



English Folk

DANCE & SONG SOCIETY

Board Matters

Number 38. Our update for members about the activities of the Board and EFDSS governance. Issued with EDS magazine, Autumn 2019.

From the Chair

I write this in the middle of festival season, and no doubt many reading this while they recover from another busy summer. We've had a particularly active presence again at Sidmouth. Our Chief Executive Katy Spicer has been presenting a series of performances by up-and-coming artists at The Bedford, including several recipients of EFDSS bursary support. The National Youth Folk Ensemble have given an open workshop, and by all accounts they brought the house down with their emotional final performance under the guidance of Sam Sweeney, inaugural Artistic Director. Our mission to support players once they graduate from the Ensemble is also gaining momentum, and the current cohort were joined on-stage by nearly all of the Ensemble's alumni from its previous two years. One former member is now studying sound engineering, and has been providing technical support to the Ensemble at both Wickham and Sidmouth Festivals.

By the time you read this, talented educator and multi-instrumentalist Sam Partridge will have taken over the helm – and we can't wait to see where he takes the Ensemble next.

The English Folk Dance and Song Society's Gold Badge recognises unique or outstanding contributions to folk dance, music or song, and/or exceptional support in furthering the aims of the Society. Congratulations to the four recipients for 2019:

Chris Coe, traditional singer/instrumentalist
John Graham, who took over accordion duties at Headington Quarry Morris Dancers from William Kimber himself
Kate Rusby, singer-songwriter
Mike Norris, former Chair of EFDSS and presenter of the weekly *Classic Folk* radio show

As promised in my last update, you will notice our updated look on this page and in EDS magazine, probably most noticeably including a new logotype. We hope you agree that it is a bit less 'corporate' and gives an idea – particularly for people who are coming across our work for the first time – of the vibrancy and diversity of the English folk scene.

Retaining the continuity of the swordlock, which has been the emblem of the Society since it was founded, our crucial at-a-glance message is: this is the national organisation for the English folk arts. You may be interested to

know that the three typefaces were all created by English designers: Clarendon (1845, Thorowgood and Co.), Perpetua (c.1925, Eric Gill) and Kilburn (2013, Adrian Talbot).

If you run an Affiliate Group, you are entitled to use the 'Affiliate of the English Folk Dance and Song Society' mark:

This symbol is reserved only for Affiliates, and its use confirms membership – but of course it cannot

imply any form of 'official' endorsement of each of the group's activities. To avoid confusion, please do not use any other EFDSS symbols or logos to denote membership.



Finally, we were sorry to receive Lucy Hooberman's resignation from the Board. Lucy was appointed in November 2018 and is resigning for personal reasons.

Lorna Aizlewood
Chair

The English Folk Dance & Song Society

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June Board Meeting

The Board met on Tuesday 4 June at Cecil Sharp House.

Apologies were received from Mick Gallagher and it was noted that Lucy Hooberman had resigned for personal reasons. With those exceptions the whole Board was present.

In the morning there was an informal session in which the heads of department updated the Board on the work of their areas. The meeting continued with a formal session in the afternoon.

The minutes of the March meeting were accepted and signed as a correct record.

Sherry Neyhus introduced the Treasurer's report. The end of year figures are now

available and were discussed. These figures will be available to members when the Annual Report and Accounts are published.

Katy Spicer introduced her Chief Executive's Report. Her report included notification that new funding had been received for the National Youth Folk Ensemble from the Garfield Weston Charitable Trust, plans for the Step Dancing Conference in November, and the U.Dance partnership which in the month following the meeting saw EFDSS presenting public performances at the annual youth dance festival at the Southbank Centre.

Lorna Aizlewood introduced the results of the Board skills audit, and there was a discussion on how to fill the gaps that had been identified.

It was noted that the GPC would discuss the annual subscriptions for members and fees for affiliates and would recommend what should be put to the AGM.

The Board considered some proposed minor changes to the Articles and agreed that they should be proposed to the AGM.

The Board considered the report of the Gold Badge Awards Panel and decided on which nominees should be offered Gold Badges (*see 'From the Chair' overleaf*).

The next meeting will take place on Saturday 14 September.

Annual General Meeting 2019

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the English Folk Dance and Song Society will be held at 11 am on Saturday 9 November 2019 at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London, NW1 7AY.

The business of the meeting will include

- ✳ Consideration of the 2018/9 Annual Report and Accounts and Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2019
- ✳ Appointment and fixing of the remuneration of the Auditors
- ✳ Election of Members of the Board of Directors
- ✳ An update on developments since 31 March 2019
- ✳ Any other business

Other business of which notice has been given:

Ordinary Resolution 1

Under Article 3.7 it is proposed by the Board of Directors as an ordinary motion that from 1 January 2020 annual subscriptions shall be as follows:

Individual Standard £51 (currently £50)
Joint Standard £78 (currently £76)
Individual Senior £35 (currently £34)
Joint Senior £51 (currently £50)
Individual Student £23 (currently £22)
Individual Younger Generation Affiliate £23 (currently £22)
Individual Life £464 (currently £450)
Joint Life £658 (currently £639)

Ordinary Resolution 2

It is proposed by the Board of Directors as an ordinary motion to re-appoint HW Fisher & Co. as the Society's auditors until the conclusion of the 2020 AGM and to authorise the Board of Directors to fix their remuneration.

Special Resolution 1

It is proposed by the Board of Directors as a special resolution that the Society's Articles of Association shall be amended as follows

- a) Delete Article 15.11 and renumber the Articles as necessary
- b) Delete Article 15.5 and substitute "Subject to the articles, the directors may make any rule which they think fit about how they take decisions, and about how such rules are to be recorded or communicated to directors".
- c) In Article 8.6.2 delete the word "ten" and substitute "five".
- d) At the end of Article 21.4.5 add "if earlier"

Special Resolution 2

It is proposed by the Board of Directors as a special resolution that the Society's Articles of Association shall be amended as follows: Add new Article 11.2.1 "he is a member of the Society" and renumber the Articles as necessary

Notes

1. The Annual General Meeting is open to current Members on production of a valid membership card.

2. Proxy voting facilities will be provided for those who are unable to attend the meeting in person and proxy voting papers will be sent to all Members. If you appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf you can still attend the AGM and when you arrive to register you can, if you wish, ask for your proxy votes to be withdrawn from the ballot so you can vote differently.
 3. Brief Explanatory Notes on all the resolutions will be provided with the proxy voting papers.
 4. Copies of the Minutes of the 2018 AGM can be obtained from the EFDSS website. Paper copies can be obtained from the Membership Secretary at Cecil Sharp House.
 5. Each Affiliate is invited to send one representative to attend the meeting. Such representatives may be invited to address the meeting but will be unable to vote. All Affiliates wishing to be represented should notify the Company Secretary at Cecil Sharp House of the name of their representative (and a contact phone number) in advance and no later than Monday 29 October. In the event of over subscription priority will be given to those who apply first.
 6. Fees for affiliates are fixed by the Board. For 2020 they will be:
School £28 (currently £27)
UK Institution £91 (currently £89)
Overseas Institution £111 (currently £108)
Folk Development Agency £79 (currently £76)
Affiliate Club £79 (currently £76)
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