

## **Islington Folk Club Bookings Officer Report for December 2025 AGM**

### **Covering the year: 1st January - 31st December 2025**

A variety of methods was used to book guest artists including: direct approaches from artists or their agents, contacting known performers, following suggestions from Committee members, scouting at other clubs/festivals, looking at past performers in the web-site archive.

- The venue: all events held at the Brewhouse & Kitchen with just one evening becoming unavailable at short notice (the artist Robin Gillan was already booked) The Alpaca, Essex Road was used for that evening at the cost of £150. Artists comment very favourably about the Brewhouse room and on the Club as a whole. They are happy to return.
- 40 Club evenings were held comprising: 36 guest nights (including one 3-way split) and 4 sing-arounds (one for a cancellation and one at the end of each term).
- The Club was closed for 12 weeks in the year: one week at Easter, throughout July and August, and one week at Christmas,
- Fees: artists given an agreed guaranteed fee or, if greater 95% of the door.
- Entry charges: members £8, non-members £10. Note: membership £2 pa is used for admin, rather than for paying performers.
- We are competing locally with at least two clubs who don't charge entry or (presumably) guarantee their artists a fee (sometimes the same artists as us).
- Gender equality in artists booked: 22/40 (cf 27/41 in 2024) acts involved women performers
- A variety of performer formats (solo, group etc.), instruments and musical styles was represented. Musical categories included: English traditional, singer-songwriter/contemporary, American old-time, music hall, blues, political, humorous/eccentric and world music.
- There were 10 acts new to the club: Liz Simcock, Nick Hart, Joe Topping, Doves Vagaries, Katie Grace Harris, Richard Allen, Daria Kulesh and Tristan Seume, JEoin, Bryony Griffiths and Alice Jones
- Artist cancellations, there were two: Pete Cooper and Richard Bolton replaced by the Kimberleys, Jim Murray and the Too Good to Hurry Band replaced by a SingAround.
- A few weeks before their evening each artist is sent confirmation of fee agreed, details of the Club evening and practical information such as travel/parking etc

- A few artists used amplification (usually their own, occasionally provided by a member of the committee), a few others might have benefitted from it, particularly on busy nights.
- Attendances: highest 81 (cf. 72 in 2024, 77 in 2023), lowest 22 (transport strike), and the next lowest 24 (cf. 24 in 2024 ,26 in 2023), average 47 (cf. 48.8 in 2024, 43 in 2023).  
(Termly averages for 2025, 47 Spring, 50 Summer, 45 Autumn)
- With competition it is very important that artists attract their own crowd.
- Surplus on artists of £539 (cf. £338 in 2024, £400 in 2023) over the year.
- Most acts exceed their guaranteed fee, in fact only one failed to reach their guarantee with a loss £20
- One solo and one duo required accommodation (provided by the booker)
- Competition from other Clubs is a factor. We have an informal agreement not to book acts too close to one another.
- More women seem to be attending and the age of the audience seems to be lower.

*Maggie Chadwick, Booking Officer Jan-Dec 2025*

*John Orsulik Booking Officer Jan-Dec 2025*

*29<sup>th</sup> November 2025*