

NOTES FROM UKYBOBS MEETING(UKULELE BAND OF BURY) . 2nd January 2024.

Attended by: Iain Harris,(Chair) Geoff Smithies, Lynn Watson, Barbara Platt, Jeanne Collins, June and Gerard Van Hecke, Brian Sharples, Jim Melling, Chris and Anthony McAleese, Sue Earnshaw, Maria Woodhouse, Eric Larmett, Kath Vickerstaff, Irene Oldham, Oliver Gorton, Andrew Ainsworth, Helen .

Apologies Pat, Debbie Jordan

- Iain thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He welcomed everyone to the group, and we all agreed we are looking forward to new ventures this year and establishing ourselves as the Ukybobs.
- Iain fed back from the NYE gig at Unsworth Cricket club. Overall, we were really well received and lovely feedback was given by many attending. The acoustics and background noise were a challenge, but the microphones were invaluable. Thanks, given to Geoff for sorting, Jim on guitar and Sue as stand in drummer in Debbie's absence. A general massive thanks to all who were involved. Iain led us all with confidence.
- Overall, we did 11 gigs in December and Iain congratulated the band for making this a great success.
- FINANCE: Chris reported that so far 21 people have signed up and paid their £10 Annual membership. It was agreed that each member will pay £3 a week contribution to cover everyday costs and to help create a cushion for additional expenses throughout the year and when required. The £3 can be paid weekly, monthly or in lump sum. Preferably via online banking system and by Standing Order. Each member to liaise with Chris regarding payment.

New members will be invited to join us 3 x and then required to pay £10 membership and £3 weekly contribution. A signing in sheet will be used each week for all attendees and to help with managing new attendees' sessions attended. ACTION: June to create and provide weekly attendance tick sheet. Chris has list of current members.

Room Hire of Bishop Ashton Room at back of Bury Parish Church. They will invoice each month with their online banking details. Pat Uden (Chair of Finance) will send out the invoices. She is away til 5th January so it will be after that. ACTION: Chris to manage invoicing.

Insurance is in place. Jimmy has sorted this and will be refunded via the account. Which currently has £210. ACTION: Chris to reimburse Jimmy.

Geoff has bought a projector from Ebay and has kindly donated it to the group. We agreed to find a secure room in the church premises to store equipment etc if possible. ACTION: Sue to liaise with Janice Keyholder of premises.

- REFRESHMENTS. Barbara P is designated brew lady. She will provide tea coffee, sugar, milk, biscuits. All members to contribute 50p at each attendance. All members to bring own cup each week . Can store labelled refreshments in kitchen on site. ACTION Barbara to sort labels for refreshment items . All agreed not to spend too much time on refreshments as it ' eats ' into practice time, though enjoyable socially! Possibly get drink at start .
- SOCIAL MEDIA . Consideration of Charity status. All agreed too complex, restrictive and not required at this stage. ACTION : Olly to look into creating website for Ukybobs. Cost and application. Agreed need 2 people to oversee and administer. June VH agreed to work with Olly on this. Consideration of facebook page.

WhatsApp page currently very active. Agreed only to use for business purposes of the band at this stage as gets overcrowded with trivia. Consideration of a Business and a Social WhatsApp moving forward if required. Also, mindful that not all members actively use Social Media and need to ensure they are included in Communications.

- SAFEGUARDING. We have copy of Safeguarding Policy from Bury Methodist Church. ACTION Jeanne is designated lead on Safeguarding and will ensure all members have received a copy of the Policy and signed agreement to it. Discussed Safeguarding issues when playing gigs in centres with vulnerable adults. Primarily it is the responsibility of the staff to oversee Safeguarding for people they support, however we all agreed to respect privacy, and adhere to safeguarding standards when in premises.

Others attending with band members. We agreed that friends/ relatives are not allowed to accompany band members due to Safeguarding issues unless it is in a public place e.g. recreational Park where the general public are present, and then they will be part of the audience. If required Members can bring Junior for childcare reasons and will pay £3 for them at the session and will be the ultimate responsibility of the Adult in charge of Junior.

Juniors will not be invited to join the group for Safeguarding reasons. Therefore, minimum age is 18 years.

All attendees at meeting were in agreement of the posting of pictures/ videos on social media for promotion and celebratory purposes. Agreed not to post any pictures which identifies customers who are being supported in venues we visit due to their vulnerability and for confidentiality reasons. .

- **COMMUNITY GRANTS/ SPONSORSHIP:** To further consider opportunities as we progress . We also need to consider if we will use any donations to the band for re investing into the band development and equipment and / or to make donations to charity. Consideration to be given to a bucket/ old ukulele for donations whilst we play. Future consideration as to whether to charge for some performances depending on the event.
- **NAME OF BAND/ LOGOS.** We are all agreed on the band name, and it can't be changed now as bank account is in this name. Discussion of Logos and Brian had been working on LOGO examples which he shared. **ACTION:** Brian to share on email with members and for us to agree preferences. Thanks to Brian for efforts with this. **ACTION.** Tony and Barbara's husband Dave also to add to logo ideas. Agreed Ukybobs name to be added into LOGO . Suggestion of use of a banner / flag draped over stand at front with LOGO / pull up banners either side of group to keep us more centrally together when we perform and for promotional use. Consideration of use on letterheads, website, general publicity. Business cards might be useful to give for contact details to potential customers.
- **DRESS CODE** We discussed dress code and agreed to give it further thought. Some ideas offered were red waistcoats, a particular theme that we all adopt, colour theme? All agreed the Xmas jumpers looked good.
- **MUSICAL DIRECTION** Discussion of how best to support newer members who may be beginners. Consideration of Mentors, splitting the group for part of the session. Playing songs with both challenging and simpler chords to support all abilities. Doing a technical session for 10 mins at the start of the session. Teaching new chords then doing songs where new chords are included to put learning/ teaching into practice. Having songs sent out prior to session. **ACTION** Geoff has a technical sheet to share with beginners/ new learners.

Jims Ukulele books. ACTION: Geoff to explain to newer members about these.

Discussion of how we choose songs. To evolve as we progress. Don't want group to lose informality and fun.

First week commencing 9/1/2024. Iain to use NYE songs as a start.

Suggestion we meet socially once a month with ukuleles so as not to lose fun side and maintain our valuable friendships.

Suggestion of linking with a National Ukulele organisation for ideas/ tips . ACTION : Gerard to explore if available.

- EVENTS/ GIGS to recommence in 2/3/weeks when we are better established. Already have 2 care home re- visit requests.

Health and Safety. First Aid kit should be in premises. We have some First Aid knowledgeable members , albeit it not necessarily qualified.

Good luck everyone! Thank you for such a positive meeting ! Here's to a great year of learning, fun and hopefully success!!!