

Oakenhoof Folk Arts
Annual General Meeting Minutes
Meeting: Tuesday 26th March 2019

Attendees

Paul Woodhead (PW) Chris Spankie (CS) Helen Chicot (HC) Angela Wharton (AW)
Richard Jackson (RJ) Caroline Schofield (CSc) Michelle Haigh (MH)
Monica Murtagh (MM) Carole Miller (CM) Steve Lister (SL) Mandy Whittaker (MW)
Gill Risby (GR) Craig Mallison (CM2) Rachel O'Neill (RO) Alison Kennedy (AK)
Sheila Atkinson (SA) Steph West (SW) Jane Power (JP) Dave Broome (DB) Caron Clegg (CC)
Victoria Clegg (VC) Scarlett Clegg (SC) Adam Wilkinson (AW2) Paul Jackson (PJ)
Antonia Jackson (AJ) Deborah Whitham (DW) Kevin Murtagh (KM) Mark Archer (MA)
Megan Pheasey Holly Mallison Isabelle Henderson (IH) Freya Woodhead (FW)
Abigail Henderson (AH) Amy Whittaker (AW3) Orladh Dunne (OD) Georgia Woodhead (GW)

Apologies

Chris Smith (CSm) , Tom Besford, Janet Emsley

Agenda Items

PW welcomed everyone to Oakenhoof's 5th year anniversary and read out the agenda.

Reports and accounts, to include

- Squire's report about the activity of Oakenhoof in 2018 -9 and plans for the future.
- Foreman's report about learning and inclusion in 2018-9 and plans for the future.
- Bagman's report about the financial matters and accounts.

Other officer's reports.

Roles for 2019-20 and appointments to any vacant roles.

Minutes from previous AGM 2018

Were agreed. Last year it was decided at the AGM to have 4 people in the Foreman role to enable different people to have more involvement in the learning / teaching and inclusion side of things. This has meant that we have a broader offer for people, from different age and ability groups and can add to our repertoire. Everything else stayed the same. Link4 life funding was coming to an end at the end of 2018-19 and Oakenhoof discussed different ways of sustaining the funding we need to keep going.

Squire's report

PW essentially confirmed it's been a real good year, not done as many performances as in previous years (which was welcome to some) but incredible good stuff. The Littleborough Rushbearing was terrific. Thank you for all those who give up their time to make this all happen. Having 4 foremen helps the wheels stay on course. On reaching 5 years anniversary PW reflected on what Oakenhoof actually is? First and foremost this is social thing, friendships are formed (and sometimes there is food). A social place where people get on with other people. We also push the boundaries and can be creative as much as we like. Can have bizarre ideas and we should feel confident enough to have a try. Voluntary arts organisation moving forward like a blob (a fat berg). We love to feel everybody feels able to support everyone else, socially and creatively.

The change the way the teaching has been done with the four men. Going well and other people like Kevin helping out. A big thanks to all the four men/women and Kevin supporting. Peer to peer learning group is very good to watch from little kids teaching other kids. Learning and having fun is

what Oakenhoof is all about. This year gone from strength to strength. Band has gone from strength to strength too and even tolerated Mark's drumming ha ha.

Freya suggested having a photograph with the entire group now and compare to a photo five years ago.

Even though our income has reduced Paul said he's not worried about – it's not why we exist. We're not here to worry about money.

Foreman

Rachel confirmed: organically grown well into our own roles. Steph working with the acorns. Michelle working with individuals. Rachel and Caroline teach the clog dances, i.e. the priest. Focused on techniques and individual dances, using the band. Lead the dance and we follow. Some went to the Wallopers weekend and looking forward to being able to share more diverse dances as a result. More scheduled lessons planned for Morris and Rapper. Challenge teaching due to all different levels and abilities but rewarding year. Thank you Rachel.

On the fifth Tuesday we will also have random dance activity such as Cotswold, alternative dance, ballet.

HC complimented the foremen on the work they do: - the complexity of what you do is pretty difficult to comprehend because you have such a huge variety of learning styles in our diverse group which is a real challenge to provide learning for everyone. It is brilliant to witness from the band side of the room and see the group grow.

Bagman

CM confirmed: Link4life contributed £1200 last year for the last time. LEAF contributed £1000k from their Township Grant Funding towards Rush bearing. The costs of Rushbearing are higher than that for Oakenhoof (but not all of our spend is eligible for Township Grant funding. Last year we needed to raise a total £3,500.00 to cover all the costs for Rushbearing. Other costs throughout the year are fairly low and Oakenyouth are covering their own cost to go to Dert, for example, through their lucrative rapper crawls.

In conclusion, we're in a very healthy position. Thanked those who don't cash cheques, as people give their time and buy things for Oakenhoof but don't claim it back.

Wingman

HC handed out a financial analysis highlighting figures for the past 5 years. Each year has 3 pie charts showing income total, expenditure total and in kind donations. 2019 1st quarter Jan to March Income Total: £2,000.

Not having grant funding at the moment means that in the future we can change the constitution, can steer in a different direction if we want to. HC will complete the report to Link4Life based on the Squire and Bagman's reports.

HC suggested having more bagmen. HC nominated Monica. PW seconded, all in favour. Monica happy to be another bag person. CM and HC to meet with MM a few times a year to analyse and support the resources we have to help with planning for things like Rushbearing.

In terms of bookings and creative activities, for example, the Peterloo event is really taking off. Oakenhoof have been commissioned by Manchester Historical Society to put together a performance, including our usual repertoire but based on a historical narrative focused on those involved in Peterloo, especially from the Rochdale area.

PW asked what people thought about us having an annual theme / performance as well as standard repertoire. PW confirmed we receive more positive feedback when have a focal point to

work toward, i.e. Woollen woods, wicker. HC mentioned if you have a crazy idea let it build. Rachel mentioned the film theme for Wallopers next year: 'the clog father' ah ha. We're developing some work with local colleagues around the Heritage Open days which could be Day of dance days, potentially every year in September, HC asked are we ok to say yes in principle to hosting days like this in September? It can be quite busy in Sept, with other events to consider like Whitworth Rushcart, the Incredible Edible Harvest Festival and also some Oakenhoof members might want to take part in the Clog championships.

Planning of Littleborough Rushbearing will commence soon (once the clarity about road closure / highways rules changes has been provided). Everyone to think of jobs they would like to do this year. 20th – 21st July 2019.

An additional role: Kevin does a lot of teaching. So in addition to the 4 Foremen, have "Five guys". (4 existing foremen and one for the newbies – like an apprentice). PW nominate Kevin, Second HC. All approved.

Monica suggested bringing rushcart for Peterloo. It would be great – but probably a difficult task to dress it in time as it's on Wednesday.

Music

Mark confirmed the musicians are doing very well and jell quite well together. Mark is in the middle of re-doing the tune book. This is a moving target, loads to add to it all the time. Knutsford dance coming back, NW dance – Portsmouth. Not reliant for everyone to be at every single show. Musicians are developing. PW pointed out he feels the musicians now have more confidence and it's impressive very good.

Round of applause was given to all the musicians and huge thanks goes to Mark.

Any other business

PW: A dance group from northern Spain, want to come to Rushbearing (12 – 14 dancers). Paying all airfares themselves. We would pick them up from the airport. Accommodation needs to be arranged (and Monica was looked at! She'll look into it). CS suggested tents (temporary ones) to use.

PW – checking on who was coming on Saturday to support the stewarding at the JMO Morris event in Manchester. A show of hands.

Gill thanked for Oakenhoof – for helping Dave moving, pastoral care from Oakenhoof is amazing. Thanks to all concerned.

PW working process to look at the website. All future events are on the website.

A recent rapper crawl raised £200. Well done Oakenyouth.

PW asked if anyone wanted to resign their positions. (2 year positions). Chris no longer rag man. Clogging – boards. Rapper – Swords. Morris – sticks. Needs all equipment. HC suggested each particular genre should have a rag man for the group. Would you be the person who would be responsible for thinking about what you need? Craig acorn rag man. Michelle Morris Rag man. Adult setting up a rapper team soon - nominate Tom

Monica – thanked everyone who planted trees.

PW thanked AW for typing the minutes.

VC offered to run a 50/50 club every Tuesday (buy a raffle ticket for £2.00, £1.00 of it goes to Oakenhoof, the other into the prize winning pot). All in favour. Thanks Vic.

CS suggested filling an empty tube a smarties with 20p pieces and you have raised £20. CS will get some tubes.

RO offered to do another workshop: Yes please Rachel. Possibly in June. Squeeze something in as we're pretty busy until October.

GR – music workshops very useful. PW mentioned Cliff is eager to do a string workshop. DB to enquire.

Making and selling a calendar was suggested to raise funds, using a picture of Oakenhoof for every month.

AW thanked our Squire PW.

PW closed meeting and we all shared a meal 😊

Date and time of next meeting

TBC