoid people arriving at the sanctuary when no one is there to help them. It was affirmed that the phone number of the sanctuary shouldn't be put onto the website for the same reason.

In relation to the insurance of the house and land we must check whether residents and visitors need to be members in order for the insurance to be valid. EW said he would check this.

### **Newsletter**

The newsletter will be created by January and will include; the vision summary from the vision weekend, a contact list of organisers of gatherings and stewards and other faeries creating specific creations, gathering dates of Folleterre gatherings and faerie gatherings outside of Folleterre, an invitation to the great circle( as it is a legal obligation to announce the circle 4 months before it happens) and anything else anyone wants to put into it.

It was agreed that within the newsletter it's a good idea to state that we're open for people to create more and new gatherings. Also to state that we're hoping for people to be long term visitors or residents with the dues of £5-10 a day. It would also be important to clarify the difference between a community week and a usual gathering in relation to whether people pay for community weeks in the same way as gatherings.

Wolf is organising the newsletter for January 2010.

### **Database access and database confidentiality**

It was discussed whether gathering organisers could have access to the database, it was agreed that they could to make contacting people about gatherings easier. It was also agreed the gatherings princess should have access to the database to be able to contact people to encourage them to be gathering organisers.

### **Undiscussed agendas**

Due to a lack of time the following two items on the proposed agenda were not discussed or actioned within the Steward Circle; "Discuss the creation of a 'good gathering guide' for gathering organisers and a 'closing up the land guide' for visitors and residents" and "Discuss differing concepts of 'gender' and 'queer' within the community and how to create a broad understanding of the differing concepts."

These two agendas will be discussed at the next steward circle.

Fauny offered to host the next winter December stewards circle.