



Local Heroes: *Music for Dance*

Fosbrooks

Fosbrook Folk Education Trust is a voluntary organisation dedicated to providing high quality dance, music and song classes for young folk enthusiasts in Stockport. Established in 1980, it began as a small performance group linked with the country dance club, and has since expanded to include tuition for a wide range of folk arts, a community programme and an instrumental music service. The graded activities provided by the education programme cater for top infants, juniors, senior school students and young adults at colleges and universities. The social programme provides supper parties and outings to folk/cultural events, as well as ceilidhs and concerts for the members and their families.

The mission of the group is to use the medium of folk arts to raise the aspirations and performance skills of the members, and to provide them with opportunities to participate in community events, concerts and festivals within the locality, as well as national and international events.

The group is directed by Banks Lane teacher Liza Austin Strange, who has an MBE for Services to Folk Arts in the Community. She is assisted by other volunteers, a staff of music teachers and the oldest students who pass on the repertoire of the group via a 'cascade' method. Although she is kept busy by her commitment to the Music and RE teaching at Banks Lane Junior School, she does occasional lectures and presentations about her work for educational institutes, festivals and folk arts groups.

A close partnership with Banks Lane Junior School enables the pupils there to benefit from the specialist music teaching on offer, to access the instrument bank and to attend classes in country dance, clog step and sword dance. The benefits to the organisation lies in the 'in kind' support they receive from the school in terms of accommodation and goodwill.

Fosbrooks have an international reputation and over the years they have appeared at many major folk festivals and concerts both in the UK and abroad.

Research Questions

1. Where are the Fosbrooks based?
2. Which school are they linked with?
3. What is the name of the woman who runs the Fosbrooks?
4. In what year was Fosbrook folk Education trust founded?
5. Can you find a festival in the UK where the Fosbrooks have played?
6. Can you find a festival in another country where the Fosbrooks have played?
7. Can you find a musician online who was once in the Fosbrooks?
8. What different types of dancing could you do in the Fosbrooks?
9. Watch a YouTube video of the Fosbrooks – can you name the different instruments the children are playing?
10. What kind of music do the Fosbrooks play?

Useful Websites

<https://bankslane-jun.stockport.sch.uk/assets/Uploads/Fosbrooks-Information.pdf>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2000/feb/29/schools.chrisarnot>

YouTube links

<https://youtu.be/Kqbf7j9-PE8>

<https://youtu.be/b5H-a0BupBE>

<https://youtu.be/SKCHBcwgi-g>

<https://youtu.be/LGEIYAczmwc>