

### 35. Minutes of Steerers' Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 by zoom

Chair: Chris Mapp, + Liz Newman, Lyn Jones, Fritjof Koerber, Pauline Mapp, Judy Bridges, Heather Jenne.

#### 1. Minutes of meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026 approved

#### 2. matters arising

2.1 Roland has brought the list of past gigs up to date, for which many thanks. Helen is going to be away a lot over the summer and will not be as available to do the website so, as Heather and Liz are the people most asking her to post, she gave them a tutorial so they can edit and add information till the summer is over.

2.2 After some discussion, including Alison's comments, the final form of the feedback form was agreed. Judy will revise it and circulate it to steerers. Lyn will send it to Alveston LHS for completion. It will go on the website with the gig organiser's checklist. For future gigs, it will be sent by the BVB gig organiser/liaison to the person booking us.

#### 2.3 + 2.4 There are 4 aspects to advertising our band.

*Firstly* the general flyers. Pauline arranged the printing of 100 new flyers with the correct email address and they were available at Bristol Folk Festival and Alveston gigs, with quite a lot taken. Liz will check with Mary Kear if there are some flyers in the props bag. Pauline will arrange for another 100 to be printed (maybe find out if it would be more economical to have 200 + printed). The flyer is to be put on the website.

*Secondly*, the advertising done by the organisations who book us. To pre-empt any second rate information about us, it was agreed that the BVB gig organiser/liaison should at an early stage ask if the organisation booking us wants any publicity material from us and can send them the flyer (or ask them to print it from the website). Heather will amend the Gig organiser's checklist to reflect this.

*Thirdly* advertising at the time of the gig. The 'Next Gig' board has been completed by Chris N and Roland and so should be displayed at gigs (along with the general band board) and with the general flyers available. Pauline and Chris M agreed to store the Next Gig board and the flyers and to put them out at gigs they can make; Liz + Chris N will store the General Band board. Other arrangements will have to be made if they are not available for a particular gig.

*Fourthly*, facebook which is maintained by Judy (but she is happy to pass it on to anyone who knows more about it). John Mills took some photos of Alveston and will send them to Judy inter alia.

2.5 We seem to have enough gigs at the moment. For the future, Newark Park is under new organisation and they may want to book us again. Lyn will put up flyers in both halls at Long Ashton Community Centre. Liz and Lyn will go along to Winterbourne Medieval Barn's medieval open day and see if they are interested in booking us for their harvest day in Sept 27. This item to stay as a standing agenda item.

#### Reviews

3.1 *Band Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026* Liz reported that having 3 topics to base a discussion was useful but, while views were aired, there was not much to learn as there were arguments for and against every point raised. The things that were clear were that everyone wanted to do gigs as well as rehearse, plus a remark that it was the audience reaction that determined how well or otherwise a gig went. One point that the steerers need to take on board is that it was felt to be important to have a drummer at every gig. While Bobby is a committed member and has signed up for all the gigs

so far listed, she might have availability clashes in the future so we ought to think about someone to dep in this event. It was agreed to ask Bobby if she would do another workshop on drumming; Lyn has 6 years' djembe experience; Tony playing rhythm guitar could also hold the band together. It was useful to clear the air about the Southmead gig which was one of our less successful gigs, and steerers agreed to work out better seating arrangements + sight lines if we are asked again. People were largely in favour of a social but not wildly enthusiastic, and no-one was prepared to offer to organise it. Liz will ask again at the next rehearsal, including floating the idea that we extend the December monthly rehearsal by 1 hour to allow people to socialise (no need for Alison to stay!).

3.2 *Bristol Folk Festival*. Alison was positive about our performance. We had to start late because of the previous concert ending late, and the next session wanted to move in swiftly. If asked again, we need to ask the organiser to allow a bit of time for changeover.

3.3 *Alveston LHS*. Heather reported that the gig went very well with several people standing in for Liz excellently; the band reacted to the script in all the right places; there was a lot of amusing ad libbing; the good responsive audience (over 100) appreciated the local information and the script (they laughed and sang the choruses). The fairy waving needed rehearsal, and from the back of the hall during the intro and the dancing, the band looked too serious. The props added a lot to the gig; Briggie was a show stealer. In the thanks at the end, the lady said the show reminded her of Boxing Day parties at her grandmother's when she was a child, which were raucous and jolly with people standing up to do spontaneous turns

Chris Chaloner gave useful feedback (positive except for some chaos with the fairies and the band needs to smile more!!) including suggestions for the Pensford gig in the light of what happened at Alveston.

#### Forthcoming Gigs

4.1 *Earthfest Sat 27<sup>th</sup> June 12 – 12.45* in front of the library. It was decided that we did not need a kitchen rehearsal as the pieces were going to be rehearsed at the monthly rehearsal on 7<sup>th</sup> June and there was minimal speaking. (the Alveston kitchen rehearsal was dispiriting because only 9 people attended) Liz said there were no new pieces at this rehearsal (or the one before) because she and Alison were trying to put together a core repertoire for summer as had been requested at the 19<sup>th</sup> April meeting - even though some people might find the rehearsal less challenging. She's thinking about tunes for autumn/winter – there's about a 4 month run up to gigs.

4.2 *Pensford Evergreens Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> July*. It was suggested that we extend the 12<sup>th</sup> July monthly rehearsal by an hour; so that in that hour, the players for Pensford would run through the programme order seeing how it fitted in with the speaking/dancing/singing. Liz will ask the band if they would prefer this (even if tired after a rehearsal) to having a separate kitchen rehearsal on, say Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July. There are only 12 people signed up for this gig. Pauline will ask people who haven't completed the sign up form whether they are coming.

4.3 *Thornbury Stroke Support Group* Best date is Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> Nov (at 2pm Alveston Jubilee Hall). It was agreed to do this with Fritjof liaising with the organiser / checking if enough people are available / checking the hall. Ask for £70 being at the lower end of our charity fee rate (+ refreshments).

4.4 *St Stephens* 14<sup>th</sup> Dec – nothing to report yet

4.5 *Bitton LHS* date agreed is 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2027 (St Georges day) at 7.30pm.

5. Treasurer's Report £2526 in the bank account as at today's date; it will go down before the year end on 31<sup>st</sup> Aug as there will be 3 months' rehearsal venue and Alison's fees to pay, with a small amount of subs and gig fees to add.

#### 6.AOB

2 members are leaving. It was agreed to look at actively recruiting new members. Suggestions from the 19<sup>th</sup> April meeting included Come + try days, approaching folk clubs, targeting 'rusty returners', and Alison's suggestion of an open rehearsal once a year. We decided to try the last idea out in at the 20<sup>th</sup> September monthly rehearsal – Liz to check first with Alison. If agreed, we need to galvanise band members to pro-actively invite people they know, especially John Mills with his folkie connections.

Action: announcement at the next monthly rehearsal /maybe email from Fritjof / Fritjof will see if he can tweak the workshop flyer he created so this can be circulated. Lyn will do a half-partial reserve on the bigger hall in case there are lots of people interested.

7. Next meeting: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 10.15 by zoom. Liz to chair.