

Guidance Panel Report for January 2016 AGM

This is the first report from the new Guidance Panel of DUPUK, Jilani, Kate and Shamsia.

Many thanks to the previous and last Management Committee, Maris, Rabia and Aziz, who gave freely of their expertise, time and energy in support of the Dances of Universal Peace. We have some appreciation of the effort, consideration and dedication that this work entails! The Guidance Panel is here to guide and hold the vision of the wellbeing, integrity and vitality of DUP in this country. We are aided in this by the Administrator and Webmaster.

Our time has been spent in many ways since we agreed to join the Guidance Panel in June. Our initial priorities were the new website, the new structure to our organisation and the "baby" leaders guild that we wanted to nurture; we had only 6 months to begin planning for the Leaders Guild retreat. Almost immediately, we received a great deal of communication from members and ex members expressing their feelings about the changes to the DUPUK, and correspondence about this began to fill our time rapidly. We organised a "listening day", offering an opportunity for people to come and talk about their emotional journey and to dance together. The amount of correspondence and conversations about the new structure was overwhelming and difficult to deal with; it seemed that any further change or lack of change would result in difficult feelings. We have been endeavouring to find a middle way, to keep an open membership and a Leaders Guild, and we hope that everyone will continue to step forwards and hold hands in our dance network. We are constructing proposals that reflect a middle way concerning our organisation. We are endeavouring to welcome all voices "at the table", with the opportunity for all to be given attention including those voices that can be quiet and undemanding. We appreciate your support and patience in this process. We look forward to finding our way forward together. We will be letting all current and recent ex members know of these proposals by email. Please let people who don't use email so much know about what is happening. Perhaps you could print off a copy for them.

Other work has been responding to enquiries and comments, liaising with the Sacred Arts Holding Group, discussing support and development for musicians as well as dance leaders, finding a new secretary, working out how to use mailchimp and getting our heads around the accounts.

We now have a new website and are very grateful to our webmaster, Chris Granger, who rapidly put the final touches to the work he had been doing to construct this website. It seemed that our old website just stopped being fully functional and had to be replaced asap!

We are delighted to be able to gather for our first Leaders Retreat in the UK and wish for this to prepare fertile ground upon which seeds can grow and be nurtured. We look forward to finding out what we will be able to grow together. Supporting and cherishing our dance leaders, established ones, reluctant ones and up and coming ones, ensures the health of DUP in this country and may give rise to new growth and developments!

We would like to thank Aziz Edmund Dixon for all the work he did on the previous Management Committee, Music & Publications Manager as well as his most recent post as Admin Support, Membership Secretary and Treasurer. He has now gone on to support DUP internationally and we wish him well in his new role. We would like to offer a warm welcome to Stella Cranwell who has offered her support in the role Aziz has vacated and wish her a rewarding experience in this vital and most supportive role.

With love

Shamsia, Jilani and Kate