

Oakenhoof Voluntary Arts Organisation Annual Report 2017-18



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Squire's Report.

Well, it's been a very good year! Not only in terms of camaraderie and performance, but also financially. This maintains our ability to provide quality learning experiences free at the point of use.

I've been really delighted to be a part of the great productions we produce. We are not only making great memories, but encouraging creativity, both within the group, and hopefully to our audiences.

Our numbers are still growing in both dancers and musicians, and the dynamics in the music we produce has really widened. Which is great too!

We have earned, and continue to earn, a fabulous reputation for performance. Which does mean that we will continuously be expected to provide creative and often profound spectacles. Which is also great!

The standards of everything Oakenhoof does has risen exponentially and I hope to find out whether the enjoyment of being a part of it has also risen to match that. I still feel we are managing a very inclusive organisation right across the spectrum of ability. However, we are going to need to dissect your thoughts on this with a questionnaire, or workshop: to make sure we genuinely are.

The road ahead is continued growth and happiness. There will be times of stress and hard work, but they are often the obstacles that provide the greatest reward. This years Rushbearing is going to be a very big one, and I hope legendary in the memories of everyone who attends it.

My musings for the year ahead:

The officer roles, and especially mine, are more like a hook to hang things on, rather than an authoritative manager persona. I would like more of a "peoples' collective" attitude to the way we do things, and more so how we feel as members of the group.

Faceting of music, and dance is something that is evolving, and should be further encouraged. There is a remarkable resource of remarkable people at Oakenhoof. Although some things are great as a mass ensemble, the smaller factions that can perform in micro groups, can

really expand our utilitarianism, as well as satisfying the music and dance needs of those participants.

I would also love to see more people taking the lead in sessions: both learning, and open sessions. More input from more people can only benefit us a group I'm sure?

So, in summary, carry on regardless because we're doing beautifully brilliant. Encourage more people to stick their necks out and share their skills, or desires. My final statement has to be that this really is something to be incredibly proud of and honoured to be a part of!

Paul Woodhead

Squire

Bagman's Report

At the end of the calendar year our available funds were £4578.52 compared to the previous year figure of £3005.41. While our core funding from Link 4 Life reduced from £1623.00 TO £1276.75 this was more than compensated by donations received for dance outs and rapper crawls which increased from £250 to £1838.93.

Our single largest expense was the Rushbearing Festival which amounted to £1430.00 and for which we received a contribution from LEAF OF £750.00. The festival was a great success and while difficult to quantify the return in financial terms it illustrated just what Oakenhoof are and what the organisation contributes to the cultural life of the area.

We continue to benefit from the voluntary financial contributions of our supporters but perhaps more importantly in providing venues, transport and refreshments throughout the year, so thank you all for your invaluable support.

During the year a poll was conducted to determine if there was support for introducing a subscription fee, the result confirmed the overwhelming view that this was not desirable and would have a negative effect on the substantial voluntary support we receive.

I should point out that there is an imbalance of £38.99 in the accounts which I have yet to reconcile but I will continue to investigate.

In conclusion we are in a very healthy financial position which will enable us to continue investing in the resources needed to bring dance, song and fun to an ever wider audience as well as to our own members.

Terry Thorp

Bagman

Foreman's report

I plan to leave the role of foreman at this year's AGM so this is my little reflective report about being the founding Foreman during the early years of our organisation.

In 2013, I was approached by Steve on behalf of LEAF and asked to set up a local side to support the Littleborough Rushbearing. I didn't doubt it was possible, because we'd just done a massive clog dance in Rochdale for the literature festival but I secretly feared it was going to be tricky.

But, when I thought about it, it was just a case of:

- Finding some people willing to give it a go
- Making it fun
- Making it inclusive
- Getting sufficient repertoire, as quickly as possible, for us to be able to dance out
- "Normalising" participation – so that people think it's just "what we do"

We already had some buddies willing to give it a go and we'd recently met Georgia and then Michelle, Paul and Freya who also had buddies up for a laugh. Oakenhoof quickly grew and we've always had a steady core group and many new faces and talents to welcome.

My own motivation was entirely about the Rushbearing: Something that's very important to me and has been for as long as I can remember. I was never particularly bothered about what sort of side we had: it started with clog dancing because that was what I knew best. I can admit now that I felt a complete idiot pretending I knew what I was doing; pretending I had all the skills and confidence to get this done. But it very quickly became **our** job, rather than **my** job and four mostly brilliant years have followed.

We've got a pretty strong repertoire, lots of talent and potential and certainly LOADS of fun. This thing can go in so many directions now and it's all good. It's also really clear that there are plenty of people who can (and do) make it all work and so I'm really excited to be part of what happens in the years ahead.

I'm really looking forward to continuing the fun and friendship as a member and trustee of the wonderful Oakenhoof and supporting our next foreman.

I'm also happy to continue to serve the organisation in administrative, organisational and making stuff, where I'm needed, and am more than happy to be an "aft" or "back" rather than a "fore" man, which is pretty much, what I've been doing for the last 6 months, trying to make space for others to step in, which they've done brilliantly. I will support whoever it is that takes on that role, and I can highly recommend it as a source of great pride.

Thanks!

Helen Chicot

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR PERIOD 2016 AND 2017

INCOME			EXPENDITURE			
	2017	2016		2017	2016	
Unrestricted Funding			Unrestricted Expenditure			
Donations for performance	£1,838.93	£250.00	Audio Equipment		£392.53	
Donations from supporters	£150.00	£201.01	Paypal transaction costs	£5.50	£6.47	
Contributions to transport costs		£270.00	Transport Cost		£250.00	
			Purchase of Clogs	£65.00		
			Miscellaneous Expenses			
Training and support	£350.00					
Total Unrestricted Funding	£2,338.93	£721.01	Total Unrestricted Expenditure	£70.50	£649.00	
Restricted Funding			Restricted Expenditure			
Link 4 Life	£1,276.75	£1,623.00	L4L Project Costs	£1,453.08		
Link 4 Life Dance Workshop	£200.00					
LEAF donation for Rushbearing	£750.00	£500.00	Rushbearing Festival	£1,430.00	£719.92	
Total Restricted Funding	£2,226.75	£2,123.00	Total Restricted Expenditure	£2,883.08	£719.92	
Total Income	£4,565.68	£2,844.01	Total Expenditure	£2,953.58	£1,368.92	
Balance Income - Expenditure	£1,612.10	£1,475.09				
Carried forward from 2016	£3,005.41					
Total Funds from daybook	£4,617.51					
Bank statement at December 31st	£4,407.57					
In Paypal 2017	£144.50					
Plus uncashed cheque	£26.45					
Actual Total Funds @31st December	£4,578.52					
Difference Daybook -Actual	-£38.99					

