CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

Charity name: National Youth Folk Troupe of England

Charity registration number: 1203573

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	1) 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. 2) To advance the education of young people in English folk dances, music and songs.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	NYFTE performing members participated in internal / external training events, public performances and represented the charity at the following events during 2024: • The Cause training weekend (February 2024) • EFDSS Folk Educators Day, London (March 2024) • Dancing England Rapper Tournament (April 2024) • Denstone training week (April 2024) • Chippenham Folk Festival (May 2024) • Masham English Country Music Weekend (EMCW - June 2024) • Sidmouth Folk Festival (August 2024) • Bristol Weekend (September 2024) • Open Rapper Workshop (November 2024 • One day Rapper workshop (December 2024) Details of these activities are included in the achievements and performance section
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	In shaping our objectives for the year and planning and reviewing our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	The charity does not provide grants to other organisations. To ensure that those struggling financially are not excluded from the benefit of the charity's activities, NYFTE provided financial support such as assistance with expenses where required.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	The charity is not involved in social investment.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	During the reporting period all NYFTE activities were performed by volunteers, who received no more than remuneration for expenses. This includes (but is not limited to) the activities of the Artistic and Technical Directors, the pastoral team, the costume team and the specialist tutors. Parents and guardians provide a significant amount of voluntary support in the form of transport for performing members, plus stewarding and other general activities at events.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	**Educating NYFTE performing members** The team had 38 performing members during 2024. The team carried out multiple training activities during the year to integrate new performing members into the team, develop skills, introduce new repertoire and maintain the high standards of performance we aim to achieve in our public appearances. Primary training events included • The weekend at The Cause, Chippenham in February 2024, where potential new members were introduced to the way the team works, and the repertoire for the year was considered. • The intensive residential week at Denstone College, where the team developed and practiced performances for the year. This enabled individuals to acquire new skills and develop existing ones: as the older team members leave,

		younger members progress to fill the gaps. The 2024 repertoire consisted of a mix of previously performed traditional dances, music and song, and fresh pieces so that the team are constantly expanding their range. New items introduced included: • Lactodorum, a Border Morris dance. • Hal An Tow as a Song, social dance and Cotswold Morris combination. • A reworking of existing dance the New Collaboration Molly • New clog routines. • Reintroduction of songs from the back catalogue (Heysham Pace Egging and South Australia). In addition to the traditional dance tuition provided, musicianship and singing skills were developed in every area of performance. This included playing and singing as duets, small groups and whole NYFTE ensembles, as well as playing / singing for dancing and playing as a ceilidh band. Novel arrangements composed by team members were actively encouraged. We endeavoured to include all musicians wherever possible. The increased enthusiasm for playing music to accompany dancing was tangible and encouraging. One single day training session was held for those performing members wishing to specialise in Rapper dancing. **Educating young people outside NYFTE.** Performing members of NYFTE taught Northwest and Border Morris workshops at Chippenham Folk Festival, developing their own skills as teachers whilst introducing other young people to these forms of dance and demonstrating their enthusiasm to peers. NYFTE helped organise an “Open Rapper Workshop”, an outreach activity run in collaboration with Barnsley Horizon College. This was attended by approximately 50 young people. The 20 NYFTE performing members in attendance were involved in learning, teaching and performing. **Educating the educators** At the English Folk Dance and Song Society’s (EFDSS’s) Folk Educators Day, performing members taught a longsword dance to 20 folk educators external to NYFTE. In addition to teaching the longsword tradition itself, this was an opportunity for performing members to demonstrate how

		NYFTE operates, how they learn new skills and showcase the high standard that can be achieved by youth performers. **Promoting appreciation of folk arts in the wider community through performance** There are many opportunities for NYFTE to showcase their appreciation of traditional performance arts to the wider community. In 2024 these included: • The Spring Concert which closed the Denstone College (Staffordshire) training week, at which the 2024 repertoire was performed for the first time in public. • The Dancing England Rapper Tournament 2024 (DERT) which took place in Whitby (North Yorkshire). This is a national celebration and competition for the fast-moving Rapper style of dance and involves multiple performances in public locations around the host city. NYFTE entered 1 team in the "open" category of the adult competition (performing with nationally acclaimed adult Rapper teams from across the country) and 2 teams in the youth section of the event. The competition element sees different aspects of the teams' performances judged by experts, providing criticism and advice for improvement. NYFTE's teams won 1st and 3rd places in the youth event. • Performances at Chippenham Folk Festival (Wiltshire), included a formal concert, busking and the parade in festival venues and around the town, • A concert was performed at the English Country Music Weekend (ECMW) at Masham (North Yorkshire). • Sidmouth Folk Festival (Devon) included a formal concert, busking around the town and a short performance during one of the festival ceilidhs. • The year was rounded out by an end of season concert in Bristol. **Involving the wider community in folk activities** While much of NYFTE's work revolves around performance and developing the skills of the performing members of the team,

		hosting ceilidhs provides an opportunity for the team to engage the wider community in active participation in English folk arts. Some members of NYFTE play dance music, whilst others ”call” (teach) the dances to the audience who join in the dancing. NYFTE led such events at The Buttercross open air ceilidh in the town centre during Chippenham Folk Festival, at the ECMW at Masham and following the Bristol concert. **Involvement outside the team** The achievements and successes of current NYFTE members go beyond their direct involvement with the team, the young people take active parts in the wider folk community. For example, at Sidmouth Folk Festival, (outside the events organised for the team), individual NYFTE members took part in a “New Roots” concert, played on the Young Performers stage, entered the national John Gasson Morris Jig competition and provided music for other workshops, to name but a few. There is a regular membership turnover as performing members are required to “retire” by their 19th birthday. 2024 saw 4 members reach this milestone. When performing members retire, they take with them not only specific skills in dancing, singing and musicianship but life skills such as teamwork, teaching and leadership. They also take a strong network of peers of similar age with similar interests. These support NYFTE alumni as they move out into the wider world where they frequently join adult dance teams or go on to education and careers in performance arts. As such they embody the objectives of the charity, enriching the experience of the individual and the communities in which they participate. For example, in 2024 one NYFTE alumnus took up the role of Ceilidh Director for Chippenham Folk Festival: this was the festival where she first encountered NYFTE and decided to become involved with the team.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	This was the first full year in which NYFTE operated as a charity. Until the AGM on 24th March 2024, the charity operated in start-up mode with a board of 4 interim trustees. These interim trustees stepped down at the

		AGM, and a full board of 9 trustees were elected. In addition to the main purposes of the charity as described in the preceding section, Trustees' objectives for the year included 1) Managing the transition from the pre-charity organisation, through the interim trustee period to a body operating in line with Charity Commission guidelines with minimal impact on the young people we serve and their public performances. 2) Establishing the roles of trustees (strategy and oversight), the leadership team (implementation and operations) and the relationships between the groups. The transition from pre-charity to charity status (Objective 1) involved: • The final AGM of the pre-charity organisation was held online. It was agreed to transfer the assets to the Charity and close the pre-charity organisation. This was immediately followed by the first AGM of the Charity, when the board of trustees was elected and the assets of the former organisation were accepted. • In 2024, the interim trustees and full board of trustees held 8 meetings, not including the AGM. • Although many of the incoming trustees already knew each other through previous roles with the pre-charity organisation; some were new to trusteeship, whilst others were not familiar with the recent operations of the team. There has therefore been an element of education and team building. • Trustees have considered how best to monitor charitable activities, ensuring that the charity's purposes are being fulfilled. To this end, trustees received regular Leadership Team reports, attended events to observe performances first hand and took feedback from both regular supporters and members of the general public. (Examples of feedback received included comments made through the website on performance and skills displayed at the Masham event, along with complimentary comments and the largest personal donation the team has ever received following the

		performance at Sidmouth Folk Festival. • Trustees established a process for assessing risks that the Charity may encounter, and how they may be mitigated. A working version of the risk register is now in place. • Trustees have prepared and accepted a budget for 2025 in consultation with the leadership team. • Some positions within NYFTE currently confer significantly more effort and responsibility than others. Consequently, trustees have considered whether some of the more involved roles should be established on a professional basis. It was agreed in principle that the artistic and technical directors should be paid. The impact this would have on the 2025 budget was investigated, was agreed and consideration was given to whether it would be appropriate. • During these extensive organisational changes, the education and performances of team members were not impacted; and a training & performance schedule similar to previous years was maintained. • Having charity status has opened new opportunities, such as discounted access to Microsoft software and services such as Teams conferencing and SharePoint storage. This has been set up, largely through the work of the technical director. NYFTE switched to this new conferencing and sharing platform. The platform has been exploited by trustees and leadership, although work remains to be done to formalise all aspects of the operations complete the switch from establishing processes to using them routinely. Establishing the governance structure and relationships between trustees and the leadership team (Objective 2) involved: • Addressing the expectations, processes and relationships of the new Charitable organisation to create a new governance structure which would enable the leadership team and trustees to work smoothly.

		• Immediately following the 2024 AGM, the trustees appointed a leadership team and delegated operational activities to them. • Team leaders (the Artistic Director and Technical Director) have a standing invitation to trustee meetings and are requested to attend trustee meetings to present regular reports. • Trustees have remained informed of the activities of the leadership team but have not been involved in day-to-day operations. • There is still some cross over between trustees and the leadership team, particularly in respect of financial operations. This requires further work.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	Neither the interim trustees, nor the full board of trustees set any fundraising objectives for 2024. However, they have monitored income and expenditure via reports from the treasurer and taken note of significant donations. Details of fundraising are given in the subsequent financial section.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	NYFTE does not hold any financial investments.
Other		

Financial Review

The financial report is provided as a separate document.

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	During 2024 NYFTE had an income of £28,662.77 and an expenditure of £24,673.01. The balance, including reserves, rose from £17,715.48 to £21,705.24. The largest items of both income (£14,665) and expenditure (£14,478) relate to the residential training week at Denstone College (formerly held at Tockington School), and cover hire of the premises, catering etc. There is a charge to participating members which largely offsets the expense. The transition from holding this event at Tockington School to Denstone College has increased the cost and involved some advanced payment and multi-year commitment, but the venue was found to be more effective.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	NYFTE holds reserves in a deposit account to act as a buffer against unexpected drops in income or increases in expenditure such as those encountered during the Covid pandemic. The reserves are also used to build up funds for periodic expenses occurring on a multi-year cycle such as replacement of the team's vehicle.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	The reserve held in the deposit account at the end of 2024 was £10,002.79. There are no restricted funds. No reserves were committed at the end of the reporting period
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	NYFTE does hold reserves.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	There were no material deficits during 2024.
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	Trustees are satisfied that the charity is a going concern.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	NYFTE's principal sources of funds are • Donations • Annual subscriptions paid by performing members or their families. • Fees paid by performing members or their families to cover the costs of specific events such as the Denstone training week. Donations rose by 77% from 2023: the difference can be largely accounted for by a single large personal donation following the

		performance at Sidmouth. NYFTE receives repeated donations from a number of individual supporters and dance clubs, but. Much of the income from donations is less predictable, consisting of one-off contributions from attendees at performances, one-off contributions from dance clubs and teams and donations of residual funds from some social dance clubs that have been wound up.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	NYFTE does not hold material financial investments and has not set a policy for this. NYFTE does not have a social investment policy.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The principal financial risks, as recorded in the risk register are • Income targets not meeting financial needs • Spending exceeding agreed budgets • Fundraising opportunities not being fully exploited • Costs becoming a barrier to participation • Lack of checks/balances on expenditure of the charity's funds.
Other		In addition to routine running costs and costs associated with individual events at which NYFTE performs, funds are needed to provide and replace the specialised equipment (e.g. clogs, rapper swords and costume elements) required for teaching and performance. Supporting a performing member places a heavy financial burden on families, not only with the costs associated with attending specific events, but also with those generated by all the travelling, accommodation, extra equipment, musical instruments etc. NYFTE aims to be inclusive and includes in this those for whom the costs might be prohibitive. A Family Support Fund was created (using an in-memoriam donation) to support those for whom the costs would otherwise be prohibitive. This is sustained by additional donations. These funds are not dedicated to the purpose and are maintained as part of the main accounts.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document	Para 1.25	Constitution developed from the Charity Commission draft documents for CIOs and adopted when the association was registered in June 2023.
How is the charity constituted?	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are elected for a 3-year term by the NYFTE membership at general meetings. One third of trustees must stand down each year. There is provision for existing trustees to appoint further trustees to vacant positions; such appointments terminate at the next AGM. Practice for selecting potential trustees for elections has involved consultation between trustees and the leadership team and requests for nominations from the membership. NYFTE takes into account the guidance offered by the Charity Commission (document CC30), which includes recommendations on Charity Commission, and in particular the guidance on diversity, vetting and the skills, knowledge and experience that they can bring to the charity.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	The constitution requires that new trustees are provided with a copy of the constitution and the latest trustees report and statement of accounts. New trustees are informed about the training materials provided by the Charity Commission and recommended to review them. New trustees are given access to the trustee area on the NYFTE Sharepoint containing trustees' minutes, policies, reports, budget etc.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	The Trustees of NYFTE appoint the Artistic Director and Technical Director. These directors then co-opt a Management Team. 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. Trustees take decisions relating to policies, objectives and budgets. The Artistic and Technical Directors, along with the Management Team, oversee the day-to-day management of the charity. They implement the strategy set by trustees and organise the activities required to achieve

		the charity's objectives, designing and implementing operational and project plans that work alongside the Trustees' policies and budgets. All direct involvement with the performing members, including training, performance schedules and pastoral care are delegated to the management team. Trustees consult with the directors and management team on matters of strategy and policy. Directors report activities, issues and concerns to trustees. NYFTE is not part of any wider charity network.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	NYFTE maintains contact with related parties with similar interests and objective such as the Morris dance organisations and the English Folk Dance and Song Society. (Note the participations in the EFDSS Folk Educators Day during 2024).
Other		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.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	National Youth Folk Troupe of England
Other name the charity uses	NYFTE
Registered charity number	1203573
Charity's principal address	Philip Deane Accountancy Ltd Units 1&2, Field View Baynards Green Bicester Oxfordshire OX27 7SG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Steph Andrews			
2	Phil Bassindale			
3	Anne-Marie Coomber			
4	Rhodri Davies	Chair		
5	Lily Drake			
6	Suzanne Ford	Treasurer		
7	Aidan Hansell			
8	Sherry Neyhus			
9	Lucy Skinner	Secretary		

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
NA		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
None		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	NYFTE holds no such assets
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	Not applicable
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	Not applicable

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
NYFTE has no advisors		

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Artistic Director: Jess Arrowsmith
Technical Director: Chirs Nikel

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

None

Other optional information

None

Declarations

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Rhodri Davies	Lucy Skinner
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Secretary
Date	17/05/25	17/05/25

Accounts for NYFTE for the year ending 31 Dec 2024

	2024	2023
Income	**£**	**£**
Membership	1,980.00	1,595.00
Donations	5,846.30	3,299.01
Interest	117.76	86.23
Merchandise	186.00	939.00
Cause training	785.71	802.15
Training Days	50.00	485.00
Tockington	14,665.00	11,940.00
Chippenham	1,950.00	2,125.00
DERT + training	455.00	380.00
Bromyard	-	302.50
Upton	-	624.00
St Albans	-	898.00
Buxton	-	948.00
SDU Longsword	-	174.00
ECMW	500.00	-
Bristol family weekend	2,127.00	-
Total Income	**28,662.77**	**24,597.89**
Expenditure	**£**	**£**
Van expenses	2,478.32	2,380.28
Equipment/kit/costumes	565.94	1,279.67
Merchandise	354.20	1,072.80
First Aid	198.00	566.80
Subscriptions	30.00	30.00
Leaders Mileage	711.38	328.75
Cause Training (incl dinner)	1,055.38	275.00
Training Days	150.00	442.03
Denstone/Tockington (accommodation)	14,478.65	11,929.60
Tockington Showcase		105.00
Tockington Artistic Tutors		200.00
Chippenham		1,189.80
DERT	625.00	620.00
St Albans		791.00
Advertising		55.00
Buxton		413.90
Upton		606.00
Bromyard		315.00
SDU Longsword		106.50
Sidmouth Folk Week	90.00	-
Bristol family weekend	2,872.00	-
Other Expenses	57.14	72.08
Bursary payments	1,007.00	1,964.50
Total Expenditure	**24,673.01**	**24,743.71**
Net Surplus/ (deficit)	**3,989.76**	**- 145.82**

Accounts for NYFTE for the year ending 31 Dec 2024

	2024	2023
Profit and Loss Account	**£**	**£**
Opening balance	17,715.48	17,861.30
Surplus/(deficit)	3,989.76	- 145.82
Closing balance	**21,705.24**	**17,715.48**

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The National Youth Folk Troupe of England

I report on my examination of the accounts of The National Youth Folk Troupe of England (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

This report is made solely to the trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the trustees as a body, for any work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). You consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144 (2) of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

T E James

Trevor James FCA DChA FCIE
Dormer Cottage
West Broyle
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 3PR

22 October 2025