

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2021-2022



Chair's Report – Lorna Aizlewood

This has been another year of challenges for everyone as we transitioned from operating under pandemic restrictions to something resembling the 'normality' of 2019. While many of education courses continued on line for the summer by late May we were able to re-start our live performance programme welcoming audiences to our building for the first time in 15 months. We were so grateful to all the artists who worked with us to cope with social distancing, many giving two performances in an evening to enable more tickets to be sold. We were delighted to be able to stream the live concert by Peggy Seeger and Calum MacColl and reach a world-wide audience.

By the autumn we were delivering activities and events in full at Cecil Sharp House and around England. It was great to see our dance classes back in operation together with all the other dance activities happening at Cecil Sharp House and those delivered by member folk dance clubs across the country. The Education Department encouraged us all to return to dancing with their online workshop entitled *Getting Back to Dancing in Person* presented in September. A new funding stream for dance, Mini Grant Programme, made five awards of £500 were made for social folk dance development.

The autumn saw the presentation of our first VWML conference on Diversity in Folk, focussing on ethnic diversity. With funding from the Weston Culture Fund we were able to commission our Associate Company, Folk Dance Remixed, to create a new stage work, *Hope*, and with funding from PRS Foundation and another generous donation from Conrad and Jennifer Bailey, we continued to support artists through our Alan James Creative Bursary and Micro Grants programmes. The National Youth Folk Ensemble finally met in person in August after a year online, and performed at Purbeck Valley Folk Festival, while the London Youth Folk Ensemble returned to perform at Folk by the Oak. Youth music workshops took place around the country working in partnership with Music Education Hubs and a new project with Kent Music, *Creative Orchestra*, explored English and Indian Folk music (bhangra) with secondary school pupils and teachers.

The pandemic did not prevent us presenting four people with the EFDSS Gold Badge. This year's recipients were Kerry Fletcher, Chris Metherall, Lynette and Jim Eldon, and Rod Stradling. We were delighted to see their badges presented at events in Gloucester and Sidmouth and on a boat in the North Sea! Full marks to Lynette and Jim for the most original Gold Badge event so far!

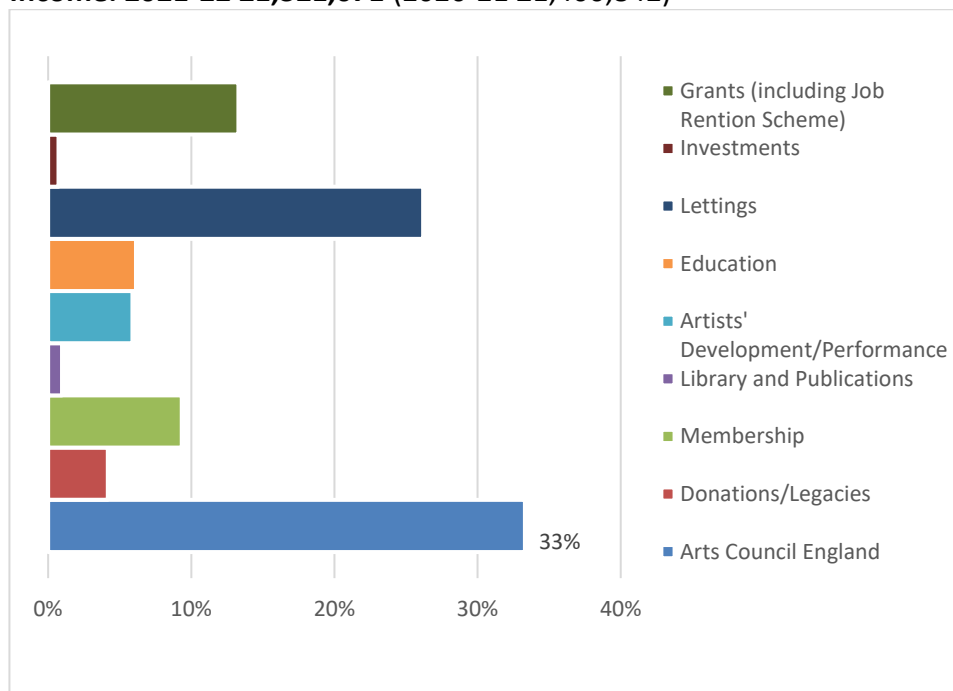
Thanks must be expressed for financial support from Arts Council England, Cultural Recovery Fund (Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport), Weston Culture Fund, PRS Foundation and John Lyon's Charity, and to all who gave donations. We continued to benefit from the Governments' Job Retention Scheme. All of this funding helped pay some core costs and importantly enabled the continuation of our Inclusive Folk programme for disabled young people and supported artists both in the short and longer term.

Treasurer's Report - Ed Fishwick

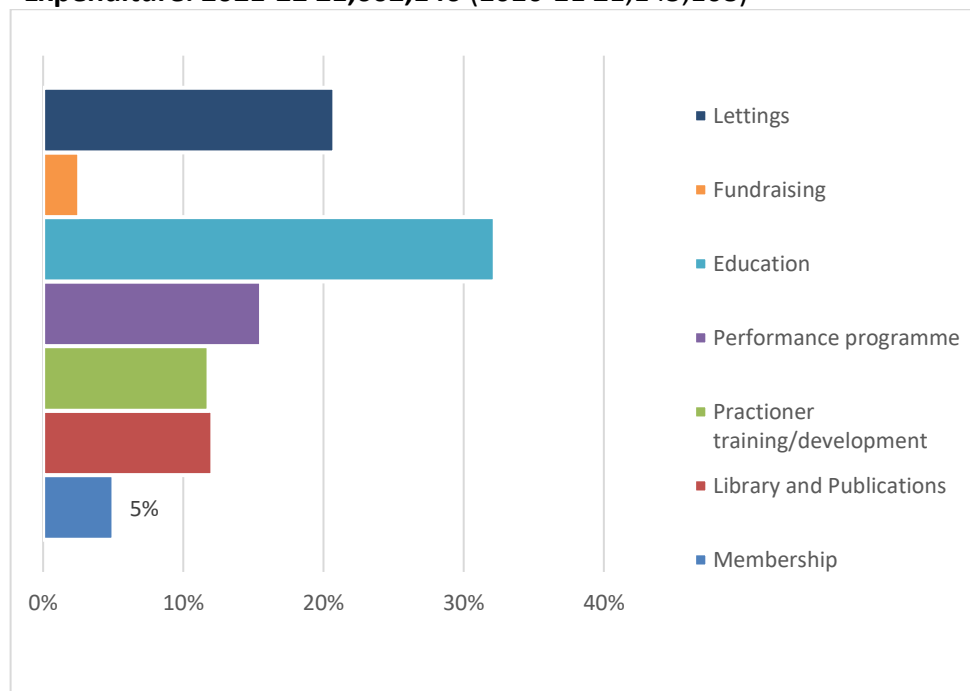
The charity has a deficit for the year of £275,630 (2021: £256,173 surplus). The deficit, following the surplus in 2021, reflects significant grant funding received in 2021 which has been largely spent in 2022. The overall income on the Statement of Financial Activities is £1,321,071 (2021: £1,400,842). The decrease in income reflects continuing major changes to income streams in both years due to the pandemic, with letting and event income increasing again following the low levels in 2021 due to the pandemic, and grant and donation income falling after extra receipts in 2021.

The charity was able to reopen its building for most of the year and letting and trading income levels recovered to closer to pre-pandemic years; activity income from educational activities, the performance programme and membership also recovered. Staff costs remained at similar levels and direct activity costs increased as the charity was able to recommence running many of its normal activities and events which were paused in 2020 and 2021. The charity needed to replace its boilers in the year, and this was funded from the future capital projects designated fund. The activities of the charity have largely returned to the pre-pandemic levels, and we hope to continue this trend. The trustees are satisfied that the company continues to have sufficient financial resources to trade for at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements.

Income: 2021-22 £1,321,071 (2020-21 £1,400,842)



Expenditure: 2021-22 £1,602,146 (2020-21 £1,145,108)



Funds at 31 March 2022 £2,835,631 (Funds at 31 March 2021 £3,111,261)

A full copy of the Annual Report and Accounts is available from efdss.org/about-us/who-are-we/annual-reviews; paper copies are obtainable from membership@efdss.org or 020 7485 2206. English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS) is a Charity Registered in England and Wales No. 305999, a Company Limited by Guarantee No. 297142, VAT No. 233 8664 49. Registered Office: Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London, NW1 7AY.