

Folk Education Development Day: Focus on Gloucestershire

- The Folk of Gloucester, GL1 2PG
- Wednesday 17 June 2026
- 11am - 5pm



Creating a giant St Blaise for Frampton 1315 procession. Stephen Rowley

Programme

10.30am - 11am	Registration and networking
11am - 11.30am 30 mins	Welcome and introduction Kerry Fletcher (she/her), Folk Education Network Coordinator and Louise Williams (she/her), Chief Executive, The Folk of Gloucester Followed by a very short round-the-room introductions
11.30am - 1pm 1 hour 30 mins	Has it got legs?: What happens when you finish the project? Incorporating sustainability into your project to enable the community to build an ongoing tradition. Alex Merry (she/her), of Boss Morris and artist/Illustrator will talk about folk drama and new traditions and participation, and Steve Rowley (he/him), will talk about setting up sustainable structures in cultural heritage, and asking “will it still happen if I walk away?”
1pm - 1.20pm 20 mins	Rachel Elliott (she/her), EFDSS Education Director, will give an update on the national aspects of the EFDSS Education programme and an outline of the National Youth Folk Ensemble,
1.20pm - 2.30pm 1 hour 10 mins	Lunch, networking and sewing! From 1.50pm - 2.30pm Ally Goff will lead a sewing session, for anyone who'd would like to try.
1.50pm - 2.45pm 40mins making 15mins talk	Ally Goff (she/her), MFA, community artist and facilitator. Ally is a resident artist at The Folk and has her own practice. She uses traditional and contemporary methods in community art making. She invites you to join her to make a small piece during the lunch break, and then will talk about her community work and its impact, and the current costume project she has been commissioned to work on with Boss Morris.
2.45pm - 3.30pm 45 mins	Sorrel Wilde (she/they), Gloucester Folk Choir and Island Folk Choir . Sorrel will talk about the joys and challenges of running community folk choirs, sharing her approach and including feedback from the choirs about their experiences of working with folk song and what that brings to them. She will be joined by six singers and will lead a short singing workshop, demonstrating her practice.
3.30pm - 3.50pm	Break - 20 mins
3.50pm - 4.45pm 55mins	Storytelling Café - Re-membering and Re-threading the Bones. Jane Springham (she/her), Deborah Gordon (she/her), & Sarah Snell-Pym (she/her). Jane, Deborah, Sarah will talk about establishing and developing a storytelling café promoting oral storytelling, one of the most ancient yet accessible art forms. They will share ways of how we can all approach stories to tell, with some thoughts on researching tales as well as some practical tips.
4.45pm - 5pm	Round up and goodbye

About the English Folk Dance and Song Society

At the English Folk Dance and Song Society, we champion the folk arts at the heart of England's rich and diverse cultural landscape.

We deliver programmes of learning and participation, artist development and networking for educators:

- online and at a range of venues across England, and sometimes beyond
- through our arts venue, Cecil Sharp House
- through our library and archive, the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library
- We frequently work in partnership with arts, education and heritage organisations.

We have around 3,000 members worldwide - most of whom are active participants in music, song, dance, storytelling, customs and traditions.

Find out more: www.efdss.org

Follow on  @the_efdss  @efdss.bsky.social  facebook.co/efdss

Join Us!

Our members are our valued advocates and supporters in championing the folk arts throughout England. You can join them for only £2 a month!

But membership is much more than a simple financial transaction - it's about joining a vibrant and far-reaching community of folk advocates. You'll receive members-only email newsletters, and we'll also send you an exclusive FOLK pin badge as a small but significant symbol of our shared commitment to folk. Growing our membership is also crucial in helping us to secure support from funding partners.

Join us now, or make a one-off or regular donation: efdss.org/join

About the Education Department

The EFDSS Education department delivers creative learning projects with schools, community groups and cultural organisations across the country and runs classes, courses, projects, and events at Cecil Sharp House for young people, families, and adults. It runs the National Youth Folk Ensemble, London Youth Folk Ensemble, its Inclusive Folk programme for disabled young people, and a range of other youth activities.

efdss also delivers professional development opportunities and courses for educators from folk, education, and the wider cultural sector, and runs the national Folk Education Network. Its award-winning Resource Bank provides many free teaching and learning resources for using folk music, dance and other artforms in education.

The overall aims for the EFDSS Education programme are:

- To raise the profile of folk arts in education and learning
- To improve the practice of folk arts education
- To increase participation and diversity within folk arts

Resource Bank

Inspire learning with folk

Explore free online materials for using English traditional folk song, music, dance, drama and other arts in your teaching and leading.



Discover more learning resources
www.efdss.org/resourcebank



The Folk Education Network

Join for Free

The Folk Education Network is for everyone involved in, or interested in, folk arts education in any context – including those working in schools, with youth groups, in adult learning and/or community settings. Although aimed at folk arts educators in England, practitioners from across the UK and beyond are welcome to join.

The Folk Education Network was established by the English Folk Dance and Song Society in 2011. The growing Network is committed to promoting high-quality folk arts education, and to supporting everyone who delivers it.

It exists to provide peer information and support, and to encourage dialogue with the wider worlds of culture, learning and participation.

The Folk Education Network also offers other organisations a platform through which to consult, or inform, a committed group of folk arts educators.

www.efdss.org/folkeducators

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/folkeducators>

Make a Donation

Membership of the Folk Education Network, and attendance at many of its development events, is free. A donation today will help us to keep the Folk Education Network accessible to more people involved and interested in folk arts education.

Donate at: efdss.org/folk-education-network

