



EFDSS awarded funding to tell the story of traditional, rural and working class culture in 20th century England

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The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has given the green light to support the English Folk Dance and Song Society's (EFDSS) **'The Full English'** project, it was announced today. Development funding of £30,000 has been awarded by HLF to help progress their plans, which will see EFDSS work with five other nationally important English folk music and dance archive collections to tell the story of traditional, rural and working class culture in 20th-century England.

The first-round pass* means that the project can now progress to the second stage of the HLF application process, with up to two years to submit more detailed plans and apply for the full grant of just over £615,400.

The project will carry out essential conservation work, digitise the collections and join them through a single web portal, allowing online public access to the collections for the first time. An educational programme, which draws upon and is inspired by the collections, will be run in 21 different locations in England. The programme will aim to greatly increase awareness and knowledge of folk in education through training of music educators and teachers, provision of educational resources, regional learning events, and creative projects in primary and secondary schools and wider community. Volunteers will also be given training so they can help care for the collection and support the accompanying activity programme.

Commenting on the award, Katy Spicer, Chief Executive of EFDSS, said "We are absolutely thrilled to be given this initial support and its endorsement of the importance of intangible heritage. The Full English is a major project for the EFDSS presenting the opportunity for us to work with communities across England and to provide world-wide access to some of the most important folk dance and song collections in England."

Sue Bowers, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund for London, said: "We're extremely pleased to give initial support to EFDSS for this wide-ranging educational project. Whilst this is just the beginning of the journey, the award of this development money will enable them to work up their plans for a full grant in the future."

The Full English project will join up a complete set of the most important folk music collections in England - those of Harry Albino, Lucy Broadwood, Clive Carey, Percy Grainger, Maud Karpeles, Frank Kidson, Thomas Fairman Ordish, Cecil Sharp, Ralph Vaughan Williams and Alfred

Williams - through a single web portal, allowing public access to 39,179 items via 70,862 individually digitised pages. This will involve partnership between six archives at English Folk Dance and Song Society; The British Library; Clare College, Cambridge; The Folklore Society at University College London; the Mitchell Library, Glasgow; and the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre.

The collections will form the foundation for learning and participation programmes to be run across nine regions of England which it is estimated will involve over 20,000 people of all ages. The project will comprise projects with children and young people, work with teachers and other arts educationalists; partnering with local arts organisations to deliver community projects comprising participatory events and concerts; archive and history projects and training of volunteers in archive and conservation work.

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For more information, please contact Jo Breeze, Marketing Manager at the EFDSS, on jo@efdss.org or 020 7485 2206 x.38.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. For over a century the **English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS)** has been preserving and disseminating our folk heritage. The Society aims to promote the best of folk arts through a range of mediums including dance, music, song, film, exhibitions, publications and our library collections; engage new generations with the folk arts through workshops, classes and study, and to ensure that the folk arts are a fundamental part of the cultural life of the UK. The EFDSS is a charity registered in England and Wales, No. 305999 Website: www.efdss.org
2. ***A first-round pass** means the project meets HLF criteria for funding and we believe it has potential to deliver high-quality benefits and value for Lottery money. The application was in competition with other supportable projects, so a first-round pass is an endorsement of outline proposals. Having been awarded a first-round pass, the project now has up to two years to submit fully developed proposals to compete for a firm award.

On occasion an applicant with a first-round pass will also be awarded development funding towards the development of their scheme.

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the **Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)** sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported 33,900 projects, allocating £4.4billion across the UK, including £868million in London alone. Website: www.hlf.org.uk