



Plans for 2008-9

Background

In recent years TASC has had three strands of project development:

- Creating seasonal events, which grew out of evenings that mixed music, dance & song in a traditional 'kitchen party' manner (funded in part through *Night Out* scheme)
- Recording music in traditional settings (the *Strengthening the Tradition* project) which also developed in-house skills that were subsequently used to create teaching materials
- Adding to the tradition e.g. by PRSF/ACW funded composition *The Severn Suite* and launched as part of the *Second Seed* weekend.

This has been in addition to a regular series of teaching and outreach in music, song and dance. Part of the teaching has focused on collaborative team-work e.g. The Llandinam Village band, and the Severn Suite dancers.

BEYOND THE SEVERN

Performances

Twelfth Night 2008 mixed together many individual groups – Sirens (local a capella singing group). Klezmonauts Klezmer band (from Llanidloes) Llandinam Village Band, Wild Angels Community Choir and Montgomeryshire Youth Theatre. It also involved close co-operation with St Idloes Church, the Village Hall and the Llandinam Playgroup who acted as hosts.

It is proposed to explore future possibilities of this approach by creating two productions:

- **Twelfth Night 2009** which integrates the different groups by more rehearsal and planning together. This will be preceded by preparatory work which will be led by Philip Freeman¹ and mentored by Ginny Graham of Montgomeryshire Youth Theatre.
- **Summer Production 2009** will build upon the Twelfth Night experience, involve some co-operation with the Youth Theatre (nature and extent yet to be decided) and will invite further co-operation with neighbouring drama groups as appropriate. This will, however, be a piece of folk theatre, and will be different in approach and style from a Community Play.

We are also in close touch with Dr Rhian Davies, Festival Director at Gregynog, who is undertaking research of her own into the early years of the festival. The Davies family is, of course, a very important part of the history of Llandinam. We are also in touch with Jeremy Pryce, local historian and former blacksmith, who wrote *Llandinam, a Glimpse of the Past*.

Easter Concert 2009 would bring together the groups TASC are already working with plus others. It would be closer to Twelfth Night 2008 in that groups would plan their own content. In addition, however, TASC would work with the groups to record two songs/pieces each which would then be available to buy, or for the groups to use as a sampler.

This project grew out of trying to address the problem of viability for many of the small groups who work on a semi-professional basis. They are a valuable part of the community and often perform for little or no money, but they still have overheads to meet.

We feel a sampler would help, since each group that hands out examples of their own work would be handing out examples of the work of others. It is hoped that this would help them to work collectively in other ways, which TASC might or might not facilitate.

A musical director or directors to help the groups with studio techniques and TASC volunteers would do the recordings.

SEVERN SUITE ON TOUR

Outreach

A Severn Suite outreach programme, taking our new dances and tunes to various dance clubs for an evening, with dance teachers and a small group of musicians. This is by way of a pilot scheme to iron out the way it might work. Possibilities for the future (autumn 2009 onwards) might include bookings at festivals or part of an evening that includes the groups taking part in the Easter Concert. Beyond this project TASC would hope that it could develop a flexible roadshow that could go to various venues and present an evening of folk culture. It might involve part performance and part social dance, work as part of a village fete, take place in a pub or on a village green, be taken to schools, Young Farmers Clubs or Womens Institutes.

The groups themselves would attract more members, perform more often in their community, and make more contacts through being part of the roadshow.

SEVERN SEASONS

Oral History

We will begin a modest exploration into the history of the area by making sound recordings. In particular we want to find out more about the rhythms of the year, and about local customs. The first step, however, will be trying to build a picture from reminiscences of the older members of the community.

TASC trustees have already attended a course in oral history at St. Fagan's: National History Museum, and have discussed with Powys Library Service future storage and usage of material.

SUITCASE STUDIO

Recording in the Community

As well as recordings for the oral history project, TASC will continue making recordings of music and events in the community using its portable Suitcase Studio.

TASC is always looking for project partners, volunteers and ideas. If you want to get involved you can contact us by post, telephone or e-mail.

*For more information on any of the above 01686 688102
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www.tradartsupport.org.uk

ⁱ Philip Freeman has had some experience as a director having been commissioned by **Newcastle Upon Tyne City Festival** to create a play - *Ragnarok* - while still a student. This followed his very successful street theatre and workshop work. Since moving to Wales he has been occupied more with folk music, though he did launch two drama groups, one in Llanidloes and one in Llandinam and has led workshops both at Llanidloes High School and for Mid Powys Youth Theatre and has directed for Trefeglwys YFC as well as for Llanidloes Drama Group. This has all been spread over a very long period, however, and he is rather out of practice, which is why mentoring has been proposed.