

Nottingham Folk Dance Group AGM on March 16 2021

Secretary's Report

On February 1st 2020 we held a Saturday evening dance with Val and Ian McFarlane calling and Keeping Thyme providing the music. We made a small loss but everyone enjoyed the evening. Perhaps we would have enjoyed it even more if we knew what was about to happen for whilst this was our usual February dance, absolutely nothing was usual after that.

For the Playford Ball on April 25th 2020 we had Stradivarius booked to play for us and Matthew Vernon to call. We had sold 67 tickets (24 members and 43 visitors) and we were looking forward to seeing the Newark Town Hall ballroom full of happy dancers. We were even expecting to make a profit. Sadly, of course, we had to cancel the ball. Whilst some people asked for their ticket money back, many people were happy for us to hold the money over to 2021, by when we all assumed normal life would be resumed. Since we are still far from normal life, we are hoping to hold the 2021 Playford Ball online.

We had booked Lynne Render to call and Vertical Expression to play for us at our contra dance on September 26th 2020, which we also had to cancel. We decided that a whole evening of contra dancing at home might not be enjoyable.

We were confident enough to hold the Saturday dance by Zoom on November 14th 2020. People from around the world joined us. We had booked Portland Drive Duo to play for us but the lock down rules made it very difficult for them to play together and Deo Volente stepped in, for which everyone was very appreciative. Victoria and Dave worked with the caller Neil Stuart to devise a way for the band and caller to be in different locations without any Zoom timing issues, which worked very well. It showed how much everyone enjoyed the evening when the tip jar collected £460. The club retained £50 and the rest was shared between caller and band.

We had the usual two party nights by Zoom, in July and December, which were well attended with friends from all over the world. We had a variety of callers who made for very enjoyable evenings. We had a fun collection of "turns" from a variety of people and at Christmas we shared Christmas decorations and crafts in the breakout groups in the interval. Of course we missed sharing all the delicious food that everyone usually brings along.

Breakout groups have proved so popular we now use them every week and they allow us to both chat to people we know and to make new friends too.

This year we are hoping to hold the Playford Ball online on April 17th 2021 and plans are being made for this.

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