



Folk Association of South Hants

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held at 4pm on Sunday 14th May 2017

at Soberton Village Hall

Present: Lin Rayner, Dennis Wheeler, Elizabeth Haigh, Karen Ilott, David & Lynda Sutton, Jacqui & Steve Longhurst, Daphne & Kenneth Coates, Norma Bracey, Sue & Eric Bradshaw, Joy & Roly Clarke, Morag & Gerry Gordon, Elizabeth Habens, Sue & Pete Hall, Tom Linley Jones, Elsa Millard, Joanna Morrell, Liz Neal, Liz Norris, Terry Russell, Martin Slater, Joy Simmons, Jane & Adam Warren.

1. Apologies:, Sheila Andrews, Sonia Atkinson, Glenwys & Nigel Beaton, John Coates, Trevor Dando, David Doling, Hilary Ford, Jo Harmer, Rosemary Hunt, Paul Ilott, Chris Isbell, Ian Kirby, Margaret Linton, Stroph Rayner, Rita Russell, Elaine & Paul Shiers, Hilary & John Turner.

2. Minutes of AGM held on Sunday 22nd May 2016: approved and signed

3. Matters arising

para 4: We have a nucleus of dancers who can be relied on to help those who need it. When possible, we ask newcomers about their previous dance experience as they come in and pay. We tried having a formally designated 'host' and 'hostess' for 3 workshops, but they weren't needed and we felt that our usual practice of being friendly to all and helping as necessary was sufficient.

para 7: Dave has been putting a different illustration or graphic design for each month to make it easier to differentiate between editions of Solent Waves.

Dennis has set up Google Analytics and run it several times, with interesting results. The website is being consulted fairly frequently by people from our local area and further afield in the UK.

Russian and Chinese addresses have featured too, as well as some from other unexpected countries!

4. Chairman's report - Lin Rayner

A paper copy was handed out and is available on request. Lin gave an overview of the 2016/17 workshops, which had good attendance and were generally much enjoyed. Flyers for next season were available.

We are very lucky to have Pete & Sue Hall and Andrew Purkiss playing regularly for us, with occasional appearances by Steve Hunt and Jacqui Morgenstein. Callers are always impressed by the calibre of our musicians. The 'Do Something Different' Day with handbells, spoons and boomwhackers was great fun and the annual Madding Crowd workshop was again very successful. Our two workshops based on music tend to attract a different range of people and are in keeping with our aim to promote all folk activities in Hampshire, rather than just dance.

The 2017/18 dance programme has seven workshops with a good mix of styles and includes some of our favourite callers as well as some interesting callers who are new to us. The Madding Crowd will be back in February, but we don't have a 'Do Something Different' Day this time. We would welcome any ideas you may have for 2018/19.

We were again very happy to support the Primary Schools Ceilidhs, with Dennis Wheeler providing the organisation that makes them so successful. This is probably the most worthwhile thing we do and it is fantastic to see the Jubilee Hall full of children dancing to live music.

Following a suggestion at last year's AGM we decided to try organising an evening ceilidh at the Winchester MayFest (next Saturday). Ian Nichols, who runs the SHOCC Ceilidhs, had the same idea and approached us to ask if FASH would underwrite a SHOCC Extra Ceilidh at the Guildhall. We agreed and Dennis and I have been helping the MayFest committee organise publicity for the whole day as well as for the evening ceilidh.

We recently co-opted Ian Kirby onto the committee, which will bring a different viewpoint and some new ideas. Nigel Close retired this year from organising the Twyford Charity Ceilidhs, but Ian will be taking over the dances from October and the programme is on the FASH website.

Soberton Village Hall is celebrating its 50th birthday on 16th September with short demonstrations from various hall users. We have agreed to take part in the afternoon, but we do need dancers to volunteer. Joy Simmons will be calling and we will have live music.

The next edition of Solent Waves will be the 400th, representing 40 years - the longest regular printing contract that Sarsen Press have on their books! Dave is planning a special edition, for which we really need your contributions to make it special – anything that stands out in your memory or any reminiscences about the editors – the Pennycooks, Dave Roberts, Dennis Wheeler and now Dave Sutton. Many thanks to the committee for working hard in their various roles, especially to Dennis for his work on the Schools Ceilidhs and to Elizabeth for running the handbells workshop last October. Thanks also to Lyn Sutton for her hard work as Solent Waves distribution organiser as well as her help in the kitchen and to Terry Russell and all the other Solent Waves distributors.

Comments

Pete Hall told us that Solent Waves was actually started by Pete Chadbund. Dave was grateful for the information and asked him to write about it for the anniversary edition.

5. Treasurer's report – Dennis Wheeler

We have £3498 in the bank, about £200 less than last year but still nothing to cause concern. Income from membership fees and attendance at workshops is still healthy. Most workshops make a loss or a very small profit, but the annual Madding Crowd workshop regularly brings in £200 and John Turner's workshop makes about £100 because of his popularity and the fact that he generously waives his fee. The cost of subsidising the School Ceilidhs rose to £636 because of various price rises. We supported the Waterlooville Folk Day at their request, but very few people came and we will probably not undertake it again. We lost £132, despite receiving a grant of £100. The only cost for the MayFest this year was £16.78 for setting up the website. Any possible underwriting liability will appear in next year's accounts. We again placed adverts in local Folk magazines and in the publicity for local festivals. Altogether we have spent £920 supporting folk activities in the area, which is our main aim.

Solent Waves lost a little less than last year despite another increase in print and postage costs. Income from donations fell, but was outweighed by an increase in advertisements. 'Miscellaneous costs' covers our change of website to a more secure provider (with thanks to Steve Longhurst for his assistance) and the EFDSS subscription that provides our insurance. This year we managed to earn 24p in interest!

Dennis thanked John Martyn for inspecting the accounts. Lyn Sutton proposed their acceptance, Joy Simmons seconded and it was agreed unanimously.

6. Membership secretary's report – Jacqui Longhurst

Numbers are about the same as last year at this time, although so far fewer people have bought season tickets (32 members so far for this season including 4 season tickets). However, we are expecting many people to join today.

At Ian's suggestion, we are thinking of trying an experiment next season where we will ask for feedback after workshops via 'Survey Monkey'. This would just be a trial and participation would be purely voluntary.

Jacqui read her own poem expressing her feelings on seeing the children's joyful response to the Schools Ceilidh.

7. Editor's report – Solent Waves & website – David Sutton

Solent Waves

The July/August edition will be number 400! Sarsen Press has generously offered to print it in colour at no extra cost and it will hopefully have 12 pages. Dave would appreciate any contributions - memories, anecdotes, photos, poems – that would help us celebrate Solent Waves' 40 years. Dave actually has an archive containing every edition, including the very first.

Although FASH officially serves South Hants, the catchment has grown to cover most of Hampshire and even some of the surrounding areas.

Comment

Roly said that Paul Northcott brings copies of Solent Waves to Overton and to his club at Wherwell, where they are much appreciated.

Website

The News page and Events diary are updated every 2 to 3 days and club directories are also kept up to date (provided that people send in the information).

As noted by the treasurer, we now have a new and seemingly better host for the website.

8. Primary School Ceilidhs – Dennis Wheeler

The two Ceilidh Days in Bishop's Waltham this year, for approximately 300 children, will be on 7th and 28th June and volunteer helpers would be most welcome. Graham Taylor is again calling, with music from Jigfoot. Last year the band was augmented by students from Swanmore Academy and this year we expect to be joined by young violinists from various schools, who have been working with FolkActive. Wickham Junior Morris will also be performing for us. They are led by Andy and Ali Miller. We would also welcome volunteers to help in some of the schools with teaching the dances.

9. FolkActive – Dennis Wheeler

FolkActive is a social enterprise company founded by Cath Watkins and Jo Harmer who are two of its directors, with Dennis being the third. Jo sent a report to the AGM, a brief outline of which follows

They are working with the Portsmouth Music Hub in 20 schools and will be holding Schools Ceilidhs there on 17th, 18th & 19th October. Again, volunteers would be appreciated and Jo thanks all the FASH committee members who supported them last year. The Hub won a major national award for 2016, and the ceilidh projects were mentioned.

They have now begun a similar project on the Isle of Wight, working with 60 children in 2 schools.

The Youth Folk Ensemble continues to thrive and will be playing for the ceilidhs at Bishop's Waltham.

The monthly FolkActive Dances for over 50s continue to be successful and Jo thanks Graham Taylor for his regular calling and also Jacqui Longhurst and Nigel Close for supporting a participant who is registered blind.

The full report is available on request. As Dennis said – they are doing a great job and we are very lucky to have them.

10. Committee nominations

The following committee members were willing to stand: Lin Rayner, Dennis Wheeler, Elizabeth Haigh, David Sutton, Karen Ilott, Jacqui Longhurst, Ian Kirby and Daphne Coates. Joy Simmons nominated them all, Jane Warren seconded and it was carried unanimously.

Most unusually we now have our full complement of 8 committee members, which is very pleasing.

11. Any Other Business

Jane Warren expressed sorrow at the imminent demise of the Fo'c'sle, which is the oldest Folk Club in the area. Brian Hooper is stepping down and so far no one has emerged to take over from him. Lin agreed that it would be a great pity to see it go.

The meeting closed at 5pm, after which we enjoyed Elizabeth Haigh's traditional cream tea, followed by an excellent dance led by Sue Bradshaw with music from Pete & Sue Hall and a singing 'spot' from Roly Clarke.