**NATIONAL YOUTH FOLK TROUPE OF ENGLAND**

**Registered Charity Number 1203573**

**CIO - ASSOCIATION**

**Registered 15 Jun 2023**

**Address:**

**43 Melrose Road
Sheffield
S3 9DN**

**Trustees:**

**Dr Rhodri Davies**

**Dr Charlotte Pascoe**

**Mr Aidan Hansell**

**Mx Adam Hughes**

**Governance**

The trustees of NYFTE are responsible for setting the strategic direction and culture of the organisation and ensuring it is well led and managed, to achieve its charitable objectives.

We measure our success by applying the seven principles of The Governance Code: Organisational Purpose; Integrity; Decision-making, risk and control; Board effectiveness; Equality Diversity and Inclusion and Openness and Accountability.

Future trustees will be recruited in accordance with the guidance offered by the Charity Commission, and in particular the guidance on diversity, vetting and the skills, knowledge and experience that they can bring to the charity.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/finding-new-trustees-cc30/finding-new-trustees>

**Management**

The trustees of NYFTE are aided in their objectives by an Artistic Director, a Technical Director and a management team, who manage the operational, day-to-day management of the charity. It is the role of this management team to focus on implementing strategy and the activities required to achieve the charity’s objectives, designing and implementing operational and project plans that work alongside policies and budgets.

**Trustees’ report for the year ended 31st March 2024**

**Objectives and activities**

The charity’s objects:

* To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art of traditional English dance forms, folk music and folk songs and the culture, history and traditions that accompany such topics through the presentation of public events and performances, workshops and educational activities.
* To advance the education of young people in English folk dances, music and songs.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission’s general guidance on public benefit and in particular the advancement of education.

**The charity’s main activities**

NYFTE was awarded charity status by the Charity Commission in June 2023. This has been a year of transition from the former operation of the team an informal organisation without charitable status, through the charity application process and the work to transfer into the new charity format.

The charity is the National Youth Folk Troupe of England (hereafter NYFTE), which is responsible for educating a group of up to 40 young people aged 10 to 18 from across England in the folk arts. Teaching takes place at a residential weekend in February, and a residential week during the Easter holidays, and continues through the year. NYFTE performs at folk festivals and other public events. Outreach to the local community takes place through public performances, workshops and educational activities.

**Achievements and performance**

NYFTE is at full strength with 37 young performers this year from as far south as Devon and as far north as Cumbria. We welcome performers from all backgrounds and we have a number of young people who are neurodiverse, non-binary and/or classified as having special needs.

This year we have launched a Family Support Fund to help young people and their families who may otherwise struggle to afford the costs to participate, which we hope will further improve accessibility.

At The Cause in Chippenham in February 2023 which is the start of the team’s 2023 season, we welcomed 7 new performers to the team and began practising new songs, tunes and dances for this year. The team also learned ‘stave’ dancing at a workshop led by Somerset Morris.

At our spring residential training event in Tockington the team rehearsed a wide range of traditional dance forms from England and added new songs, tunes and folk dances to their repertoire – followed by a two hour public concert in Shirehampton.

Between April and September we participated at festivals in Upton Upon Severn, Chippenham, St Albans, Buxton and Bromyard.

In March we took part in the Dance England Rapper Tournament in Rochdale. NYFTE won both ‘youth’ prizes, and came 3rd in the Open (Adult) Competition.

In July, NYFTE hosted a public family ceilidh in Bakewell Town Hall where we provided the callers, musicians and interval performers. We were awarded a certificate of Excellence for the event by the chair of the Buxton Festival Fringe.

In October NYFTE entered a Longsword team into the SDU competition in Sheffield. NYFTE teams were runners up in two open classes: own dance and longsword as a secondary dance tradition.

NYFTE has continued to perform alongside and encourage with other young folk teams. We also ran free public workshops for adults at Chippenham festival, led by our young performers, teaching North West clog morris and longsword.

In March 2024 we were invited to lead a workshop at the EFDSS Folk Education Development Day: Engaging Young People in Folk Dance at Cecil Sharp House, London. As an exemplary organisation, were invited to explain our teaching methods to an audience of 40 teachers, and our young performers taught them longsword.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

There have been no transactions assigned to the charity during this reporting period.

All financial activity has been transacted through the former non-charitable organisation (National Youth Folklore Troupe of England) during the transition period. At an AGM of that organisation that took place on 24th March 2024 it was resolved to dissolve that organisation and transfer its assets to the charity. That transfer has not taken place at the point of submitting this report to the AGM of the National Youth Folk Troup of England, the charity, at which this report is presented.

**DECLARATION**

NYFTE has taken the commission’s public benefit guidance into account when making any decision to which it is relevant.

**31st March 2024**