

tasc

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Including Accounts 1st Nov 2011 to 31st Oct 2012



Traditional Art Support in the Community (tasc)
Registered Charity 1042144

Introduction

In his introduction to the 2008 Annual Report the then TASC chair Pete Damsell said, “this time last year, I made a comment about the difficulties of funding for the arts - it being an area where public bodies may look to make cuts before anything else”.

This has been a recurring theme ever since, and is even more relevant now. In truth, the current financial projections for Powys County Council have resulted in massive cutbacks, and as ever, the arts are again in the firing line, and the future looks anything but rosy.

But ... we do have in Philip Freeman, our Administrator & Artistic Director, the most enthusiastic and tenacious of fundraisers, and he continues to devise ways of securing enough funding to enable us to continue offering programmes and events of inclusion and excellence. We are aware of the challenges ahead, and truly grateful to him for his perseverance.

We can look back to the innovative *Sun Stations* event in Llandinam, the continuing *Folk Powys* music sessions, and the experiments with *Vagabondi* into using puppets in conjunction with music and dance,

TASC has always been keen to work with other like-minded organisations, and during the year we had discussions with the WREN trust in Devon and explored some exciting possibilities with Laurel Swift of Morris Offspring.

And after two very cold, snowy, and uncertain winters, plans for the traditional TASC Twelfth Night Celebrations were once again in full swing, building on the tried and tested formula of music, song and dance, with the addition of a *Mari Lwyd* performance in Llandinam church, and continuing at the ceilidh in the Village Hall.

The future is of course always unpredictable, but in these difficult times, we know we can always count on the enthusiasm and support of all those who love to experience what is real and excellent in the traditional arts. This includes our dedicated team of trustees, who deserve a huge vote of thanks for all the time, energy and optimism that they supply.

And finally to all the members of TASC, we really do appreciate your continuing support, and would encourage you to keep coming to events, and giving us feedback and ideas for the future.



Linda Ward

Linda Ward
Chair

Above: Linda Ward with Jo Munton of Vagabondi Puppets

Cover Picture: Twelfth Night - Wild Angels in St Llonio's Church (photo © Martin Herbert)

Developing Skills~ FOLK POWYS

The **Folk Powys** project, which had provided workshops for young people in Llandrindod Wells and for any age group in Beulah, continued in 2012 though in a different form.

The intention was to create self-sustaining groups that would continue after TASC ceased providing teaching sessions. In its turn that would provide a future resource for the local community.

Two decisions were made for the new series of workshops: the first was to try and combine the two locations, the second was to encourage families to participate.

The new series took place at Newbridge on Wye, using the *New Inn* as a venue. Every month a band workshop was held on a Sunday morning and was followed by informal music-making in the bar.

The hope was that additional members of the public or other folk musicians would join the bar sessions. That didn't happen as often as we'd hoped but the extended sessions proved very enjoyable. It had also been intended to try and develop New Inn as an occasional folk club venue, but more work on building local support is needed first.



The end of the first series culminated in a ceilidh at Newbridge Community Centre giving invaluable experience to the musicians taking part (see picture).

This project was conceived under the general title of **Grow Your Own Tradition** which indicates our belief in the equal importance of continuity, evolution and sustainability.

The Folk Powys project was supported by Powys County Council and the Arts Council of Wales.

aims

TASC aims to encourage individuals to become involved in traditional and tradition-based folk arts, and to support the use of traditional folk music, song and dance in forms appropriate for the 21st century.

Traditional Folk Art is both a living tradition and a repository of materials and techniques. The challenge is to try and understand what makes it distinctive; the better to ensure that nothing vital is lost in its continuing evolution.

TASC's annual programme aims to provide a seasonal gathering, a small programme of events, tuition, and usually a more ambitious and experimental longer-term project.

Supplementary work has included developing new skills in sound engineering, production and performance as well as continual research and networking. The website is regularly updated with items of interest.

The key factors are

- developing skills
- contact with excellence
- building audiences
- researching material



Contact with Excellence~ SUN STATIONS

With its origins in the Mid Wales May Festival TASC has a long legacy of contacts in the wider folk music world that it can draw on.

It has continued to build on those continuing relationships with innovators and trailblazers. That was how contact with **Luke Daniels** was made. Luke has been building a highly successful Folk Development organisation called Gael down in Berkshire.

Luke is an outstanding musician on melodeon, guitar and vocals. He is an established solo performer and collaborator with a range of organisations including The London Jazz Festival, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Folkworks and English National Opera in addition to a range of impressive solo projects including *Histories Rhyme*, *Lost Music of the Gaels* and *Islands*.

Luke had teamed up with another of TASC's folk world friends **John Dipper**. John plays fiddle, viola, concertina and also sings. He is a respected and well known performer who works with Chris Wood and Robert Harbron in the *English Acoustic Collective*, and with groundbreaking string quartet *Methera*. Steeped in the traditions

and culture of Southern England, he now divides his time between Canada and the UK.



Together Luke and John produced a show called *Sun Stations* which traced the origins of many musical and traditional customs and combined animation, poetry, anecdotes and many fine original tunes composed by the pair.

Sun Stations was performed at Llandinam Village Hall during May with one of the biggest audiences that TASC has had in recent years, with more than 60 people attending.

"Excellent! from apple bobbing to sparrow mumbling and dumb cakes, this musical mystery tour through the ritual year is a hi-tech take on our English traditions." **Sean Rafferty BBC Radio 3 In Tune.**

The project was developed with funding from the Arts Council of England and the Llandinam performance was supported by the Arts Council of Wales Night Out Scheme.

Later in the year TASC provided some support to developing a new project which is called *Drovers Tracks*. This is a musical pilgrimage from Ireland to the South of England creating new material - songs and music - which is to be performed at a number of locations en route.

Through TASC's involvement the Wyese Arts Centre in Builth Wells is to be one of the venues the show will visit.

John Dipper recording Severn Suite for TASC in 2007



Building Audiences~ DIFFERENT PLACES

The Folk Powys sessions were designed to make folk music available to a local community, as work within a community is at the heart of TASC's approach.

- TASC were able to provide seven musicians to play informal music during the Broneirion Easter Food Fair in Llandinam.



- *Sun Stations* attracted a substantial audience (see previous page).
- 2012 saw the celebration of one hundred years of Llandinam Village Hall. TASC took part in a musical concert containing various styles and chose to use the occasion to explain a little more about folk music. Folk music through the ages from England and Wales formed the first part with examples of American, Breton and Cajun folk music forming the second. Pete Damsell, John Messenger, Rees Wesson and Philip Freeman took part.
- The ceilidh in Newbridge was an occasion to showcase both dances from England and Wales to the local community.

New Material~ TWELFTH NIGHT

One of the staple events of recent years - Twelfth Night - made a welcome return to Llandinam in January 2013.

Its mix of seasonal material, dual locations, local community involvement and warm hospitality had made it a great favourite.

The recent severe winters had led to suspending it for a while but it was decided to bring it back for 2013.

The challenge has always been to balance the traditional - containing the same elements year on year - with providing something new and different as well.

The work for Twelfth Night during 2012 included using aspects of the traditional Welsh *Mari Lwyd* figure, an animated horse's head that went from door to door while accompanied by a singing party that exchanged riddles with the households it visited.

Participants in Twelfth Night included *Parti Gungrog*, Llandinam WI, St Llonio's Church, Wild Angels Community Choir and many local musicians.

This event was supported by Powys County Council
Photo: © Martin Herbert



New Projects~ DANCE & PUPPETS

As TASC's approach has always been experimental there are always new ideas being tried, and new collaborations sought.

In 2011 TASC held sessions on running workshops using **Laurel Swift** as one of the tutors. Her company - *Morris Offspring* - had created a number exciting new pieces of folk music and dance. Laurel is also an inspirational teacher, and through TASC contact was made with Laurel to provide a workshop for Powys Music Service to teach music teachers more about folk music and how it could be incorporated into their approach to teaching.

At that time Laurel was also interested in creating a new piece of music with partner organisations in England, Scotland and Wales. It proved logistically difficult to span quite such an area but initial discussions were held with the **WREN Trust** in Devon as a possible partner organisation for a two partner project.



A number of difficulties, such as aligning programmes of work and working practices, made this difficult to arrange in the short term, but it was agreed that further discussions with WREN would take place in 2013 and a pilot scheme with Laurel and TASC would be attempted. Funding for this was sought from the *Performing Rights Society Fund* though it was ultimately unsuccessful.

If successful the event would have taken place at historic sites - exploratory discussions with CADW and the Powis Castle took place - and something similar could still be achieved in 2013.

For similar reasons talks took place with **Vagabondi Puppets** about ways folk music and puppetry could be combined. A workshop was held in Llandinam with Vagabondi in which different puppets were used and movements with music were explored. This is still an exciting possibility for the future and, of course, the *Mari Lwyd* is a traditional form of puppetry, so perhaps that indicates that a more imaginative approach will point the way forward.

above: Laurel Swift

below experiments with puppets in Llandinam

Structure & Governance

Administrator

The day to day running of TASC, along with financial management, members' e-news, website updates and artistic direction is carried out by an Administrator who is appointed at the AGM each year. The Administrator is always one of the Trustees and so the appointment is carried out after the election of the trustees.



Trustees

The Trustees during 2012 were:

Linda Ward, Chair

Kathleen Freeman, Secretary

Rees Wesson

Pete Damsell, Vice Chair

Philip Freeman, Administrator & Artistic Director

John Messenger

Meetings

Trustee meetings are held three or four times a year. In 2012 they were held in February, March, October and December.

Training

Trustee training is offered to trustees. Induction is provided for new trustees. In addition to the governing document (constitution) TASC has adopted policies on the the following for its guidance:-

- Equal Opportunities
- Welsh Language
- Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults
- Recruitment of people with a criminal record
- Secure storage, handling, use, retention and disposal of disclosures and disclosure information
- Procurement Policy
- Project Development Protocol

In addition risk assessments are carried out for all TASC events and projects.

During 2012 the Child Protection Policy was reviewed and an additional protocol adopted regarding e-mail contact with young people.

Membership

Membership is open to all who support TASC's aims. Membership runs from 1st November each year, which coincides with the financial year. The annual fee is currently kept very low with correspondingly few benefits as the members engagement with TASC activities can vary significantly. The main benefit at the moment is discount on TASC publications.

Planning

TASC's programme of work is devised following consultation with its members. The last consultation was carried out in April 2010 as a development of the full scale 2009 consultation. There were further discussions following the 2011 and 2012 AGMs. A more wide-ranging consultation is planned for 2013.

Accounts

The accounts are to be found on the following pages. The turnover falls below the level required for a full audit and so the accounts are independently inspected. This was done by Mr John Huninik BSc, ACEA, ICPA of Selective Accounting Limited, Oswestry in March 2013.

TASC has a reserves policy of holding £2,000 as a contingency which is estimated as the cost of running the organisation for one year without any major projects.

The bank account is held at:-

HSBC
The Cross
Newtown
Powys
SY16 2LX

TASC Receipts & Payments Account**1st November 2011 to 31st October 2012****INCOME**

	2011-12	2010-11
Events		
Andy Cutting *	58	
Sun Stations	313	
Newbridge Ceilidh	35	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	406	330
 Projects		
Folk Powys	28	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	28	793
 Sales		
Llandinam books***	35	59
Severn Suite	36	55
Other publications		19
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	71	132
 General Income		
Membership	50	135
Donations	11	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	61	138
 Grants		
ACW	0	3000
PCC: Community Fund *****	0	3250
PCC:Music Fund	0	1250
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	0	7500
 TOTAL	565	16663

Deficit on Year **-6003**

TOTAL FUNDS
31st October 2012

Balance at HSBC	1633
Cash in Hand	64
Paypal Account	89
	<hr/>
	1786

EXPENDITURE

	2011-12	2010-11
Events		
Andy Cutting*	405	
Sun Stations	290	
Newbridge Ceilidh**	0	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	695	708
 Projects		
Folk Powys	533	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	533	2855
 Capacity Building		
Music Books		54
Training	150	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	150	54
 General Expenditure		
Marketing	842	605
Commission on sales	5	13
Affiliation Fees		161
Insurance	50	50
Llandinam Books***	17	36
Misc	3	66
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	917	931
 Admin		
Postage	25	16
Stationery		82
Trustee Expenses	1324	285
Adminstrator Fees	2814	1729
Adminstrator Expenses	109	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4273	4690
 TOTAL	6568	12334

FUNDS AVAILABLE
31st October 2012

Unrestricted Funds	786
Restricted Funds	
Reserves****	1000
	<hr/>
	1786

NOTES

* Some income and expenditure is in the 2012 accounts. The concert was in October.

** Venue hire donated, tutors donated their time

*** Books that are sold via TASC website

**** It was necessary to borrow from the Reserves for cash flow reasons but a grant of £3,400 is due which will enable the Reserves to be brought back up to £2,000

***** The grant from Powys is paid retrospectively and will appear in the 2012-13 accounts

tasc**Accounts 2011/12****Balance Sheet****As at 31st October 2012**

	2012	2011
FIXED ASSETS		
Original Cost		
Less Depreciation	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock	422	477
Cash at HSBC	1633	7270
Cash at Paypal	89	274
Cash in hand	<u>64</u>	<u>190</u>
	2208	8210
	<u>2208</u>	<u>8210</u>
ACCUMULATED FUND		
Brought forward	8210	8610
Surplus/Deficit in Year	-6003	-400
Stock Movement	<u>2207</u>	<u>8210</u>