

Glos Folk Annual Report 2019–20

Keeping traditional music alive and kicking in the county



Is Zoom the way?

Since lock down Folkies have been using their creativity. Zoom seems to be the way folk clubs have continued to socialise. There are numerous clubs nationwide and worldwide where folk have been finding their fix. The technical restrictions mean singing together is impossible and folk are being creative. "that was great, I could sing along out of tune and it didn't spoil it" has been said several times. (I like that! –Ed) We are travelling further afield without leaving home. We have made friendships and there is talk of visiting clubs when lockdown has gone. I certainly think Churchdown (pictured below) and Welly in Brum will be visiting one another. Music sessions have not continued, but musicians have been playing and posting online to share, as well as one musician playing over Zoom and others muted to join in. It becomes a duet that only one can hear.

Bill Taylor



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2019 and early 2020

So much Folk, Carpenters Arms Folk Nights continued from strength to strength.

Kempley, Mitcheldean, Churchdown & Cheltenham Folk Clubs and Thornbury music and Song session well supported. The Dick Whittington pub reopened and revived the folk sessions on a Sunday afternoon, then came lockdown. The Tall Ships has Folk as part of its live music Fridays and was looking to do more then came lockdown.

Tuesday music sessions continued, varied as ever, England's Glory first night with new tenants coincided with race week and was brilliant, we were welcomed back, then lockdown came.

Apple day at the Gloucester Folk in Westgate St was well supported. The committee running it are keen to have events and more folk if possible.

The 3rd Gloucester Folk Trail was a huge success with happy venues and performers, many Glos Folk members took part. (including Keith Hyett, pictured right) This year we also had morris dance teams from across the county and managed to fill Gloucester with smiling faces. Gloucester BID funded the event and it was put in their budget for 2021. The demise of Marketing Gloucester means only time will tell what we are allowed to do next year.



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2020 summer

May Day meant a lack of morris, but sides posted online. Lassington Oak's foreman taught a jig in the weeks before and men recorded themselves at home. These were stitched together and went live at sun up. The alternative 'Dancing the the sun up' Lego animation went viral worldwide in a matter of hours and received a mention in the Times and other papers and radio 4.

In May, the That Shallot Ceilidh under the Bridge for Upton folk festival was hosted by Mitcheldean Folk Club and dancers danced at home with Musicians joining in (muted) while Gareth Heatley led the band live. The bear dance was the highlight for me as favourite Teddies joined in.

In July Mitcheldean festival using Facebook live and zoom was a huge success. The performances stay on Facebook. Over 1000 views of one band's performance over the day and the following four days.

We need to overcome our fears and reluctance to socialise and support our venues as they seek out the new normal. The lockdown experience has confirmed my belief that our music has a strength and will continue to be heard whatever trials come in the future.



Bill Taylor

**Bygonz at The
Folk of Gloucester**

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Finance

We continue to use the donations built up three years ago, and the county folk community has had very good value from Glos Folk. I had to spend a silly amount of time trying to prove my ID to HSBC (for an account we have held for 20 years,) so with the approval of the committee I have transferred the account to Nat West.

Total: At 31st May 2019
£373.25

Income:
£45.00 Marketing Gloucester

Final Interest
£0.04

Web Hosting July 2019,
- £25.52

Bank transfer to Nat West
£384.52

EFDSS
- £79.00
£305.52

Web Hosting July 2020,
- £25.52

Plus Petty Cash now in bank
£8.25

Balance
£288.25

Veronica Lowe

Facts & Figures

The Glos Folk Directory web site has had 2068 hits this year—1100 less than last year. The most often visited pages are Dance Bands, Singers/Groups, and Folk Clubs.

The Glos Folk Diary page was doing very well until lockdown, but obviously with little to list, there is little information to view! (Thanks to everyone who still sends in information)

Our Facebook page now has 668 members — up 69 on last year. The Mailing List now has 420 members, same as last year. So potentially well over a thousand people interested in folk! Over 44 mailings to the membership this year, (viewed 8680 times!) some of them offering paid performance opportunities.

The Performers Directory has been cleaned of redundant and duplicated entries several times but still lists 260 performers, teachers, clubs, etc. Listing is still free at present, so do let us know about anyone who should be included

Peter Cripps

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Glos Folk is affiliated to EFDSS and supports Gloucestershire Arts Council