

AGM 2024 Chair's Report

What have we been up to during the past year? Welcoming new members is what we have been doing. I can count at least 14 new members since last July, which is wonderful. Just as importantly we have held on to our long standing members. It is very gratifying to see everyone on Tuesdays. Thank you all.

We decided to have events during August as many of us are at home during the school holidays and they were popular. We are hoping to do the same again this year. If anyone has any ideas for a 'special' evening please let me know. We also had our evening of 'Spontaneous Delight' which had to be organised beforehand so wasn't exactly spontaneous, but we're keeping the name Graham invented when he was Chairman. It was great fun.

Once again this year we have had to contend with weather events that have meant cancelling an evening. This year Lambley was flooded on the 2nd of January so we had to cancel.

It is now four years since I started writing the newsletter and sending it out to members. It started because of the lockdowns but has proved useful in reminding people about the various callers we have each week, the other events in the folk dancing calendar and some anecdotes and stories from members and yours truly. Keep sending me the ideas you have and the events and stories you want to share. The 'retired' members who can no longer make it to Lambley have also let me know that they enjoy getting the news.

Our 'core dance' programme continues to challenge us, although we didn't have a programme for a while. Nettle Rash was better the first week than the fifth but other dances definitely improved over the course of their time as the core dance. An Early Frost has quite a poignant name as it was in memory of those who died too soon after contracting Aids. This year we are going to visit some old favourites as well as new. When we all hummed along to Dunham Oaks it was a surprise for Neil when he called. Devil's Dream has been a favourite for many years but often melts in the middle when we have newer people on the floor, so it was good to do that as a core dance.

As a club we have a good set of club callers willing to prepare an evening's programme which I know takes a lot of effort. This gives us all some variety and makes the job of the caller less onerous.

I must mention the recent evening of Running Set which I thoroughly enjoyed. It was hard work in some respects but if enough people want it, we can have another go next year.

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 need to be done: the callers, Helen setting up the refreshment rota and the refreshment makers, the chair stackers and unstackers, David and Margaret for opening up, the wash-uppers, Steve doing the job of equipment manager, the committee members who do a great job, including Mary for her secretarial duties, Malcolm for his work on the website, Josh and Angela as treasurer, Angela for her work with the membership list, Sandra sorting the callers' rota, and David for living in Woodborough and everyone for their input on dances and other matters. They all make my job easier. Thank you all for turning up most weeks and making it all worthwhile.

Helen Jowett