

## ODCS President's Christmas Newsletter 2021

On the first Sunday in September, just before ODCS restarted dancing, Roger and Rebecca Randall's open-house tea party went ahead with a good number of past members getting acquainted again (and trying to remember names!). The weather was perfect and the event could not have gone any better; a good start to the new season after such a long break!

I'm pleased to report that at the time of writing the membership has continued to increase and we now have 78 paid up members. Since we didn't know how many members we would have following lockdown we have made a cautious start by cancelling some of our dance bands. Sadly, we are not going ahead with our Burns' Supper or the Ceilidh. David Keen, who has organised several ceilidhs, has decided the time is right for him to step down as convenor. My thanks for his sterling efforts in arranging the past events. If anyone would like to take over from David please let me know. We have however retained Frank Reid's band for our Summer Dance as this has always been very popular.

At our Autumn Dance on 9<sup>th</sup> October 48 tickets were sold and I received several positive comments from people after the dance. There was a good atmosphere throughout the evening and I was pleased to see some of our Monday dancers taking part. Thanks to Angela House for convening the event and to Angela Campbell for devising the programme and for being our MC for the whole evening. St. Andrew's Dance was also a success; Joan Kinnear and Angela Campbell prepared the programme and Ken l'Anson gave us an entertaining talk about the names in each of the dances. Angela House prepared a marvellous saltire made of cup cakes for the interval.

Our Monday beginners' classes restarted on 6<sup>th</sup> September and, although attendance has been varied, we have had an average of 21. As always we continue to try and attract more newcomers; please don't miss an opportunity to mention the Monday class to friends and acquaintances. History shows that Monday dancers are our future Thursday dancers and it is important that the classes continue. Social dancing at PWMH restarted on 9<sup>th</sup> September. We normally have had at least three sets but it would be great to see more of our 78 members – please! The committee has reluctantly decided to increase the cost of Thursday dances to £5 from January next year to ensure that our costs continue to be covered.

Second and third Wednesday classes for improvers and more experienced dancers have recommenced with good attendances, my thanks to Don Ward and Angela Campbell.

Finally, please let Deirdre know if you intend to come along for Hogmanay, we now have sufficient numbers for it to go ahead. It has always been a fun evening with dances included on the programme for complete beginners and children.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and happy dancing!

Hadyn