

Thoughts for 2019 (and 2020)

2019 marks another milestone for Bridport Scottish Dancers because we celebrate 20 years of exchanging dancing, friendship and hospitality with the Scots Bonnet dancers from St. Quay Perros, Brittany. This exchange was the brainchild of Ian Rodger, a former committee member, in 1998, and he arranged the first get together in 1999. Dancers from Scots Bonnet came to us in the May, and Bridport dancers went over to Brittany in that July.

I took over the exchange in 2000, and it was decided to travel alternately one year to St. Quay, and the next year for Scots Bonnet dancers to come to Bridport. This is the pattern we have followed since then, with dancers from both clubs enjoying hospitality in one another's homes, and many close friendships have ensued.

A special weekend is being planned for the 12th – 14th of July 2019, with a dance at Loders village hall with Skara Brae on Saturday 13th. The indications from our French friends in both Scots Bonnet and the newer Lannion Knowledge Exchanges class are that we can expect a good sized contingent visiting for the weekend. The original, founding teacher Anne Georget, and the current teacher Martine Guilbert will both be attending, and your committee has invited them to each choose and call a dance on the Saturday night.

Lovely as it will be to welcome the French dancers, accommodating them could pose more of a problem, so I'm appealing for more members of our club to offer to be hosts for at least three nights. Most of the Breton party will arrive on Friday 12th and return on Monday 15th July. It is a great experience as our French friends are very friendly and many speak English. Please do have a chat with me if you have queries etc.

The Bridport AGM will be on Wednesday 15th of May in Church House. I complete my second five year term as your chairman, and Peter Higginson has already resigned as our Treasurer for personal reasons. We have, therefore, these two vacancies to fill, SO please do think about possible nominations of members to take on these key roles. The treasurer's duties are being temporarily covered by Peter Watson doing the books, and Gill Hunt, assisted by Anne Loades, taking the weekly payments. Many thanks to them for stepping in.

AND – looking further ahead The year 2020 marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of our club, and a Silver Anniversary Ball has been booked for Saturday 25th July that year at Uplyme village hall with Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning providing the music. Please reserve this date in your diaries.

Many thanks for your attention, and wishing you all a Happy Christmas and New Year (when it comes!).

Tony Meadley
Chairman