



EAST ANGLIAN TRADITIONAL MUSIC TRUST

Promoting Events, Research & Participation in the Folk Music Traditions of East Anglia



JOIN OUR BOARD

The Trust celebrates the Traditional Music, Song, Dance and Customs of East Anglia through research and projects to preserve and re-invigorate the traditions of the past.

Based on over twenty years previous work in traditional music development by the founders [Katie and John Howson](#) the Trust now runs a programme of community projects across East Anglia, and provides concerts, lectures, workshops and other events for a variety of other organisations.

Our most regular project is Traditional Music Day over a weekend in mid-September in Stowmarket which brings together singers, dancers, musicians and speakers in a mass of small venues with concerts, lectures, participatory events and a real festival atmosphere. Visitors come from all over the country and mix with our local supporters and townspeople of all ages.

Recent projects have included:

Vaughan Williams Folk

Celebrating folk music collected by Ralph Vaughan Williams across East Anglia. **Vaughan Williams' Folk** was a [National Lottery Heritage Fund](#) project run by **EATMT** from October 2022 to Autumn 2023.

The Music Box Archive

A new archive of field recordings set up by Megan Wisdom to build a picture of the folk music in the East as it is now.

Ruddock Bursaries

This year 4 young musicians based in East Anglia have benefitted from The Ruddock Bursary scheme.

More Than Melodeons

This year's event featured [Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne](#), [Megan Wisdom](#), [Erin Brown & Barry Watson](#), [Richard Blake](#) and the **East Suffolk Community Folk Orchestra**.

With song workshops, Anglo Concertina, Melodeon, Piano Accordion and Dulcimer workshops and workshops for any instrument, it climaxes with our Tutor Concert.

Suffolk Covid Recovery

We connected with isolated audiences through performances in cafes and digital outputs.

In addition, we continue to feature such East Anglian traditions as step-dancing, jig dolls, Morris and Molly dancing, and traditional instruments (many for hire) such as melodeons and dulcimers across our activities, along with collecting archives from notable researchers and supporters.



Having come out of the pandemic era with our finances intact, and following our very successful Heritage Fund project, this is a very exciting time for the Trust.

You will also find further information about our past projects, links to other sites of related interest on our website www.eatmt.org.uk and an [online shop](#) featuring our publications.

Interested?

We know many people aren't sure what being on a board of trustees means or what the requirements are...

So if you haven't been on a board before, please don't let that put you off.

We've prepared just a brief introduction to give you an outline and more information on what's involved, and what we're looking for.

If you've got other questions please do just get in touch.



What do board members do?

Becoming a board member is a commitment of time and energy and it can be an extremely fulfilling and valuable experience.

The Charity Commission have set out what they see as 6 main duties for a trustee of a charity.

- Ensuring the charity is carrying out its purposes for public benefit.
- Complying with the charity's governing document and the law.
- Acting in the charity's best interests.
- Ensuring the charity is accountable.
- Managing the charity's resources responsibly.
- Acting with reasonable care and skill.

Further information: [Charity trustee: what's involved \(CC3a\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-what-s-involved).

But there are so many other things that are part of being a trustee:

- Joining in our activities and events and celebrate the trust's work.
- Being an advocate for the trust.
- Thinking big about our future and what we could be in 20 years.
- Becoming a vital part of conversations about traditional music.
- Using your expertise, experience, and skills to provide mentoring or support to the friendly Trust team.

What sort of commitment is it?

Board members are expected to attend board meetings 4 times a year, making sure to read the papers in advance and ask for further information and clarification when deemed necessary.

Our board meetings take place at our base, but can take place on Zoom when necessary. We aim to be as flexible as possible with meeting times and locations to suit individuals' working patterns and commitments.

It is also expected that board members will attend occasional Board awaydays for future strategy and evaluation sessions for our projects.

Do board members get paid?

Board members of charities do not get paid. However, the company will reimburse any reasonable expenses (e.g., travel/childcare) incurred by attending board meetings, and the Trust is committed to covering costs incurred by any additional needs of prospective and current board members, such as access like BSL signing services.



What are we looking for?

We believe the best work happens when enthusiastic people from different backgrounds, communities and experiences come together with a shared goal. This is our aim for the EATMT Board. We want to hear from anyone who shares our values and believes in our mission.

We have identified some skills and experience that we think would enrich our board. We don't expect one person to fit all bullet points! Your experience might include:

- Working in the music, arts, or the cultural sector more broadly.
- An advocate from the region (Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire), to help us empower our community and bring people together.
- Working in or creating disability-led arts.
- Environmental awareness and advocacy.
- New technologies and digital skill sets
- Experience working with young people in both education and non-education settings.
- Youth representation to guide our future and bring a fresh perspective.
- Knowledge of local authorities and government bodies, and how they think and work.
- Lawyers and accountants with experience of charity law, company law and employment or property contracts.
- Owning or managing a business where customer satisfaction and loyalty is key.
- Community engagement.
- Fundraising for local projects.

While the most important thing is that you share our passion for arts, learning, heritage, community and folk traditions, there are also some essential voices, perspectives, and experiences from our community that we would like to increase on our current board of trustees through this process:

- People who identify as disabled
- People of South Asian, African, Caribbean or Eastern European heritage.
- People who identify as LGBTQ+



Do I have to have experience of being on a Board?

No, not at all. At EATMT, we want applications from everyone no matter your experience. All new Board members will be provided with training and we will use a 'buddy' system for new members.

Our office is at Red Gables, Ipswich Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1BE.

You can contact us at: info@eatmt.org.uk or ring 07495 054669. We are a registered charity (no. 1082774), was established in 2000 with a Board of Trustees who meet regularly throughout the year.



Our current board members

Our board is currently made up of 4 individuals from a range of personal and professional backgrounds in arts, culture, and the community : Ivan Cutting (Chair), Miriam Stead, Lindsay Want, Eammon Andrews. They are all passionate about the work of EATMT.

Find more details at [Trustees - East Anglian Traditional Music Trust \(eatmt.org.uk\)](https://eatmt.org.uk)

Staff

Our Administrator/Director, Alex Bartholomew, [Staff - East Anglian Traditional Music Trust \(eatmt.org.uk\)](https://eatmt.org.uk) works two days a week, but is assisted by Project staff and a team of volunteers.

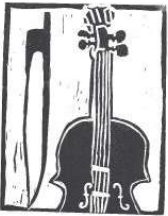
What next?

The next stage is for you to get in touch. When you do, we would love you to consider these three questions:

- Who are you?
- Why does the role interest you?
- What relevant skills or experience do you have that you would bring to the board?

We would expect no more than a couple of sentences for each question. You can provide links to existing work/CV or social media profiles if that helps to introduce yourself and give us a sense of your past work and experience.

You can send these answers over by email to info@eatmt.org.uk. Or if you prefer to record a video or audio file or send your answers to these questions in any other format then just get in touch. *We are hoping to go through a rolling process of recruitment throughout summer 2024, so please submit your expression of interest as soon as possible.*



Next steps

Once you've got in touch, we'll organise an informal meet and greet with others who have expressed an interest. This is an opportunity for you to meet the current Trust Board members.

After that, EATMT will invite potential Board members to an informal interview (30 mins length) either on Zoom or in person at a time to suit all parties.

This will be with a member of the existing board and/or staff team to hear a little more about what is involved, discuss the current priorities of the board and the role in more detail.

If we feel like it's the right fit for both parties, then we'll invite you to come to a board meeting, so you can make sure you are happy before officially joining the board.

We look forward to meeting you!