



# Creating Accessible and Inclusive Folk Dance

- Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7AY
- Saturday 15 March 2025
- 11am-5pm (with registration and networking from 10:30am)



This practitioner development workshop and discussion day is for anyone who is interested in broadening the accessibility of folk dance teaching practice and performance, or anyone who is interested in finding out more about accessible and inclusive practice. Our focus will be on disability inclusion. There will be opportunities available for all to participate in dance and discussion.

Presented by the English Folk Dance and Song Society's Folk Education Network  
[efdss.org/folkeeducators](http://efdss.org/folkeeducators)

# Programme

11 - 11.15 15mins Seated	Welcome <b>Jen Cox</b> she/her - Dance Development Manager, EFDSS <b>Kerry Fletcher</b> she/her - Folk Education Network Co-ordinator, EFDSS
11.15 -11.35 20mins Seated	<b>Janet Bell</b> she/her - Keynote Speaker Janet is a highly skilled and inspiring wheelchair dancer and a dedicated advocate for accessibility.
	5-minute Change over
11.40 - 12 20mins Seated	<b>Penny Lury</b> she/her - Co-Leader, Milkmaid Molly and former SEN/D school teacher, and Founder, <b>Mrs Gill Bosley</b> she/her. Milkmaid Molly are a music and dance performance group for adults with learning disabilities and non-disabled dancers and musicians. Penny will present a Case Study and screen a short film of a performance by the group.
12 - 12.20	20-minute Break
12.20 - 1.15 55mins Seated & Active	<b>Lisa Heywood</b> she/her and <b>Poppy Price-Dowhan</b> she/her - both experienced ceilidh callers and folk dancers, Lisa and Poppy have been collaborating to research the experiences of Disabled ceilidh dancers. With funding from an EFDSS mini grant they have surveyed over 100 dancers, and will be presenting their findings. There will also be a practical opportunity to join in with an accessible ceilidh dance.
1.15 - 2.15	Lunch
2.15 - 3.15 1 hour Seated & Active	<b>Emmie Ward</b> she/her - Lead tutor, and <b>Roary Neat</b> they/them, tutor, EFDSS' Inclusive Folk programme for learning disabled young people will present their learning resource, Dancing Days: Using Folk Arts in Inclusive Settings. The session will include a short practical workshop based on the resource, with musician <b>Seth Bye</b> he/him.
	5-minute Change over
3.20 - 3.40 20mins Seated	<b>Laura Dajao</b> she/her - aka LauraDDances, Freelance Inclusive Dance Artist, and <b>Louise Katerega</b> she/her - Head of Professional Development, People Dancing and freelance dance artist. They will present People Dancing's work with disabled people and its professional development programme.
3.40 - 4	20-minute Break
4 - 4.45 45mins Seated & Active	<b>Sara Marshall-Rose</b> she/her - Co Director and dance artist, FOLK3D, and Dance Movement Psychotherapist in private practice. Sara will talk about her work, including Folk 3D's mini grant from EFDSS in 2024 to develop an inclusive daytime ceilidh series aimed at older adults in the local community, and their families. Followed by a short practical workshop.
	5-minute Change over
4.50 - 5.30 40 mins Seated	<b>Panel discussion and Round Up</b> - facilitated by Jen Cox



Scan to read more about our Speakers

# Folk Education Network

The Folk Education Network is for everyone involved in, or interested in, folk arts education in any context – including those working in schools, with youth groups, in adult learning and/or community settings. Although aimed at folk arts educators in England, practitioners from across the UK and beyond are welcome to join.

The Folk Education Network was established by the English Folk Dance and Song Society in 2011. The growing Network is committed to promoting high-quality folk arts education, and to supporting everyone who delivers it.

It exists to provide peer information and support, and to encourage dialogue with the wider worlds of culture, learning and participation.

The Folk Education Network also offers other organisations a platform through which to consult, or inform, a committed group of folk arts educators.

[www.efdss.org/folkeducators](http://www.efdss.org/folkeducators)

## About the English Folk Dance and Song Society

At the English Folk Dance and Song Society, we champion folk dance and music at the heart of England's rich and diverse cultural landscape. We deliver programmes of learning and participation and artist development:

- through our arts venue, Cecil Sharp House
- through our library and archive, the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library
- online and at a range of venues across England, and sometimes beyond.

We frequently work in partnership with arts, education and heritage organisations. EFDSS is a charity, membership organisation, and National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England.

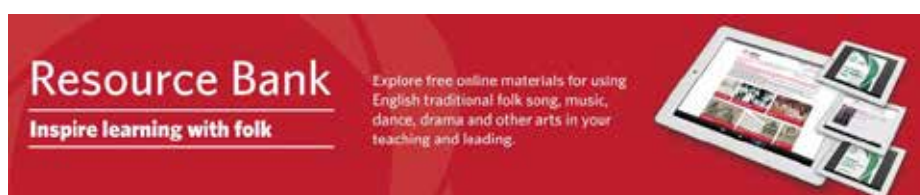
## About the Education Department

The EFDSS Education department delivers creative learning projects with schools, community groups and cultural organisations across the country and runs classes, courses, projects, and events at Cecil Sharp House for young people, families, and adults. It runs the National Youth Folk Ensemble, London Youth Folk Ensemble, its Inclusive Folk programme for disabled young people, and a range of other youth activities.

EFDSS also delivers professional development opportunities and courses for educators from folk, education, and the wider cultural sector, and runs the national Folk Education Network. Its award-winning Resource Bank provides many free teaching and learning resources for using folk music, dance and other artforms in education.

The overall aims for the EFDSS Education programme are:

- To raise the profile of folk arts in education and learning
- To improve the practice of folk arts education
- To increase participation and diversity within folk arts



Discover more learning resources  
[www.efdss.org/resourcebank](http://www.efdss.org/resourcebank)



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## Join Us!

Our members are our valued advocates and supporters in championing the folk arts throughout England. You can join them for only £2 a month!

But membership is much more than a simple financial transaction – it's about joining a vibrant and far-reaching community of folk advocates. You'll receive members-only email newsletters, and we'll also send you an exclusive FOLK pin badge as a small but significant symbol of our shared commitment to folk. Growing our membership is also crucial in helping us to secure support from funding partners.

Join us now, or make a one-off or regular donation: [efdss.org/join](http://efdss.org/join)

## Please consider making a donation to Folk Education Network today

Membership of the Folk Education Network, and attendance at many of its development events, is free.

A donation today will help us to keep the Folk Education Network accessible to more people involved and interested in folk arts education.

Donate at: [efdss.org/folk-education-network](http://efdss.org/folk-education-network)

