



Review of the Year: 2020-2021

This has certainly been a year to remember. Like everyone, we started the year in lockdown with all our live, in-person activities cancelled, our staff team working from home or on furlough, and our centre, Cecil Sharp House, closed. And like everyone, we had no idea how the year would develop and whether we would survive. Not the way we had expected to mark the 90th birthday of Cecil Sharp House!

Our staff team very quickly learnt how to use digital platforms to deliver education, training and library activities and moved all activities, barring our dance events, online. Although we may all be rather weary of online meetings and activities now, this technology has been a saviour, enabling us to retain a programme of activities throughout the year and reach a global audience.

Covid-19 did not stop us presenting four of our prestigious Gold Badges to people who have made a significant contribution to the work of EFDSS and/or the wider folk sector. This year awards were made to Keith (Benny) Graham, Mick Peat, Paul and Liz Davenport and Carolyn Robson, many congratulations to them all.

It was also a year of lobbying and advocacy. We joined other arts industry voices to campaign for emergency support for arts organisations and importantly for individual artists, technicians and other freelancers working in the arts sectors. We also supported the #blacklivesmatter world-wide movement through our social media channels and re-purposing our article on blackface in morris dancing. EFDSS has always had a commitment to equality and diversity, it is part of our aims and objectives. Over the past 10 years we have made great strides to make our work as inclusive as possible and increase the diversity of the people we work with and who engage with us. This has included capital developments at Cecil Sharp House to improve access, and specific developments such as our Inclusive Folk education programme which is delivering activities with and for disabled young people. We have sought to widen the pool of artists and artist-tutors we work with seeking out artists of colour, disabled artists and looking at gender and age balance. In turn this work is gradually increasing the diversity of the young people and adults who attend our events and activities.

It is not only the diversity of artists and participants that we have been striving to improve. Over the past 10 years the Board of Trustees has improved gender balance, increased race, and disability diversity, and last summer recruited three board members who are under 30 years through an open application process – Robyn Chicot, Martin Parker, and Eleanor Telfer – and so enabling a younger voice a seat at the table. Our staff and trustees continue to attend training activities to help us improve our attitudes and practices. As we return to delivering our pre Covid-19 levels of work, diversity continues to be at the top of our agenda in all we do.

As always but particularly in such a difficult year I must express my sincere thanks to my fellow Trustees and to Chief Executive Katy Spicer and her team for managing the organisation through such unprecedented circumstances. Also, to gratefully acknowledge the continued support of Arts Council England, and of John Lyon's Charity, PRS for Music Foundation and Help Musicians UK for project funds which support our Inclusive Folk programme and artists development, and emergency funding received from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

As this Review is published, the immediate future is looking brighter. We look forward to in person events and once again working across the country, and we have secured funding from the Cultural Recovery Fund and the Weston Culture Fund to help us deliver creative activity in 2021–22. And our newly found digital skills will help to ensure more people can engage with our activities.

Lorna Aizlewood
Chair

Financial Report

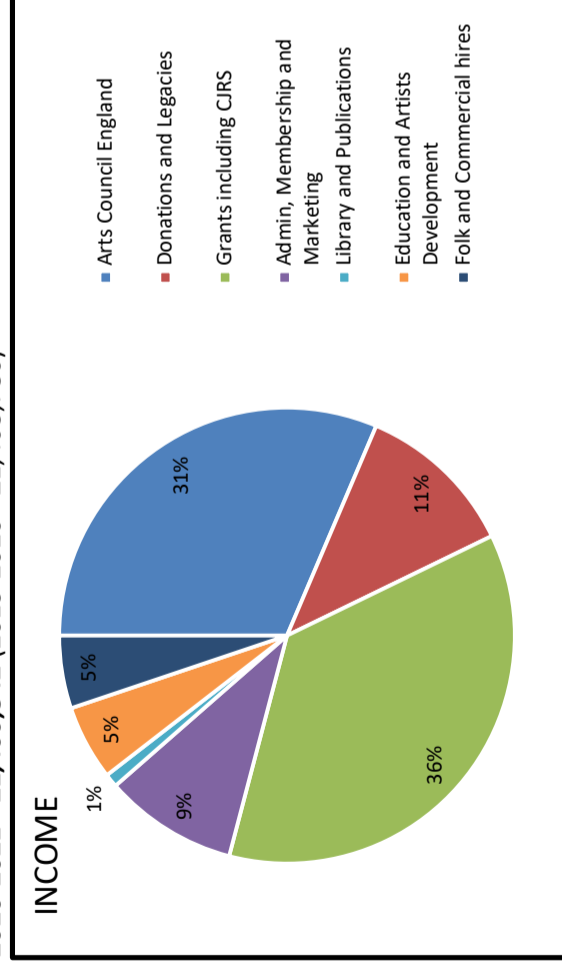
Despite the difficulties experienced by COVID-19 the overall income on the Statement of Financial Activities is £1,400,842 (2020: £1,463,780). However, the figure is artificially high due to a large project grant received in February 2021 which is to be spent in 2021-22; without this grant, the overall income is £1,204,842, down 18% on the previous year due to the impact of the pandemic on venue hire and ticket sales.

Expenditure for the year was £1,145,108 (2020: £1,680,689). Staff costs remained at similar levels £667,747 (2020: £691,170) as eligible staff were partially or fully furloughed. Direct activity costs reduced to £198,036 (2020: £539,093) as the charity was not able to run many of its normal activities or events for the year. There were reductions in premises and administration costs reflecting the reduction in use of the building, and the lower costs of running activities online, which was done wherever this was feasible.

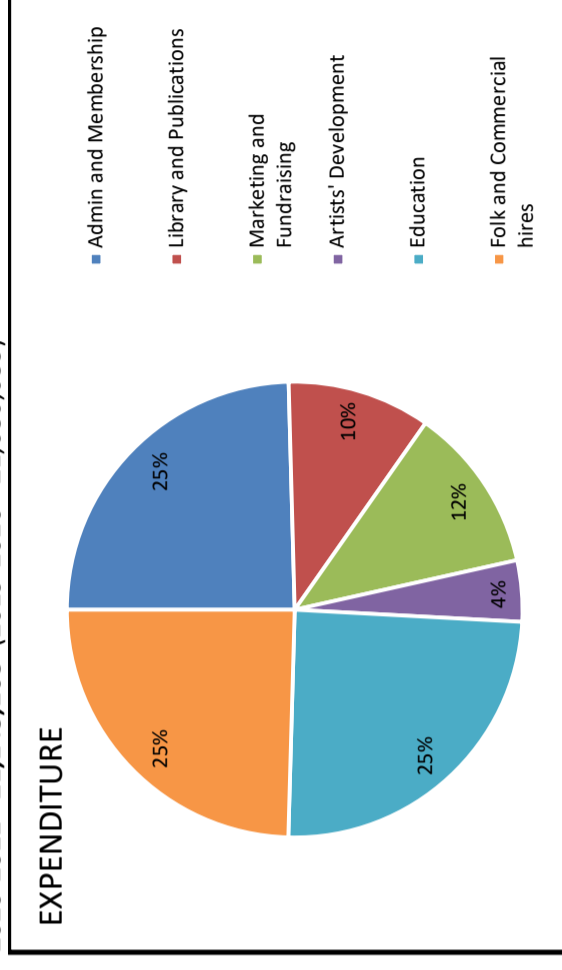
The Government Job Retention Scheme enabled continued employment of all contract staff at full salaries throughout the year. We received emergency funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund which supported the on-going costs of our heritage assets – the library and Cecil Sharp House. EFDSS members and other individuals responded positively to our Crisis Appeal in the summer and the majority of members continued their support through subscriptions; there was some fall in affiliate members as folk clubs and societies were unable to deliver activities and so raise income. Individual donors, Conrad and Jennifer Bailey funded a new artists' development project, the Micro Grants Programme, and we received a number of legacies. The continuation of our National Portfolio Organisation grant from Arts Council England, and project grants from PRS for Music Foundation, Help Musicians UK and the John Lyon's Charity were invaluable in enabling the continuation of activities and to plan for the future.

Ed Fishwick, Treasurer

2020-2021 - £1,400,842 (2019-2020 - £1,463,780)



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Funds at 31 March 2021 £3,111,261 (Funds at 31 March 2020 £2,844,089)

A full copy of the Annual Report and Accounts is available from EFDSS website efdss.org/efdss-about-us/governing-board; paper copies are obtainable from the Marketing & Development Administrator at membership@efdss.org. English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS) is a Company Limited by Guarantee Number 297142, a charity Registered in England and Wales Number 305999, VAT Number 233 8664 49. Registered Office: Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London, NW1 7AY