



efdss

english folk dance
and song society

Board Matters

Number 36. Our update for members about the activities of the Board and EFDSS governance. Issued with EDS magazine, **Spring 2019**.

From the Chair

A belated Happy New Year!

If you are one of our many members whose renewal became due in January, thank you for being with us for another year. An increasing number of you are now choosing to manage your membership through our website, and we are continuing to work with our database suppliers to improve the online renewals process. We are also investigating ways to provide you with more resources online, including the possibility of logging on to read and search for EDS and Folk Music Journal articles from past years as well as the current edition.

Some past EDS articles are already on our public website - including 'Facing up to a dancing debate', our considered position on the rights and wrongs of 'blacking-up' in twenty-first century multi-cultural England. None of us at EFDSS ever doubt that the history of all our traditions must be preserved for future generations: we actively encourage research into our historical archives, and we're always looking at new ways to increase access to these archives. But there is now plenty of evidence that 'blacking up' can today be seen as offensive, and we are determined that the folk arts in the 21st century should be as relevant, entertaining and inclusive as they were to previous generations.

Meanwhile, the National Youth Folk Ensemble is thriving under the dedicated guidance of Artistic Director Sam Sweeney, who is now approaching the end of his appointed three-year term. We are delighted that Sam Partridge, an outstanding multi-instrumentalist and composer most often seen performing on timber flute, whistle and English concertina, will take over as Artistic Director from October 2019.

As I write this the Ensemble are rehearsing in Settle, and preparing to give a schools' concert which will be broadcast live on the internet by the youth music development charity NYMAZ. Later this year the Ensemble will perform at Cecil Sharp House (11 April), Wickham Festival (2 August) and at Sidmouth Folk Festival (4 August) - do catch them if you can.

Sam Partridge will be leading a series of free Sampler Days throughout the country over the May/June half-term week. These days aren't just for young instrumentalists who hope to join the National Youth Folk Ensemble - they're open to anyone who plays confidently and wants to take part in an inspiring day of music making. In previous years we've welcomed teenage musicians who have never before played by ear, so the Sampler Days can be a great introduction to a whole new musical world and they are recommended for any young player.

The Sampler Days are open to all musicians aged 14-18, and are completely free. If you're interested in joining the National Youth Folk Ensemble, you'll need to attend one of them to start the audition process. Sampler days will take place in Wolverhampton (25 May), Cambridge (26 May), Southampton (27 May), Liskeard (28 May), London (30 May) Derby (31 May), Durham (1 June) and Leeds (2 June). For details and to book a free place, see efdss.org/youthfolk

Lorna Aizlewood
Chair

Gold Badge Nominations

The English Folk Dance and Song Society Gold Badge Award celebrates the very best in folk art. It is awarded to those who have made unique or outstanding contributions to the art or science of folk dance, music or song, and/or those who have given exceptional support in furthering the aims of the Society.

More than 150 awards have been made since the Gold Badge was first created in 1922. While many award holders count as household names in the world of folk — known as performers, writers or teachers — others are less well known but work tirelessly behind the scenes or in their local communities.

Nominations are now being received for our Gold Badge awards in 2019.

If you would like to nominate someone for an award, please do so before 1 April.

Details of the awards and how to make nominations can be found at efdss.org/golddbadge

Board meeting 10 November 2018

The Board meeting took place immediately following the AGM. Some of the decisions were reported in the Winter 2018 edition of Board Matters.

Apologies had been received from Alan Davey. The remainder of the Board was present together with the Chief Executive and Company Secretary.

Lorna Aizlewood took the chair and welcomed the newly elected Board members.

Lorna Aizlewood was unanimously re-elected as the Chair of the Board and Alan Davey was unanimously re-elected as the Vice-chair of the Board.

Ed Fishwick has stood down from the Board as he has served the maximum six years. Sherry Neyhus was unanimously elected as Hon Treasurer.

The minutes of the meeting of 15 September 2018 were accepted and signed as a true record.

Lorna Aizlewood, Sherry Neyhus and Mike Heaney were appointed as Board members on the General Purposes Committee. They will be joined on the GPC by Ed Fishwick and Mike Wilson-Jones who are not Board Members. The Board did not delegate any powers to the GPC.

Sherry Neyhus presented the GPC/Board Financial Report for Q2 2018/19. There was discussion on some of the detailed matters in the report. These discussions are confidential.

The next meeting will be at 12 noon on Saturday 16 March 2019 at Cecil Sharp House.

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