

## Nottingham Folk Dance Group Secretary's Report 2019

In 2019 we held our usual two Saturday evening dances, a new contra Saturday dance, summer and Christmas party nights, a Playford Ball and a New Year's Eve party.

Josh provides details on the financial situation for each event in his Treasurer's report.

The February Saturday dance featured Andrew Swaine as caller and Momentum provided the music. Attendance was low due to poor weather and the amount of flooding across the country.

The Playford ball in April featured callers David and Kathryn Wright and Caperbility provided the music. Caller and band were generally considered excellent. As ever the food was very good; Jillian and Robert didn't dance most of the evening, which made the food preparation less fraught, but meant they missed out on the dancing, so many thanks to them for doing that. There were 45 dancers, up from 42 in 2018, but we made a significant loss.

In September we held the new Saturday contra dance with Jake Wood calling and Contrasaurus playing. This was an excellent new initiative driven by Josh Catlin and Lauren Wilson. There were 60 dancers and although the evening made a small loss it was considered a success for a first contra and another contra dance is arranged for 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

At the November dance, with Mike Courthold calling and Morris and Watson playing, poor weather and flooding again reduced the number of attendees to only 39. Attendance at the caller's workshop in the afternoon was also disappointing and the workshop and dance made a loss.

We had the usual two party nights, in July and December, which were well attended with friends from clubs in the surrounding area joining us. Thanks again to the NFDG Big Band on both occasions and all the club members who contributed to making great dance music. Also thanks to all the club callers who helped make both party nights very enjoyable and thanks to everyone who provided the excellent food.

Since the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 was a Tuesday we held our first New Year's Eve dance in Lambley with a mix of callers, recorded music and some live music from club members. Helen ran a dancing quiz, which tested all of us. Everyone brought delicious food and some fizz magically appeared at midnight (thank you Ian and Pat) which made the evening complete. The next Tuesday New Year's Eve is in 2024 when we might repeat this event.

Helen has told you about the guest callers and bands, which have added variety to club nights.

Tickets for the Playford ball on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020 with Matthew Vernon and Stadivarious sold very well with 67 sold and 3 more ordered, which makes having to cancel it all the more galling but of course the safety of all our members, guests, caller and band is the most important consideration as well as following government instructions.

Matthew Vernon and Stadivarious have agreed to call and play for us next year on April 17<sup>th</sup> 2021 and a number of ticket holders have asked us to keep their money for tickets next year which is gratifying.

The losses made on the Saturday dances are sustainable and we are continuing to book callers and bands for 2021. We all hope that it won't be too long before dancing can resume.