

Nottingham Folk Dance Group AGM on March 18 2025

Secretary's Report

2024 was a busy year for the club with five Saturday dances and a number of extra club nights. I am feeling rather sad writing this report as my dicky hip stopped me enjoying so many of these events.

On February 3rd 2024 we held a Saturday evening dance at Woodborough with Anne Welch calling and Tom and Julia Barnes providing the music. It was a great evening with the band and caller very well received. 46 people attended. Angela will cover the financial situation for each dance in the Treasurer's report.

The Playford Ball was held in the fabulous Georgian ball room at Newark on April 20th 2024 with Keeping Thyme providing the music and Matthew Vernon calling. We had 67 dancers which is close to the maximum for the ball room and everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening of dancing.

This year the ball is on April 12th 2025 with Eclectic Regency playing – they are Tom and Julia Barnes who played for us last February - and Andrew Swaine calling. All tickets have been sold but there is a waiting list if anyone would like to be in with a chance of going.

We held an additional dance on July 13th 2024 with Shane and Julia Day playing and Malcolm calling. We had 41 dancers and it was a great evening.

Our summer party was held on July 23rd 2024 with Kurly Kale and some musical members and a variety of club callers. A good time was had by everyone with some great dancing and the bring and share supper was enjoyed by all.

For the second year we held club evenings in late July and August including a party at Graham Conran's house and a mixed international dance evening with Fiddle Factor (Ray Dawson, Dawn and Simon). A barn dance was arranged by Malcolm with Sheepish Grin and a variety of callers. Members enjoyed a subsidised meal out at the Nag's Head in Woodborough. All activities were well supported and enjoyed.

We held our contra dance on October 5th 2024 with Diane Silver calling and Old Time Contra Band playing for us. We had 34 dancers. We made a loss on this dance and are considering whether we want to continue with a specialist contra dance and may have a mixed Saturday dance earlier in September.

Our last Saturday dance of the year on 9th November 2024 featured Colin Hume calling and Folkus Pocus providing the music. 39 people came and enjoyed the dancing. This year we are holding an afternoon dance on Saturday 8th November 2025 to see if that will attract more dancers.

The Christmas party was held at Lambley on December 17th 2024. Kurly Kale played for us alongside a number of friends and club members and we are lucky to have so many talented musicians to play for us. The party was very well attended. The bring and share supper was excellent as always and the callers provided a lovely mixture of dances.

As New Year's Eve fell on a Tuesday we had an extra club night party with a variety of callers. Twenty-five members attended. We started a little later than usual and members brought food and drink to help see in the new year.

In addition to the Saturday dances we have welcomed a number of guest callers and musicians on club evenings.

I have started to book bands and callers for 2026 and I was delighted when Victoria Yeomans agreed to call for the ball with Dave and Fran providing the music.

We continue to use the website for all Saturday 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.

The club continues to thrive and membership is growing, which allows us to enjoy some fabulous dances and I would like to thank all the people who make them the success they are.

I took over as secretary of the club at the AGM 2016, so I will have completed ten years in the role at the AGM 2026. I think that it is time for someone new to take over the role, so I am giving one year's notice that I will not be standing as club secretary next year. The role is largely administration and does not require in depth knowledge of folk dances, callers or bands because the rest of the committee are so knowledgeable. I will fully document what the role includes and will be happy to provide support as required to the new secretary. If anybody is interested in hearing more about the role, please let me know.