

Leicestershire & Rutland District Folk Committee

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 4th 2006

After a few 'warm up' dances Pat Crane took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1) Apologies had been received from: Roy and Norma Garrington. The Corrosions, Pauline Kinch, John

and Jean Elliot, Margaret Pollard, Jenny Weston,

Attending the meeting, Pat Crane, Jenny Crane, John Pollard, Keith Oughton, Ian and Patsy Paterson, Elizabeth and Richard Spendlove, Diane and Mike Bird, Maureen Silvester, Pauline and John Osband, Doug and Maggie Weston, Geoff Weston

2) Minutes from AGM in September 2005 were circulated read and accepted

3) Matters arising from those minutes - effectively a quick review of past events

4) Treasurer's Report is attached. We had actually lost £416 during the year, and these figures include ticket money for the Playford Ball coming next month. John Pollard as treasurer also pointed out that we had sent a donation to support the NYFTE tour of USA. It was suggested that monies for an event in the next financial year could perhaps be held in a separate account, or highlighted somehow. Our auditor for the past few years Tom Smith has said this is his final year in the post -Patsy would send a suitable card to thank him for his support over the years.

Suggestions for a new auditor were requested. The financial report was accepted, proposed Geoff Weston, seconded Mike Bird. John Pollard repeated that he feels this coming year should be his last as treasurer.

Other Reports had been circulated hoping this would give us more dancing time!

The Secretary's referred to the programme past and to come and repeated her hope to continue with Newsletters, even without Howard Fisher's constant and very welcome input!

The Membership secretary said we now have 77 members and 9 affiliated clubs, slightly lower numbers and higher ages than before.

Friday Folk dance mostly to recorded music with 8 club callers and regular guests, run a New Year dance and support other local events.

Glenfield Folk have celebrated their Ruby Anniversary with a skittles evening, and a Ruby Party with dancers resplendent in every shade of red pink and purple. Proceeds from the Wreake Ramble and the Garden Dance were sent to the Vaughan Williams Library at Cecil Sharp House 'in fond memory of Howard Fisher'.

Quorn Folk Dance Club had 25 different callers and 5 bands during the year, enjoying live music on average every other week. Their report contains welcome confirmation that the Masked Playford Ball is expected to become a biennial event but records that other Saturday evening dances are less successful.

All these reports refer to supporting other Clubs' and District events. Copies will be filed with these minutes.

John Pollard reported briefly that Burton Overy and Rutland Clubs are both flourishing.

5) Election of Committee We repeated the names of the current committee, and confirmed from the constitution that affiliated clubs are able to send a representative to meetings and a further group of committee members should be elected at the AGM. There was some discussion about changing the constitution so people could only serve three year terms and also the suggestion that clubs really ought to send reps. but both ideas were shelved.

Geoff Weston agreed to serve as minute secretary and be the named person for outside contact, A committee of; Chair Pat Crane and Geoff Weston

Treasurer John Pollard

Minute secretary and named contact Geoff Weston

Membership secretary Pat Crane and

Members Mike Bird Jenny Crane Patsy Paterson and newcomer Keith Oughton was proposed by Diane Bird and seconded by Pauline Osband.

Patsy confirmed that she AIMED to produce a Newsletter roughly at the start of academic terms and one really would appear soonŠ

John Osband proposed a vote of thanks to the treasurer and secretary for their efforts!

6) Any Other Business included repeated thanks from NYFTE for our support and Pat was able to explain that in the end ten young dancers from the 25 in the troupe as a whole made the trip and two slightly ex members also danced at various times. It had been a busy tour to Pinewoods and to Borea, where they actually did several dance demonstrations in schools.

We had received a request for details from Loughborough CVS and the new secretary would deal with that.

Several 'notable dates' were passed on for inclusion in the Newsletter especially the tea dance on Sunday October 15th 'Howard's Way' to raise funds for Leukaemia Research.

Having stopped for the meeting promptly at 8 we resumed dancing at 9.20 with thanks to everyone for attending, to Pat for arranging refreshments and to Geoff Richard and Keith for calling the dances.

PAP Sept 06

Membership Secretary's report

This year we have 77 members and 9 affiliated clubs, compared with 80 individuals and 10 clubs last year. The age profile is inevitably mostly in the over 60s bracket and I think we have to accept this.

I should like to express thanks to Pauline & John for again trying to encourage new members by offering the "Glenfield bursary" (paying towards the EFDSS membership of a previous non member) and suggest that some of the other clubs might like to consider running a similar scheme.

Pat Crane

Friday Folk :

Friday Folk has had a steady year with a weekly attendance of between 14 and 28. We dance to mainly recorded music with perhaps two 'live music' nights per 'term'. There is now a pool of 8 club callers with several regular guests. In July Jean Cooper invites us to dance on her garden lawn; sadly Dennis Cooper passed away this year after a long illness. We have a New Year's Saturday dance every January with a well known caller and musicians, and we enjoy supporting dances arranged by fellow clubs in our District.

John Forgham.

2006 REPORT FROM GLENFIELD FOLK

Realised, rather belatedly, that 2006 was a Ruby Anniversary year for Glenfield Folk (originally a school evening class with Sam Flinders in charge). So we sprang into action with the award of two Bursaries towards EFDDS Membership, helping to increase the L & R total.

Next a Skittle Evening proved a most enjoyable bonding opportunity. St. George's Day was celebrated with a Fish & Chip Supper and our end-of-year celebration was a Ruby Party, with dancers in a stunning array of finery, in every shade of red, pink and purple.

The Wreake Ramble, based on Thrussington, was a great event as usual and the evening dance was much enlivened by the recital of various bawdy versions of an "Ode to Ruby"! The Garden Dance again attracted fine weather and a delicious assortment of cake.

Proceeds from these two events will be sent to the Vaughan Williams Library at Cecil Sharp House, in fond memory of Howard Fisher.

Glenfield are most grateful for all the support received from other clubs - one of the great strengths of the dancing community.

Pauline Osband

2007

Quorn Folk Dance Club

Quorn has had a good year, full of activity and promise. There is a strong executive Committee, secure finances, and a base at the Village Hall that suits us very well.

During 2006/07 we shall be celebrating our 30th anniversary as a Club with the hope that future generations will continue folk dancing in the village.

Membership currently stands at 52, besides which a number of dancers attend club nights on a casual visitor basis. Peak attendance this year has been about 60 whereas on average we have sufficient for 5 or 6 square sets. We aim for a wide range of callers and the variety of styles they bring to the Club; a total of 25 different callers during the year, four of them for the first time. Five bands provided live music, on average every other week. During the coming year we plan to increase the proportion of live music by introducing new bands to Club members.

With the exception of our highly successful Masked Ball in November, now expected to be a biennial event, Saturday evening public dances have been disappointingly supported and are typically loss-making. We feel, however, that they are an important part of the calendar and intend to continue organising three per year. Our French connection has been maintained by a five day walking and dancing holiday in Normandy last October during which we renewed acquaintance with local clubs, and by entertaining a visiting folk dance team from Loughborough's twin town in the Vosges. This latter weekend centred on a couple of memorable Anglo-French evenings, one of which was generously co-sponsored by the District Committee. Quorn's demonstration side is much diminished in numbers, and correspondingly increased in age. It manages to maintain a respectable repertoire, these days mostly of Playford-era dances, but accepts only a small number of engagements during the season. The Club's work with children's country dance is at present in abeyance after four productive years, though the Committee hopes to restart this line of development during the coming year. Support for EFDSS remains undiminished, with sales revenue in respect of the "Welcome to the Dance" CD continuing to find its way to CSH. Club members are also enthusiastic supporters of District events as well as a range of folk festivals.

Mike Bird
Chairman

SECRETARY'S REPORT August 2006

I must start by thanking my fellow committee members for being around when I needed advice, as well as for all the other tasks you do, and for attending meetings often held with minimum notice.

Going through the calendar of events, we started our year with an excellent weekend of dance in Symonds Yat in October. Barrie Bullimore led us in some unusual and challenging dances -and I have enjoyed those which have been taken up locally. I was especially pleased to have our almost local musicians Dave and Caroline playing for us. Thanks to John Pollard for his work in connection with this event.

We ran a Ceilidh to commemorate the Battle of Trafalgar with a good attendance and some fascinating period dances, readings from Keith, David with a suitable poem, a lively song spot and a unique version of the Sailors' Hornpipe.

Christmas Mix was at Avenue Road School but please note there is to be a new venue this year though the format for the evening will be as in previous years.

A good crowd joined the coach to Cecil Sharp House for the annual Christmas gathering - a tea dance followed after a suitable meal break by an excellent concert with much audience participation in carols.

We had some 80 folk at one or other part of the Countesthorpe Day of Folk and really would like a few more though I am puzzled how to attract them. Grateful thanks are due to all those who gave up their time on this day as on others to run workshops and also to do the numerous other jobs involved when folk enthusiasts get together.

Quorn FDC became involved in a twinning with a folk group from Epinal, Loughborough's twin town and the District Committee were able to support their Ceilidh financially -and by attending. We had a super evening thank you Quorn.

We have also been able to support NYFTE's trip to America, financially only as we couldn't all go there -maybe we can get Pat Crane to give a quick report on that please.

Our -your- Maypole has been busy but be assured it could do more if offered suitable venues!

Looking ahead now - The organisation for the Playford Ball in October is well in hand, thanks to Margaret Pollard especially, and we are making arrangements for the 2007 Weekend of Dance.

There was a lot of communication about the EFDSS 75th anniversary in 2007 as well as reports in the National magazine. After much discussion, we as a committee decided not to run any extra events, but the usual ones will be special!

It has been good to welcome Richard Spendlove to the committee and we hope for more new faces -and office bearers - from this AGM.

I personally hope to continue my involvement by producing a Newsletter in late September, though sadly of course without our chief 'roving reporter'.

Patsy Paterson