

tasc ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Including Accounts 1st Nov 2014 to 31st Oct 2015



Introduction

BRIGHT BEACONS IN THE DARKNESS

An Encouraging Year despite the general bleakness around us, is perhaps the best way of summing up 2015.

We reluctantly said good-bye to two trustees, both long-serving, during the year but welcomed aboard two new trustees. And though we ended our Twelfth Night celebrations there are new and exciting possibilities ahead for working with our 'satellite' bands - now fully-fledged planets in their own right, and developing our networks and on-line presence.

TASC continues to be committed to partnership working, the success of which depends on finding the right partners and the right roles both for them and us. Those who have a statutory remit or larger designs are not always the best partners for the kind of small-scale experiment that TASC currently favours. On the other hand, small community groups and independent enterprises often relish the challenge of working in new ways.

Our loose partnership with Arvon Ales has been very enjoyable and we hope to develop that, still in a largely informal way, during 2016.

We're hoping for new ideas to emerge out during 2016 by working with the Montgomery Library and storyteller Amy Douglas. This will follow on the work in the school during 2015 and will also be a chance to work with families and young people. These projects have developed out of the willingness of Monty Folk to have a go at almost anything.

We will continue pursue our interest in historic sites in different ways during 2016, and an early project will be creating a piece for the new Llanwrtyd Wells Heritage Centre, in partnership with the continually evolving DiEnw..

The big successes of 2015 were our increased on-line presence, with considerable effort going into both facebook and development of the website, and the increase in membership, no doubt helped by a range of stimulating and enjoyable workshops in the autumn.

The year 2016 will mark the 10th anniversary of the Severn Suite, and we're planning to mark that in some way, working with both John Kirkpatrick and Karen Tweed to make it truly memorable.



Philip Freeman, TASC Administrator



Developing STRATEGY

The Initial Ideas proposed in 2014 as a response to the challenges TASC faces were further developed during 2015.

In order to strengthen the membership services, the first step needed was improved communication. Initially this was done by means of an on-line questionnaire, the responses to which helped further shape the patterns of activity and information in 2015.

The second step was to improve facebook presence, which was done by posting five times a week (i.e. every week-day) from early October onwards.

Both these strategies seemed to come together in November, with increased attendance at workshops and a growing number of 'facebook likes'.

Membership, both group and individual, also rose at the start of the new membership year on 1st November. The other strand of our thinking was developing partnerships, both



internal and external.

image above: workshop with Ceri Rhys Matthews at Arvon Ales, Llandrindod Wells

For the first, we continued strengthening our links with the two community bands that we helped form - DiEnw in the south west of Powys and Monty Folk (Montgomery) in the north. In addition we now have Newtown's Community Band *FFonic* as a member.

For the external links we now have contacts with the *Shropshire Harmony Quire* and Amy Douglas's storytelling events, both in Bishop's Castle, and with the Llandovery Folk Dance Club.

Partnerships have been more problematical, and the search continues for the right kind of partner, ones that are both community-orientated and well-organised. Arvon Ales in Llandrindod Wells have been a particularly welcome addition to the county's resources for playing and hearing folk music.

aims

TASC aims to encourage individuals to become involved in traditional and tradition-based folk arts, and to support the use of forms appropriate for the 21st century.

Traditional Folk Art is both a living tradition and a repository of materials and techniques. The challenge is to try and understand what makes it distinctive and ensure that nothing vital is lost in its continuing evolution.

TASC's annual programme aims to provide seasonal gatherings, a small programme of events, advanced or intermediate tuition, and on occasions a more ambitious and experimental longer-term project.

The website is regularly updated with items of interest and recently has started to include video content.

The current approach is to maintain TASC's core network through membership fees and to develop projects that are self-sustaining.

It is currently developing a loose partnership for its programme which currently includes:-

- Arvon Ales
- Montgomery Library
- Llanwrtyd Wells Local History Group



TASC trustees and Mont Folk at Montgomery Primary School

Folk Powys GATHER'S SPEED

DiEnw was the first band to be developed by the Folk Powys process. It has continued to flourish during 2015 with only minimal support from TASC.

During the year it continued to slowly attract new members and regularly plays for community events at Garth Village Hall and elsewhere.

Events have included the Smallholders Fair at the showground in Builth Wells and fundraising events in Llanwrtyd Wells.

It also has a strong link with the Llandoverly Folk Dance group.

Additional workshops and projects are being developed in partnership with DiEnw for 2016.

Montgomery has seen considerable activity in 2015, with a growing team of supporters in for Monty Folk.

This band has also increased in size, and from the 6 members who played on New Year's Eve in 2014 it grew to nine members during 2015 see below right.

The band has also helped to promote and organise a number of events and activities:

- Folk dance project for the after school club in Montgomery
- Harmony singing workshop at the Town Hall
- Guitar workshop in the Activity Centre
- Band workshops in various locations
- Informal folk music session at the *Horse & Jockey* in Churchstoke

see below



The band also has its own facebook page and is helping to develop a storytelling project for TASC in partnership with Montgomery library and other partners in the town.

See next section

Storytelling for Beginners

TELLING TALES

In Some Ways TASC is still mining the years of the Mid Wales May Festival, the event that gave birth to it in the first place, back in 1994.

The festival archive is providing material for a useful and fascinating resource on the website, and the contacts it established fed into projects such as *The Severn Suite* (itself 10 years old in 2016), the formation of village bands and the Suitcase Studio.

The festival had a full programme of children's workshops, and a frequent visitor was **Amy Douglas**, then just starting out on her career as a professional storyteller.

Amy is now well established as one of the foremost storytellers in the UK with many books, projects and appearances to her name.

Following the work on dances for schoolchildren in Montgomery, TASC are working with Monty Folk, Mini Montys (pre-school playgroup) and Montgomery Library to devise a series of workshops in storytelling with Amy, which will be part of Age Cymru's *Gwanwyn Festival*.

The project will include an introductory event and a final performance.



Above : Amy telling a story as part of Monty Folk's Autumn ceilidh.



A Different Approach for DiEnw is envisaged, but still looking at how to tell stories and work with partners and local material.

The newly created Heritage Centre in Llanwrtyd Wells is to be the site of a one-off folk evening, exploring the connection between traditional music and song and the collection and research being carried out by volunteers for the centre.

This will be a new departure for DiEnw who have played for dancing on many occasions and incidental music at local shows but have not so far played a concert, even one as informal as this.

The material will be specially developed for the event and, together with sessions on recording techniques, we hope will provide new stimulus to the band.

Traditions in Common, in a DAY OF EUROPEAN DANCES

The Now Traditional Autumn Day of Dance provided another example of TASC's approach, mixing continuity and change.

It was the same formula of day time workshops and evening dance, separated by a local whole food supper, and taking place in the surroundings of the Powys Dance Studio. This year, however, it was given a new impetus by bringing in the *Gower All Stars*, featuring **Ceri Rhys Matthews**, a highly respected musician, composer, producer and organiser, in addition to the ever-popular *Kantref* who have provided the music and instruction for the past three years.



The event was supported through the Arts Council of Wales' Night Out Scheme

web, fb . . . and now YOUTUBE

Keeping in Touch remains crucial and TASC has invested in improving the website, posting much more content on Facebook and now starting to edit and upload videos on its own YouTube channel. The picture above is taken from footage of the Day of European Dances event.

There were signs in November 2016 that the on-line presence was starting to bear fruit by way of increased attendance at events and workshops.

The Gathering, now looking BEYOND TWELFTH NIGHT

Pressure on TASC resources meant that reluctantly Twelfth Night was abandoned in 2016. The winding up of the Wild Angels community choir was one of the factors in this decision, it having been in part a partnership and a showcase for their work. The event has taken a break before - during the severe winters - so it may yet make a reappearance.

The mixing of many different art forms remains a useful tool for introducing people to different forms and ideas. It is intended to pick up the idea by holding a Skillshare Day, where people come for a taste of different styles, instruments and tunes, and where the tutors are volunteers.

This approach is in line with TASC's thinking on sustainability for the future, and will be backed up by on-line resources of various kinds.

The production of a guide to folk dancing, the beginnings of our resource pack, and produced for the Montgomery School Project, is another example of finding ways that people can learn about folk music without the cost of tutors, though live teaching is always to be preferred.

The book is now available as a downloadable pdf from the TASC website.



Structure & GOVERNANCE

Trustees

The Trustees elected in 2014 were:

- Pete Damsell, Chair
- Linda Ward, Human Resources
- Kathleen Freeman, Secretary
- Claire Short
- Philip Freeman, Administrator & Artistic Director

Kathleen Freeman resigned in August and Linda Ward resigned in November. Both had been long-serving trustees and felt it was time for a change. Claire Weston was co-opted for her links with Monty Folk, and Sarah Mason agreed to hold a watching brief on behalf of DiEnw.

Meetings

Trustee meetings were held in January, May and August 2015 and in January 2016.

Training

Trustee training is offered to trustees. Induction is provided for new trustees. In addition to the governing document (constitution) TASC has adopted policies on the the following for its guidance:-

- Equal Opportunities
- Welsh Language
- Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults
- Recruitment of people with a criminal record
- Secure storage, handling, use, retention and disposal of disclosures and disclosure information
- Procurement Policy
- Project Development Protocol

In addition risk assessments and Health and Safety plans are carried out for all TASC events and projects.

Administrator

The day to day running of TASC, along with financial management, members' e-news, website updates and artistic direction is carried out by the Administrator.

Membership

Membership is open to all who support TASC's aims.

Membership runs from 1st November each year, which coincides with the start of TASC's financial year. The annual fee is currently kept very low with correspondingly few benefits as the members engagement with TASC activities can vary significantly.

Members and others were consulted via an on-line questionnaire in the summer of 2015.

The Associate Artist project was discontinued for lack of resources.

Accounts

The accounts are to be found on the following pages. The turnover falls below the level required by the Charity Commission for a full audit.

TASC has a reserves policy of holding £2,000 as a contingency which is estimated as the cost of running the organisation for one year without any major projects.

The bank account is held at:-

HSBC
The Cross
Newtown
Powys
SY16 2LX

Finances

TASC Receipts & Payments Account

INCOME

	2014-15	2013-14
Events		
Twelfth Night	203	239
Bal d'Ithon		450
Day of Dance, Llanidloes		252
Day of Dance, <i>note 1</i>	93	
<i>Llanidloes Wells Nov 2014</i>		
Day of Dance, <i>note 2</i>	103	
<i>Llanidloes Wells Nov 2015</i>	206	
Montgomery Ceilidh Dec 2014		
	<u>605</u>	<u>941</u>
Projects		
Workshops <i>note 3</i>	1	
Montgomery Project		74
	<u>1</u>	<u>74</u>
General Income		
Membership <i>note 4</i>	90	50
Donations	10	0
	<u>100</u>	<u>50</u>
Grants		
PCC: Community Fund	3000	3000
	<u>3000</u>	<u>3000</u>
TOTAL	3706	4065

Surplus/Deficit on Year **530**

NOTES

- 1) The Day of Dance takes place in early November and advance ticket sales make it difficult to directly compare year on year.
- 2) Advance income for November 2015 event
- 3) Almost all participants were members, entitling them to free admission.
- 4) Room hire for meetings of the trustees
- 6) Administrator Fees are £300 per month with an 11 month workload. Cash flow difficulties for reasons outside the trustees' control led to the administrator waiving his fees during the first half of 2015.

TOTAL FUNDS

31st October 2015

Balance at HSBC	2212
Paypal Account	172
Cash in Hand	162
	<u>2546</u>

1st November 2014 to 31st October 2015

EXPENDITURE

	2014-15	2013-14
Events		
Twelfth Night	415	744
Bal d'Ithon		480
Day of Dance, Llanidloes	395	350
Montgomery Ceilidh Dec 2014	83	
	<u>893</u>	<u>1573</u>
Projects		
Workshops	11	
Folk Powys/DiEnw	60	
Montgomery Project	256	487
	<u>327</u>	<u>487</u>
General Expenditure		
Marketing	210	400
Commission on sales	17	12
Website	24	24
Affiliation Fees	70	68
Insurance	50	50
Meeting Costs <i>note 5</i>	71	0
Misc	8	19
	<u>450</u>	<u>574</u>
Admin		
Postage <i>note 6</i>		7
Stationery		
Volunteer Expenses	57	
Trustee Expenses	360	22
Administrator Fees <i>note 7</i>	900	3600
Administrator Expenses	189	320
	<u>1506</u>	<u>3949</u>
TOTAL	3176	6584

FUNDS AVAILABLE

31st October 2015

Unrestricted Funds	546
Restricted Funds	0
Reserves	2000
	<u>2546</u>

Balance Sheet

As at 31st October 2015

	2015	2014
FIXED ASSETS		
Original Cost		
Less Depreciation	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock*	442	442
written down	-342	
Cash at HSBC	2212	1733
Cash at Paypal	172	35
Cash in hand	162	250
	<u>2646</u>	<u>2460</u>
ACCUMULATED FUND		
Brought forward	2460	4978
Surplus/Deficit in Year	187	-2519
	<u>2647</u>	<u>2460</u>

* As the Severn Suite books are 10 years old and no sales have been received for the last three years their book value has been revised to £100 (100 at £1 each).