

29. Draft Minutes Steerers meeting 8th January 2026

Chair: Chris Mapp All present and very correct (Liz Newman, Lyn Jones, Chris Mapp, Fritjof Koerber, Pauline Mapp, Judy Bridges, Heather Jenne)

1. Welcome to Judy Bridges
2. Minutes of the meeting of 1st Dec 2025 approved. Matters arising
 - 2.1 At the band rehearsal on 7th December, members were asked if they would like to do a CD recording. There was a small majority in favour and Tony O'Rourke agreed to get information on what would be involved and how much it would cost and report back to the committee.
 - 2.2 The list of past gigs on the website was a link to a list created by Roland Clare and it stopped at 2019. **Lyn will speak to Roland to see if it's possible to update the list and keep the link going.**
 - 2.3 **Fritjof will do the necessary GDPR stuff at the January rehearsal and thereafter circulate a list of members who have agreed to share contact details.**
 - 2.4 Fritjof has investigated the BVB microphone and PA system and come to the conclusion that the microphones are not working because of a fault in the receiver. He had a similar problem with another set up, and was able to resolve it by buying a set of 2 wireless microphones + plug in receiver (for £40). **It was agreed that Fritjof would kindly test this set up on the BVB PA system and if it works, buy a similar set for BVB.**
 - 2.5 Lyn has spoken to Dai and Angela and they are happy to help with stage management, for example setting up chairs and positions and helping with clearing up and being the last person to leave having checked everything is in order. Lyn has not yet been able to speak to Sally to sound her out about helping
 - 2.6 Proactive approach to getting gigs. **Judy agreed to check the list of local history societies prepared by Chris against the ALHA (Avon local history and archaeological association) website to sort out a list of societies that it might be worth approaching to ask if they want to book us for a gig.** She'll discuss the general parameters with Liz first. The list will then be brought to steerers with recommendations as to which ones might be best to approach first. Liz mentioned that it would also be worth approaching U3A reminding them we did a successful gig for them pre-covid.
 - 2.7 Signboard has been repainted
 - 2.8 **Liz will collate comments and recommendations** from people/organisations who have booked us, with a view to adding some to the website / having them available to give to future bookers.
3. Today's balance in Metro bank: £2,310.38. The EFDSS membership has been renewed and the certificate given to Lyn
4. Events reviews
 - 4.1 Southmead hospital buskathon. Since covid, we had not been invited to take part because our group was considered too big, so it was good to be involved again. A mixed gig – there were some favourable comments, especially with regard to Briggy, but there were also some problems. The acoustic was difficult and needs to be managed better eg, the singers could not position themselves to be heard by the rest of the band. It was also difficult to project out as we were playing to passers-by not a static audience. We will have to deal with these if we play there again.
Mary will try to get an earlier date and to be able to give more notice of the allocated date.

4.2 the social was cancelled because too few people were able to attend (about 10). Sad because of the work put in by various committee members and Heather Minnion. The venue hire fee can be carried over to another occasion. It was agreed to arrange a social later in the year and to sound out members at a future rehearsal.

5. Help with producing playlists/ readers' scripts / audience programme proof-reading - deferred

6. AOB

2026 gigs and rehearsal programmes. Liz reported her discussions with Alison regarding filling in the holes in gig programmes. The Alveston gig needs more George Till tunes. The Pensford gig needs local tunes like Radstock Jig and recognisable tunes. As well as doing new arrangements, Alison is looking at the back list for tunes to revive, and tweaking arrangements for the current line up of instruments, and planning to include band favourites. Alison likes rehearsal playlists to go up on the website at least a week in advance and preferably longer. She has got rough lists for Jan/Feb/Mar rehearsals. Regarding the Pensford gig, Judy has performed with a wind band for them and said they were an enthusiastic and welcoming group and enjoyed their music. She thought that the playing, some singing and a story line would go down well.

Liz has written to Bristol Folk Festival to see if they are interested in having us back – no reply so far.

Date of next meeting Thursday 6th March 2026 6pm by zoom, Lyn Jones to chair