

## **Chairman Report, 2020.**

2020 has not been the year that any of us were hoping for.

In the midst of the world's struggles with Covid-19, we have lost our friend and founder, Lynda Swaine, to cancer. For nearly 30 years Lynda has been the inspiration, the teacher, the organizer, the costumier, and the driving force behind Young Miscellany. She has led overseas trips, and hosted visiting dance groups. She has taught a tremendous variety of traditional English dancing and displayed it at countless festivals and events. She has created, adjusted and organized hundreds of items of costume and equipment. Most importantly, she has passed on a love and experience of traditional dancing to the very many young people who have been members of the group. We will certainly miss her.

2020 has been a year of hiatus for Young Miscellany. We managed to fit in our New Year party in January and a few practices through to mid-March before Covid-19 brought the world to a juddering halt. Our finances, equipment, costumes and repertoire are all in good health, ready to pick up where we left off. Our live band, led by Joe, and our instructors Gareth and Yvonne are ready and keen to restart when the world is a healthier place.

This year has proven that it is impossible to predict the future, but I'll have a go. I anticipate that the country is heading for a difficult six months, and that restarting real-life YM in that time will not be possible. When we get out of the other side, I think that music and dancing and fun will be more important than ever for our young people - and our not-so-young people. I think membership numbers will be down. I think we will need enthusiasm and passion.

Nurture that passion through the Winter. Keep yourselves safe. Be good citizens. We'll see you in Spring for dancing and music and fun.

Mike Dent, Chairman, 29.09.2020