

POWYS ARTS FORUM LIMITED

registered charity number 1119347
Company Limited by Guarantee 0598 5004

TRUSTEES' REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENT
for the year 01/04/08 - 31/03/09

1. INTRODUCTION : STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Powys Arts Forum is a Company limited by Guarantee and a registered Charity. The Directors of the Company are the Trustees of the Charity. Their number is no less than three, with no upper limit.

The following Trustees were appointed at the Annual General Meeting held on 18 October 2008:

Susannah Best
Mary Elster
Philip Freeman
Euros Richards
Kama Roberts
Elizabeth Pugh
Virginia Graham
Blue MacAskill

At the subsequent meeting of the Board of Trustees, the following were re-appointed as officers :

Chair : Virginia Graham
Treasurer : Philip Freeman
Secretary : Mary Elster

The day-to-day management of the Company is in the hands of the officers, who are in regular contact and consultation, between themselves and other Trustees. The Trustees held four fully quorate meetings during the period covered by this report. These meetings receive full financial and operational reports, as well as discussing matters of relevance and forward planning.

The Board is mindful of its responsibilities for the training of charity trustees. The majority of the Trustees have experience in the running of a charity, through their involvement in other charitable organisations. At the meeting of the full Board of Trustees, held on 29 January 2009, all Trustees were given a briefing paper on their role and its legal implications, and risk management, which was fully discussed. Current and on-going updates in charity law are monitored, and Trustees are kept up-to-date on these matters.

2. OBJECTS AND INITIATIVES

The objects of Powys Arts Forum Limited are to advance the education of the public in the arts, principally, but not exclusively, in Powys, by promoting greater understanding of the arts in Powys and elsewhere, by increasing participation in the arts in Powys and elsewhere, and by communicating the views and needs of individuals and organisations in Powys involved in the arts.

The following paragraphs outline the activities which has been undertaken in pursuit of these

objects. Note: In subsequent paragraphs the Company is referred to as the Forum.

Harvesting the Arts : a regional programme

Following the highly successful Ingredient X Arts Month held in the summer of 2007, and the subsequent evaluation meetings, a series of regional meetings was instigated and held during the latter months of 2008. Funding was raised through Powys County Council's Community Enablement Support Fund, together with a smaller Spirit grant from WAG/European funding administered by the Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations towards a marketing plan.

The three, well-attended, meetings were held at Caersws, Machynlleth, and Penpont, and in each case content and organisation was in the hands of artists. The Caersws event, at Maesmawr Hall, was on the topic of Art and the Public, organised by Cathy Knapp. At Machynlleth, Pete Telfer's focus was on Culture Colony, a new web-based organisation for artists, while at Penpont Morag Colhoun and Tessa Waite presented the theme of Reclaiming the Rural.

These events illustrate the Forum's mission to be a facilitator, not an organiser, aiming to establish a network of networks in support of artists and organisations throughout this wide region.

Chance to Create/Cyfle i Greu

This year saw the launch of a major delegated grant scheme for the benefit of artists throughout Powys. The Forum collaborated with the arts officers of Powys County Council in the design and development of this scheme, which is part funded through the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013, financed by the European Union and Welsh Assembly Government. The scheme, managed by Powys County Council's Arts Development Service, provides grants to a maximum of £10,000 to projects which focus on the development of skills, practice, and business opportunities for artists in all disciplines.

The awarding panel has a wide cross-section of skills, from arts disciplines to marketing, and has developed an approach to the consideration of applications which is both creative and supportive. The aim is to give the best possible and most focussed support to every applicant: even those whose projects cannot be given financial backing are offered advice and contacts relevant to their perceived needs. Alongside the major grant scheme there is provision for small grants of under £1000, which are handled on a fast-track basis, with decisions made by the arts officers in consultation with the Forum's representatives on the scheme's planning group.

An important element in the Cyfle i Greu scheme is the appointment of mentors to support successful projects. Mentors are carefully chosen for the experience and knowledge they can offer to participating artists, and provide reports to the awarding panel.

The life of this scheme will span further years, and it is in its early stages during the period covered by this report, but already the number of high-quality applications which have been considered indicate that it will make a major impact on the work and experience of artists (and audiences) in Powys.

3. FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING

The Forum's finances show healthy balances at the end of the financial year. The accounting systems set up by the Treasurer provide up-to-date information to the Board at its regular meetings, and careful budgetary control is implemented. Projects are individually budgeted, whilst core activities are provided with a level of adequate and contingency funding.

The Forum has a reserves policy of £2000.

The Forum has been successful in obtaining project grants for specific projects. The Community Enablement Support Fund administered by Powys County Council enabled the Harvesting the Arts events, supplemented by a Spirit grant (WAG European funds administered by PAVO) which provided background support for this project. Additional funding was provided by the Arts Council of Wales.

4. WEBSITE and MEMBER SUPPORT

The website (managed by Philip Freeman) is the major communication tool of the Forum. This provides constantly updated news and information, covering the Forum's activities, and items of general interest concerning a wide variety of arts events and issues. It is supplemented by a regular e-newsletter to members.

It is clear that there is increasing awareness of the website, and the website manager receives many requests for further information, and for website postings. Its development is on-going, and the up-coming Arts Engine website initiative of the Arts Management team at Powys County Council will continue to develop its close links with the Forum website.

5. LANGUAGE POLICY

The Forum's language policy gives equal status to the Welsh and English languages. All published material issued by the Forum is now bilingual. Major meetings have the services of a translator. Some areas of the policy are still in the process of implementation, in particular the use of the Welsh language on the website, and the Forum is aware that this is a matter which it needs to address. However, it remains the goal of the Forum to enable the views and needs of individuals and organisations to be presented in the language of their choice.

6. CONTACTS AND COLLABORATIONS

The Forum is an independent body, but it acknowledges the support and the close working relationship that has developed between it and the officers of Powys Council Council: Louise Ingham (Arts and Culture Manager) and Lucy Bevan (Arts Development Officer). This has now been augmented by the welcome addition of Hazel James, of Glasu. The development of the work of the Forum is complimentary to that of the official bodies. Discussion on strategic and other areas is open and on-going, and has enabled major initiatives to be implemented, to the benefit of the arts community of Powys. The Forum has representation on the Glasu

Local Action Group and the Rural Development Partnership. It also benefits from the wide contacts, both formal and informal, of its board members, within Powys, Wales, and further afield.

7. CONCLUSION

Still a comparatively young organisation, the Forum has demonstrated that it has an essential role to play within its community, both artistic and regional. This year has shown that it is more widely recognised, and consulted. The aim has been for organic growth (evidenced by the metaphors used for recent projects), rather than seeking for initiatives which may appear superficially attractive, but which would lack sustainability. However, the opportunities to build on previous successful projects have been taken, and there is a special pleasure in reporting the direct benefit to so many artists and organisations that the work of the Forum has provided.

As is natural, most of the Forum's activities span the neat divisions of financial years. Planning is on-going, and the Trustees look forward to implementing the further projects which are at an early planning stage. Future reports will be able to give a more detailed picture of the major projects which have had their beginnings this year.

Virginia Graham
Chair, Powys Arts Forum

Bankers : HSBC Bank plc, The Cross, 1 Broad Street, Newtown, Powys, SY16
Registered address : Llethyr, Llysdinam, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 6NB

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Grants

Some of the grants received in 2007-8 were for activity that was carried out in 2008-9. Similarly some of the activity carried out in 2008-9 was financed by a grant that wasn't made until after the end of the financial year.

Arts Council of Wales

For *Harvesting the Arts* Project 3300

Powys Community Enablement Support Fund

For *Harvesting the Arts* Project & Organisational Development 2300

5600

Projects

Harvesting the Arts

Income received from the events in Caersws, Machynlleth & Brecon 600

Artists 3654.98

Venues 1561.40

Translation 147.69

Marketing 1612.80

Testing the Soil

Research costs 1,670.60

Future Directions

Planning day held at Broneirion 145.60

8793.07

Website

Fees for maintaining and developing website and associated activity 600.00

Hosting 70.50

670.50

Creditors

Spirit (European Union Objective 2/Welsh Assembly funds administered by PAVO)

For *Testing the Soil* Project 1473

Payment not received until April 2009

POWYS ARTS FORUM LTD

Registered Charity 1119347

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Receipts & Payments*1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009*

RECEIPTS	2008-9	2007-8	2008-9	2007-8
Grant Income	5,600.00	7,750.00		
Membership Fees	150.00	55.00		
Project Receipts	600.00	-		
Misc	20.16	125.00		
Bank interest	102.86	74.47		
	<hr/>	<hr/>		
	6473.02	8607.37		
PAYMENTS				
Administration			535.95	156.80
Room Hire			-	70.19
Marketing			-	263.00
Website			670.50	
Project Payments			8,793.07	
Bank Charges			68.40	12.61
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6473.02	8607.37	10,067.92	502.60

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Balance SheetAs at 31st March 2009

FIXED ASSETS	2009	2008	2009	2008
None				
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors				
Spirit Grant	1473	-		
Powys Arts Forum Unincorporated	3624	-		
HSBC Account	4510	8105		
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year			-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8134			
NET CURRENT ASSETS	8134			
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	8134			

Notes

1. For the year ended 31st March 2009 the company was entitled to exemption under section 249A(1) of the Companies Act 1985.
2. Members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 249B(2) of the Companies Act 1985.
3. The directors acknowledge their responsibility for:
 - o ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 221; and
 - o preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year, and of its profit or loss for the financial year, in accordance with the requirements of section 226, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act relating to accounts, so far as is applicable to the company;
4. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies.



Lloyds TSB

Powys Arts Forum
c/o Swn-y-Coed
Llandinam
Powys
S71 7DJ

To contact us about this letter either
visit any branch **or** write to us at:
Llandrindod Wells Branch
Middleton Street
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5DG

or call us on: 0845 3 000 000
or fax us on: 01597 823688

Our reference: FREEFRM

Letter Date: 9 September 2009

Dear Powys Arts Forum

I have today checked the accounts for Powys Arts Forum for the period 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009 and found that they are correct against the statements and invoices provided.

Yours faithfully

Lynne Boxhall
Branch Manager

