



efdss

english folk dance
and song society

Board Matters

Number 37. Our update for members about the activities of the Board and EFDSS governance. Issued with EDS magazine, **Summer 2019**.

From the Chair

By the time you read this it will be June – and I expect that many readers will be planning an active summer at some of England's great festivals. If you're planning to be at Sidmouth Folk Festival on 4 August, or perhaps at Wickham Festival two days earlier, make sure to catch the National Youth Folk Ensemble in their last performances under the Artistic Direction of Sam Sweeney. I'll certainly be there.

In considerably sadder news, at EFDSS we'll take a long time to reconcile ourselves to the death in April of our former Chair Alan James, at the desperately early age of 61. As most readers will already know, and as you'll read in his obituary in this month's EDS, Alan made huge contributions to several of England's highest-profile and most vibrant festivals and arts organisations, including the Arts Council, Womad and the Big Chill. I attended Alan's funeral along with

Katy Spicer, and with so many other people who had the pleasure of knowing him through one or more of his diverse interests – or passions would be more accurate. This sad event was nevertheless a truly moving chance to celebrate his life, and featured performances by Spiro and members of 9Bach Lisa Jên and Mirain Roberts – representing two of the bands which he managed. Then we moved on to a pub that was simply packed with music memorabilia and wonderful music.

In tribute to Alan, we have renamed our annual bursaries for creative artists – and applications are now open for our Alan James Creative Bursary and Residency Programme. We particularly invite cross-genre or cross-art form explorations, in the spirit of Alan's eclectic musical tastes and his ability to foster exciting artistic collaborations. The closing date is 16 June: see efdss.org/bursaries.

Finally, look out for an updated look for EDS Magazine, and for the English Folk Dance and Song Society as a whole, in the next edition. We are updating our identity, including the logo, so it's a bit less 'corporate' and a bit more representative of the eclectic and vibrant nature of English folk dance, song and instrumental music. At the same time, we're aiming to make our core mission – supporting and developing the English folk arts in their many forms – immediately clearer to anyone who hasn't come across us before. But don't worry, the swordlock will remain!

Lorna Aizlewood
Chair

March Board Meeting

The Board met on 16 March 2019 at Cecil Sharp House. There were apologies received from Fi Fraser, Mick Gallagher, Lucy Hooberman, Corinne Male and Andy Wooles. After the one minor correction the minutes of the meeting of 10 November 2018 were accepted and signed as a true record.

The budget and business plan for 2019/20 were discussed and approved, as was the Society's digital plan. The

revised safeguarding policy will be brought to the June meeting. The Chief Executive reported on the activities over the past three months and upcoming developments, including that the individual giving programme was on track to claim the full match funding grant from Arts Council England by the end of August. Thank you to all those people who have supported this appeal. Some members of the Gold Badge Committee are completing their

full term of office and the appointment of new members was discussed. The Chair introduced a discussion on the Charity Commission checklist for Good Governance in Charities. It was agreed that the Board is currently meeting all its obligations. The annual board skills audit will be undertaken before the June meeting.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 4 June at 11am.

Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General meeting will be held at 11am on Saturday 9 November 2019 at Cecil Sharp House.

Any nominations for election to the Board or motions to be proposed at should be sent by 31 July 2019 to the Secretary by email to secretary@efdss.org or by post to Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London NW1 7AY.

The full agenda and list of candidates nominated for the election to the Board will be circulated later in the year.

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