

2015 Survey Findings

- TASC carried out an on-line survey during July 2015. Those responding were largely TASC members, or former members, but not entirely. The survey was open to anyone who visited the TASC website.
- There were 26 responses in all:
 - 77% of respondents play instruments and 62% sing. These were the two highest categories, though the same number (62%) said they enjoyed watching and listening to different styles of performance.
 - 54% were interested in dancing.
 - As we might expect of the folk world the technical side – sound & video recording and editing – scored the lowest (12%).
 - In the 20-30% range were interests in songwriting (19%), music theory (23%) and storytelling/folklore (27%). This could possibly be read as a quarter of respondents wanted to develop their creative as well as interpretive skills, and that more or less the same number were interested in the wider world of tradition.
 - Four respondents completed the other box but only two widened the scope: one mentioned folk music journalism, organising & collecting; the other was suggesting collaboration with TASC but no details were given.
- The skill level seemed to be intermediate, and it seemed that most respondents were either rusty, perhaps having played at school and neglected it since, or unfamiliar with the folk idiom. In both cases it seemed that stimulus and encouragement were wanted to develop confidence, as much as develop skills.
- To some extent that was borne out by learning styles preferences. Most wanted to work with others, and the least preferred options were working from sheet music or on-line instructions.
- The same picture emerged from the later question about potential projects. The only one that there was unanimous support for was the Skillshare Day. The Folk Camp was largely approved of, but there were some doubters, possibly with experience of camps that they had not enjoyed?
- The immediate projects in the pipeline (Question 4) showed the strongest support for storytelling and creating/reviving traditions. Of the other projects the guitar workshop came out the strongest and the flute the weakest, possibly reflecting how many people play those instruments.
- Of previous TASC projects the most popular seem to be Twelfth Night and the Garth Play, Lost, Missing or Stolen. Taken with the 'creative' impulse mentioned above, perhaps this indicates that people like the idea of using or seeing the skills in performance, as well as in social music-making.