

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

1st Nov 2010 to 31st Oct 2011



Traditional Art Support in the Community (tasc)

Registered Charity 1042144



Introduction

Another year passing - and once again, as Chair of TASC, I can say it has been a rewarding and eventful one.

Some of the key projects we've undertaken have been the Community events, a personal favourite being the excellent Andy Cutting concert in Llandrindod Wells. And the ongoing workshops, training, and recording sessions have reflected the diversity of what we have to offer.

While the current climate of financial cutbacks has meant low attendance at some events, maybe reflecting personal difficulties from the Public, TASC has continued to flourish. Our Administrator and Artistic Director, Philip Freeman, has once again pulled out all the stops to keep us on track, and a huge debt of gratitude goes to him for his unwavering dedication, and constant enthusiasm and vision.

Our thanks also go to Powys County Council and the Arts Council of Wales, for their continuing support.

And finally, a personal thank you to all the TASC trustees, who turn out in all weathers, over many miles, for regular meetings and events - their support and encouragement are invaluable, and to all TASC members for supporting what we do, and giving us such positive feedback.

Linda Ward

Linda Ward
Chair

Cover Picture: Rising Generation Concert

AIMS

TASC aims to encourage individuals to become involved in traditional and tradition-based folk arts, and to support the use of traditional folk music, song and dance in 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; the better to ensure that nothing vital is lost in its continuing evolution. This matters less for the tradition's own sake - it has shown itself to be vigorous despite adversity - than for our own, and the richness it brings to our lives.



TASC's annual programme aims to provide a seasonal gathering, a small programme of events (perhaps two or three a year), workshops, and usually includes one more ambitious and experimental longer-term project.

Supplementary work has included developing new skills in sound engineering, production and performance as well as continual research and networking. The website is regularly updated with items of interest.

PROGRAMME OF WORK 2010-11

TASC's approach is fundamentally an experimental one and places an emphasis on collaborative working, social contexts and dialogue with leading tradition-bearers. Alongside that there is a programme of skills development, both artistically and organisationally.

- **Twelfth Night.** This annual event has been a staple of TASC's work for the last few years but the severe weather has made it necessary to abandon the event. A replacement event, possibly in spring or autumn, would be preferable. The importance of this event in the development of TASC in recent years is very strong and it leaves a significant gap in TASC's annual plans.
- **Folk Club.** A second series of Folk Club Events were held. In an attempt to focus the marketing they were two themed evenings.

AMERICAN EVENING with the Whiskey River Boys - November

WELSH EVENING with Cass Meurig, Niall Cain and Harriet Earis - December

The second of these events was supported by the Arts Council of Wales Night Out Scheme.

It had originally been planned to include three Folk Club events but the preparatory work for Folk Powys (see below) made this difficult to organise. There was also a decision made to include more high-profile artists, which resulted in the Andy Cutting concert in October (see below) and discussions with Luke Daniels regarding future collaborative work.

- **Folk Powys** During the end of 2010 and the early part of 2011 discussions took place with Powys Arts Service regarding a new project for involving young people in Folk Music. Support for a pilot project was received from the Music Strategy Implementation Fund working closely with schools music co-ordinator at Powys Helen Wilding-Smith.

A more fully-developed project was begun in Llandrindod Wells in late spring 2011 with support from Arts Council of Wales and



a second series of workshops were planned to take place in Beulah.

The Llandrindod Wells pilot project resulted in a **small informal concert** by participants for an invited audience of family and friends. TASC also provided a community ceilidh in which some of the participants were able to experience at first hand a full-blown ceilidh.

The Beulah series resulted in music being played at **Beulah Show** and a **Village Ceilidh** in October 2011 as part of the Beulah Music Festival.

To begin the Llandrindod Wells project a concert took place with members of the pilot project and with members of a youth folk band from the borders. This was the **Rising Generation Concert** (see front cover) which took place at the Powys Arts Building in September 2011.

While there was a number of useful outputs from this work, there is a feeling among the trustees that the right mix hasn't yet been found. The project will continue to evolve under the general title of **Grow Your Own Tradition** which is meant to indicate the importance of continuity, evolution and stability.



- Through the administrator, Philip Freeman, TASC continues to work with **Powys Arts Forum**, of which he is a trustee, and through them with Powys County Council's Arts Service, the Powys Regeneration Partnership and the Arts Council of Wales.

During October 2011 an initiative called Powys Arts Month took place across the county. To take advantage of this TASC staged a performance by **Andy Cutting**, one of the most respected folk musicians of today, and a winner of a BBC Folk on Two Award in 2011.

In line with the Folk Powys project's aim of encouraging young people support was provided by the young melodeon player Cohen Braithwhite-Kilcoyne.



- **TASC** delivered a series of two workshops during 2010-11, funded by the Arts Council of Wales and Powys County Council. The aim was to improve the effectiveness of workshop leaders.
 - **Making Your Workshops Work** was open to other disciplines to attend and focused on effective planning, using good marketing techniques and engagement of the participants. Tutors were Laurel Swift (associate artist, English Folk Dance & Song Society) , Rick Wilson (musician) and Blue MacAskill (visual artist and film-maker).
 - Ideas for Teaching Folk Music was more focused, as the name suggests, on how to encourage people to make folk music. Tutors were Ceri Rhys Matthews (producer, musician and promoter) and Kitty Greenwood (music teacher and leader of community band Ffonic).

- The Suitcase Studio was also used on various occasions during the year. It continues to provide a useful teaching facility but was also used
 - to record the voices of school children in Beguildy as part of an installation by Lois Hopwood for Powys Arts Month
 - to record community a capella group Sirens and edit, master and duplicate a CD of their work.

- TASC would like to thank the Community Enablement Support Fund at Powys County Council and the Arts Council of Wales for supporting this work.



STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

Trustees

The Trustees elected at the AGM in March 2010 were:

Linda Ward
Pete Damsell
Pam Knight
Philip Freeman
Kathleen Freeman
Rees Wesson

At the first meeting of the Management Committee Linda Ward was elected chair, Pete Damsell vice chair and Philip Freeman Administrator which carries with it the responsibilities of Treasurer and Artistic Director.

It had also been resolved by that meeting that the trustees hold office for a period of three years, but shall be eligible for re-election.

Therefore these Trustees were in office at the beginning of the period of this report.

At the AGM in July 2011 the longest-serving trustees, Linda Ward & Philip Freeman, stood down and were re-elected. Pam Knight did not stand for re-election. The Trustees in office at the end of this period were:

Linda Ward
Pete Damsell
Pam Knight
Philip Freeman
Kathleen Freeman
Rees Wesson
John Messenger

At the first meeting of the Management Committee Linda Ward was elected chair, Pete Damsell vice chair and Philip Freeman Administrator which carries with it the responsibilities of Treasurer and Artistic Director.

Administrator

The day to day running of TASC, along with financial management, members' newsletter and artistic direction is carried out by an Administrator who is appointed at the AGM each year. The Administrator is always one of the Trustees and so the appointment is carried out after the election of the trustees.

Meetings

Trustee meetings are held three or four times a year. In the current year they were held on Feb 2011, July 2011 and August 2011.

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 are carried out for all TASC events and projects.

Membership

Membership is open to all who support TASC's aims. Membership runs from 1st November each year, which coincides with the financial year. The annual fee is currently kept very low with correspondingly few benefits as the members engagement with TASC activities can vary significantly. The main benefit at the moment is discount on TASC publications.

Planning

TASC's programme of work is devised following consultation with its members. The last consultation was carried out in July 2009 following initial discussions at the AGM in March.

FINANCE

The accounts are to be found on the following pages. 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, and would allow it to continue operating if grant income dried up. The bank account is held at:-

HSBC
The Cross
Newtown
Powys
SY16 2LX



Ceilidh, Beulah Reading Room, Beulah Music Festival October 2011