

## AGM Report 2022

Since the last AGM Nottingham Folk Dance Group has succeeded in its aim of keeping going and it is great that we have started meeting again in Lambley Village Hall.

We continued with our zoom dancing through the spring and into the early summer, concluding with a summer party with some folks giving us their 'party pieces' which was very enjoyable. I had many expressions of thanks from members of other clubs to the NFDG for keeping the dancing going through a dark and miserable time and we made some new friends. People joined us from parts of Europe, the USA and Canada, as well as all over the UK.

As we had had some success with dancing outside at Kelham Hall near Newark in 2021, we thought that we would go there again on Sunday afternoons while the prohibitions of Covid 19 continued. Unfortunately, that didn't go to plan. The first weeks we tried to go there they had other events taking place, so we were not allowed to go. Then when we managed to get a booking, the company went into receivership, which spoiled our plans. They even blocked off the entrance with blocks of concrete. Meanwhile we were dancing at Shelford, in the village hall carpark. Ian Sparkes had obtained permission from the committee to hold outdoor dance sessions there. We had some curious onlookers and even one couple who came and joined in. Unfortunately, the weather was not as good as it had been in 2021 and some of the sessions were cut short by rain.

Quite excitingly we had a Tuesday evening dance in August in the garden of Ian and Pat which was very well attended. Alex and Amanda's dog Charlie made a few appearances at the dances in Shelford and enjoyed the garden dance looking out through the hedge. So, many thanks to Ian and Pat for organising the carpark dancing and for hosting the garden dance.

In September we decided that as the rules allowed, we could return to 'in person' dancing at Lambley. The committee decided that taking a lateral flow test on a Tuesday before attending was an excellent idea. We started off with reduced numbers but that was more because people were taking long delayed holidays than lack of interest or fear. Numbers gradually increased, but so did numbers of people suffering from Covid. We decided to have a Christmas party with a pre-register which went from 32 people down to 20. Two of the callers couldn't come, we only had two musicians, and we didn't have the

usual shared supper. Josh did an excellent job of filling in and calling Graham's and Lauren's choice of dances. The meeting on the Tuesday between Christmas and New Year was cancelled and when most of my family including me caught covid we cancelled the first meeting of 2022 briefly resuming zoom dancing.

Since then, we have had a few weeks of showing the proof of our negative lateral flow tests but now we are just expecting members and guests to do a test. I have in the past few months managed to procure a few boxes of tests for members to take because they give them out freely in Newark marketplace and they don't remember me from one week to the next.

It is sad to say that some of our older members have not been able to come very often if at all since we resumed our normal dancing at Lambley. Viv has had a knee replacement and Brian often has trouble with his heart. We also heard of the death of Ray Corpe and that Paul is having treatment for cancer. We wish them all well. We can't forget that Victoria and Dave Yeomans have emigrated to Wales too. But the good news is that we also have some new members who are flinging themselves into the club, even joining the refreshment rota namely Rik and Marion and we have had a few others giving us a try.

The committee who normally met up just three times a year found that more meetings were needed during the period of zoom dancing and we have continued to have more meetings and continued with zoom too. It has the advantage of us getting side-tracked less often and not having to whizz around with the vacuum cleaner and make a meal if you are the host. If you are not the hosts, then there is no driving home late at night. We have lost Dave Yeomans to the committee as he said he would step down at this AGM and Ian Sparkes has bravely stepped into the breach.

I have mentioned zoom dancing and committee meetings as well as registering your name on the website before dances. None of these things would be possible without Malcolm who has battled with the technology and with my stupidity when things have gone awry. So- thank you.

I offer my grateful thanks to everyone who helps to make this club so friendly and welcoming, our committee, the people who put out the chairs and away again, the many callers, the team of tea makers and washer up people and

Steve who has been a great equipment officer and everyone who makes my life easier. Thank you.