



Folk Association of South Hants

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

7.30pm Sunday 17th May 2026 online via Zoom

Present: Lin Rayner, Dave Sutton, Thomas Bending, Karen Ilott, Liz Neil, Jo Harmer, Lyn Sutton, Kenneth Coates, Alan Thurbon, Mike Goodall, Daphne Goddard Coates

1. **Apologies for absence:** Anne & Simon Daw, Celia & Nigel Close, Claire Coxwell, Dennis Wheeler, Eddie Hosford, Jo Dennis, Jo Drew, John Coates, Norma Mcveigh

2. **Minutes of AGM held on Sunday 18th May 2025:** approved (to be signed when possible)

3. Matters arising

para 3: new callers - we did consider various options in committee as bands still need people willing to call for events like barn dances and weddings, but we didn't think that any of the options we considered were viable. It seems that more people are 'having a go' at clubs such as Eastleigh FDC and Solent Contra, so something may come of this. We would be happy to listen if anyone has suggestions as to how we could help.

para 3: handout about FASH – our thanks to Dave Sutton who produced a flyer publicising the information available on the FASH website, complete with the relevant QR code. A copy was sent out with the AGM reports and we are distributing it at appropriate venues. Please would everyone do the same if they can.

4. Chairman's report – Lin Rayner

Lin began by thanking the 2025/26 committee which saw the addition of Thomas Bending, Karen Ilott, Liz Neal and Simon Daw to the existing committee of herself, Dave Sutton, Dave McGlade and Daphne Goddard Coates. She also thanked Norma McVeigh, Ann McGlade and Lyn Sutton for their help in the kitchen at workshops.

Lin gave a brief outline of the six excellent dance workshops we held this year, some of which had disappointingly low numbers attending. This was mainly due to a clash with holidays and festivals (especially in October) or sometimes other dance events. Please see the full report for more details. The West Gallery music workshop and our Christmas party, the Winter Gathering, were both well attended and much enjoyed.

The flyer with all the workshop details for 2026/27 was sent out with the reports. Karen was thanked for getting them sorted so promptly.

The FASH constitution commits us to supporting folk activity in the area, and the Schools Ceilidh is an activity which we are very happy to support, financially and with help on the day. More details are in Jo Harmer's report below.

Dave Sutton is retiring from the committee today and from his role as editor of Solent Waves and the website. We can't overestimate his contribution and our gratitude for the work he has put in so conscientiously for the past 12 and a half years.

Thomas Bending has taken over the website, but we have decided that Solent Waves will no longer be produced. It will be replaced with regular emails to include diary dates and events news for those who request them. Dave and Thomas have both written reports, see below.

Karen and Liz are also leaving the committee today and Lin thanked them both for their useful contributions.

Our 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.

The problems we had with the men's lavatories at Durley and Soberton and the water heater at Soberton, are all being sorted before we return in October.

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

The report ended with thanks to everyone who attends our workshops, a request for comments and suggestions and a request to think about joining the committee.

5. Treasurer's report – Dave McGlade

The full report can be seen here together with the audited Statement of Accounts to 31st March 2026.

Dave McGlade was unable to attend, so Lin spoke about the accounts in his absence. This year we received £172 for advertisements in Solent Waves which almost certainly won't happen next year, although we do have a month to sort out exactly what we send out instead of a link to Solent Waves.

Lyn Sutton proposed acceptance of the accounts, Karen Ilott seconded and it was agreed unanimously.

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

This is a brief outline of the points made, but please see the [full report](#) for more detail.

Dave's main news was his retirement from editing the website and Solent Waves and the fact that the May issue of Solent Waves was the last. He thanked his readers and advertisers for their support over the years, Thomas for taking over the website, the rest of the FASH committee for their support and most of all his wife Lyn for proof-reading all of the 118 editions they produced and helping distribute the print versions until they went digital.

The British Library has still not recovered from the cyber-attack of October 2023, but they have downloaded the last 27 issues of Solent Waves so that they now have every copy since its first issue nearly 50 years ago.

Thomas has taken over the editor@fash.org.uk address so any updates or corrections will now go directly to him. The diaries are largely up-to-date at least as far as July.

2. Editor's report: website – Thomas Bending

This is a brief outline, but please see the [full report](#) for more detail.

Thomas thanked Dave Sutton for all his work over the years and for his continuing support and advice through the transition as Thomas takes over the website. Past editions of Solent Waves will remain available on the website as well as being archived in the British Library.

The plan is to send out regular emails in future with news of events based on the website listings. Several members of the committee are willing to assist in keeping the listings up to date, so Thomas is currently considering how to enable multiple people to edit the listings simply and reliably.

The committee has decided to ask people to opt in explicitly to receiving the listings emails. The current 100+ subscribers were invited to sign up, but so far only 14 have done so. Please write to Thomas at editor@fash.org.uk if you'd like to subscribe.

7. Schools Ceilidh: Friday 26th June 2026 – Jo Harmer

This will again be held at Bishop's Waltham Palace as part of the Bishop's Waltham Festival. Estimated attendance is 200 children from 8 schools. It will be mainly funded by grant aid of £250 from the Meon Valley County Councillor's fund, £200 from Bishops Waltham Rotary Club and probably a contribution from the Meon Valley Lions Club. Any shortfall could possibly be covered by proceeds from the sale of musical instruments donated to FolkActive earlier this year, but FASH are also willing to contribute if needed. The full report is [here](#).

In response to a query, Jo gave a brief history of the Schools Ceilidhs. They were begun in the 1990's by Carolyn Robson and Roger Watson. Graham Taylor kept the ceilidhs going for several years after Carolyn and Roger handed the running over to him and FASH stepped in at Graham's request. Dennis Wheeler took over liaising with the schools and played a huge role supported by other members of the FASH committee. FolkActive and Jigfoot have been involved since 2014 and Tom Gregory succeeded Graham Taylor as the caller. The ceilidh has been held in the grounds of Bishop's Waltham Palace since lockdown, having previously been held in the Jubilee Hall.

We thanked Jo Harmer for all the work she does to keep the Schools Ceilidh going and make it such a success.

8. Membership update – Daphne Goddard Coates

We had 36 members in 2025/2026 (including 3 life members) and we have 10 members so far for 2026/27. The cost of membership will remain at £10.

9. Proposal to change workshop prices

The committee proposed including tea, coffee and biscuits in the cost of standard workshops and raising the charge slightly to £10 for members and £14 for non-members. This was approved unanimously.

10. Committee nominations

Lin Rayner, Dave McGlade, Thomas Bending, Simon Daw and Daphne Goddard Coates were all willing to stand. Karen Illott nominated them all, Dave Sutton seconded and it was carried unanimously.

11. Any Other Business:

Two main comments were made in a discussion about improving attendance at workshops:

People in some local Folk Dance clubs don't know enough about FASH workshops. More personal 'word of mouth' publicity might help.

The FB page doesn't come up on a search for 'FASH', only if you search 'Folk Association of South Hants'.

Jo suggested that a 'Playing by Ear' workshop might work for FASH. Chris Nichols has run one successfully before.

Action: These comments and suggestions will be considered by the committee.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm