



NYFTE News

An Occasional Newsletter from the
National Youth Folklore Troupe of England

NYFTE and the Pandemic in 2020

The NYFTE team leaders worked hard during the pandemic to ensure that team members were able to meet (online), providing opportunities to participate in dance and music activities and even enter the virtual Stick and Bucket competition run by Chippenham Folk Festival (for our entry see the website). Collaborative recording projects, kitchen ceilidhs, quizzes, workshops for specific dance types or calling and social events featured quite heavily.

Once regulations started to relax, we were able to run in person workshops and camping

event, putting together a full socially distanced repertoire. Many festivals were still not happening, and so we organised our own events across the country, hosting two concerts for suitably masked and lateral flow tested public audiences. We finished the year with a family weekend, a much-appreciated event featuring a ceilidh, workshops run by team members or parents, and a water sports morning.

Those due to leave NYFTE during 2020 were invited to stay on for an extra year, in the hope that they would be able to experience a more 'normal' final year.



Buttercross.

Spring Concert 2023

Our first big performance of the year will be the in the
Shirehampton Public Hall,
Bristol on **Saturday 8th April at 2pm.** For details, please see our website: <https://www.nyfte.org.uk/>.



Longsword.

2023 Events

April 8th

Spring Concert

April 28th - May 1st

Upton Folk Festival

May 26th - 29th

Chippenham Folk Festival

June 16th - 18th

St Albans Folk Festival

July 15th

Buxton Day of Dance

July 16th

NYFTE and Friends ceilidh, Bakewell.

September 7th - 10th

Bromyard Folk Festival

2022: A return to NYFTE as we know it

2022 was the year that NYFTE returned to full performance mode following the pandemic.

DETR, the Dance England Rapper Tournament, is often a highlight of the NYFTE year. Following intense practice over the winter of 2021 / 2022, NYFTE won the 2022 Open competition! Congratulations to all involved.

The 2022 NYFTE year began with the residential weekend: a first since 2019 and a 1st for members who joined us just prior to the pandemic! We welcomed several additional members, swelling our numbers to their maximum.

The team members who studied dance calling during lockdown were invited to call a ceilidh at IVFDF 2022 in Sheffield; a great experience for all concerned.

Our training week culminated in a Spring Concert showcasing the entire 2022 repertoire, including debut

performances of dances choreographed and arrangements composed by team members.

2022 performance events included some greatly anticipated appearances at Chippenham and Warwick Folk Festivals, as well as a more relaxed NYFTE-run event in Sheffield. A number of NYFTE musicians, callers and their families ran a ceilidh at Sidmouth Folk Festival 2022. The final performance event for 2022 was Wallingford Bunkfest, where we said an emotional farewell to 4 team members. We wish them all the best for whatever they choose to do in the future.



Rapper.

New for 2023

In 2023, we are as ever tweaking the repertoire to include new traditions. In recent years we have been donated a number of staves. During our training weekend in February we enjoyed a stave dancing workshop run by Somerset Morris - thank you for your help.

We are currently working on a new set of popular traditional English tunes arranged by a team member. We also now have a NYFTE ceilidh tune book to

support our burgeoning ceilidh band whenever they perform during 2023. Collaboration between the ceilidh band and callers promises to create a dance extravaganza, such as the NYFTE and Friends Family Ceilidh in Bakewell on Sunday 16th July (tickets are available from the Bakewell Town Hall website). Watch our website for more details.



Longsword.



Lass of Richmond Hill.



Celebration Clog.

Congratulations

In March 2023 NYFTE entered 3 teams into DERT or DERTy. The DERT team, (a new team with only one dancer and the Tommy from 2022 competition winners) competing against the likes of Northgate Rapper, Mabel Gubbins and Silver Flame, came 3rd in the Open Competition. The two DERTy teams were much applauded for their dancing. Congratulations to all those involved.

Donations of Equipment

NYFTE is unique as it enables team members to experience dance styles from across England. Whilst this widens an individual's horizons, it requires NYFTE to obtain / maintain a considerable amount of specialised equipment. Whilst a few team members have their own clogs, rapper swords or bacca pipes, it is the aim of NYFTE to provide all

the specialised dance equipment required.

We have had several generous donations for our collection in the last year, including clogs, staves and swords. We would like to say a very big **THANK YOU** to anyone donating equipment, as it enables us to provide more English folk experiences for our young people.

Family Support Fund

We are very conscious that an individual's membership of NYFTE can place a heavy financial burden on their family, especially if a family has more than one member to support. Costs associated with NYFTE membership include (but are not limited to) membership fees, the residential training costs, travel expenses and specific equipment costs.

A generous bequest in memory of Mike and Mary Isaacs, has enabled us to create the NYFTE Family Support Fund. Mike and Mary were folk enthusiasts, dancing with many groups: they were also founder members of the Thatcham Folk

Dance Club. A folk dance to celebrate the lives of Mike & Mary was held in May 2022, at Mike's bequest. The funds raised at the dance have been used to set up the Family Support Fund.

This fund is intended to help members and their families who may otherwise struggle to afford the costs associated with NYFTE membership.

Further contributions to the Family Support Fund or general NYFTE running costs are very welcome. Please visit the fundraising page on our website for further details.

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