

Chairman's AGM Report 2023

We have had another busy year with so many members contributing to the survival of the group and even its flourishing.

As well as the many club callers we have, we have been lucky to have added Neil Stuart to the list. He occasionally calls for us when his own club at Chesterfield isn't having a Tuesday evening session. On top of that we had Seth Tepfer calling in June for us at Oxton. He comes from the USA and was meant to be calling for us in 2020, but eventually made it in 2022. We moved to Oxton for the evening and had a good turnout. Plans are afoot for a similar event later this year.

It seems strange to think that we were still testing for covid and talking about lateral flow tests and new variants at this time last year. In fact it wasn't until the end of April when the government stopped giving out free lateral flow testing kits that we decided we would have to dispense with the request to test before attending on Tuesday evenings. Then Angela could step down from her role as covid police constable.

I eventually got around to sorting out the song books that Colin MacIntosh had kindly donated to us from Elsie's collection. Most of them found good homes.

Meanwhile Helen had taken on sorting out the refreshments rota for which we are all grateful. We wouldn't like to have to bring our own or do without. Thanks for that Helen.

The Great British weather has played its part. In the summer we had to cancel a club evening because of the heatwave, as recommended by the government and health experts. I think we would have all melted. Then an event to be held in Graham Conran's garden had to be cancelled because of the rain! Last week we didn't know if many people would come because of the snow forecast, but we are a hardy lot and came. Perhaps saving the heating at home too?

In September when we returned to dancing we noticed that the hall was very dirty in the kitchen and on the floor. Also there were problems with the plumbing in the toilets. So I embarked on a search for a different hall. It was frustrating and eventually proved to be fruitless, and so we will stay at Lambley for now at least. Some halls wouldn't allow music after 9pm, but many were already being used on Tuesdays. It is a popular night for activities. We have a good price for the hall, and the caretaker says that the after school club often make it dirty after he has left. Also if he washed the floor after they go it wouldn't be properly dry by the time we arrive. We have been given a refund for the first week back in September when it was the worst, and the after school club have been asked to remember that others use the hall after they depart.

In January out of the blue I was called by ITV to ask if we would be willing to appear on a tv programme about folk dancing. It was a local programme but had versions of it all around the country on local news ITV programmes. Lauren who was calling that evening was willing and we had a good turnout, a great dance to film and we appeared on the Friday following. I had to answer the questions and the whole thing

was over in about twenty minutes with the tv piece cut down to three minutes. (Dave and Victoria were also on their local programme a couple of weeks later.)

Finally I would just like to say a big thankyou to everyone who is part of the club and especially those who help with some of the tasks which help with the smooth running of NFDG, the callers, the refreshment makers, the chair stackers and unstackers, David and Margaret for opening up, the wash-uppers, Steve doing the job of equipment manager so well, the committee members who do a great job, including Mary for her secretarial duties, Malcolm for his work on the website, Josh as treasurer, Angela for her work with the membership list, Lauren, who has recently stepped down and Ian for their input on dances and other matters and all of you for turning up most weeks and making it all worthwhile.

Helen Jowett