

## NOTES FROM UKYBOBS MEETING(UKULELE BAND OF BURY) . 30/1/2024.

Members of band not all in attendance at meeting.

Iain Harris, Geoff Smithies, Lynn Watson, Pat White, Kath Bickerstaff, Jeanne Collins, June and Gerard Van Hecke, Brian Sharples, Jim Melling, Chris and Anthony McAleese, Sue Earnshaw, Irene Oldham, Debbie Jordan, David Emmerson, Helen Hindle, Tracy Roke, Olly Gorton, Maria Woodhouse, Tom Tyrie, Jo Davies, Mike Scott, Barbara. Platt, Carl Hayden, Veronica. Graham Ellis, Eric Lamett, Elizabeth Kay, Brian Pidgeon, Alison Kniveton- Jones, Anne, Stephen Richards, Beverley Richards, Andrew Ainsworth.

- General Overview. Iain reported that things are going really well, and increasing numbers in members reflects this. Everything is still in its infancy and development, and we are working things out together as we progress. We were joined by 2 members of the Jubilee Centre in Bury who came along to hear us play with a view to a possible booking in the future. They enjoyed the session and said they intend to book us.
- Membership and Numbers. We currently have 34 members all of whom have paid. Decision not to cap numbers yet but we are mindful of the room size capacity, and not to lose the nature of the group. Given a mix of learners and more established players we want to ensure it is a positive experience for all players. We also need to be mindful of the numbers we can have attending gigs we are asked to play at.
- Room Use. The Bishop Ashton room we are currently using at Bury Parish church is adequate. Capacity is approx. 30 people. It has been redecorated and the curtains had been taken down at our session today due to redecoration. This meant there was too much light for the projector to be visible. SE will check the curtains will be back up next week. Sue had enquired about the other rooms and availability . She was advised that all the rooms were available Tuesday afternoons, and the big hall from 1130a.m to 1.30pm. We recognise however that members have signed up for Tuesday mornings and other times may not be convenient. Tony advised that the Welcome Inn in Whitefield has upstairs rooms available pm, and evenings if we wanted to use it for additional practice and they are interested in us playing there for their

customers. Tony to further discuss with landlady of the Welcome Inn.

**ACTION: Brian and Ann to look into other room availability in Bury Town Centre. All to forward suggestions to them to explore.**

- Safeguarding. Jeanne has been circulating Bury Parish Church Safeguarding Policy for all to read, agree and sign off as understood. This is in accordance with the room hiring requirement. : **ACTION : ALL members to ensure this is signed and agreed and confirmed as such with Jeanne.**  
We agreed we need UkyBobs own short Safeguarding statement. Brian S has already some initial guidelines of a Risk Assessment to share. **ACTION: Maria, Brian S and Jeanne to draw up Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment for UkyBobs.**
- Finance. Chris has received all members payments. Agreed that members will manage their own amendments if unable to attend due to planned or unplanned absence. Chris would prefer everyone to pay by Bank Transfer online if possible. If money is by cash, then please send in envelope with Name and amount for clarity. We currently have £600 in bank account. Chris, Brian and June are the signatories.
- Gigs, Events and Management. We have already some Gigs planned. 14/2 Regency, 19/5 Prestwich Clough. Outdoor gigs are less likely to have a number restriction of players. Indoor events we can manage maximum of 15 people only. We all recognise that we want to encourage learners and more experienced players to attend and that we need a mix of both to ensure we have a reasonable standard of performance for customers Agreed 2 x Gigs a month is probably a good number. **ACTION: Sheets to be provided for people to sign up to events . Debbie and Lynn will coordinate numbers for each event. NB We agreed booking on line via Social media could result in unfair opportunity fair and not potentially inclusive. All to respond positively to Gig requests you may received when out and about/ from contacts , and pass to Iain for him to consider. Iain to liaise with Debbie and Lynn re numbers.**
- **Grants/ Applications.** Gerard has been exploring funding opportunities with Bury Arts Council, BVS, and links with Athaneum Charity. Theme of 'getting people moving', 'supporting community

activities'. Brian S has looked with links with Univ 3 RDA. Bury U3A. Grants less than £2,000 towards start up , e.g PA system, Projector, publicity, songbooks, musical instruments. **ACTION. Gerard and Brian S to progress.**

- **Flyers, Business Cards, Publicity.** Brian S has been actively working on these and sent flyer examples round for us to agree. Iain asked for his personal details to come off such publicity and we agreed a generic email address would be more suitable and linked to website. Logo looks great. Also caution expressed about promoting new members on publicity as could be inundated with member enquiries. **ACTION : Flyers and cards to be amended and linked to social media being set up for UkyBobs. Brian S, Olly.**
- **Website. IT.** Discussion of Website and Facebook page development, cost, address details, administrative rights/ access., management, keeping it up to date, dealing with email enquiries. **ACTION: Olly to design webpage and FB site and send screenshots for agreement from members. Email address to be specifically for Ukybobs. WHATSAPP. ACTION: Agreed to have a business and separate social group as it is becoming too unwieldy. Important messages are hard to retrieve amongst the social banter. OLLY to manage.**
- **Committee.** Agreed we need a Steering group and feed back quarterly into larger group. Members to date are:
  1. Iain . Chair
  2. Sue E . Secretary
  3. Jeanne. Safeguarding
  4. Olly and June, Geoff, IT Leads
  5. Chris, Brian S, June. Finance
  6. Debbie and Lynn , Iain . Members and social event management
  7. Brian S .Publicity.
  8. Grants/ Applications. Gerard/ Brian S.
  9. Room Provision. Brian S / Ann

If anyone can think of other requirements and would like to Volunteer, please advise!! I am sure that this will be a moving thing as some actions are achieved and others develop.

- **Press release.** Helen shared a draft Press release she had drawn up with a view to advertising who we are, what we do etc to recruit

new members potentially , and Gigs. **ACTION Helen to circulate on UkyBobs Whatsapp for comments.**  
**Thank you everyone!! Onwards and Upwards!!**