

Tongues&Grooves in the Community

Report & Plan 2010-13

1. Origins

Since 2003, *Tongues&Grooves* has provided regular opportunities for local poets, writers and musicians to collaborate and share a platform with better-known performers in front of diverse audiences.

In 2010, *Tongues&Grooves in the Community* was launched to meet growing demand for programmes using poetry in community and healthcare settings.

2. Mission

To increase involvement in poetry for motivation, well-being and social inclusion.

3. Aims

- Providing platforms for local writers and musicians
- Involving people of all ages and backgrounds
- Targeting the 'quiet voice' and under-represented groups
- Developing opportunities for volunteers
- Forming partnerships
- Informing and involving our supporters
- Fundraising for charitable purposes

4. Structure

Delivery is the responsibility of *Tongues&Grooves'* Poetry & Music Club and *Tongues&Grooves in the Community*, two separate non profit making voluntary organisations supported by unpaid volunteers.

5. Management

Tongues&Grooves in the Community is managed through a Committee comprising Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and at least two other members. The Committee works to a constitution, and has regular meetings.

6. Membership

Membership of *Tongues&Grooves in the Community* is open to any person supporting its aims and activities. Members receive regular news updates and invitations to special events. Membership is available at £5.00 per annum.

7. Sponsorship

Sponsorship of *Tongues&Grooves in the Community* is open to any individual or organisation wishing to support more generously our aims and activities. Sponsorship is available at £25.00 per annum. Corporate Sponsorship is available at £100.00 per annum and acknowledged on our website.

8. Resources

Since 2006, *Tongues&Grooves'* community projects have received funding from Arts Council South East, Awards for All, Grassroots, Portsmouth City Council and Small Sparks. In addition, uncharged services and resources have been provided by our volunteers and partners.

9. Evaluation

Audience surveys and project feedback provide valuable information from performers, audiences, workshop participants and partners, with important indicators for future activities.

10. Achievements

Tongues&Grooves' events are now integral to the performance of poetry and music in Portsmouth - with nationally recognised poets regularly sharing platforms with local writers, including the less confident, disadvantaged and 'survivor poets'. *Tongues&Grooves* has also supported song-writing and musical collaborations, produced publications and CDs, and held successful concerts at The New Theatre Royal, Portsmouth and for Havant Literary Festival.

Tongues&Grooves in the Community runs well received programmes in community and healthcare settings. Recent projects have included writing and voice workshops for people in recovery from mental ill health and/or substance misuse, and a pilot creative writing workshop for detainees at Haslar Immigration Centre. These programmes confirm the already strong evidence that creative writing facilitates therapeutic outcomes.

11. Plans 2011-13

These achievements have encouraged us to plan further programmes, improved services and new ventures to extend community interest and involvement in an under exploited area of the arts. Our plans, which assume a continuing high level of voluntary subsidy at (generally) low risk combined with high impact, fall into five key areas:

11.1 Community and Healthcare

Objectives:

- A programme of workshops and events in community and healthcare settings using poetry to promote motivation, well-being and social inclusion.
- Provision of free or subsidised places for vulnerable adults on mainstream workshops.

Evidence:

- Since 2009, we have run well received programmes for recovering addicts at Act2 Recovery Community Group, Baytrees Detox Unit St James's Hospital, Cranstoun CDA, Portsmouth Users' Self Help (PUSH) and Portsmouth MIND.
- Creative writing is now incorporated into Cranstoun's personal development programme.
- We have had significant take up by people who do not feel able to access mainstream creative writing classes, including many who are unemployed and/or with underlying health problems.
- Our tutors have gained valuable experience of working with people in recovery from addictions, where *Tongues&Grooves* is currently the sole local provider of such programmes.

Expected Outcomes:

- The use of creative writing skills for expression, self-reflection, evaluation, improved self esteem and personal confidence in wider social settings.
- In some cases, preparation for more advanced workshops and access to publishing opportunities.

- Take up by people who feel unable to access mainstream creative activities.
- Participants' involvement in promoting the benefits of creative writing.
- Development of facilitators' experience and ability to engage with client group.
- Extended community involvement in Portsmouth's cultural life.
- Possible wider contribution to reducing the impact of alcohol and substance abuse.

11.2 Haslar Immigration Centre

Objectives:

- Sponsor a poet in residence to run a programme of creative writing workshops for detainees to develop their written and spoken English through personal written perspectives, poem booklets and recorded readings of their work.
- Run quarterly poetry and music events in partnership with others, along the lines of 'Haslar's Got Talent'.
- Provide opportunities for using creative writing as a link/community exchange between Haslar, local secondary schools, community groups and asylum seeker families.
- Hold a special event for World Poetry Day 2012.

Evidence:

- We funded a well received pilot workshop in 2009, leading to a proposal from Haslar for a programme of regular activities.
- The pilot identified potential new partners for collaborative events, including *Music in Detention* and *Drum Runners*, and opportunities for community links through schools and stakeholders in social cohesion.

Expected Outcomes:

- Access to creative writing for an otherwise marginalised group.
- Improved self expression, written and verbal communication.
- Integration in the school curriculum.
- Creative links across and between detainees, ex-detainees, students and families.
- Opportunities to present voice and reduce isolation.
- Improved relationships within Haslar.
- Community familiarisation with different languages and cultures.
- Removal of barriers between different parts of local society.
- Broader community perspective on issues impacting on society at local, national and international levels.

11.3 Portsmouth Museums

Objective:

- Run a literature project linked to Dickens' Bi Centenary in 2012.

Evidence:

- Management at Portsmouth Museums support a project linked to local archives.

Expected Outcomes:

- Collaboration with a new partner.
- Community engagement in poetry via Portsmouth's heritage.

11.4 Events and Audiences

Objectives:

- Maintain a regular venue for new and emerging writers and performers.
- Run a poetry competition and publish a special anthology by mid 2013.

- Run events to celebrate World Poetry Days and Tongues&Grooves' 10th Anniversary in 2013.
- Train technical and support staff to film and record events in community and theatre settings.

Evidence:

- Our audiences have grown steadily.
- We have identified demand from new writers for support and mentoring.
- We have developed new talent via our community and healthcare programmes.
- We continue to extend our networks and partnerships.
- We have run popular concerts at The New Theatre Royal and for Havant Literary Festival.
- We run popular events showcasing poets and musicians from other countries and cultures.
- We have received proposals from potential partners for further events.

Expected Outcomes:

- Involvement of the community in a mainstream creative activity.
- Inclusion of otherwise marginalised members of the community.
- Skills development for volunteers.
- Extended participant and audience base for our programmes and events.
- Provision of a unique record for participants and their supporters.
- Promotion of our community programmes.
- Promotion of the diversity of Portsmouth's culture.

11.5 Members, Sponsors and Volunteers

Objectives:

- Establish formal membership and sponsorship arrangements.
- Conduct a membership survey.
- Introduce formal accounting and management systems.
- Introduce general meetings.
- Elect a management committee.
- Develop skills of volunteers.
- Improve our e newsletter.
- Provide a fit for purpose website.

Evidence:

- Identification of 100-150 potential formal members or sponsors.
- Positive user and volunteer feedback.
- Growth in web based enquiries.

Expected Outcomes:

- Improved information and feedback.
- Opportunities for marketing.
- Volunteers, members and sponsors who feel skilled, informed, consulted and involved.

12. Finance

All monies raised are used to further the aims of *Tongues&Grooves in the Community*. The Treasurer keeps account of all income and expenditure and submits annual accounts. A bank account provides for withdrawals on the signature of two independent committee members. No income or property is given to members.

13. Accounts

RECEIPTS	£ Year end 31.12.09	£ Year end 31.12.10*
Grant Funding	5,000.00	4,954.00
Booking Fees & Tickets	1,028.49	999.16
Sponsorship	300.00	100.00
Interest	-	00.13
TOTAL	6,328.49	6,053.29
PAYMENTS		
Performers	1,300.00	310.00
Tutors	1,711.40	2,369.50
Publicity & Printing	1,129.23	924.48
Project Management	1,884.95	1,094.00
Room Hire	435.00	353.22
Consumables/Sundries	449.07	299.45
Refreshments	170.00	417.30
Fees	400.05	261.28
Administration	638.00	460.00
Subsidised Tickets	-	197.00
Other	182.41	361.74
Sub Total	8,300.11	7,048.07
Purchases	1,097.02	174.10
TOTAL	9,397.13	7,222.07
Net of receipts/(payments)	9,397.13	7,222.07
CASH FUNDS		
Cash funds last year end	4,403.11	1,420.47
Cash funds this year end	1,420.47	251.69
ASSETS		
Cash – Bank	1,334.47	251.69
Cash – Float	86.00	-
Tangible Assets **	850.00	550.00
LIABILITIES		
Outstanding invoices	1,296.78	180.00

* Excludes Poetry & Music Club from 6 August 2010.

** These items are depreciated over a three year period on a straight line basis.