

Board Matters

Number 50. 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 2022.

From the Chair

I write this from my attic study in peak holiday season, and it is peak festival season too. Some of our staff have recently returned from Sidmouth Festival and the National Youth Folk Ensemble are preparing for their performances at Purbeck Valley and Folk East. But we are also hard at work preparing for the autumn and beyond.

You'll read in this edition of EDS that we are planning a change of focus for the magazine, at a time when much-loved publications are closing at an alarming rate – Living Tradition (established 1993) and Dancing Times (since 1894) amongst others. We firmly believe that printed magazines can still thrive in our digital age when they concentrate on what really matters to their readers. But our plans can only succeed with your input, so please send us your news and ideas for articles!

Meanwhile, at our Board meetings we are continuing discussions about the proposed name change, and again we thank everyone who has taken time to engage with our evolving thinking on this important matter. In this edition of EDS we try to address

some of the concerns which members have raised most frequently.

The Vaughan Williams Memorial Library is looking forward to a busy few months. Our annual conference has recently gone on sale. Entitled 'Once more to the mouths of the people', this year's event marks Ralph Vaughan Williams in his 150th anniversary year, examining his many sides of his relationship with folk song. There will be live music in addition to the papers. The weekend conference will again take place in hybrid format, with speakers and delegates joining us online as well as at Cecil Sharp House.

Most readers will already have spent time on the wonderful Tradfolk.co website. It does a great job of bringing fascinating in-depth articles to those of us who have been around the folk scene for decades, while simultaneously providing a friendly introduction for people who are only just discovering what Roud numbers and Playfords are all about. So we are pleased to be supporting TradFolk founder Jon Wilks to present a second season of his The Old Songs podcast: for the next

six months each episode will carry our name, and its content will emphasise our connections with its featured artists and songs. In the first episode Jon interviewed Nick Hart, who talked about ballad *Lucy Wan* – and also managed to mention his work in 2018 on our Essex Folk Songs project (the associated Resource Bank item has audio, notation and teachers' notes for 19 songs including Dark Eyed Sailor and Adieu Sweet Lovely Nancy) along with his September gig at Cecil Sharp House.

Finally, a plea for action! We are hearing repeatedly from event organisers, and from artists, that numbers remain very unpredictable. Some gigs and dances seem to be more popular than ever, but others are unsustainably quiet. Our folk arts rely on year-round vibrancy: summer festivals and events for special occasions are important, of course, but there is so much more to enjoy. Your local activities still need you: do please go to them whenever you can!

Lorna Aizlewood Chair

Annual General Meeting: Agenda and Notes

The AGM of The English Folk Dance and Song Society will take place on 12 November 2022 commencing at 11am at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7AY.

It is hoped that members will be able to join the AGM online as well as in person. Details will be published on the website when they are finalized.

Please note the **Instructions for Proxy Voting**.

1. Welcome
 2. Apologies for absence
 3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13 November 2021
 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 2022
- 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 2023

8. Ordinary Resolution 2
(Proposed by the Board)
To re-appoint Sayer Vincent as EFDSS Auditors until the conclusion of the 2023 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 Angeline Morrison as a member of the Board under Article 11.5.

10. Ordinary Resolution 4
(Proposed by the Board) [See Note 4]
To confirm the appointment of Arti Prashar as a member of the Board under Article 11.5.

11. Any Other Business.

Note 1.
The number of candidates for election to the Board does not exceed the number of vacancies, so all candidates proposed are automatically elected. The candidates are Alan Davey, Ed Fishwick, Laura Jones and Ayub Khan. All of these are existing Board members who have completed their three year terms and are proposed for election by the Board.

Note 2.
The recommended subscription levels for 2023 are as follows.
(2022 rates in brackets)

Standard	£56 (£55)
Senior	£38 (£37)
Student	£26 (£25)
Younger Generation	£26 (£25)
Joint Standard	£85 (£82)
Joint Senior	£56 (£55)
Single Life Member	£507 (£492)
Joint Life Member	£719 (£698)

Fees for Affiliates are set by the Board and do not need the approval of the AGM.
For 2023 they are as follows.
(2022 rates in brackets)

School	£30 (£30)
UK Institution	£100 (£97)
Overseas Institution	£122 (£118)
Affiliate Club	£86 (£84)
Folk Development Agency	£86 (£84)

Note 3.
Dr Angeline Morrison is a singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and music educator who specialises in unaccompanied traditional singing. Angeline has a deep love for the traditional and folk music of the UK, and is committed to raising awareness of the hidden folk histories of these islands – particularly Black history. Angeline is also a folk choir leader and trained practitioner of singing for wellbeing, using traditional song to help singers explore their emotions. Angeline is very honoured to be invited to serve on the Board of EFDSS, seeing this as a way of making a contribution to nurturing the precious folk songs and customs of these islands.

Note 4.
Arti stepped down as Spare Tyre's Artistic Director/CEO in August 2019 after inspirational and acclaimed leadership for 19 years. She is at the forefront of immersive sensory theatre practice for people living with dementia and learning disabled people. She has a strong commitment to collaborative theatre with values based on fundamental human rights and championing diverse voices. She received a Tonic Award 2020 (inclusion and diversity). She is a Winston Churchill Fellow 2013 (spirituality, dementia and ageing) and Research Fellow at the Centre of Contemporary Theatre at Birkbeck University.

Board meeting June 2022

The Board held a meeting on 7 June 2022 by Zoom. Six members of the Board were present together with the Company Secretary and the Chief Executive. The minutes of the May meeting of the General Purposes Committee (GPC) were accepted. The financial outcome at the 31 March was better than budget; it was noted that the Audited Accounts will show a deficit due to project grants received in one year and spent against in the following. In the current year it was noted that venue hire was performing well as were most classes and courses. Audiences for gigs are still lower than they were pre-pandemic. As income from gigs is not a significant source of income, this is not as serious for us in the short term as for many other music and arts venues.

The Chief Executive's Report had been previously circulated. The Chief Executive added that the Library and Archives Director attended the Traditional Songs, Singers and Collections of Britain, Ireland and Beyond Conference at the University of Limerick in June, and co-chaired with Steve Roud a Q&A session on Accessing Our Heritage.

The Business Plan for 2022–23 was discussed. The Chief Executive noted that this is still a recovery year. There was a detailed discussion regarding the surveys on the possible name change that had now been completed with different groups including the membership. There will be an update in September EDS.

The Board received the report of the Gold Badge Awards Panel, and approved the Panel's recommendations. The Board discussed activities and developments relating to increasing equity, diversity and inclusion. The Board approved the proposed 2023 membership prices. Individual membership subscription prices will be put to the AGM for approval. The Board approved the revised Risk Register, noting that there were no "red" risks. It was agreed that future AGMs should be hybrid meetings, if possible. The Board agreed to re-nominate those members of the Board who have reached three years of service and are eligible for re-election.

The next meeting will be on 17 September 2022 at Cecil Sharp House.

2022 AGM Proxy Voting

Proxy appointments online or by post must be received by 2359 on Tuesday 8 November 2022..

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 2022, EFDSS, 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 e-mail, send the form overleaf as an attachment to an email to agm@efdss.org. (An email containing the same information as on the form in the body of the email is also acceptable.)

Joint members are each entitled to vote: you can submit your two separate responses by email or by letter, or by taking a photocopy of the form before completing it.

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 chooses. The Chairman 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 >

2022 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 2022 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 2022 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>
Ordinary Resolution 1 (To set subscription rates)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ordinary Resolution 2 (To re-appoint Sayer Vincent as auditors)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ordinary Resolution 3 (To confirm Angeline Morrison's appointment to the Board)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ordinary Resolution 4 (To confirm Arti Prashar's appointment to the Board)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>