



Folk Association of South Hants

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

4pm Sunday 19th May 2024 online via Zoom

Present: Lin Rayner, Dave & Lyn Sutton, Dave McGlade, Elizabeth Churchill, John Coates, Kenneth Coates, Sue & Pete Hall, Alan Thurbon, Daphne Goddard Coates

1. Apologies for absence: Claire Coxwell, Anne & Simon Daw, Jo Drew, Elizabeth Haigh, Jo Harmer, Karen Ilott, Tom Linley Jones, Jacqui & Steve Longhurst, Elaine & Paul Shiers, Louise Siddons, Joy Simmons, Hilary & John Turner, Dennis Wheeler

2. Minutes of AGM held on Sunday 14th May 2023: approved (to be signed at the next committee meeting)

3. Matters arising

para 9: new callers' workshops? We have made some enquiries and are still investigating possibilities, but the general feedback is that rather than arrange any formal 'training', we should encourage people who are interested to 'have a go' at real events. Ian Kirby is back in the area and happy to mentor anyone, as are Louise Siddons and John Turner. We would like barn dance organisers to get in touch as Dave would be happy to publicise them on the website and in Solent Waves. We will try to liaise with any local bands who would like to create opportunities for new callers. **Action: committee**

4. Chairman's report – Lin Rayner

This is a brief outline, but please see the *full report* for more detail, especially of the workshops.

We have emerged from the post-Covid doldrums and had a successful year of dance workshops with excellent callers and musicians. Attendance has generally picked up well, although we would always like more people and hope for an even better year to come! The Gathering again attracted large numbers as did The Madding Crowd's music workshop. We are planning another Gathering on the 15th December.

Grateful thanks to Jacqui Longhurst who has now left the committee, for her contribution over many years as Membership Secretary. Louise Siddons has had to step down due to pressure of work, but remains an Associate Member and will contribute what she can when we ask.

Lin has taken on the role of acting Chairman in addition to being the Treasurer, and amalgamated the Membership Secretary role with that of Treasurer. Recently we co-opted Dave McGlade onto the committee and Norma McVeigh and Ann McGlade have volunteered to join Lyn Sutton in helping Elizabeth in the kitchen.

Our rather more self-service arrangements for tea and coffee are working well. There was a reminder that people are welcome to make themselves a drink at any time and bring their own mugs if they wish.

You already have the programme for 2024/25 in the Save the Date flyer, but we would welcome suggestions and requests for the 2025/26 season which we start planning early in 2025. We need more input and ideas from a variety of people to ensure we are planning the sort of activities and workshops that have a wide appeal to our audiences, especially the younger element.

We still have a Covid policy document, which is available to view on our website and at workshops.

Huge thanks to our musicians and callers, the committee and everyone who attends our workshops – please do keep coming! The report ended with a plea to everyone to think about joining the committee!

5. Treasurer's report – Lin Rayner

A detailed version of this report can be seen *online* together with the audited *Statement of Accounts* to 31 March 2024. Both are also available on request.

We made an unusually good profit this year for several reasons. There were no costs for Solent Waves and the payments for advertising increased, we received full grant aid for the Schools Ceilidh and our workshop profits more than doubled! Our programme looks good for next season and people continue to advertise in the digital editions of Solent Waves, so we are optimistic for another good financial year in 2024/2025.

We are not proposing any increase in membership or workshop fees this year.

The Schools Ceilidh on June 28th will again be at Bishop's Waltham Palace as part of the Bishop's Waltham Festival, and will be fully funded by grant aid, which is excellent news and is due in large part to Jo Harmer of FolkActive.

Lyn Sutton proposed acceptance of the accounts, Dave McGlade seconded and it was agreed unanimously.

Membership – we had 40 members in 2023/2024 and we have 5 members so far for 2024/25.

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

This is a brief outline of the points made, but please see the *full report* for more detail,

This has been our first year with a completely digital copy of 'Solent Waves', which has made life much easier for Lyn and me! The change to fully digital has allowed an extension of the copy date for adverts from the 10th to the 15th of the preceding month. Another advantage is that all the hyperlinks in the text can be made active, even the ones in the advertisements, so that anyone looking for more information than is included in 'Solent Waves' can jump straight to the website given or email the person concerned.

Dave made a plea for a little more input from readers. In the early years of Solent Waves, we frequently received letters and articles from readers with views and news of what was going on in the folk world. It would be great to have some new writers for our lead article (our FASH Chat) on the front page each month.

- There was a suggestion that individuals could print a few copies of Solent Waves to take to their clubs. Lin could take a few to the Fo'c'sle and people like Joy at Eastleigh who has no computer would appreciate it.

Our website has not changed very much since its major rewrite last year. The diaries reflect what is published in Solent Waves, although they often extend up to six months rather than just two or three. Many clubs and organisations have not yet published their autumn/winter programmes. Most display teams have published their programmes for the year, so they are included on the website.

With help from Paul Clarke I have been trying to bring the list of folk clubs and sessions up-to-date, and when I receive new information, I now add a date to each entry (on the "Informal Sessions" page) when the new details were added. With landlords of pubs changing, and sometimes pubs closing, the smaller sessions are often forced to relocate and it is very difficult to keep track of the changes. Do please keep us informed if you know of any changes which are not reflected on our web pages.

- It was suggested that we should have a handout about folk dances and workshops in the area that could be made available at barn dances. Also it was said that a QR code on our flyers/handouts would enable people to link directly to the website.

Action: committee

There was a vote of thanks to Dave and a round of applause to show our appreciation of all his hard work.

7. Committee nominations

Lin Rayner, David Sutton, Elizabeth Haigh, Dave McGlade and Daphne Goddard Coates were all willing to stand. Sue Hall nominated them all, Lyn Sutton seconded and it was carried unanimously.

8. Any Other Business – Schools Ceilidh Friday 28th June 2024:

Jo Harmer at FolkActive has worked extremely hard to make this a success. Estimated attendance is 220 children from 9 schools.

Bishop's Waltham Infants	60 Y2	Newton/Soberton	19 Y2
Bishop's Waltham Junior	20-30 ceilidh club	St John the Baptist Waltham Chase Primary	30 Y2
Curdrige	20 ceilidh club	Upham	18 ceilidh club
Fair Oak Infants	10	Wickham	16
Meonstoke	23 Y2		

The Bishop's Waltham Festival team are covering security and Jo has enough volunteers (including Dave & Lyn, Dave & Ann McGlade and Daphne & Ken) to put somebody with each school.

Tom will also be calling an Evening Ceilidh with Jigfoot which will be free for children. It is hoped they will persuade their families to come along.

The meeting closed at 5.16pm