

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 16th MAY 2018

Once again Bridport Scottish Dancers have had a successful year, with class numbers holding up pretty well.

Our three summer socials in Church House with guest callers proved popular, but the summer was marred by the sudden death of Sue O'Neil. Little Sue was a popular, cheerful member of the club and we still miss her.

In July we were hosts to our French friends from the Scots Bonnet club and the SCD class from the Knowledge Exchanges organization in Lannion on the 15th and 16th of July. This was a very jolly weekend starting with a dance at Loders with music from Skara Brae and a fabulous meal. On the Sunday morning Peter Wingfield led a walk around Eggardon Hill for our guests and their hosts, followed by lunch at the Spyway Inn. In the afternoon all retired to Caroline Temple's house and garden for games and tea. Very many thanks to everyone who helped to make that weekend, and all of our activities so successful.

In August the club was invited to run a dance workshop at Church House as part of the first Bridport Folk Festival. This was moderately successful due to rather poor organization by the festival committee, but we were pleased with the format of the workshop, and have been invited to put on another one this year on 29th July.

In the Autumn we welcomed several new dancers, and I am pleased to say that Annalisa, Reme, Wendy and Chrissie are still dancing with us. It has been great to have Patricia and Paul dancing with us this year as well. Our dancers are very supportive to newcomers, and this has always been one of our strengths.

Your committee, working closely with the Teaching Sub-committee, and following a number of suggestions by members have endeavoured to improve the structure of weekly classes. We do hope that members appreciate our efforts - please remember that your committee members are there for you.

Our parties at Christmas and in June now follow the format of dancing first with a leisurely meal and time to chat afterwards.

The music system purchased three years ago, now with a new transporting bag, provides the music for all classes in Church House, but the committee felt that it was too cumbersome to take to Salway Ash. We have, therefore, purchased a lighter PA system for use with the "Little Brian" machine at Salway Ash and other outside events if necessary. This new PA, like the bigger system, can amplify outputs from MP3 devices and laptops if required.

Our continuing success is due to the wonderful help from all of you, and especial thanks to all the committee, but sadly Ann, Petronella and Linda have to stand down this year. Petronella and Linda have been outstanding as Secretary and catering manager - so "Many thanks" to both. Ann continues as our teacher and thank you so much to her and all our callers, including Andrew White for your work each week.

Then there is our backroom boy Philip who manages the website, keeps us up-to-date with music CDs, and is there to support IT and technical matters - many grateful thanks Philip.

Now we look forward to the next dancing season, including the party of the year - Ann's coming of age dance in conjunction with our friends in the Chard club.

There will some dates for your diaries published soon, and they will also be on the website.

Tony Meadley