

tasc

traditional arts support in the community • celfyddydol traddodiadol yn y gymuned
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Annual Report 2021

Covering activity from 1st November 2020 to 30th October 2021

Foreword

Hooray! Thanks to medical science and the covid vaccination programme we are seeing and feeling some light at the end of a 2 year tunnel of distancing and sadness. In the folk world, festivals, gigs, concerts and ceilidhs are happening again, choirs are singing again, dance groups meeting again, music sessions getting going again. Our own Steady Session at the Seven Stars Inn, Aberedw started up again in October 2021 – details on the website.

TASC trustees are developing plans for some 'in person' events this year – so watch this space on our soon to be spruced-up website.

I am also delighted to tell you that TASC's longtime supporter and friend, John Kirkpatrick, has very kindly agreed to be TASC's official Patron! We are hoping to arrange an event in the summer to celebrate this.

Looking forward to seeing you this year!

Louise Williams
Chair – TASC
March 2022

Message from our Patron, John Kirkpatrick

Although I have the audacity to live the wrong side of the border - by almost half a mile - I have always been very much aware of the work of TASC in Mid Wales, and have the greatest respect for the dynamic vision of its founder Philip Freeman. As well as appearing in various capacities at the Newtown Folk Festival that he ran for a while, which preceded the formation of TASC, over the years he got me involved in sundry workshop sessions and concert spots for the organisation. Above all, of course, he dreamed up the idea for The Severn Suite, a glorious collaboration with Karen Tweed and myself and a wonderfully ad hoc group of local dancers and musicians. So I am thrilled now to be invited to become patron of TASC in its new invigorated form, and look forward to taking part in many more exciting projects and events in the years to come.

John Kirkpatrick

JOHN KIRKPATRICK MBE – Biog

John is one of the most prolific figures on the English folk scene, performing solo, in duos, acoustic groups and electric bands, and has established an enviable reputation as an instrumental virtuoso and session musician, as well as a leading interpreter of English folk music. He has been a member of the Albion Country Band, Magic Lantern, The Richard Thompson Band, Umps and Dumps, Steeleye Span, Brass Monkey, Trans-Europe Diatonique, and Band of Hope, as well as numerous ceilidh bands.

John has contributed music, song, and dance to a great number of plays in the theatre, and also to radio, television, and film - his squeezeboxes can be heard on hundreds of recordings, and as a creator of new work in all these fields he is well known. But at his own live gigs you're more likely to see him in his natural habitat pursuing his first love - traditional English music and song.

He has been awarded the English Folk Dance and Song Society's Gold Badge for his outstanding contribution to English Folk Music, in 2010 he was BBC

Folk Awards Musician of the Year and, in the 2021 New Year Honours, John was awarded an MBE for services to folk music.

He is still an unrelentingly enthusiastic Morris dancer, and still dances with The Shropshire Bedlams, the team he founded in the 1970s which went on to become one of the most influential in the country. And he still finds time to play for dancing, currently in a band with all four of his sons – Kirkophany. John has lived just over the border in Shropshire since 1973 and has been an avid supporter of TASC. In 2006 he was commissioned by the organisation, with Karen Tweed, to create fifteen new country dances and tunes – The Severn Suite. A book of the tunes, dances, and background was published by TASC in autumn 2006. It also contains a CD of the tunes played by John & Karen that can be used to dance the piece when no live musicians are available. The project was revisited in 2016 with many of the original dancers.

We look forward to John's involvement with TASC – we know his advice will be inspirational in developing the organisation's role in traditional music and dance.

Activities

Although TASC has not been able to put on any events this last year. We have been promoting events through our facebook page and our website. Here is a glimpse of how the trustees have been involved in traditional arts in the time covered by this report...

Claire

[Monty Folk](#)

In November 2020, Monty Folk managed to convene quickly in their hats and fingerless gloves at a cold Montgomery Castle to record a couple of Christmas tunes to contribute to teenager Catrin McDougal's virtual advent calendar for the town.



The online Advent Calendar saw a different short film each day being viewed by local residents and friends across the world. The content included readings, dances, festive music, short dramas, bell ringing, crafts and an explanation of Hanukkah; as well as contributions from the school in English and Welsh, and Montgomery's youngest contributors at pre-school, who danced and sang enthusiastically to Jingle Bells. Catrin hoped to bring the community together when they had to be apart at Christmas, and explained, "The idea was inspired by the live advent calendar two years before, when many people from all over the town and surrounding area came together to celebrate the countdown to Christmas each night." Anwen, living in Malta, said, "I missed visiting this year so great to be able to share in a little bit of Monty cheer." Montgomery resident Doreen Eaton commented a few days in, "Such a great idea. Look forward to opening them every day, it really cheers me up. Well done all."

While the early part of 2021 saw further lockdown restrictions and the band were not able to play together in person, they continued their community bridge-building efforts virtually by rising to a challenge from opera singer and founder member and Chair of the Welsh Hungarian Cultural Association, Elizabeth Sillo. Monty Folk created their own recording of a favourite Hungarian spring folk song, 'Tavaszi szél vizet áraszt'. (Available on the YouTube channel via tinyurl.com/MontyCCC.) Each band member recorded themselves on their phones and laptops at home, and then Claire

edited them together, and Catrin made a video of Montgomery photos to go with it. Elizabeth sent voice recordings to Lydia so she could sing the track in Hungarian. Lydia said, "I was very nervous singing in Hungarian, but I am glad we accepted the challenge and we really enjoyed learning and playing the song. When we saw the lovely messages the people of Hungary sent to Wales for St David's Day we wanted to reply with a message marking their national day. Tavaszi szél is a very special song to the people of Hungary, very much about the coming of Spring, and it felt a lovely way to send a message from Montgomery to help with their celebrations."

In July 2021, four of the band got together for a bit of a garden gathering with visitors from Magyar Cymru. It was lovely to meet violinists Dorothy and Helene and share a few tunes.



It was autumn 2021 when Monty Folk were finally able to play together regularly again, thanks to a kind offer from Geoff to host

them. Five members of Monty Folk were then delighted to play for Montgomery Walking Festival's festival supper in October 2021 and had a great time at this, their first "real gig" since covid restrictions began. Jill from Walkers are Welcome Montgomery said, "No event complete without Monty Folk... in fine harmony despite the long months of not being able to play together. A great addition to the Walking Festival Supper once again with a fine selection of Welsh and other tunes. Thank you Monty Folk, a real treat to hear you live again." It was a lovely evening and a fantastic festival. And then the band moved into Christmas mode, digging out Christmas tunes old and new, from near and far, and that is where we leave them for this year...



Monty Folk at Montgomery Town Hall March 2022

Louise

The Seven Stars Steady Session

In the August 2021, we held another outdoor session at one of the sessioner Richard's farm in Rhulen – thank you again Richard! There were 7 musicians and an audience of Richard's two turkeys! The weather was kind and it was lovely to play the tunes together again.



October 2021 Seven Stars Steady Session, Aberedw.

Trevor and Kay

The 'Georgians in Stone' project.

In 2021 TASC was asked to provide technical and hosting support to the organisers of Bishops Castle's 'Georgians in Stone' project.

'Georgians in Stone' was developed by the Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist Church, and was organised by Caring for God's Acre – caringforgodsacre.org.uk – with support from South West Shropshire Historical and Archaeological Society (SWSHAS) and Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre (BCHRS).

The project, which revolved around the restoration of a number of tombstones in the churchyard of St John's, Bishops Castle, also involved a host of community activities to help people find out more about Georgian Bishop's Castle. The two main events, because of the restrictions brought about by the COVID19 pandemic, were delivered on line using the Zoom platform, with TASC volunteers organising the technical input and hosting the virtual delivery.

The first, held in March 2021, was a 'Georgian History Day' with presentations by a number of distinguished experts. Susan Cooper MBE, founder of Caring for God's Acre, talked about the flora and fauna to be found in the churchyard, Prof Harold Mytum, of Liverpool University, spoke about the history and importance of graveyard memorials, David Preshous OBE, President of SWSHAS, made a presentation about Georgian Politics and Rotten Boroughs and Gareth Williams MA, Curator of the Weston Park Foundation, spoke about Shropshire's unlikely links with the slave trade and abolition movements.

The second, which took place in May 2021, was a 'Celebration Day' which brought together music groups, dancers, businesses and craftspeople to mark the end of the 'Georgians in Stone' project. TASC patron John Kirkpatrick MBE was commissioned to contribute a number of songs which were performed by him together with a group of singers gathered together on line. The elements of the celebration programme can be found on the [BCHRC YouTube channel](#).

In total, around 300 people attended one or other of the events. TASC was very happy to be part of such an inspiring couple of days of activity.

Jon

As this is my first trustee's contribution to a TASC annual report and as Welsh Covid-19 rules have pretty much ruled out any traditional music activity, maybe this is more of an introduction. I mainly sing and accompany myself on Anglo concertina. Mostly traditional songs (with a nautical slant) but a few songs of my own. I've been using lockdown to try to get to grips with the hammered dulcimer. I've managed very few public outings, I'm afraid – with Rapsquillion at Festival at the Edge and some informal musical evenings in the bar aboard SV Tenacious, the Jubilee Sailing Trust's barque. There is talk of Gwerin Aberystwyth Folk coming out of lockdown, so hopefully more this year!

Structure and Governance

Trustees serve three years before standing for re-election.

At the trustees' meeting of 23rd March 2021, Lisa Sture stood down as Chair. TASC extends its thanks to her for her leadership for the previous year. We are very happy to say that Lisa is continuing to support TASC as a trustee. Existing trustees Claire Weston, Kay Hedges, Trevor Hedges and Louise Williams remained in post, with Louise elected as Chair and Kay as Vice-Chair. We are also delighted to have welcomed two new trustees - Sue Jelleyman and Jon Bell.

Meetings

The AGM 2021 was held online via Zoom on the 16th March.

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 1st April to 31st March.

Accounts

The annual accounts for 2020/21 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 currently held at

HSBC
The Cross
Newtown
SY16 2LS

TASC Receipts & Payments Account**1st November 2020 to 31st October 2021****INCOME**

	2020-21	2019-20
Events		
Twelfth Night (door)		230.00
Georgians in Stone	1047.00	
	<u>1047.00</u>	<u>230.00</u>
Sales / services		
Severn Suite	12.50	12.50
	<u>12.50</u>	<u>12.50</u>
General Income		
Membership	100.00	110.00
Donations		
	<u>100.00</u>	<u>110.00</u>
Grants		
Davies Family		750.00
Seed		174.86
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>924.86</u>
TOTAL	1159.50	1277.36

EXPENDITURE

	2020-21	2019-20
Events		
Twelfth Night		301.65
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>301.65</u>
General Expenditure		
Commission on sales	5.72	6.09
Website and email	72.00	119.98
Affiliation Fees	81.00	79.00
Insurance	44.32	88.64
Postage		5.10
	<u>203.04</u>	<u>298.81</u>
Admin		
Trustee Expenses	0.00	0.00
Adminstrator Fees	0.00	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL	203.04	600.46

Surplus/Deficit on Year **956.46** **676.90****TOTAL FUNDS
31st October 2021**

Balance at HSBC	1805.24
Paypal Account	264.35
Cash in Hand	62.88
	<u>2132.47</u>

**FUNDS AVAILABLE
31st October 2021**

Unrestricted Funds	1882.47
Restricted Funds	
Reserves	250.00
	<u>2132.47</u>

Balance Sheet

As at 31st October	2021	2020
FIXED ASSETS		
Original Cost		
Less Depreciation	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock	50.00	50.00
Cash at HSBC	1805.24	935.56
Cash at Paypal	264.35	177.57
Cash in hand	62.88	62.88
	<u>2182.47</u>	<u>1226.01</u>
ACCUMULATED FUND		
Brought forward	1226.01	549.11
Stock Movement	0.00	0.00
Surplus/Deficit in Year	956.46	676.90
	<u>2182.47</u>	<u>1226.01</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: website and email costs

Domain registration is paid every two years, so alternate years incur higher website costs. Hosting is paid monthly and is therefore the same each year (until any future change in rate from the company).

Note: reserves

Since the 2016 AGM, reserves have been reduced to permit funds to be spent on TASC's programme 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.