

Bush Dance Group Report 2023-24

For the first time since Covid interrupted our normal activities, the Bush Dance Group (BDG) has been able to run a full year of dancing. This comprised Monday Evening Bush Dances (March to November inclusive) and Dancing in the Park (December to February).

Numbers have fluctuated through the year, with no clear pattern, but Monday evenings have averaged 17 dancers (actual attendances being between 9 and 31), which is an excellent improvement from March to June 2023 when we averaged just 11, and means we are now comfortably covering our hall hire and supper costs.

Dancing in the Park also saw better attendances than for the previous, post-Covid years, despite a slightly fractured season due to the unavailability of Stage '88 on several Mondays.

The "open stage" for musicians and callers has continued to attract good numbers with an average of 9 musicians, plus 2 or 3 callers each night.

We did not attempt to run dances during the weekend this year, instead leaving these to the End of Month (EOM) committee, however we are looking to recommence these in 2024/25, including a joint BDG/EOM Christmas picnic and dance.

Overall, higher attendances at both Dancing in the Park and Monday evenings saw the BDG make a financial year profit of \$981, although our actual profit is \$771 because the hall hire fee for June 2023 was paid in July of this financial year.

In addition, the Bush Capital Band has contributed a further \$77 from external, non-MFS engagements by paying to the Society a 3.5% contribution from four paid gigs through the year.

Mark Simmons
BDG Chair
05/07/2024