

AGM 2025 Chairman's Report

Thank you all for coming along to this AGM. It is great to see so many people here. In the last year we have continued to welcome new members and just as importantly members of long standing keep coming. We hope to continue in this way.

The events during August were popular again last year. We had another ceilidh evening with simpler dances. We also had a fun evening of international dances with Ray and Dawn Dawson. Perhaps one thing we learn is that our own English dances are even better! We have a couple of ideas for the August evenings this year, but if anyone has any ideas for a 'special' evening please let me know. NFDG also organised a meal at the Nags Head in Woodborough in August, which was well attended.

It is now five 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. It was very gratifying to dance Braes of Dornoch without any calls earlier this year. We have danced Felicity, Charlene's Celebration and Fandango and now we are tackling Mary K. We also had the Astonished Archaeologist, which astonishes me because I can't remember it at all.

Unfortunately our members have had our share of illnesses, traffic accidents and spells in hospital, with some people needing surgery. There has also been a nasty return of covid. Let us wish ourselves better health in the coming months and an ability to keep on dancing!

As New Year's Eve landed on a Tuesday in 2024 we had an extra evening, which was good fun. We had a few extras with songs and instrument playing. At the turn of the year we all danced in and out of a big circle while someone on the internet sang Auld Lang Syne endlessly, until we switched her off!

Now that Google is our friend we have had visitors from other parts of the country who have popped in to see us, including an American called Charles who fulfilled a long held dream of dancing at a costume ball in England with us last year. He was very generous in his praise afterwards but I think that some of the sentiments ring true, that it is the people we meet, the spirit of fun and enjoyment and also achievement when we get a complicated dance right which makes us love folk dancing.

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. Many thanks to you all.

Finally I would just like to say a big thank-you to everyone who is part of the club and especially those who help with some of the tasks which need to be done: as well as the callers, Helen setting up the refreshment rota and the refreshment makers, David and Margaret for opening up and putting the chairs out, the chair stackers who put them away again, the wash-uppers, whose job is a lot easier now that we bring our own cups and mugs, Steve doing the job of equipment manager, and the committee members who do a great job: Mary for her secretarial duties, Malcolm for his work on

the website, Angela as treasurer, and for her work with the membership list, Sandra sorting the callers' rota, and David for living in Woodborough and Ian for all his help, even though he always says he does nothing, and Josh for his 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.