

***tasc***

Annual Report 2019

Covering activity from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018



“Prosiectau Cerdd Gwerin  
Folk Music Projects”

Traditional Arts Support in the Community (TASC)

Registered Charity 10421444

<http://www.tradartsupport.org.uk>

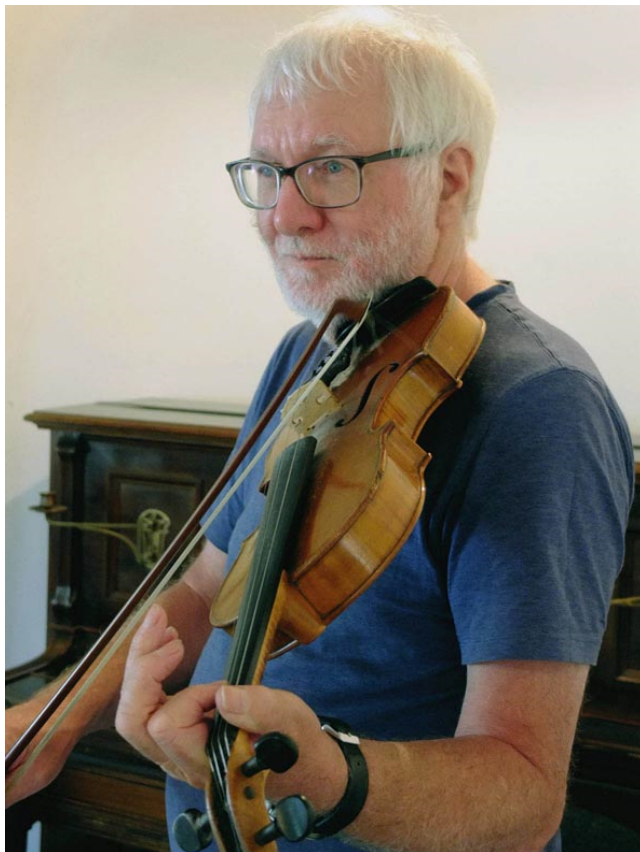
## ***Introduction***

I find myself in the position of current Chair of TASC and at the same time writing the annual report for 2019. Normally the two tasks would be separated, the report being prepared by the Administrator and an independent train of thought set out in the Chairman's Foreword. I will spare the duplication of a Foreword and launch into the main document; any thoughts I have will surely crop up therein.

*Pete Damsell*

## ***The End of an Era***

By now you will be aware that TASC's Administrator of the past 25 years, Philip Freeman, stepped down at the end of 2018. It is only fit and proper that I spend a moment to set down Philip's contribution to



TASC, meaning the promotion of Folk activities in Mid Wales through a vast and diverse range of ideas and projects.

It all started in 1989 when a group of enthusiasts in Montgomeryshire had the idea that such a rural, sparsely populated backwater would benefit from having a folk festival. Philip took it upon himself to make it happen. Organising such a thing was, and always would be, a massive undertaking, and the amount of work that goes into it can only be wondered at – however complex you might think it is, it's ten times more than that.

The Newtown Folk Festival (or as it became known when a regular date was established, the May Festival), was no small affair either. What set it apart, amongst the most enjoyable festivals I have ever been to, was the imaginative line-up of artists commissioned. Philip had the knack of finding those people who, as I would describe them, were on the way up, not necessarily established at the time, but



destined for big things, and always performers who had an air of individuality and creativeness about them. These festivals were, I hesitate to say, much more interesting than many festivals which rely on crowd-pullers in huge concert settings – you know what they're going to do even before they've started!

The festival in its developed form ran for 10 years until 1998, with funding being an ever-increasing challenge throughout this period – but it's a wise move to quit whilst you're ahead rather than see a decline in standards. In 1994, TASC was created as a charitable body to support the festival's work but went 'into hibernation' when the festival closed in 1998.

During this period, Philip played a major role in establishing the Welsh Folk music organisation, TRAC. With that safely launched, thoughts turned back to reviving TASC. In 2002 a new programme was launched with a remit to facilitate the community in making their own folk entertainment.

So TASC has continued since then, always with the drive of Philip behind it, together with a team of trustees who turn ideas into reality. One of the key skills in organising, particularly through a charitable platform, is getting the money. Philip is one of the experts in this field on a national scale: his knowledge of how to put in a bid to the National Lottery and other funding sources which makes them sit up



and listen is at the top of the league. It's one thing getting a grant, but if you then make a hash of the project, you won't get a second bite of the cherry. Needless to say, Philip's continuing record of success is well-established with the funders and the name of TASC is trusted to deliver. The current trustees express their gratitude for everything that Philip has done to promote folk activities in the area and wish him a happy and well-earned retirement – but of course he'll still be around, chipping in ideas, offering advice .....

## ***Remembering –***

TASC member Lis Davies, a personal friend of mine in Llandrindod Wells from before the time TASC existed, passed away in the summer of 2018. We remember her here, and pass on our sympathies to her family.

## ***GDPR***

2018 saw the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulations concerning personal information held by the organisation and how it is managed and protected. We believe we have complied with the Regulations in the appropriate manner and information held with us is as secure as it can be.

## ***Activities***

**Taking Steps**, the project to document Dartmoor Step Dancing involving trustee Lisa Sture, reached its conclusion in 2018. The project featured twice in the journal English Dance and Song, and celebrates a new working relationship between TASC and local partners in Devon. The project received national critical acclaim and is summarised in a booklet '*Dartmoor Step Dancing - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*', available to view at [www.dartmoorstepdance.org.uk](http://www.dartmoorstepdance.org.uk)



Trustees worked with Newtown Textile Museum, who celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2018, to contribute to an Open Day event. **The story of weaving** crops up in many parts of the British Isles, Newtown being one of the major centres of production in Wales, but stories in the form of songs are common to any area. In a new



venture, the trustees undertook to perform themselves (why buy in talent when it's there within your own resources?) and tell this story. As it turned out, the space in the museum was not suitable to put on our show, but the production was taken up by Llandinam Local History Group and performed as their event in Llandinam Village Hall.

September was a busy month. Lisa ran a **step dance workshop** in the Dance Centre, Llandrindod, to teach the Dartmoor style, and the day was expanded to cover both Lancashire Clog and Appalachian stepping, thanks to our old friends Pam Knight and Louise Williams.



Later in the month, at the same venue, *Kantref* ran a day of workshops and evening dance in their own inimitable style of **French and Breton social dancing**, to a small but very appreciative turnout, complemented by a tasty supper laid on by The Herb Garden Café in the town, a formula which has served well for this event in previous years.

The final event to report was another first: a **workshop in melodeon maintenance and repair**, run by our own local squeeze box maker and player, Rees Wesson. Aficionados (not geeks, of course) of the mechanics of the melodeon arrived from the borders and West Midlands and were rewarded with a fascinating and invaluable insight into the instrument and its construction, operation and care.



TASC wishes to acknowledge and thank Seed for its co-operation and financial contribution to some of the activities mentioned above.

## ***Looking Ahead***

There were a number of projects which didn't make it to fruition, for different reasons (as ever), but the point of highlighting this fact is to let our members, funders and supporters know that the trustees are still committed to continuing TASC as a fully functioning organisation, and have a list of ideas left on the table to pursue in 2019. We recognize the demand for singing workshops, more instrument workshops and dance events, and we know there was disappointment in the community that Twelfth Night was not celebrated at the turn of the year – these are priorities to look at in the immediate future. Look out also for events in Montgomery town where TASC is hoping to work with event organisers in the community.

In order to make these events happen, TASC needs help by way of hands-on involvement in the project organisation, and is always looking for new Trustees to join with fresh ideas and ways of working. So, do get in touch if you want to be involved.

## ***Structure and Governance***

Trustees serve three years before standing for re-election.

Lisa Sture was co-opted as a trustee in 2018 and was elected at the AGM in April.

Trustees during 2017/2018 were:

Philip Freeman

Claire Short

Claire Weston

Lisa Sture

Pete Damsell

Pete Damsell was re-elected Chair

## ***Meetings***

Trustee meetings were held in June 2017, September 2017, December 2017, February 2018, July 2018 and October 2018, and the AGM was held in Llandinam Village Hall in April 2018.

## ***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:

- Equal Opportunities
- Welsh Language
- Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults
- Recruitment of People with a Criminal Record
- Secure storage, handling, use, retention and disposal of disclosures and information
- 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 have been co-ordinated by the Director, Philip Freeman. How these activities are managed in future must, by necessity, change but members will be kept fully informed of responsibilities on the part of trustees. Claire Weston is the organisation's Treasurer.

## ***Membership***

Membership is open to all who support TASC's aims. Membership secretary's duties are undertaken by Pete Damsell.

The normal annual membership period runs from November, the start of TASC's financial year. At the end of the 2017/18 year, membership has automatically been renewed until the 2019 AGM whilst a clear picture of TASC's future activity is being developed.

## ***Accounts***

The annual accounts for 2017/18 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





## Photographs:

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| Cover | Weaving Music                                    |
| P 2   | Philip Freeman                                   |
| P 3   | Punjab Bhangra Dancers at Mid Wales May Festival |
| P 4   | Lisa Sture                                       |
| P 5   | Clogs at Newtown Textile Museum                  |
| P 5   | Step Dance Workshop, Llandrindod Wells           |
| P 6   | Melodeon Workshop, Montgomery                    |
| P 9   | TASC Weavers' Production, Llandinam              |

## TASC Receipts & Payments Account

|                          | 2017-18      | 2016-17       |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>            |              |               |
| <b>Events</b>            |              |               |
| Melodeon workshop        | 155          |               |
| Step Dance Day '18       | 83           |               |
| European Dance Day '18   | 302          |               |
|                          | <u>540</u>   | 0             |
| <b>Projects</b>          |              |               |
| Taking Steps (events)    |              | 250           |
|                          | 0            | <u>250</u>    |
| <b>Sales</b>             |              |               |
| Severn Suite             | 27           | 100           |
| Teaching DVDs            |              |               |
|                          | <u>27</u>    | <u>100</u>    |
| <b>General Income</b>    |              |               |
| Membership               | 90           | 90            |
| Donations (TASC)         |              | 60            |
| Donations (Taking Steps) |              | 1,000         |
|                          | <u>90</u>    | <u>1,150</u>  |
| <b>Grants</b>            |              |               |
| HLF (Taking Steps)       | 1,998        | 21,600        |
| Dartmoor Trust           |              |               |
| (Taking Steps)           | 210          |               |
| Seed                     | 300          |               |
|                          | <u>2,508</u> | <u>21,600</u> |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>3,165</b> | <b>23,100</b> |
|                          |              | -             |
| Surplus/Deficit on Year  | <b>2,598</b> |               |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>       |              |               |
| <b>31st October 2018</b> |              |               |
| Balance at HSBC          | 161          |               |
| Paypal Account           | 25           |               |
| Cash in Hand             | <u>278</u>   |               |
|                          | <b>464</b>   |               |

## 1st November 2017 to 31st October 2018

|                            | 2017-18      | 2016-17       |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>         |              |               |
| <b>Events</b>              |              |               |
| Severn Suite: Ten Years On |              | 1,763         |
| Weavers show               | 70           |               |
| Melodeon workshop          | 200          |               |
| Step Dance Day '18         | 80           |               |
| European Dance Day '18     | 490          |               |
|                            | <u>840</u>   | <u>1,763</u>  |
| <b>Projects</b>            |              |               |
| Folk Powys/Di Enw          |              | 0             |
| Montgomery Project         |              | 37            |
| Taking Steps Project       | 4,622        | 20,402        |
|                            | <u>4,622</u> | <u>20,439</u> |
| <b>General Expenditure</b> |              |               |
| Marketing                  |              |               |
| Commission on sales        | 18           | 4             |
| Website and email          | 41           | 36            |
| Affiliation Fees           | 74           | 74            |
| Insurance                  | 43           | 43            |
| Meeting Costs              |              | 35            |
| Professional Fees          |              | 50            |
| Misc                       |              | 31            |
|                            | <u>176</u>   | <u>273</u>    |
| <b>Admin</b>               |              |               |
| Postage                    |              | 14            |
| Volunteer Expenses         |              |               |
| Trustee Expenses           | 125          | 381           |
| Adminstrator Fees          | 0            | 0             |
|                            | <u>125</u>   | <u>395</u>    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>5,763</b> | <b>22,869</b> |
|                            |              |               |
| <b>FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>     |              |               |
| <b>31st October 2018</b>   |              |               |
| Unrestricted Funds         | 214          |               |
| Restricted Funds           |              |               |
| Reserves                   | <u>250</u>   |               |
|                            | <b>464</b>   |               |

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

|                         | <b>2018</b>  | <b>2017</b> |
|-------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>FIXED ASSETS</b>     |              |             |
| Original Cost           |              |             |
| Less Depreciation       | <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>    |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>   |              |             |
| Stock                   | 50           | 50          |
| Cash at HSBC            | 161          | 2,938       |
| Cash at Paypal          | 25           | 40          |
| Cash in hand            | <u>278</u>   | <u>84</u>   |
|                         | 514          | 3,112       |
| <b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b> |              |             |
| Brought forward         | 3,112        | 2,857       |
| Stock Movement          | 0            | 25          |
|                         | -            |             |
| Surplus/Deficit in Year | <u>2,598</u> | <u>231</u>  |
|                         | 514          | 3,113       |

Notes

- 1) The Taking Steps project spanned two financial years and had a net cost to TASC of £133.79.
- 2) The deficit for the year is mainly attributed to cash flow for the Taking Steps Project. The deficit when Taking Steps income and expenditure are removed is £184.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Administrator Fees have been waived since the withdrawal of Powys Community Grant. There is not currently an appointed Administrator.