

Report for AGM 2020

We have had another busy year, with quite a lot of unusual things happening. In June the meeting had to be cancelled because of flood damage to the hall and in October the dreaded asbestos was found, which caused us to move camp to Oxton for one evening and have a visit to Worksop the following week, although only 9 of us made it. I was prevented from getting there because of flooding just outside of Newark. We had decided to find another hall to use on the 22nd of October because we had Audrey Knuth and Joshua Rowe playing for us. Audrey was from the USA and we didn't want to miss her great fiddle playing. Nicky McConkey also joined in on her fiddle.

The asbestos crisis was meant to last for 2 weeks while the dust settled and the kitchen was repaired. The 2 weeks dragged on into 2 months and then into 2020. The Lambley village hall committee were embarrassed by the whole situation and gave us a free evening and some other monies to make up for it.

The free evening was New Year's Eve which fell on a Tuesday. We had food, a quiz, and entertainment from Gerry from Lincoln, singing some amusing songs. We also had some solo violin playing from the 2 Grahams as well as dancing. Unfortunately the heating went off at the usual time as the caretaker hadn't realised we would be staying past our normal 10pm. 2 of our callers who had intended to come had heavy colds and so Malcolm was expecting to have to do all the calling but luckily Margaret had brought some dances and Lynne Render also came unexpectedly and agreed to call a few dances.

We have also had a year of badges. When we decided to have badges, we got some plain make your own style ones but then Janice and her daughter Tanya made fancy ones for her and Vic. Since then we have had all sorts of badges making their way on to our clothing and it does seem very friendly to have them. Jerry and Kathryn from Lincoln saw them and decided they would like them too.

We haven't had many guest callers this year as we have so many of our own callers and the committee decided that it would be a change to spend our money on a few guest bands this year. We did have Nigel Close, Victoria's father at this time last year which was very pleasant. We have had our usual 2 parties before the summer break and at Christmas with club callers and the NFDG Big Band which as always were good fun and well attended. The guest bands in addition to Audrey and Ben were Morris and Watson in June and

Graham, Elaine, Mick and Malcolm in November. Morris and Watson went on to play at our November dance.

We had a special session for new dancers in May and if anyone would like us to hold another session like that please let me know and it can be arranged. We have continued with our core dances in the new format and so far it seems to be working well. I think the only thing is that we could still do with a bit more practice, a couple more weeks, on each one.

Mary is going to tell you about our dances but as she wasn't able to go to the contra, I will mention it. In September we held our first contra which attracted folks from further away than the usual Saturday night dances. We had Jake Wood as caller and Ben and Alan playing for us. The dances were lively, the dancers were lively, the calling and the playing was good and we had a good turnout. We have decided to hold another one this September.

Last but not least we had our special celebration for Mildred's 90th birthday in January. Mildred said she had enjoyed it and I certainly did.

We continue to be a lively club with a good turnout each week and attracting new members. I would like to say thank you for all of the help that you all give to the club, our club, which you all help to make what it is: the callers, the committee members, running the website, making the teas and coffees, washing up, putting out the chairs, and away again, arranging the fliers on the table, taking the money and banking it, keeping the address book up to date, booking the bands and callers for the dances, preparing the rota of callers and for the refreshments, playing in the big band, arranging the music for the big band, keeping in touch with other clubs, looking after the equipment and anything else that I have forgotten.

Since I wrote this report things have changed dramatically because of Covid 19. At the moment we are being told to carry on as well as we can. We are going to be careful about washing our hands and some people will not want to come here if they have recently had illnesses. Hopefully by the end of this agm we will have made some decisions about the next few weeks.