

# Nottingham Folk Dance Group AGM on March 15 2022

## Secretary's Report

For the second year running our Saturday dances were affected by Covid restrictions but we didn't let that impact too much on our enjoyment of dancing.

On February 6<sup>th</sup> 2021 we held a Saturday evening Zoom dance with Victoria Yeomans calling and Shane and Julia providing the music. There were over 90 Zoom sessions, many with couples, so well over 100 people enjoyed the dance. Zoom dances with the band and caller in separate locations are a technical challenge, which was met very well.

On March 20<sup>th</sup> we held an additional Saturday evening Zoom dance with Bob Morgan calling and Lizzie and Dan providing the music. There were 78 Zoom sessions. This dance used different technology than previous ones, requiring simpler equipment. It required the caller to call earlier to allow for the Zoom delay, which caused the odd hiccup but everyone still enjoyed the dance.

The Playford Ball was moved to Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup> owing to the availability of caller and band, a Sunday being feasible because it was on Zoom. It was an interesting evening with dancers from around the world many of whom wore Playford costumes. Caperbility with Vicki Swan played for us with Bernie Culkin calling. There were just over 100 Zoom sessions and we all pretended that we were dancing in Newark Town Hall's fabulous Georgian ball room. By the way, this year's ball is on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and tickets are still available.

For all the Saturday dances held on Zoom we used a "tip jar" where dancers pay online whatever they consider appropriate for the dance. Everyone was very generous and in all cases we covered all our costs and were able to pay the callers and bands, who have been hit very hard by all the lockdowns.

Our summer party night was held on 27<sup>th</sup> July on Zoom, with Lynne and Victoria as callers and everyone had a good time.

In September we felt confident enough to hold the Saturday contra dance in person at Woodborough on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Lynne Render was the caller and Contrasaurus were the band. We limited numbers and dancers had to register and pay for tickets online in advance. We provided wrapped biscuits as usual but did not feel it appropriate to provide tea and coffee at this first dance. We sold 22 tickets, which reflected many people's reticence to dance in person so soon. Whilst we made a loss on this dance, we were pleased to be one of the first clubs to start dancing together again.

Our last Saturday dance of the year on 13<sup>th</sup> November featured Charlotte Rich-Griffin calling and Portland Drive playing. Again dancers had to register and pay online and this time we had 45 dancers. Some of the contra dances tested our fitness and some of us were feeling the effect of not dancing so energetically during lockdown.

The Christmas party was held in person at Lambley. Because Dave and Victoria Yeomans have moved to Wales we no longer have the usual NFDG Big Band but Jill & Bernard stepped in to provide the music. 32 people registered and 21 attended which probably reflected the surge of Covid Omicron cases, which again made many people more cautious about socialising in large groups. Unfortunately we didn't feel that the bring and share supper was appropriate but a lot of chocolate biscuits and mince pies were eaten and the whole evening was very enjoyable.

I have mentioned people registering for dances online. This has been made possible by the expertise and hard work on our website by Malcolm and on the financial side by Josh. This method of buying tickets for dances will continue. If you are not online or you don't want to pay for tickets online, registration and payment can still be done on club nights when you pay your subs.

So it was another strange year but due to the hard work of a lot of people we still had plenty of dancing to enjoy.