



**traditional arts support in the community ♦ cefnogaeth i'r  
celfyddydau traddodiadol yn y gymuned  
www.tradartsupport.org.uk ♦ admin@tradartssupport.org.uk  
registered charity 1042144**

# Annual Report 2021

Covering activity from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 to 30th October 2020

## *Foreword*

They say it is not the survival of the fittest, but the survival of the most adaptable, and through this year's lockdowns, lack of sessions, festivals and other gatherings, the will to continue with the things we love was strong and showed both adaption and creativity. Distanced singers were made into choirs again via clever software, musicians founded groups where they could post to inspire others or to show off the new tune their new-found time had gifted them, dancers found classes had gone online and that you could do a strange kind of ceilidh dancing to a caller and musician online. Who would have thought 'online ceilidhs' could have been a thing!

I hope to meet you at an event this year!

So, here's to a happier, more sociable and more musical 2021!

Lisa Sture  
Chair – TASC  
March 2021

# *Activities*

## Twelfth Night Celebration and Ceilidh

We were delighted to be able to bring back, due to popular demand, the Twelfth Night Celebration and Ceilidh, at St Llonio's Church, and the Village Hall, Llandinam, on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Thanks to all who came to this atmospheric and fun event! Thanks also to Jac Newey for videoing the highlights – click [here](#) to see them.

There were songs and tunes in the Church from Lydia Bassett, Geoff Beilby, Denice Januzens of Monty Folk, Lisa Sture and John Hextall, and the ceilidh band. The Mari Llwyd also made an appearance. Back in the hall, a wonderful bring and share supper was enjoyed, traditional cake and punch made by members of the Village Hall committee, was consumed. A lively ceilidh followed, with callers, Alexa Farley and Lisa Sture. The band members were: Graham Brand, Pete Damsell, Cornelius Eger and Rees Wesson.

The revellers were also treated to a displays of step dancing from Raise the Dust, Appalachian step dancers, and Lisa Sture, champion Dartmoor step dancer.

## The Seven Stars Steady Session

Since March 2020 the Steady Session has had to be cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic. With the easing of 'lockdown' in the late summer we were able to hold one outdoor session at one of the sessioner's farm in Rhulen – thank you Richard! There were 6 musicians and an audience of 4, including Richard's neighbours! The weather was kind and it was lovely to play the tunes together again. We will be restarting the sessions just as soon as it is allowed and safe to do so.

## Workshops

Planned workshops on harmony singing, harmonica, and Welsh clog dancing sadly all had to be postponed due to pandemic. But here is a glimpse of how the trustees have been involved in traditional arts during the last 9 months:

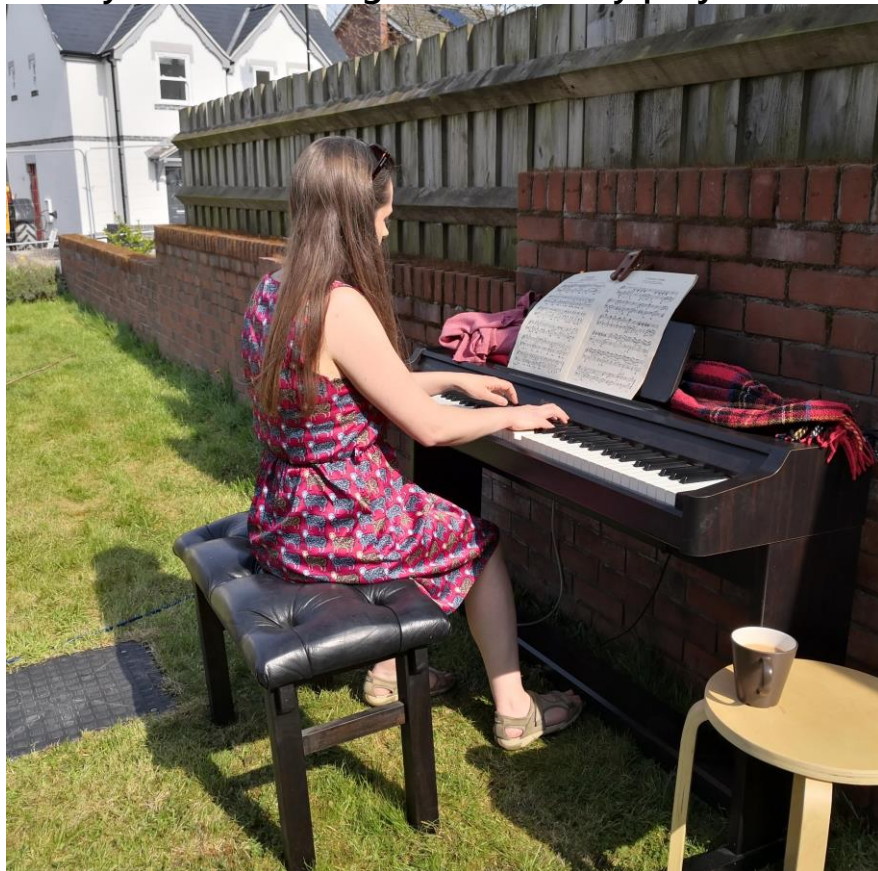
### Claire

It would be easy to focus on the music playing that I have missed over the last year, but there have been some opportunities to play and collaborate in different ways, mostly in contributing to community projects.

In the spring, I played my piano out on front lawn, joined in Over Rainbow on the from my doorstep, and played whistle the back garden for a community Amazing Grace Easter.

Some members Monty Folk managed to gather on two

occasions in the autumn; once on a very warm September day for a session of Welsh tunes in Adam's garden, and once on a very chilly November day to record some Christmas tunes at Montgomery Castle.



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Our music featured on Montgomery's Building Bridges video, celebrating links with Hungary through the poet János Arany; the town's online advent calendar, a project led by our young flautist Catrin to help bring the community together; and the Town Council's New Year's Eve video for residents and friends and family further afield.

Recording separately and assembling tracks is not the same, but it will have to do for now. I have learned more about video and audio editing during this time, and have been glad to be able to provide some sense of community through music even though from a distance.

I have been able to "attend" festivals and concerts from my garden and sofa including the fantastic Folk on Foot festivals and concerts including Bellowhead, Jacob & Drinkwater and Granny's Attic. I very much enjoyed the YTV show by The Young'uns which managed to be all of interesting, informative, entertaining, clever and hilarious at the same time.

My husband Mark started learning melodeon using TASC's instrument a couple of years ago, and used the lockdown period to progress his playing, making the most of online resources from players and teachers such as Daddy Long Les (Les Titford), Mel Biggs and John Spiers. I have also been teaching piano to our two 8-year-olds. It was fantastic to be able to play

together and record some Christmas tunes for family and friends we were not able to see this year.

What a great thing we have gained this year in being able to play music together as a family now. And I hope to be able to do the same with my wider folk music family again before too long.

Louise

I have found no shortage of opportunities to take part in folk music this last 9 months, despite the pandemic. Even too much choice as time has gone on and artists and groups have grasped the on-line opportunities and made much available to people from far and wide – could this be something we can make use of in TASC? I have much enjoyed Kitty Greenwood's Wildwood Folk Play It By Ear sessions on Zoom most Wednesday evenings, this has kept me playing with the group (although I can't hear them sadly), familiar and favourite tunes, and also learning new ones. I have also been having some individual Old Time fiddle lessons on-line, from Gabrielle Macrae, who is based in Oregon, it's been fun and works pretty much as well as being in the same room. I really enjoyed Bellowhead's on-line reunion gig, I have discovered wonderful bands on the Quarantine Happy Hour group on Facebook, and enjoyed watching John Spiers' brilliant Isolation Pub Sessions also on Facebook. Even so, I'm so looking forward to live events being able to resume again, hopefully later this year.

Kay & Trevor

We too have been able to keep busy, with lots of music going on despite the challenges of various lockdowns and restrictions.

Once over the shock of most of our plans for 2020 coming to a shuddering halt in March, including the cancellation of every one of our group Rapsquillion's bookings, we looked to take on-line as much of the work we were doing as possible:

'Georgians in Stone' - The project's main aim is to conserve eleven Grade II listed Georgian tombs in the churchyard of St John the Baptist in Bishop's Castle. Amongst other events, there was due to be a celebration in the churchyard, including the performance of a number of songs written and arranged by John Kirkpatrick. Although the event couldn't go ahead we



decided to put a group of singers together to learn some of the music using the Zoom platform. We learnt four new songs from scratch and in one of those little breaks when the rules were relaxed slightly, enjoyed a socially-distanced get-together in a large garden where the songs were heard for the first time being sung collectively.

There are plans afoot to revive the project in 2021 with the hope of the rearranged event going ahead in some form in May.

Castle Carols - Practice for the third season of Castle Carols, the revival of 'Village Carols' from the Marches area, supported by TASC, was set to start at the end of October. Careful risk assessment and planning meant that two groups of 25 could meet in alternate weeks to rehearse the twenty or so songs already in the repertoire and learn another four, with the aim of 'singing out' throughout December. Unfortunately, two days before the first get-together, the second lockdown was announced. Using the experience gained with the 'Georgians in Stone' project, the whole season went on-line, enabling people from much wider afield than normal to join in, from Italy, Germany, Spain, the US, and all over the UK, with over 60 participants at the 'big sing' on Boxing Day.

On-line concerts - We were pleased to be asked to help facilitate on-line concerts for TASC's great friend and supporter John Kirkpatrick (now MBE - congratulations John!). We've been part of a team which has now helped organize five such gigs, the last one, an anthology of Morris tunes, attracting an audience of well over a hundred.

Dance - In common with every other dance side, Shropshire Bedlams and Martha Rhoden's Tuppenny Dish were unable to dance at all in 2020. We have all kept in touch throughout the year using various social media platforms and have enjoyed on-line quizzes and the occasional virtual party (including their traditional Burns Night effort). We also contributed to Shropshire Folk Festival's Virtual Morris Party, with members recording themselves dancing individually to a pre-recorded tune with some very clever editing resulting in an excellent (and rare) joint dance including members from both sides.

Shrewsbury Folk Festival was inevitably cancelled. However, 'Virtual SFF' was held over the usual weekend instead. Our dance sides Shropshire Bedlams and Martha Rhoden's Tuppenny Dish contributed to the Morris Party, while Rapsquillion organised and played in a recorded singaround session, which was played throughout the weekend.

Lisa

Personally, I managed to teach step dancing via my iPad on Zoom, and one of my students won the first Dartmoor Folk Festival online step dance competition. Well done Mark Cotgrove! It was a hotly-fought competition, watched across the world, and the winner was only decided after a fourth-step dance off!

Unfortunately, the TRAD music session that I host each first Thursday in Caerhowel was a victim that didn't rise. Playing music together even online has been very difficult due to a technicality called 'latency'. The person who solves this will make the world a happier place.

In November 2019 I spoke at the first international conference on stepdancing, where some very interesting papers were delivered by academics from UK, Ireland, US, Canada and Australia. The Instep Research team, of which I am a member, envisioned the event and were partnered by the EFDSS and the Historical Dance Society in the steps to make it happen. Most of the presentations were in the form of academic papers being presented by university lecturers and a PhD student. Simon Harmer, who has played a key role in spreading what has come to be known as 'Southern Stepdancing', presented his in-depth research into the Sailor's Hornpipe and the choreography that developed from it. I presented a PowerPoint presentation on Devon Stepdancing history, practice and ways to look to the future. In 2020 the organisers announced they were going to create a conference proceedings document. This meant that I had to convert my PowerPoint into a paper! So many weeks were spent ensuring every detail was correct and backed up by references. I am very glad I spent the time to do it. The extra research involved to ensure accuracy in every point meant that I learnt a lot more and researched areas that I would not have otherwise (the history of tap dancing, the link between step dancing and boxing, the historical status of clog dancing in Devon, the history of Dancing Masters in Devon).

The pdf version will be available to download for free and a printed version for a fee. When published, you will be notified in the TASC newsletter.



Trevor, Claire, Kay, and Louise at a TASC Trustees meeting by Zoom.



## *Structure and Governance*

Trustees serve three years before standing for re-election.

At the AGM in April 2020, Pete Damsell stood down as trustee and Chair.

TASC extends its thanks to him for his services over the years.

Trustee Lisa Sture was re-elected. Existing trustees Claire Weston, Kay Hedges, Trevor Hedges and Louise Williams remained in post.

It was agreed that the position of chair would be elected at the next trustees' meeting.

## *Meetings*

The AGM was held on-line via Zoom on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020.

Lisa Sture was elected as chair at the next trustees meeting in 2020, with Claire Weston remaining as treasurer.

## *Policies*

Induction training is provided for new trustees and Governance training is offered on an ongoing basis.

The Constitution forms the basis of governance and policies are operated for guidance in the following areas:

- Equality and Inclusion
- Welsh Language
- Safeguarding
- Recruitment of People with a Criminal Record
- GDPR
- Procurement Policy
- Project Development Protocol

In addition risk assessments and a Health and Safety Plan are produced for all events open to the public

## *Administration*

The day to day running of TASC, along with financial management, e-news, website updates and artistic direction are shared between the trustees and co-ordinated by the Chair.

## *Membership*

Membership is open to all who support TASC's aims, group membership is also available.

The annual membership period runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## *Accounts*

The annual accounts for 2019/20 are shown below. The turnover of the organisation falls below the threshold dictated by the Charity Commission for a full audit, but a regular inspection of the accounts takes place by a qualified person.

The Bank Account is held at

HSBC  
The Cross  
Newtown  
SY16 2LS

**TASC Receipts & Payments Account**

**1st November 2019 to 31st October 2020**

**INCOME**

	2019-20	2018-19
<b>Events</b>		
Twelfth Night (door)Twelfth Night	230.00	
	<u>230.00</u>	0.00

**Sales**

Severn Suite	12.50	
	<u>12.50</u>	0.00

**General Income**

Membership	110.00	75.00
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Donations (TASC)  
Donations (Taking Steps)

110.00 75.00

**Grants**

Davies Family	750.00	
SeedAdministrator Fees	<u>174.86</u>	<u>70.00</u>
	924.86	70.00

**TOTAL** 1277.36 145.00

Surplus/Deficit on Year **676.90 34.94**

**TOTAL FUNDS**

**31st October 2020**

Balance at HSBC	935.56
Paypal Account	177.57
	<u>62.88</u>
Cash in Hand	<b><u>1176.01</u></b>

**EXPENDITURE**

	2019-20	2018-19
<b>Events</b>		
Night	301.65	
	<u>301.65</u>	0.00

**General Expenditure**

Commission on sales	6.09	4.06
Website and email	119.98	30.00
Affiliation Fees	79.00	76.00
Insurance	88.64	
Postage	5.10	

298.81 110.06

**Admin**

Trustee Expenses	0.00	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	0.00	0.00

**TOTAL** 600.46 110.06

**FUNDS AVAILABLE**

**31st October 2020**

Unrestricted Funds	926.01
Restricted Funds	
	<u>250.00</u>
Reserves	<b><u>1176.01</u></b>

**Balance Sheet**

**As at 31st October**

	2020	2019
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Original Cost		
Less Depreciation		<u>0.00</u>
	<u>0.00</u>	
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Stock	50.00	50.00
Cash at HSBC	935.56	375.07
Cash at Paypal	177.57	91.16
Cash in hand	62.88	32.88
	<u>1,226.01</u>	<u>549.11</u>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>		
Brought forward	549.11	514.17
Stock Movement	0.00	0.00
Surplus/Deficit in Year	676.90	34.94
	1,226.01	<u>549.11</u>

Note: insurance

Equipment insurance during the 2018-19 financial year was paid by PD and reimbursed in the 2019-20 financial year. This means two years' insurance payments are seen in 2019-20.

Note: reserves

Since the 2016 AGM, reserves have been reduced to permit funds to be spent in light of funding cuts. The reserve of £250 reflects the insurance excess, as agreed by the trustees in December 2017.

Note: administrator fees

Administrator Fees have been waived since the withdrawal of Powys Community Grant. There is not currently an appointed Administrator.