

Board Matters

Number 42. Our update for members about the activities of the Board and governance of the English Folk Dance and Song Society. Issued with EDS magazine, Autumn 2020.

From the Chair

Three months on from my last message to members, and five months after we had to close Cecil Sharp House, we still don't know when we'll be able to play, sing and dance together in anything like the ways we are used to. But we are making every effort to find reasons to remain hopeful.

We have been putting new content online: new educational materials in our free online Resource Bank; video recordings of Library Lectures; *In the Archive with...* videos featuring Stick in the Wheel, Jon Boden and John Jones; and more. We have also been sharing many wonderful activities by others, including the tenth anniversary celebrations of our dynamic Associate Company, Folk Dance Remixed. The extensive online archives of the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library remain freely available to all, of course.

Our staff have been lobbying relentlessly on behalf of members, and indeed in support of everyone who is connected to the folk arts:

- ✧ We wrote to the BBC about the axing of regional folk programmes and marginalisation of Radio 2's Folk Show, which is now restored to its 9pm slot.
- ✧ We have been adding support to the high-profile #LetTheMusicPlay and #WeMakeEvents Red Alert campaigns, urging the Chancellor to act to save jobs, venues, and organisations.
- ✧ We are also signatories to Making

Music's campaigns #BringBackMyBand and #BringBackMyChoir, urging that guidelines for amateur and professional performers should not be different.

- ✧ We connect with support organisations in dance – including One Dance UK, People Dancing and EMD UK – to highlight the particular challenges facing community-based dancers.
- ✧ We have joined Music Mark's #CanDoMusic campaign for all children and young people to resume their musical learning as school reopen.
- ✧ We are also continuing our important lobbying on many other ongoing concerns of the folk community. This has included providing vocal opposition to attempts by white supremacists to appropriate folk dance for their own racist agenda.

Please support this lobbying and advocacy if you can: every 'like' on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter is a valuable endorsement of the messages which we need to share as widely as possible.

We are interpreting the implications for folk activities from the regular changes in guidance. Our Twitter feed has regular updates. You can find information for folk dance clubs in particular at englishfolk.org/covid-advice.

You can read in EDS about the virtual learning world which has been embraced

by our regular music courses for adults, our youth ensembles and the Folk Educators Group (folk arts education practitioners in any context are welcome to join this free network). October's Tunes Conference will also take place online.

We need to balance the aspiration of 'business as usual' against stark financial realities. Where possible, we have made savings by furloughing staff. Our crisis appeal has now generated over £30,000: I give very grateful thanks to all of you who have been able to contribute – your support means so much to everyone here.

The next few months are unlikely to get any easier than the last ones have been. But, by pulling together and supporting each other, we can continue to celebrate the unique values of folk music and dance, and ensure that we are all ready and able to resume our activities – performances, education, festivals, music sessions, dances – as soon as circumstances allow.

Finally, I am particularly pleased that at this year's AGM we expect to welcome three people under the age of thirty to our Board – that is a first and is an important step to ensuring our Board properly represents all in the folk world.

Thank you, and keep safe.

Lorna Aizlewood Chair

Board meeting 9 June 2020

The Board met online on 9 June. All Board members were present. As is customary for the June meeting, heads of departments attended: the Board thanked them for their presentations and continuing efforts on behalf of the English Folk Dance and Song Society, particularly in the current circumstances.

The major part of the meeting was discussions of the pandemic and its effects on the Society. Cecil Sharp House remains closed and many staff have been

furloughed. Only virtual events are being presented, and there is no indication of when and how the situation will change. A number of possible developments were discussed. It was confirmed that despite financial pressures the Society remains solvent.

It was confirmed that a Library and Archives Director had been appointed and will start on 1 July.

It may not be possible to hold the AGM

in the normal way, so alternatives were discussed. Three Board members (Lorna Aizlewood, Fi Fraser and Andy Wooles) retire after three years' service, and are eligible for re-election. The Board decided to propose them all for re-election.

The Board considered and endorsed the report of the Gold Badge Panel.

The Board approved an updated risk register.

The next meeting will be on 12 September.

Annual General Meeting: Agenda and Notes

The Annual General Meeting of The English Folk Dance and Song Society will take place on 14 November 2020 from 11.00am at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London, NW1 2AY

Please note **Instructions for Proxy Voting and Coronavirus Arrangements** on the following page.

1. Welcome.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Adoption of the Minutes of the AGM held on 9 November 2019.
4. Matters arising from the Minutes (not elsewhere on this agenda).
5. Presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts, including the report of the Auditors, and an update on activities April to November 2020. This information will not be circulated before the AGM, but will be available on the website as soon as it is available.

The Chair, Chief Executive and Honorary Treasurer will each address the meeting and then questions will be taken on the Annual Report and Accounts and the updated information provided.

6. Elections to the Board [see Note 1].
7. Ordinary Resolution 1 (Proposed by the Board) [See Note 2]. To set subscription rates for 2021.

8. Ordinary Resolution 2 (Proposed by the Board). To re-appoint Sayer Vincent as EFDSS Auditors until the conclusion of the 2021 AGM and to authorize the Board to agree their remuneration.

9. Ordinary Resolution 3 (Proposed by the Board) [See Note 3]. To confirm the appointment of Lucy Hooberman as a member of the Board under Article 11.5.

10. Any Other Business (by leave).

Note 1.

This year there are as many candidates for election as there are vacancies on the Board, therefore all candidates nominated are elected. There are five candidates.

All are recommendations by the Board under Article 11.2.1. The candidates are:

Lorna Aizlewood
Robyn Chicot
Fi Fraser
Eleanor Telfer
Andy Wooles

Note 2.

Recommended subscription levels for 2021 are as follows. (2020 rates in brackets)

Standard £53 (£51)
Senior £36 (£35)
Student £24 (£23)
Younger Generation £24 (£23)
Joint Standard £80 (£78)
Joint Senior £53 (£51)
Single Life Member £478 (£464)
Joint Life Member £678 (£658)

Fees for Affiliates are set by the Board and do not need the approval of the AGM.

For 2021 they are as follows.

(2020 rates in brackets)
School £28 (£28)
UK Institution £94 (£91)
Overseas Institution £115 (£111)
Affiliate Club £81 (£79)
Folk Development Agency £81 (£79)

Note 3

Professor Lucy Hooberman is an experienced media executive whose work has included production, commissioning, executive production and digital media innovation at Channel 4 and the BBC. Her final role at the BBC was within a Innovation Lab, BBC Imagineering. Lucy got the BBC blogging, led research on access to the Arts online and re-imagined the World Service to benefit diverse communities in the UK.

She left the BBC to become Director of Digital Media and Innovation at the University of Warwick in 2008. Her research focussed on real world projects such as research to launch an NHS digital health platform serving the needs of staff and patients. She built and launched a Research Exchange to benefit arts organisations based in the West Midlands and to match their research needs to researchers from Warwick's Centre for Cultural Policy Studies and the Warwick Business School. She also brought TedX to Warwick, supervised and mentored PhD students, and served as an External Examiner for Bournemouth University.

Coronavirus Arrangements for AGM

The Annual General Meeting will take place as set out in the notice, only if it is legally permissible and the Board believes that proper arrangements can be made for the safety of those attending.

If this proves not to be possible, it is proposed that a reduced meeting will take place. The reduced meeting will deal only with items 6, 7, 8 & 9 on the Agenda. These items are ones that for legal or practical reasons need to be dealt with on the normal AGM date. They are all items that the Board believes are not

controversial, and where it is expected that in practice the decision will have been determined by the proxy votes. After that the Chair will propose the adjournment of the meeting to a date to be determined.

The Board will ensure the attendance of two people (to comply with the legal requirement for a meeting) and the remainder of the Board will not attend. In this case all members are strongly encouraged to appoint the Chair of the meeting as their proxy and to avoid attending the meeting in person.

It is also possible that different AGM arrangements may be made under the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 (which allows special arrangement for company meetings during the current pandemic) if the timescale for its operation is extended.

The arrangements will be set out at the Society's website englishfolk.org which will be updated as necessary.

Registered Office: Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7AY | **Telephone** 020 7485 2206 | **Email** info@efdss.org

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2020 AGM Proxy Voting

Deadline for voting online or by post is 23:59 on Tuesday 9 November 2020.

You may vote by proxy and may appoint your proxy either by letter or by email.

To appoint your proxy by post, send the form overleaf to:
AGM 2020, English Folk Dance and Song Society,
Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London, NW1 7AY.
(A letter containing the same information as on the form is also acceptable).

To appoint your proxy by email, send the form overleaf as an attachment to an email to agm2020@efdss.org.
(An email containing the same information as on the form in the body of the email is also acceptable).

Joint members should have received two copies of this form.

Please read these notes before appointing your Proxy and casting your Votes.

1. We recommend that you appoint the Chair of the Meeting as your representative to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting, or at any adjournment of the meeting.
2. Your appointed representative must be present at the meeting for your vote to be counted. Check their attendance as you will lose your vote if they do not attend.
3. You must tell us the name of your proxy (appointed representative) before the deadline or you will lose your vote.
4. If you select "Discretionary" or fail to select any of the given options your proxy can vote or not as he/she chooses. The Chair of the meeting will use any discretionary votes to support the resolutions.

The Board recommends that you vote in favour of all resolutions.

See overleaf >

2020 AGM Proxy Voting

You must complete section A, and you must sign and date at the bottom of the page.

Please complete **either section B or section C** for your voting instructions to be valid. Most members nominate the Chair of the Meeting as their representative. This would require the completion of section B.

A. Your name
Your membership number

B. Appointment of Chair as my representative
I appoint the Chair of the meeting as my representative to attend and vote at the 2020 AGM and any adjournment of the meeting.

C. Appointment of someone else as my representative
I appoint the person named here as my representative to attend and vote at the 2020 AGM and any adjournment of the meeting.

My representative's name:

My representative's address:

.....

Signed:

Dated:

Voting Instructions

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Discretionary</i>	<i>Vote Withheld</i>
Resolution 1 (To set subscription rates)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resolution 2 (To re-appoint Sayer Vincent as auditors)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resolution 3 (To confirm Lucy Hooberman's appointment to the Board)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>