

HAZEL ONLINE IN 2020

1. History

- **Pre-Covid ...before March**
Regular groups, special events, busy, busy...
- **Lockdown Mar - June**
Everything cancelled,
“meetings” offered from end of April
- **Lockdown eased July - October**
“meetings” continue, some in-person meetings
outside in gardens til Sept.

- **2nd lockdown Nov -
All meetings paused**

2. What to do ?

- **Offer / give to dancing friends (local dancers initially)
Counter isolation, for mental/emotional/spiritual
health
Also For ourselves, Angela & I both love dancing !**
- **Zoom ? No (not yet !)
Technology issues**

Synchronicity issues

Teaching issues

Participants issues

- **Facebook ? No**
Technology issues
?? Non-intuitive, unfamiliar
- **Youtube ? Yes**

3. What I did

- **“meetings” date and time. weekly, then fortnightly**
- **Set of 6 dances**
- **Playlist in sequence, or as individual films**
- **Links shared with email**
- **Background information in email**
- **No teaching Learn by repetition**
- **Initially for local dancers, grew steadily to 270+**

- **Overwhelming positive email feedback**
- **Access remains, permanent, flexible, anytime**
- **Statistics: 100 dances, 18,800 views**

4Debateable Pros & Cons

| IN-PERSON | YOUTUBE | ZOOM, FACEBOOK |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | |
| Physical Contact | No hugs, no hands | No hugs, no hands |
| | | |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Immediacy, Presence | No immediacy | Immediacy, Presence |
| | | |
| Transitory, one-time | Permanent, flexible, repeat | Transitory, less flexible?, repeat? |
| | | |
| Community, local friends, real connection | ? No connection ? Less local seeing teacher only | Global community Zoom gallery connection, Facebook ? no connection ? seeing teacher only |
| | | |
| Energy / spirit / magic | ? Energy ? Focus | Zoom ? Facebook ? |
| | | |

| IN-PERSON | YOUTUBE | ZOOM, FACEBOOK |
|---|--|--|
| | | |
| Dancing: real quality, dance space, anydance | Real dancing? Dance Space ? No complex, irregular, fast, challenging, or couples dances | Dance Space ? Dance choices ? |
| | | |
| Very good music | Good music, blocked some music | ? music quality, ? synchronicity |
| | | |
| Teaching yes | No teaching Visual learning by repetition | Teaching yes Zoom view, slow Facebook, slow |
| | | |

| | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| Attunements/candles/ centrepiece/meditations | No attunements Yes candles Some centrepieces Some meditations | Matter of choice |
| | | |
| Beginners | No Beginners | ?No Beginners |

5. SUMMARY

- **Everyone missing real in-person dancing**
- **Masses of appreciation**
- **Changing how and what we learn**

- **Losing locals gaining internationals**
- **Less work, (but lost income)**
- **Better than nothing, but not the same**



Postscript: some additional thoughts

I would like to add a few extra comments to my presentation.

Although I recognised at the outset that using Youtube has limitations as a platform for keeping dancers connected, I saw that

Facebook and Zoom were also not ideal. I believe a better way forward might be using a combination of Zoom and Youtube, as some are already doing.

I am a bit of a perfectionist and from that perspective I was way out of my comfort zone to attempt any online dancing. Before Covid I would never have contemplated making rough dance videos at home ! Nevertheless I dived in to offer Youtube “meetings” and not only has the positive feedback been tremendous, Angela and I have thoroughly enjoyed the filming as we danced around the kitchen this year. So I have learnt to “let go” of perfection, as giving something is so much better than giving nothing.

It's brilliant to connect with dancers all over the world, but I feel sad about not connecting with many of my local dancers – online dancing is not for them it seems (some don't have a computer at all). We have been dancing together every week for 25 years.

I will be offering more online dancing in the future but we're in the middle of a house move at the moment, so for us dancing is paused...

Love,

Hazel Young

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