

EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

efdss

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englishfolkdance&songsociety

About EFDSS

The **English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS)** is based at **Cecil Sharp House** in Camden, North London. It is regarded as one of the leading folk development and advocacy organisations in the UK.

EFDSS promotes the study, practice and dissemination of traditional English song, dance and music; provides outreach and educational programmes; enables and increases access; celebrates diversity; and promotes equality. At **Cecil Sharp House** it presents a lively programme of concerts, performances, dances, exhibitions, classes, courses and events and houses the **Vaughan Williams Memorial Library**, England's premier resource for folk arts materials

The Education Department

EFDSS Education runs educational and participatory arts projects, classes, workshops, seminars and other events, for children, young people and adults of all ages and backgrounds, in **schools, colleges** and **community** settings in London and other parts of England. It also supports the **continuing professional development** of, and exchange between, artists and animateurs from folk and other arts backgrounds.

Projects draw from the **diverse traditional and folk arts of England and the British Isles:**

- Dance
- Music
- Song
- Games
- Rhymes
- Storytelling
- Drama
- Traditions
- Visual arts

EFDSS Education works in partnership with a range of organisations, **fostering links with contemporary, classical, urban and world art forms**, and within other related spheres such as education, sport and health.

Inside This Issue

- 1 EFDSS and CSH
- 1 Education
- 2 Young People and Schools
- 2 *Living Song, Take 6* and Other projects
- 3 Adults in the Community
- 3 Classes and Workshops
- 4 Artists and Professional Development
- 4 Educational Resources
- 4 Contact Information
- 4 Location

“The quality of teaching was excellent... students’ previous perceptions about folk music were effectively challenged.”
(Teacher, City of London Academy)



Take 6 Photos: Steve Rowley

Young People and Schools



Take 6 Photo: Steve Rowley



Living Song Photo: Rachel Elliott



Country Dance Festival 2008 Photo: Sam Lee

EFDSS is currently delivering 2 main education projects with young people:

Take 6:

Folk song and singing games in schools

An 18-month archival, education and community project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, **Take 6** is taking folk songs and singing games, from the archives of the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library, to children in **primary schools in Hampshire, Lancashire and London**; the areas they were originally collected 100 years ago. School projects are specifically designed to link with the curriculum and to bring the songs to life in a way that is fresh, contemporary and relevant. Teaching and learning resources will be available online in summer 2009.

Living Song:

Folk song and composition project

In the autumn, **EFDSS** and the **Royal College of Music Junior Department (RCMJD)** devised a joint initiative celebrating the English Folk Song as a living, evolving tradition. RCMJD students attended a workshop at Cecil Sharp House following which three student composers created beautiful and moving new choral arrangements of folk songs which were performed by Chamber Choir at the RCMJD end of term performance. The project was a highly successful first step in building a working relationship between the RCM and the EFDSS – bringing together the world of conservatoire-level music education, with folk song and music.

“It was really enjoyable to learn about folk singing.... it was fascinating to become involved in a new experience.” (Student)

Other educational projects:

EFDSS Education is currently developing links and planning tailor-made projects with local schools and educational organisations particularly in its home borough of Camden.

It has also recently delivered workshops to GCSE Music students at **The City of London Academy**, Southwark and students from **University of Notre Dame** and **Luther College**, Iowa.

Adults and Community

EFDSS is working to encourage a larger and more diverse range of people to discover and engage with folk dance, music, song and other folk arts: to do this it works in partnership with a broad range of community and cultural organisations.

In the autumn EFDSS organised a range of performance and other events with a range of partners: **National Gallery** (*Midwinter Traditions*); **South Bank Centre** and **Magpie's Nest** (foyer event for the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Musician Award); and *From Country to the City – The Big Folk Fight* debate at **St. Barnabas Church**.

A Singing History of London: London song book

EFDSS is currently working on an exciting new project to develop a London song book, in partnership with **Sing London** as part of its national project in 8 towns and cities across England. The book will be launched in the spring with associated workshops for schools and community groups. All the songs are from the traditional canon based around aspects of London life: The River, Trades, Love, War, Crime & Punishment, Rhymes & Ditties, and London Pride.

CSH Community Classes & Workshops

Regular Classes & Workshops: There is a broad range of classes and courses offered at CSH, which are listed on the EFDSS website, in the 'What's On' section. They include:

- **Morris Dancing**
- **Clog Dancing**
- **Music of the British Isles**
- **International folk dance**
- **English traditional dance**



Cecil Sharp House Community Choir: Learn to sing wonderful acappella songs from the British Isles and around the world. Their first choir performance was at the **Ceremony of Carols and Customs** on December 14th at CSH hosted by EFDSS. **Wednesdays 7 – 9pm**

C# Minors: folk dance, song, music and singing games for children. **Tuesdays 4 – 4.45pm (4 – 5 years); 5 – 6pm (6 – 9 years)**

Saturday Music Workshops: workshops in accordion, banjo and singing providing an opportunity to learn to play and sing folk songs and impress your friends with your new found knowledge of the folk arts! Workshop prices range from £50-£60 with instruments to borrow. Spring term 2009 dates are: **Saturdays 17 & 31 January, 14 & 28 February, 14 & 28 March.**

Saturday What the Folk? Lectures: Explore the breadth, depth and wealth of folk culture. Discover the expanse of the traditions of the English-speaking world, including songs, tunes, dances and customs indigenous to our land.

Upcoming Lectures: Saturdays 1 – 2pm

January 17th- The untold and international story of the Jews Harp: Michael Wright

February 14th- Customs, legends and traditions of London: Steve Roud:

March 14th- the Groanbox Boys: Banjos, Accordions and how it came to be. Cory & Michael explain all.

£5 on the door, free to Saturday Music Workshop students

Artists and Professional Development

Artists in Residence:

Matthew Cowan - visual and performance artist will be joining EFDSS at Cecil Sharp House throughout 2009 to create new work, curate exhibitions and work with community groups.

Other EFDSS Associate Artists include:

Deborah Newbold – storyteller

Alex Reuben - filmmaker

Mary Neal Day: Sat Feb 7th 2-11pm

The **Mary Neal Project** and EFDSS present a day where contemporary art and folk practitioners and children come together to celebrate the life and work of **Mary Neal** who, 100 years ago was an instigating spirit behind the English Folk Song and Dance Revival. Her pioneering work with the Somerstown sewing girls and children of the Espérance Club has been overlooked - until now.

exCHANGES:

morris / contemporary choreographic project

Led by morris dancer **Anthony Allen** and choreographer **Kate Flatt**, this week-long course will take place **30 March – 3 April 2009 at Cecil Sharp House**. Created for contemporary choreographers and dancers and musicians, **exCHANGES** aims to create an exchange of choreographic, music and dance ideas, drawing on the essence of English traditional dance material; facilitate its use in a creative format and to develop new and flexible ways of using the material.

Contact Information

Education Department Staff:

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EFDSS Website

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Teaching Resources

The **Education** Section of the EFDSS Shop on our website contains all of the details of the extensive range of high quality educational materials available.

Location

EFDSS headquarters and offices, where classes, events and workshops are held:

Cecil Sharp House

2 Regent's Park Road
London
NW1 7AY

Nearest tube station: Camden Town

For further information about EFDSS Education projects and the artists involved please visit the EFDSS website
Thank you to the funders of our education programme and projects:

