

BRISTOL FOLK HOUSE
Registered charity (1184395)

SEEKING NEW TRUSTEES

The Bristol Folk House is a centre for adult education, providing courses, workshops, exhibitions and events. The organisation originated with the Tyndale Baptist Church who opened a mission in 1870. That then moved to a purpose-built site on Deanery Road in 1887 and now is based at 40a Park Street, Bristol, where it has been since the 1960s, remaining a focus for the community in the centre of the city.

The charitable purposes of the charity, as defined in the articles of association, are to improve the conditions of life of the inhabitants of Bristol and surrounding districts by the provision and maintenance of a centre for adult education, recreation and other leisure time occupations.

The charity is run by a small group of like-minded trustees. Following a recent governance review, it has changed its status from an unincorporated organisation to a charitable company. Instead of appointing an agent to deliver its mission (the former Folk House Co-operative) it now directly employs staff to administer all the activity including a small café and recruits tutors for courses and workshops who are all self-employed. The charity receives no income from outside and relies entirely on the income from its courses and events.

After a challenging period during the pandemic, when activity reduced it is hoped that we can return to a more normal level of operation from the autumn term 2021.

We are now seeking to recruit one or two more trustees to expand the corporate skill base and to widen the age profile of the board. Experience in dealing with small charitable or not-for-profit organisations would be valuable, as would people with human resources, financial and legal experience. Primarily we are seeking trustees who appreciate the ethos of the Folk House and who can help us continue its work into a second century.

In terms of time commitment, this will vary depending on how much time individuals can and wish to devote to the Folk House. Formally, the Board meets every four months, so that commitment is small and an individual who would be prepared to contribute to the areas described above would expect to give more of their time.

We are committed to our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion agenda. We want to increase the diversity of our Board in terms of ethnicity, age, gender, and sexual orientation.

For more information, please contact the Chair of the Trustees, Bob Pepper at bob.pepper@hotmail.co.uk giving your contact details and why you think you might be the right person to carry this organisation forward.