MORTIMER'S MORRIS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER 2017 AT 1200 HOURS
AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL, BILBOROUGH

MINUTES

1. Attendance

Apologies

Apologies were received from: Lys Evans, Kathryn Mahon, Tanya Grimes, Vicky Johnson, Trevor Webster, Ed Marchewicz, Tim Hull.

Present

Present were: Liz Fraser, Hazel Old, Celia Mahon, Sheila Garner, Victoria Day, Claire Halliday, Michelle Gillam-Hull, Linda Sullivan, Kath Childs, Amelia Collins, Cindy Grant, Sarah Fowler, Fran Moore, Pat Clarke, Gill Francis, Yvonne Kawecka, Charles Chambers, Keith Baker, Pete Millington, Chris Plant, Hannah Sutcliffe, Anthony Dudson.

2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the AGM held on 7 October 2016 were approved.

3. Matters arising

Regarding election of the band leader and director, Chris Plant noted that this is a shared position not two separate committee positions.

4. Annual Reports

(a) Squire (Victoria Day)

See report at **Appendix A.**

2017 had started with the side a bit rusty and had got better progressively. Attendance at practices had been poor and it showed but by the end of the season dancing at Shrewsbury Folk Festival had been brilliant and had attracted a lot of compliments. There was a need to get out more locally with other local teams and to invite others to Mortimers' dance outs.

(b) Treasurer (Fran Moore)

See report at **Appendix B**, showing annual accounts for Mortimer's Morris.

There had been a slight profit over the year of £248.56. In the accounts note: kit costs are the second part of the total cost of about £750, fees for Martin Wildig (website maintenance) had not yet been paid for 2016-17, website fees had already been paid for 2017 so the value in the accounts was for two years.

Celia raised that the side had a lot of money. Fran noted that money was allocated to new band kit. Keith said new shirts may be required; the band would consider this further.

(c) Secretary (Liz Fraser)

See report at **Appendix C**.

Liz had added an extra heading to the bookings spreadsheet with a cut-off date and cost. She urged members to reply by the date shown.

(d) Practice Leaders (Vicky Johnson/Chris Plant)

See report at **Appendix D**.

Chris noted that practices early in the year had been very poorly attended and there had been an ongoing problem of low numbers.

(e) Band (Chris Lewis-Jones/Claire Halliday)

See reports from the Joint Musical Director at **Appendix E** and the Joint Band Leader at **Appendix F**. There had been positive improvement during the year. Shrewsbury was excellent - both side and band had received many compliments. Sowerby Bridge had been a huge effort, well done to everyone. Ripley was also good.

Keith was chasing up other possible musicians who had expressed interest.

Keith had prepared green/purple hat bands to increase the link with dancers' kit. Hannah offered to sew them.

Lauren Kruge was coming back to Mortimer's - possibly to dance as well as play.

(f) Publicity Officers (Claire Halliday/Keith Baker)

Cindy and Mike had produced leaflets

Keith reminded people that other leaflets were in the stick bag - they should remember to give them out. However, the leaflets need updating - Keith to investigate.

Keith raised that the banner needed to be kept out and visible between spots - this hadn't always happened. He had made a reserve banner, so one is always available.

Pat expressed appreciation of the work Keith does - all side agreed.

Claire reported the side now had 791 friends on Facebook and 201 followers on Twitter.

5. Election of Officers

(a) Squire

There were two nominations so a vote was held:

Vicky Johnson was nominated by Hazel Old, seconded by Liz Fraser (10 votes);

Pat Clarke was nominated by Victoria Day, seconded by Gill Francis (16 votes) - Pat was elected.

(b) Treasurer

Charles Chambers was nominated by Liz Fraser, seconded by Hazel Old - all agreed.

(c) Secretary

Liz Fraser was nominated by Cindy Grant, seconded by Vicky Johnson - all agreed.

(d) Practice Leader

Sheila Garner was nominated by Liz Fraser, seconded by Hazel Old - all agreed but Sheila warned she would be away for some practices. Hazel and Chris were both happy to stand in when Sheila was away.

(e) Band Leader and Musical Director (joint position)

Keith Baker was nominated as Band Leader by Claire Halliday, seconded by Charles Chambers - all agreed

Ed Marchewicz was nominated as Musical Director by Pete Millington, seconded by Charles Chambers - all agreed.

(f) Publicity Officer

Cindy Grant was nominated by Vicky Johnson, seconded by Liz Fraser - all agreed.

Claire offered to assist with the Twitter account. Hannah was willing to help with Facebook.

(g) Kit Officer

Gill Francis at present - no nominations received. Gill was willing to continue - all agreed.

(h) Archive Officer

Yvonne Kawecka at present - no nominations received. Yvonne was willing to continue - all agreed. Yvonne said she hoped to be available a bit more this year.

Liz to check who holds the electronic archives.

6. Practices

(a) Vicky had asked the meeting to stress the need for dancers to make sure they attended regularly enough to acquire the full repertoire in a reasonable amount of time. New dancers especially needed to know there is this expectation. It was really vital to the practice leader's task. Victoria noted that even practices before big bookings had been poorly attended and better attendance was important. Pat suggested having a local dance out earlier in the season would be a good idea. Cindy requested that it should be a substantial dance out, as it wasn't worth travelling a long distance for a half-hour spot.

Celia noted that in the past it had always been expected that members would attend practices before a big event. Gill raised the point that practice dates had been changed - better notice was required. Hannah reported that her belly dance side defined three practices before each event and dancers ticked off which they could attend; if they could only do one, they didn't get to dance. This worked for them. Liz suggested that not allowing people to attend dance outs if they have not attended practice might reduce the number of events we could attend. Hannah stressed the principle of encouraging attendance at practice before events was still valid.

Hazel asked that there should be a minimum number of dances done at a practice to make it worth travelling a long distance. Hannah pointed out that doing lots of dances doesn't always allow for getting final detail right in a dance. Linda raised conduct at practices - everyone should do all dances at practice, even those they didn't like.

(b) Pat suggested occasional use of mirrored studio but accepted that good attendance was necessary to make it worth the cost. Sheila suggested an alternative was to film practices and put on a private web page. Hazel agreed videos were really helpful. Yvonne pointed out there were lots of YouTube films of Mortimer's. Hannah suggested that there was a need for a bit more drilling over and over again to perfect dances; also there may be a need to bring up levels of fitness. Claire could put videos onto a private Facebook page. Kath said she also found YouTube recordings of dances were a really useful aid to learning the dance. She also noted that when dancing out the band was sometimes in a different place from in practice. Hannah suggested use of masking tape to define a limited space at practices to get used to dancing in smaller spaces, which was sometimes necessary during dance outs. Sarah urged dancers to listen to the practice leader and not argue at practices.

7. Music

(a) Vicky had asked for tune introductions to be discussed, asking whether the band would consider doing the introduction on a box if possible, as it was often very difficult to hear the hurdy gurdy and pipes when in the open air. Keith said the idea in the band was that one instrument started and others joined in when the speed had been set. Victoria stressed the need for a loud enough introduction. Sheila said this was especially important where there was lots of background noise from crowds. Claire agreed that in these circumstances the band should start with a loud instrument (e.g. a box). To be discussed by the band.

(b) Vicky had also asked whether the band would consider having longer introductions, so the caller could check the speed; also that 'this time' be called only when the pace appeared to be correct, dancers and band alike waiting for that call before commencing the dance proper. Keith noted that, whatever speed the band did, some dancers would say it was too fast and others would say it was too slow. Linda felt the side had slowed down a bit and this had led to better dancing which had received compliments at Shrewsbury from Hammersmith Morris.

(c) Regarding tune endings, Chris asked would the band consider not ending a dance tune on a long drawn out chord, as this didn't match the sharp stamp/jump/click of clogs/sticks at the end of the dance performance. Keith commented that the band had introduced a freeze at the end of some tunes. Band to consider this issue further.

(d) Linda raised the point that some callers were not using whistles; they should do. Pete also stressed that the band needed to have a bit of notice to stop playing. Sheila suggested practicing using whistles at practices.

(e) Pat raised the mix of sounds and instruments in the band. When new people came along to join the band, traditionally they had come to practices and everyone agreed on their inclusion and their instruments. Recently some new instruments had come in without any involvement of dancers and sometimes dancers had found the instrument difficult to dance to or the standard of playing had not been suitable for dance outs. For dancers, squire and practice leader decided when the dancer was competent to dance out. Similarly, squire, band leader and practice leader should agree re new band members and new instruments. Pete also noted there was sometimes an issue with a new variation which a band member thought was wonderful and others didn't. Cindy asked that for a new instrument the band should vote on acceptability. Linda suggested that if it was difficult for the band to address, it should be dealt with at a committee meeting. Sheila supported this. Sheila pointed out that, even for dancers who were not musical, they knew when instruments were putting them off. Regarding new instruments, Yvonne suggested they needed to be capable of fitting in with the French band style, for example bagpipes were a good fit. Fran thanked Celia for drumming in some dances.

8. Responses to bookings

Tanya had raised the issue of 'maybe' responses, which tended to lead to a delay in deciding whether to attend an event, which made it difficult to plan anything else. She suggested a decision deadline to enable people to consider alternative plans. She noted that some teams gather all invites in autumn and decide which they want to do all at once - perhaps Mortimer's could try that approach. Liz had added a cut-off date to the bookings sheet and would push people to convert 'maybe' entries to a firm decision as soon possible. Linda liked the 'maybe' option, which was particularly useful for people in several teams, where various invites might come in over a short period.

9. Kit

Chris Plant asked that everyone should endeavour to change to bias binding on their waistcoats to match with skirt inserts. Chris offered to sew binding for people, provided they could unpick the old binding first. It was agreed that Chris should order two rolls of suitable bias binding.

She also reminded everyone that tights/stockings were supposed to be 40-denier. Linda and Chris thought this was too sheer. All agreed that the minimum should be 60-denier.

Celia suggested everyone should look at the handbook regarding kit and look at their kit to make sure that the team looked uniform.

Pat raised point that hoodies had been requested by members but not yet ordered from the supplier. This was an option for kit, not compulsory. Victoria would circulate a list of those who had requested them, asking for any further requests, and would arrange ordering. Yvonne suggested that more T-shirts were required; Victoria would investigate availability and canvas opinion.

Liz also raised the difficulty of obtaining V-neck three-quarter sleeve black tops. Michelle said they were available from Kettlewell Colours - she would send details to Liz who would investigate.

Victoria raised the point that some clogs still showed white edges to soles - these should be dyed black. The Members' Handbook should be changed to make this clear.

10. Repertoire

Tanya suggested and Liz agreed that it might be better to concentrate on fewer dances but ensure that everyone knew most or all places in these dances. Lists were always set for all dances in the whole repertoire but most of the time when dancing out only half of them were danced. Sheila said that in practice it was only possible to do a limited number of dances. Victoria liked having a big repertoire and dances had been missed at practices because of poor attendance. Amelia suggested starting off keeping all dances then deciding at the start of the season if some had not been practiced enough. Hazel asked how new dancers felt. Kath felt it was good to watch dances she hadn't learned yet and was happy to have a large repertoire. Cindy was happy that newer dancers who knew fewer dances were still given plenty of opportunity to dance when dancing out.

Chris supported the idea of informally dropping dances for a period but not having a formal procedure for dropping them. Gill suggested deciding the repertoire for large events (e.g. Whitby) well in advance and working towards this at practices.

Linda wished to discuss the new dance Markham which arose from need for a new single step dance agreed at last year's AGM. Linda asked whether it should continue; she did not think it had been a success. Sheila said her first reaction was that she didn't like the side-step chorus and some other aspects but she was inclined to keep it. In a vote, 9 voted to persevere and 4 to abandon the dance, with 3 abstentions. Sheila suggested spending half of the practice on 12 November on it then deciding where to go.

11. Banner

Celia suggested the side needed a new banner. It was agreed to get one professionally made. Sheila stressed it should be easy to transport. To be discussed at committee.

12. Any other business

Website maintenance. Linda suggested the side didn't need as much content on the website any more, as people use social media. Liz to try to contact Martin Wildig to discuss.

Mortimer's now has a substantial sum of money. Celia suggested a donation of £150 to St John's Church as the hall is so cheap - this was agreed.

Also it was agreed to give a donation of £200 to SARAC (Sexual Abuse and Rape Advice Centre, Burton-on-Trent) where Celia is a trustee.

Gill suggested putting a sum aside to support a trip to dance abroad - perhaps to support unwaged members. To be discussed at committee.

Hazel suggested a Mortimer's dance weekend should be organised next year or the year after.

The side needed a new 'barker' now Chris L-J had left.

Thanks were expressed to Pat for chairing the meeting.

13. Date of next AGM

Agreed the date of 14th October 2018 (assuming this is the week after Derby Folk Festival).

APPENDIX A

Squire's report 2016-17

Overall, another good, if rather quiet year for Mortimers. We had a bit of a slow start to the season with nothing between Straw Bear and Southwell but we got into our stride at Braunston, Sheringham and Hull, and finished off the season being very busy (and in some cases slightly damaged!) at Shrewsbury, Sowerby Bridge and Ripley.

On the downside, attendance at practice was poor over most of the summer and we certainly put in some fairly indifferent performances at the beginning of the season which I think were directly attributable to lack of practice. Hopefully with Whitby to look forward to next year we'll be a bit more dedicated!

On the upside, we had a glorious finish to the season at Shrewsbury where we danced as well as I've ever known us dance and got an incredible number of compliments from teams, stallholders, stewards, members of the public, you name it. It made me very proud to be a Mortimer!

Looking ahead:

New members – as ever, we need to keep trying to encourage new people to come along. Key factors to help with that include: dancing well, being visible, being approachable/welcoming, media presence... further ideas please!

Yet again, one of the things we've been unable to do for a variety of reasons is local danceouts. It would be good to try and achieve this next year as it makes for local exposure and helps both with recruitment and getting paid bookings to add to our coffers. I know that it's difficult to get to evening bookings if you live far away and are working (I'm aware I'm one of the chief offenders!) but we should try and put a few dates aside now to organise danceouts with other local teams.

Thanks:

Thanks to the L-Js for all they've put into the team while they've been with us. You'll be much missed. Special thanks to Chris and Vicky for setting all the dances. Without their help, I would have been completely unable to cope! I can't thank you both enough. Also thanks to all the dancers and the band. Everyone's been really helpful and constructive this year and that's made my life so much easier. It's been a pleasure to be squire and that's all down to you. Thank you.

Victoria Day
Squire, Mortimer's Morris
6 October 2017

APPENDIX B

Treasurer's report 2016-17

ACCOUNTS FOR MORTIMER'S MORRIS AGM, 2016-17, as at 8th OCTOBER 2017		
OPENING BANK BALANCE as at 9th Oct'16	£3,252.50	
**OPENING SAVINGS, DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	£1,133.83	
PETTY CASH	£0.00	
Less uncleared cheques from last year	-£50.00	
		£4,336.33
INCOME		
SUBS	£1,120.00	
PAID BOOKING at BRAUNSTON	£300.00	
PHIL HOWARD (clog soles & heels)	£62.00	
ST. GEORGE'S DAY LUNCHES	£45.00	
SHERINGHAM POTTY MORRIS & FOLK FESTIVAL	£352.00	
SHREWSBURY FOLK FESTIVAL	£520.00	
**BANK INTEREST, deposit account	£0.47	
		£2,399.47
EXPENDITURE		
OUTSTANDING EXPENSES FOR MF AGM	£12.80	
CHARITY, MF AGM PROFIT	£213.88	
HALL HIRE	£337.50	
MORRIS FED FEES (£35) & INSURANCE (£75)	£110.00	
WEB SITE = Martin's fees 2015-16 (£120) + domain	£182.50	
PHIL HOWARD (clog soles and heels)	£62.00	
KIT (remaining costs of skirts + black gloves)	£286.23	
MISCELLANEOUS	£42.00	
		-£1,246.91
FESTIVALS		
ST. GEORGE'S LUNCHES	£45.00	
SHERINGHAM POTTY MORRIS & FOLK FESTIVAL	£339.00	
SHREWSBURY FOLK FESTIVAL	£520.00	
		-£904.00
Opening Balance + Income - Expenditure		**£4,584.89**
FINAL BALANCES		
CURRENT ACCOUNT	£3,327.62	
** DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	£1,134.30	
CASH	£122.97	
		£4,584.89

Fran Moore
Treasurer, Mortimer's Morris
8 October 2017

APPENDIX C

Secretary's report 2016-17

During the last year the side received at least 45 invitations to dance out at festivals, morris weekends and local events. Mortimer's attended 14 events (3 more than last year).

These included:

- 6 festivals (Whittlesea Straw Bear (one day only), Southwell Folk Festival, Sheringham Potty Festival, Hull Folk and Maritime Festival (one day only), Shrewsbury Folk Festival, Sowerby Bridge Rushcart);
- JMO day of dance in Leicester;
- 6 local dance outs (Ceilidh spot in Derby, Victoria at Beeston, Plough Sunday in Southwell, St George's Day in Sheffield, Dolphin Come All Ye in Sutton Bonington, Ripley Day of Dance in Derby);
- Braunston Historic Boat Show (which provided an income of £300).

Invitations received so far for the coming year include:

- Westminster Morris Day of Dance in Trafalgar Square in May (date not yet decided);
- Todmorden (Ruthie Boycott-Garnett);
- Ossett Beer Cart;
- Southwell Folk Festival;
- Evesham Morris Weekend;
- Braunston Historic Boat Show;
- Rose & Castle/Queens Oak weekend;
- Victory Day of Dance Portsmouth;
- Newark Traditions Festival;
- Whitby Folk Week and
- York Festival of Traditional Dance.

Email notifications are still being used to advise members of invites with requests for responses by email and bookings maintained on a spreadsheet. I have added another heading which shows the cut off date for replies and the cost at the top to make it easier for people hopefully to make a more informed decision.

As reported last year and the year before I tried to arrange for the spreadsheet to be made available to members on the website; however, despite several reminders to Martin Wildig, this has not happened and I would like to suggest that perhaps we go elsewhere for our website maintenance.

There are still some members who do not reply to confirm whether they can or cannot attend but this has got better over the last year with the exception of a few!

Liz Fraser
Secretary, Mortimer's Morris
7 October 2017

APPENDIX D

Dance Practice Leaders' report 2016-7

The last year has been an interesting one. Ominously, we started our first practice with only 7 dancers attending and there has been an ongoing problem of low numbers ever since, which has made it difficult to restore dances to the repertoire and makes learning new ones long and drawn out.

For those of you that like figures, only 10 of our 20 evening practices and 6 out of 7 of our daytime practices had 10 or more dancers attend, even though we have 17 active dancers. Despite this we have finally managed to re-teach Westhoughton and Walton's Parade.

We did not practise with mirrors because numbers were too low on the day practices to make it worthwhile. In fact in the new year, we had to resort to checking every practice for feasibility which was very disheartening. Solutions on a postcard please! We must congratulate Cindy, Claire and Kath on the number of new dances they have learnt this year.

Another pleasing development has been dancers' willingness to move around within the set. We feel that this has made performances more confident and relaxed, especially helpful when numbers were low. Increase in dancing out has also helped in this respect, and we have had some very successful outings, many compliments and even requests to teach others our dances! We ourselves however, have noticed some loss of crispness and precision, directly linked to infrequent practice. If we want to dance the best we can and maintain our reputation, we need to counter this. Each dancer should individually commit themselves to increasing their repertoire or versatility within the set and attend regularly to be at their best for performances.

In connection with this, it has sometimes been suggested that the repertoire is too extensive. However, reducing it might have the undesired consequence of making us less versatile and becoming bored!

To quote last year's report: "our current selection of dances does give us a good degree of flexibility. More consistent attendance at practice, especially the day practices, would reduce the need for formalised cuts and leave us free to work towards individual bookings and concentrate on dances that are shaping up well with the option to temporarily shelve those that are not."

Thanks once again to our fantastic band for their support and to Claire's patience and versatility swapping between dancer and musician as the event dictates.

Thanks are also due to Sheila and Victoria for their help with practices when we haven't been around.

We feel we did achieve last year's objectives, even if Westhoughton wasn't re-taught until the new year. We hope you all feel practices have been helpful and that everyone has achieved something from them. It just remains for us to thank you all for working with us throughout the year and to wish our successor all the best for the coming practice season.

Chris Plant & Vicky Johnson
Dance Practice Leaders, Mortimer's Morris
29 September 2017

APPENDIX E

Musical Director's report 2015-6

I knew I would struggle to do justice to the new role of 'musical director' and my misgivings were, largely, vindicated[1]. However, having Claire as Band Squire, Keith as unofficial band leader and a bunch of musical colleagues whose abilities and levels of commitment are exceptional… meant that, despite my list of excuses, things went fairly smoothly.

The band practice sessions were swelled by new members, new instruments and new tunes. New members Richard, Tim and Celia have begun to make their contributions felt. Line-ups this year have included diatonic button accordion (Claire), gurdies (Keith and Charles) fiddle (Peter), piano accordions (CLJ and Ant), whistles (Charles and Trevor), recorder (Ruth LJ), Anglo Concertina (Ant), bouzouki, pipes and whistle (Trevor), soprano sax transverse and kaval flutes (Ed), percussion (Celia and (very) occasionally CLJ)) and bass guitar (Tim). The band worked hard this year. Putting effort into our arrangements has paid off. As usual, by the end of the season we were rocking!

Communication with dancers has improved considerably, as communication now tends to be via the squire or whoever is calling, rather than via whoever feels the need to give us the benefit of their expert opinion (thank you dancers)! Communication between musicians has improved too, as we have tended to play in a semi-circle rather than in a line, and we tend to stand in the same positions too. Though clearly, more work on this, and on presentation skills generally, needs to be done.

Re the future, some band members agreed last year that the musicians and dancers should be more (visually) related than they have been in the past. The purple poker dot shirts represented a step in the right direction, but they are becoming scarce and new members will find it increasingly difficult to get hold of them. Although members are happy with what they've got at the moment, the band agrees that 'kit will remain under constant review'. As such, members will continue to look for longer term alternatives, to be considered by both the band and by the side as a whole (as stated last year, the band welcomes dialogue with the side on this matter).

It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve as Musical Director, to have played for Mortimer's Morris, and to have been its 'barker' too. We've had so many adventures together and we (L-Js) shall miss them very much. It is with great sadness that, for the reasons outlined below, I feel I need to resign from Mortimer's Morris. We very much appreciated the extent to which we were welcomed into the side and look forward to remaining friends of Mortimer's for the rest of our lives.

Thank you!

Chris Lewis-Jones
Musical Director, Mortimer's Morris
8 October 2017

[1] erratic patterns of self-employment, the demands of Hot House, with its shared responsibility to find and buy land, establish access, obtain planning permission, research appropriate construction techniques and materials and, eventually, build new homes, my family circumstances (five frail relatives to look after, two in Wales), on-going health issues (permanently prolapsed disc that results in sciatica, exacerbated by hours of playing a heavy box on the streets)…to say nothing of my limited musical ability!

APPENDIX F

Band Leader's report 2015-6

It's been a mostly great year for the band. We've had some 'slight blips' throughout – namely St Georges Day in Sheffield with a version of Butterley that I do not wish to repeat ever again[2].

However, we have just got better and better as the year progressed. Southwell/Southwell was a good start, and there was some absolutely fantastic music at Braunston! I'm pretty sure the music at Hull was good, although I was slightly distracted as I was feeling quite hungover (it was the Squires fault!). Then there was Shrewsbury/Shrewsbury which was the best ever! The band was on top form that weekend with compliments flying in from everywhere - from other morris dancers and musicians, stall holders, and the general public! Sowerby Bridge was a hard slog. I felt the band really worked hard those two days, and did really well to play for most of the processions and do a brilliant job at each spot (especially Liz! Teeheehee!). We ended at Derby for Ripley's 92nd Anniversary do, and had another lovely joint Whitby Shindig, and coped in the rain (again) as well.

There are a couple of points which I think the band need to take note of for future outings.

1. Please could all band allow for plenty of time to get to every dance spot. There have been quite a few occasions where there have only been a couple of band available and ready to play. This does not make the band leader's job easy, it just makes it frustrating! Chris L.J and I were trying to come up with forfeits for lateness at Shrewsbury, but luckily for the rest of the band, we didn't quite get around to it!
2. Try to watch the dancers instead of the floor or anywhere else, and keep track of the speed (this however has been noticeably better this year! ☺).

I have really enjoyed my time as band leader over the last two years, and I hope I've done an OK job!

Claire Halliday
Band Leader, Mortimer's Morris
8 October 2017

[2] I have not been able to attend Wednesday night practices as I have other commitments (Anstey Morris Men), and cannot keep up with the amount of emails (full time job, often with long hours!), so have not always known about new key changes – these key changes are also not easy for one playing the melodeon. I do not have the ability or talent to easily change key, especially when I don't have an instrument with all the notes. Could the band please keep this in mind when trying out new things, as we DO NOT want to put off new and potential melodeon persons, as most will have fewer buttons than I do!