

# Nottingham Folk Dance Group AGM on March 14 2023

## Secretary's Report

Joni Mitchell sang "you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone" and the pandemic made 2022 feel like a very special year when we could resume holding all our Saturday dances and parties without Covid restrictions.

On February 5<sup>th</sup> 2022 we held a Saturday evening dance at Woodborough with Frances Richardson calling and Falconers providing the music. It was a great evening with the band and caller very well received. 44 people attended and the club made a small profit of about £25.

The Playford Ball was back in the fabulous Georgian ball room at Newark on April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022 with Stradivarious providing the music. Matthew Vernon was booked to call for us but succumbed to Covid a few days before. Four of our wonderful club callers stepped up and covered the programme brilliantly to save the day – Josh Catlin, Lauren Catlin, Malcolm Jowett and Graham Conran, who achieved a long held ambition to call in the ball room at Newark. They made up for the ball room being very cold as the heating broke down but it did encourage us to dance. Again the club made a small profit, this time of about £35. We will invite Matthew back to call for the 2024 ball.

By the way, this year's ball is on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023, tickets are still available and you can register on the website or with Josh.

Our summer party was held on July 26<sup>th</sup> 2022 and a good time was had by everyone. For many years the NFDG Big Band have provided the music for our parties, with Dave Yeomans coordinating the musicians and his wife Victoria coordinating the callers as well as playing in the band. This time Jill & Bernard coordinated the musicians and provided the music and Malcolm Jowett coordinated the callers. They all did a splendid job for which we thank them. We reinstated the bring and share supper which was enjoyed by all.

We held our contra dance on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 with Charlie Turner calling and English Contra Dance Band playing for us. Unfortunately our dance clashed with a contra based birthday party, which lost us many of the Sheffield contra dancers who might have come. We had 31 dancers and did make a significant loss. We don't hold Saturday dances to make a profit but rather to provide excellent dancing to our members and dancing friends and we can weather the occasional loss.

Our last Saturday dance of the year on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2022 featured Ivan Aitken calling and Deo Volente providing wonderful music. 48 people came along and again we made a small profit of £30. Unusually we ran out of raffle tickets or we might have made a little more.

The Christmas party was held at Lambley on December 20<sup>th</sup> 2022. Jill & Bernard again coordinated the musicians and provided the music and again we thank them. The bring and share supper which excellent as always and all the callers provided a lovely mixture of dances.

I have started booking callers and bands for our 2024 dances.

We are using the website for all dance registrations, which is working well. Our web master Malcolm continues to maintain and enhance the website. As we have said before 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.

Many folk dance clubs have not survived the pandemic and it is due to the hard work of many people and the enthusiasm of all our members that NFDG has bounced back so well.