

tasc

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Including Accounts 1st Nov 2015 to 31st Oct 2016



*Traditional Arts Support
in the Community (tasc)*

Registered Charity 10421444

FOREWORD



WE HAVE SEEN a year of varied activities, some carrying on from earlier successes and some totally original ideas, but that's what TASC does, of course.

In that once forgotten outpost which is Llandrindod Wells, more activity has been focused than for many a year. The Sunday afternoon session based in Arvon Ales bar is now one of the largest and liveliest sessions in mid Wales, and TASC have collaborated with the owners to run a number of workshops.

Llandrindod is also home to Powys Dance Centre where we ran rehearsals for the Severn Suite Reunion, held in Llandinam Village Hall in October. Tears were evident in the eyes of many of the participants, harking back to the original performance ten years ago with such fond memories. Or perhaps it was the fact that they were all ten years older and it hurt more to expend all that effort. John Kirkpatrick and Karen Tweed were on their usual sparkling form to lead the event and entertained the audience with their own solo concert spots. We are also very grateful to the Gwendoline & Margaret Davies Trust for their generous support of this project, both the original composition and the reunion.

Our old friend John Dipper put in an appearance in Montgomery with his new collaborator Dave Malkin, together making a class act. Monty Folk were in support and they continue to develop their own skills, and plans are on the table to do more with Amy Douglas around her storytelling.

Unfortunately the project with DiEnw to mark the opening of the Llanwrtyd Wells Heritage Centre didn't get off the ground, but you can't win them all.

The year ended with an award from the National Lottery to document the Dartmoor Step Dancing tradition. Why Dartmoor? One of Mid Wales' newer residents, Lisa Sture, hails from Dartmoor and had long felt the need for this work. TASC will maintain the overall project management. This could be the way forward for TASC, as a facilitating organisation to support individuals in their own enterprises.

Two significant factors are prompting the need for change. Firstly, Powys County Council are no longer in a position to offer financial support. Powys had been a long time supporter of our work and, although the decision came as no great surprise, it will have a significant impact on TASC. We would like to record our appreciation to PCC for all the help they have shown in the past. Secondly, as was announced at the AGM in April, Philip Freeman made his intention clear that he would step down as Artistic Director by the end of 2017. This was prompted to some extent by the news from Powys, but also as a result of that inevitable feeling that you've done it all before, and everything becomes harder work as the years advance. Everyone who has ever had anything to do with TASC owes a huge debt to the way Philip has helped keep folk music alive and kicking since the days of the Mid Wales Festival - amazing dedication to the cause.

As TASC moves forward its future will depend on the input of ideas and initiatives which the members wish to drive themselves, with help from the trustees, rather than the trustees creating the projects.

Over to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Damsell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PETE DAMSELL, CHAIR

REDUCING IN SIZE - BUT NOT IN AMBITION

FOLLOWING THE DISAPPEARANCE of the Powys County Council Community Enablement Fund in 2015, and the consequent loss of TASC's revenue funding, the organisation has been reviewing its future. The intention of Philip Freeman to stand down from his post as Director during 2017 has also prompted a re-think. Some of the options for the future were discussed at the Annual General Meeting in March 2016.

TASC remains committed to carrying out work of a high quality, but is seeking new ways for that to happen, with either a new Director/Administrator and an injection of fresh funds, or a more modest programme led by individuals in their communities with TASC advice, help and support. As far as possible the Trustees aim to keep both options open as the current work unfolds during 2017.

Despite the difficulties TASC has been working in five locations during 2016 and we expect that pattern to continue through 2017.

In addition work continues on-line via the website, newsletters and facebook, providing members with information both about TASC's work and selected events and projects. More general *What's On* information has been one of the first things to suffer from reduced staff time, but it is an area that is fairly well catered for and one in which social media can provide much more information than TASC can, though it does depend on knowing where to look.

LOCATIONS OF TASC ACTIVITIES

GARTH

HAVING BEEN PART of the FolkPowys project in 2009 DiEnw are now well established with a regular programme of events in the community. TASC's role in 2016 has been almost entirely limited to providing help in publicising what they do. Sarah Mason is the band's link to TASC who remain committed to try and assist the band in any areas where they feel the need for further development.

MONTGOMERY

THE MONTY FOLK GROUP is less established and lost half its number during 2016. At the same time it has supported a variety of activity in the area and it has a strong membership with outstanding skills. The outlook is promising but the challenge for 2017 will be to create a little more stability in the band while remaining open to change. The band's link to TASC, Claire Weston, is now a TASC trustee.

Activities have including:

- Hosting (with TASC) a song workshop with Sue Harris in November 2015.
- Performing for the Christmas Lights Concerts and Ceilidh in Montgomery
- Providing music for community and private events throughout the year
- Participating in a band workshop on arrangement led by renowned folk performer and composer

Karen Tweed

- Other band workshops - on guitar, harmony fiddle, and musical narrative - took place during the year.

- Working with TASC and ACW's *Night Out* Scheme a concert with leading folk performers John Dipper and Dave Malkin took place at the Town Hall for which Monty Folk provided support. This was followed by a workshop on accompaniment in Bettws Cedewain the following day.

- The band also worked with TASC and storyteller Amy Douglas on the Telling Tales Project, which introduced participants to oral storytelling techniques, leading to a Storytelling Picnic at Montgomery Castle in May



LLANDRINDOD WELLS

LLANDRINDOD WELLS HAS FEATURED REGULARLY in the TASC programme of activities, being the venue for an annual series of autumn dances and workshops exploring the European traditions.

Autumn 2016 saw a break from that programme in order to support the Severn Suite Project (see below: LLANDINAM) but there were a series of workshops on the Severn Suite dances that took place at Powys Dance.

A very welcome additional development in Llandrindod has been the remarkable success of the micro pub Arvon Ales. It now hosts regular folk sessions twice a month which TASC has helped to publicise. It has also been the venue for a number of workshops that TASC has devised:

- A tune workshop with Ceri Rhys Matthews, in autumn 2015, which provided the template for subsequent work
- Karen Tweed's session workshop took place in spring 2016
- In autumn 2016 a series of workshops were designed under the title *Sessions for the Hesitant* for those who lacked confidence or experience to join in. They were:
 - o Slow session tunes with Rees Wesson
 - o Song workshop with Susi Stockton-Link
 - o Open workshop with Pete Damsell & Philip Freeman
- There was also a Christmas tunes and songs session organized in conjunction with Arvon Ales.



LLANDINAM

IN 2006 TASC COMMISSIONED a new work from noted folk performers and composers John Kirkpatrick and Karen Tweed. This consisted of a series of dances and dance tunes known collectively as the Severn Suite and danced by a team of volunteer dancers. As 2016 was the 10th anniversary of the project it was decided to re-stage the dances with as many of the original dancers as possible and with live music from the composers. In addition we invited folk musicians to join in with the tunes, something that had not been possible the first time round through shortage of time.

In the event three local musicians were brave enough to tackle what are fairly challenging tunes, and just over half of the dancers were from the original 'cast'.



DARTMOOR

AS THOUGHTS TURN INCREASINGLY to remote working and on-line collaborations, opportunities arise for more remote collaborations. One such has been the devising of a research project on step dancing in Dartmoor. TASC was alerted to the need for this research by one of its members, Lisa Sture, a former Dartmoor champion step dancer.

The research will try to bring as much information together as possible about the tradition (including its social role and history), launch workshops and performances in schools and community venues, and



make information available via a new website for further study and enjoyment.

The final phase of the project will be to create a stakeholder group to develop and maintain further work.

STRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE

TRUSTEES

Trustees serve three years before standing for re-election. Claire Weston was elected at the 2016 AGM having been co-opted during 2015.

The Trustees during 2016 therefore were:-

Pete Damsell.

Claire Short.

Claire Weston

Philip Freeman.

Sarah Mason continues to provide liaison with DiEnw.

Pete Damsell was elected chair and Philip Freeman was appointed Administrator, but the title was changed to Director during the year as being more appropriate to the duties actually carried out.

MEETINGS

Trustee meetings were held in January, April, June, September and November during 2016 and in February 2017. The 2016 AGM took place at Llandinam Village Hall in April.

POLICIES

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.

During 2016 that was extended to include provision for assessing risks to young people being photographed at events. Risk assessment is usually carried out by Pete Damsell.

ADMINISTRATION

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

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all who support TASC's aims. The membership secretary's duties are carried out by Pete Damsell.

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 since each member's engagement with TASC activities can vary significantly.

ACCOUNTS

The accounts are to be found overleaf. The turnover falls below the level required by the Charity Commission for a full audit but regular independent inspection of the accounts takes place.

TASC had previously held a reserve of £2,000 to meet fluctuations in the financial climate. This proved impossible to maintain during 2015 and, after a discussion at the 2016 AGM, it was decided to use that reserve to maintain TASC's work and to plan for a reduced role in the years ahead. It was agreed that no compromise of quality should be made in attempting to maintain quantity.

The Administrator/Director agreed to work on a voluntary basis for as long as possible, but pointed out that he intended to step down from the post during 2017. This covers the administrative duties and Director function, but does not extend to any new externally funded projects where fees would be included within the overall budget.

The bank account is held at:-

HSBC
The Cross
Newtown
Powys
SY16 2LX



Photographs

- page 2 Amy Douglas storytelling workshop, Montgomery (photo: Philip Freeman)*
page 3 Severn Suite Rehearsal, Dance Centre, Llandrindod Wells (photo:Pete Damsell)
Severn Suite Final Rehearsal, Llandinam (photo:Claire Weston)
Dartmoor Step Dance Championship Judges, South Zeal (photo:Lisa Sture)
page 6 Musicians at Montgomery Castle (photo: Amy Douglas)

TASC Receipts & Payments Account
1st November 2015 to 31st October 2016
INCOME

	2015-16	2014-15
Events		
Twelfth Night		203
Day of Dance Nov 2014 <i>note 1</i>		93
Day of Dance Nov 2015	317.5	103
Severn Suite: Ten Years On	82.5	
Dipper /Malikin Concert	30	
Montgomery New Year Ceilidh	94	206
	<u>524</u>	<u>605</u>
Projects		
Tune Workshop	21	
Harmony Workshop	81	
Harmony Workshop coffee sales	32	
Guitar Workshops		1
	<u>134</u>	<u>1</u>
Sales		
Severn Suite	175	
Teaching DVDs	15	
	<u>190</u>	<u>0</u>
General Income		
Membership	122	90
Donations		10
	<u>122</u>	<u>100</u>
Grants		
PCC: Community Fund	2050	3000
Gwendolin & Margaret Davies Charity	1000	
Age Cymru	450	
	<u>3500</u>	<u>3000</u>

TOTAL **4470** **3706**

Surplus/Deficit on Year

254
EXPENDITURE

	2015-16	2014-15
Events		
Twelfth Night		415
Day of Dance Nov 2014	35	395
Day of Dance Nov 2015	737	
Dipper/Malikin Concert	228	
Severn Suite: Ten Years On	141.66	
Montgomery New Year Ceilidh	18.32	133
	<u>1160</u>	<u>943</u>
Projects		
Workshop Leader Fees	770	
Workshop Costs	86	
Workshop Refreshments	30	
Storytelling Project	351	
Workshops		11
Folk Powys/DiEnw	16	60
Montgomery Project	76	206
	<u>1330</u>	<u>277</u>
Capacity Building		
Source Books	30	
Research & Training		
	<u>30</u>	<u>0</u>
General Expenditure		
Marketing	120	210
Commission on sales	13	17
Website	24	24
Affiliation Fees	72	70
Insurance	52	50
Meeting Costs		57
Misc	107	8
	<u>388</u>	<u>436</u>
Admin		
Postage	27	
Stationery		
Volunteer Expenses	36	57
Trustee Expenses	720	375
Administrator Fees <i>note 2</i>	500	900
Administrator Expenses	28	188
	<u>1310</u>	<u>1520</u>

TOTAL **4218** **3176**

252

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) The Administrator Fees have been waived following the withdrawal of Powys Community Grant. It doesn't represent less activity.
- 3) As agreed at the 2016 AGM the reserves have been drastically reduced to maintain a full programme in the light of funding cuts.

TOTAL FUNDS
31st October 2015

Balance at HSBC	2450
Paypal Account	136
Cash in Hand	214
	<u>2800</u>

FUNDS AVAILABLE
31st October 2015

Unrestricted Funds	2300
Restricted Funds	
Reserves <i>note 3</i>	500
	<u>2800</u>

Balance Sheet **As at 31st October 2016**

	2016	2015
FIXED ASSETS		
Original Cost		
Less Depreciation	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock*	25	100
Cash at HSBC	2450	2212
Cash at Paypal	136	172
Cash in hand	214	162
	<u>2825</u>	<u>2646</u>
ACCUMULATED FUND		
Brought forward	2646	2459
Stock Revalued	25	-342
Surplus/Deficit in Year	254	529
	<u>2925</u>	<u>2646</u>

* This is the value of 25 copies remaining @ £1 each

