

Tony Kendall on getting young people into folk

Well, briefly, just to mention, the feeling now that I've got that we have great difficulty in the dance movement in attracting youngsters into it, and it's all to do with attitudes towards it. And it's almost like Scotland, Ireland, and Wales are allowed a culture, and the children from that culture are proud to be involved in what's happening in it. In our own one, they slag it off. I want to get to the bottom of the reason for that and see whether there's some way around it. Because the I think is the way to proceed, is what I'm hoping to do with the Morris, and especially those that have time during the day, is to start introducing the idea of English song and dance at a very early age, to children in the borough of Waltham Forest, really, and trying for a Millennium Grant to do it. And that will be— like, the record that I was playing at the beginning here, I was recording some music there so we can teach a very simple Morris dance to four year olds in a nursery school. And that's where it's going to start. And then we're going to take it out to the Brownies, and the Cubs, and all of those groups. And I think that there could be a sea change. It needs to happen very early, like it does in the cultures elsewhere. And that's the only way for it to find some respect.

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