

Leicestershire & Rutland District Folk Committee

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held September 14 2015

1. Doug Weston welcomed everybody to the meeting on behalf of our Chairman who sent his apologies! **Apologies** were received from Geoff Weston, Mike & Diane Bird, Roy & Norma Garrington, John & Margaret Pollard, Pauline Kinch, Keith Clifton, John Forgham and Pat Crane. **In attendance** were Doug Weston, Keith & Mary Oughton, Patsy & Ian Paterson, Peter Meacock, Jean Emery, Pamela Hood, Trevor Brown, Pat Gibbs, Lynn Illstone, Pauline & John Osband and Jenny Crane.
2. **Minutes from the last AGM (8/9/14)** They were accepted as a true record.
3. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.
4. **Treasurer's report:** Keith presented a financial statement showing a deficit of £56.61 for the year. There had been two main events (Playford Ball which made a slight loss and Christmas Mix which made a slight profit) and a significant donation (£200) from Glenfield Folk Tea money, grateful thanks were noted for the generous donation. £100 was paid for hosting a workshop for adults leading Maypole dancing. Net funds stand at £1653.68 at the end of the financial year (30th June 2015) and they have been audited by Brian Stevens. Thank you Brian for auditing and Keith for clear presentation of the accounts.
5. **Secretary's report:** Jenny reiterated the cycle of events organised by the committee (Christmas Mix yearly, Playford Ball and District Symonds Yat weekend alternatively). Sadly the Day of Folk no longer happens due to lack of organisers, a response had been received from CSH about our anguish for the change to the Christmas Carol Concert event. She reminded people that there were spaces on the committee and not all clubs/groups are represented. A letter and email had been received to say Friday Folk has closed (June 2015) due to lack of numbers.
6. **Membership report:** Currently we have 13 clubs/bands (14 in 2014 – 1 band contact has moved out of district) and 68 individual members (71 in 2014, 74 in 2013).
7. **Reports from clubs:**

Trevor Brown, on behalf of Mike Bird reported that **Quorn FDC** currently have 38 members and 7 committee members. They have met on 42 evenings in the last year with 24 callers and 9 bands. They continue to be soundly funded. A few concerns about the long term future and viability but in the meantime members enjoy the social aspect whilst encountering a range of traditions.

Pat Gibbs reported that **Elmesthorpe FDC** continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays and new members/visitors always welcome. Throughout the last season they held 17 club nights with an average of 22 members per night. They had visiting callers at meetings in the Village Hall, 1 Hoedown which unfortunately made a loss. A very successful ceilidh was held and raised £529 for Halsway Manor.

Pauline Osband reported that **Glenfield Folk** have been celebrating a GOLDEN YEAR with several special events (Golden Faces, Quiz, Skittles and Assembly). It started as a class led by Sam Flinders, for Glenfield WI, and Pauline and John took over in 1985. Numbers remain pretty stable and two donations (£125 and £150) were sent to CSH for the Kennedy Hall refurbishment project.

Peter Meacock on behalf of John Wilson the previous Chair reported that **Burton Overy Dancers** continue to meet with 50 club members. In the last year, they have met on 48 evenings with various callers and held a Twelfth Night Tea Dance and Annual Dance earlier in the year. Other

social events have taken place and recently new members have been recruited through Great Glen U3A Folk Group.

Peter Meacock reported on behalf of Colin Trevor, Chair that **Rutland FDC** continue to meet between September and June with 48 members. They have met on 38 evenings and recently introduced club caller evenings with live music by Kevin Downham, held a successful write a dance evening and members request evenings. They have put together a music library of 44 CDs and 64 dance notation books from various sources which are made available for members of RFDC and BOD to borrow. Also their website and club logo have been updated.

Patsy Paterson gave a summary report on **Maypole events**. Over 1000 dancers have danced around the various poles, led by 5 key people at over 20 places. Some joined in purely by accident! Peter Brine, Humphrey Shackleton-Trevor and Camping Folk Group members (including Patsy's grand-daughters) have provided live music. Various locations and groups, one to point out was the competition at a school maypole workshop with a football tournament! Thank you Patsy for organising the Maypole Diary and Ian for transporting it!

Patsy Paterson reported that **Countesthorpe U3A Folk Group** still meet with an average of 20 dancers, much fun including Sword Dancing today!

Peter Meacock reported that **Great Glen U3A** started a Folk Group in April 2015 with 14 dancers, there has been a summer break and it is hopeful that numbers will increase this term. New dancers are coming and joining in at other local clubs as a result.

Full reports available will be added to the District Website and a reminder that any news articles /events can be sent for inclusion on the website.

8. **Elections to the Committee** – all members to remain on the committee with the exception of Keith Clifton tending his resignation due to the closure of Friday Folk. Keith Oughton was proposed as Treasurer by Peter Meacock, Seconded by Pauline Osband. Other members are Geoff Weston (Chair), Doug Weston, Jenny Crane (Secretary), Mike Bird and John Pollard. *Keith reminded people the constitution states representatives from each affiliated club/group are welcome and upto 6 other members nominated at the AGM.*
9. **Planned Events:** 9th to 11th October 2015 District Weekend at Symonds Yat
14th November 2015 – Quorn Playford Ball at Quorn Village Hall, publicity to come out soon
14th November 2015 – Elmesthorpe FDC Hoedown at Ashby Road Sports Centre, Hinckley.
14th November 2015 – Dance in Nottingham (Patsy had received a poster)
28th November 2015 – Jerusalem Jammers will be hosting a Tea Dance for Children in Need, Countesthorpe Village Hall in the afternoon.
10th January 2016 – Burton Overy Dancers 12th Night Dance at Burton Overy Village Hall
5th March 2016 – Burton Overy Annual Dance at Burton Overy Village Hall
10. **AOB**
 - a) John Osband on behalf of everybody present wished Doug a speedy and healthy recovery.
 - b) Pauline Osband mentioned attending an event in Beaumont Hall (University of Leicester building) and suggested it may be worthwhile considering for the Playford Ball as it is an ideal size. Committee to investigate cost of hire.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm