



Trinity Community Arts Annual Report 2007



Chair's Report

I must start by thanking all the people, organisations and partners who have ensured the success we are now seeing. Every year I am amazed by the altruistic input Trinity seems to attract. Without our partners, and the organisations who use our resources, this success would be not be possible - so I formally give thanks to you all on Trinity's behalf.

This year Trinity has seen rapid growth within our management team, and development of the infrastructure of the building and our facilities. This is due to the continued intensive investment of time and energy made by all who have Trinity's success at heart. The success of Trinity Community Arts, in my opinion, is now firmly fixed as a stable reality. We can now boast that we are truly self-supporting, and that any investment made in us will be solely used to directly benefit the community.

For example, we have seen the completion of the first year of training here, one of our finest achievements so far, leading to the close partnership we now have with City of Bristol College. Trinity has now made the necessary first steps to becoming an accredited learning centre, and we look forward to a bright future with more courses planned and a wider remit. In particular we are continuing to address the inability of main stream education to target those young people who have disengaged from society, or who are at risk of doing so - those most in need of a sense of direction.

Another milestone that we have passed this year is the start of the long-awaited first floor improvements funded by Objective 2, Bristol City Council Equalities team, Yansec and ourselves. These improvements make the first floor more accessible to the public and will provide high-quality sound-proofed studios for the local community.



Misfit's Party

In July we saw the arrival of Emma Harvey, our new Activities Coordinator and Administrator. She immediately adapted to the position and has now become the central focus and the most valuable asset to the organisation. Emma sees no boundaries to her job title, and has successfully taken on fundraising, website design, publicity, and recruitment - far exceeding our expectations. It also gives me great pleasure to welcome Jennie Jones as new Chair of the organisation. I believe that we would not find a more talented and enthusiastic person and I am now very excited about the future with such a solid team. Watch this space.

Let's not forget the events which are such an important part of Trinity's heritage. Muse Music (now Meme Music) has continued to raise the game in this area with highlights for 2007 including The Good the Bad and the Queen, and Willy Mason. We have now entered a more professional and high-profile arena, which mirrors the progress we have been making as an organisation. Many thanks to Simon Bell and Teresa Vandre for the effort they have made in maintaining and improving our partnership.

Finally, the year 2007 ended on a very positive note, as the successful management of Objective 2 funding now opens the door to significant funding from Heritage Lottery, English Heritage and the Arts Council. Our short lease previously excluded us from access to major funding from these bodies, but in 2008 we will draw up a new service level agreement with Bristol City Council. This should provide a lease long enough to persuade these bodies to invest substantially in the fabric of the building, and in other worthy projects to enhance the resources available to deprived local communities.

We all firmly believe that Trinity can and will develop into a renowned centre of excellence for the South West, and become one of the finest jewels in Bristol's crown.

Matthew Hewitt - Chair



Centre Manager Report

In May 2007 I sadly resigned my post, with a good period of hand-over to current acting Centre Manager, Matthew Hewitt, after four years as a volunteer, and seven years work to re-establish Trinity as one of Bristol's best loved music venues and community centres.

The year 2007 saw many changes – including the loss of Nicholas Fyfe, a co-founder of Trinity Community Arts. Nick left the role of Treasurer in May 2007 and sadly died a few months later. He was a great man, and will be greatly missed – the fruits of his work live on through Trinity, dozens of other community projects he help establish, and the skate parks he built over the decades.

Thank you, Nick - you are still an inspiration to us all.

In 2007 we also had to say goodbye to Melanie West, our dedicated Activities Coordinator who has left us and Bristol for a brighter future, and Ines Hughes, our Young People's Coordinator, who helped established training provision with the City of Bristol College and encouraged dozens of young people to get involved. We wish them both well.

We also had some new arrivals including our Activities Coordinator, Emma Harvey, who has brought a fresh perspective, and a new Training Manager, Daniel Powell, who stepped up to the job to continue the work.

The new Acting Centre Manager, Matthew Hewitt, has continued my work, leading the Objective 2 project to create a new lift and studios, and negotiating a contract with City of Bristol College, now a much valued partner. Our main success is perhaps the Music Pro courses ('Passion for Music'), which create substantial revenue for Trinity, and some amazing life changes for local young people.

Trinity Time Bank

For the past nine years Trinity has incubated the world's first production-specific time exchange scheme or time bank. The scheme is similar to the LETS initiative (Local Exchange and Trade Scheme) promoted by the United Nations 'Agenda 21' - with the subtle yet distinct difference of being focussed around a shared activity to create a product.

The group Umbrella MELTS (Media/Music Economy Local Exchange and Trade Supplement) has worked with Trinity Community Arts to develop the foundation for the scheme, including live gigs, a recording studio and is also part of Trinity's training courses. For example, much-loved local band The Glitzy Bag Hags were able to record their first album, using time credits gained from community gigs.

In 2007 Trinity was proud to host an inspiring conference for Time Banks UK with key speaker Edgar Kahn, who founded the time bank movement, and contributions from Trinity and MELTS workers. (See www.myspace.com/musictimebank)

The Music Time Bank scheme has now gained start up funding from 'Awards for All' and is due to launch fully in September 2008 – aiming to become a focus for resource exchange among deprived local communities.

Kieran Doswell - Acting Centre Manager



Community

Over the last year, Trinity Community Arts has worked hard to better engage and involve the local community, and to promote the Trinity Centre as an important community resource.

Community resources

The year 2007 saw major improvements to both our buildings and website – both in their way making Trinity more accessible and valuable to local communities.

The installation of a wheelchair-accessible lift, improved toilet facilities, training rooms and workspace facilities is the first phase in a wider renovation process. The development was supported by Bristol Objective 2 funding to bring the upper floor of the Centre back into use, and to widen access to our facilities. Phase two, set to commence in 2008, will include an exhibition hall, an ICT training room, new audio and multimedia facilities (including a recording studio and multimedia suite), as well as an upgrade of the electrical system, ventilation, and heating.

With grants from Quartet Foundation and Business West, our website has also been redesigned, aiming to provide web-space for both community and commercial activity. We hope that promoting community events side by side with recognised national performing artists will help to generate awareness and success for these local activities, which would otherwise not receive such widespread exposure.

The new site is a great improvement, being more flexible, easier to use, and with scope for exciting future developments. There is space for public forums and channels for giving feedback to Trinity, as well as space for a visual and audio archive, offering the local community a greater sense of ownership and empowerment. The site meets rigorous accessibility standards, and incorporates our core value of promoting free software.



Community Gardening

Regular users and partners

Regular classes continued to give local communities access to a broad range of arts and other activities. Sessions during 2008 included:

- dance - Urban Dance (two youth contemporary classes), samba, and a new Ceroc (modern jive) class
- music - regular samba band rehearsals
- theatre - regular community theatre rehearsals
- martial arts - two ongoing kung fu classes.

Trinity also has been working with Bristol Wireless to establish a connection to their network, which we hope will provide us with improved facilities for streaming – a benefit for both our internet radio and our live gigs.

Eastside Roots community gardening project is also going from strength to strength, involving refugee communities, and those with mental health problems. The group has expanded to a second site along Stapleton Road and has recruited a full time Project Coordinator.

“Work is steaming along at the Trinity...There have been weekly workdays usually attended by 10 or so people, even in the depths of winter. This is an exciting time to be involved.” **Tom, Eastside Roots.**

Work is also continuing with the Easton Community Partnerships group, and with much funding cut from such essential community groups, there are plans for working together on partnership projects in 2008.



Ambling Band - Fireworks Party

Open community events

This year's Free Fireworks Party was bigger and better than ever, with thousands of people showing up during the evening to see our very own Hype Dance performing alongside other Bristol talents, and The Ambling Band and The Glitzy Bag Hags providing a quirky musical backdrop to the firework display and fire performances.

Trinity remains a popular venue for benefit gigs. For example, the Big Green Benefit Ball was headlined by Arthur Brown, sharing the bill with Hattie Hatstar, Bizali and Seize The Day. This great night of entertainment raised funds for the Big Green Gathering, an important part of the South West's community festival scene, as bad weather and tighter licensing put a heavy burden on the smaller UK festivals. The Mulambo benefit gig in aid of World AIDS Day was also a huge success, drawing favourable media comment.

"Excellent mix of live music and DJs that celebrates all that's good about live dance music...righteous fun then, and worth every penny" **Venue magazine**

Further open community events including a well-attended jobs fair, the Easton Arts Trail and the Kombo Sillah Association live music event. Lamin Manjang, President of the Association, subsequently wrote to us in praise of the high level of service and support provided by the team.

Specific communities

We have been pleased to see an increase in hall hire for numerous weddings and parties representative of a cross-section of the community, being particularly popular with Somali groups, who can have difficulty in finding suitable venues at an affordable rate.



Free Fireworks Party

The Trinity Centre was chosen by the National Black Police Association as the final point on a march of solidarity, where they remembered all the ethnic minority officers who have died on duty. The march raised awareness of the need to make the force more representative of minority groups.

In addition, Trinity was host to alcohol-free events for Cocaine Anonymous and a New Year's Eve celebration for Alcoholics Anonymous.

New projects

Trinity had several funding successes in 2007, including a grant of £25,000 from Heritage Lottery Fund (Young Roots programme) to deliver a series of workshops based on the history of the Trinity Centre.

The 2008 Bristol Sound Project will engage local young people aged 13 to 20 years in creative and educational activities, to expand their appreciation of the musical and cultural heritage of the Centre and their community. Those involved will look at local records, speak to local residents about their memories, and create their own artworks in response. Participants will also be encouraged to develop their own music based on the 'Bristol Sound', made famous by bands such as Massive Attack and Portishead. The project will culminate in a multi-media performance and the creation of further 'historical records' such as video and a permanent display at the Centre.

The project will be supported by City of Bristol College, Living Easton local history group, and the Bristol Records Office. The Trinity Centre will be encouraging input from other local organisations, particularly community groups, and education and youth activity projects, to ensure wide community involvement.

Emma Harvey – Activities Coordinator

Training



Passion for Music

During 2007 the training element of our work continued with the popular Passion for Music course, which gives young people access to tuition from expert working musicians, and two radio courses.

Passion for Music

Trinity's Passion for Music course continues to be an amazing success, with over fifty students attending across two semesters in 2007.

During the first course, which attracted twenty students, half received ASDAN certificates and nearly half moved on to further education, training or employment. On the second course of thirty students, two thirds received certifications and half moved on to further opportunities. These included the Access to Music at City of Bristol College, music courses at the Soundwell Centre, and other creative projects such as Kuumba and Basement Studios.

Radio

The radio group have raised over £3,000 to equip the radio room to function as a professional studio, capable of running a live internet radio show of broadcast quality. They have successfully run a six-month and a six-week radio project which have generated an interest in the community and raised income for Trinity. The equipment is now being used to help run the Education Unlimited programme and the Pathway to Employment at City of Bristol College.



Radio Studio

L-Plates Radio Our 'L-plates' course was a weekly radio session aimed at teaching young people the basic techniques required to programme, run and deliver a radio broadcast on internet radio. The course was very successful, and raised awareness of the potential of young talent in Bristol.

Open Mic Online The Open Mic project at the end of last year encouraged young people to get involved in a regular weekly show, broadcasting interviews and discussions about Bristol's musical heritage. The 12-week course saw young people working with both established and unsigned artists as well as editing recordings, creating radio programmes and promoting the course.

Future training developments

The radio station is now being promoted both locally in the community and internationally online. The group are aiming to start building a play list, and recording presented shows, working towards the creation of a 24-hour internet community radio station.

We are also delighted to say that the background work which Trinity tutors and other staff contributed during 2007 has come to fruition during early 2008. We will soon be offering an entirely new series of creative training sessions, including animation and video, and benefiting from new training arrangements with City of Bristol College, establishing Trinity as a recognised education base for the college.

Emma Harvey – Activities Coordinator

A photograph of a social event, possibly a party or gathering, with people and colorful lighting. The scene is dimly lit with vibrant pink, blue, and purple lights. In the foreground, a person's head is visible, looking towards the event. Two men are prominent in the mid-ground, one on the left and one on the right, both smiling. The background shows other people and a festive atmosphere.

Events



The Glitzy Bag Hags

The 'legendary Trinity' continues a fine tradition - presenting a wide range of musical and other arts events, in one of the few remaining truly independent venues in the country.

Music

Trinity has benefited from further development in the calibre and frequency of gigs, with much of this success owing to the hard work and dedication of Simon Bell and Teresa Vandre of Meme Music (previously Muse Music).

Highlights of 2007 included capacity concerts featuring:

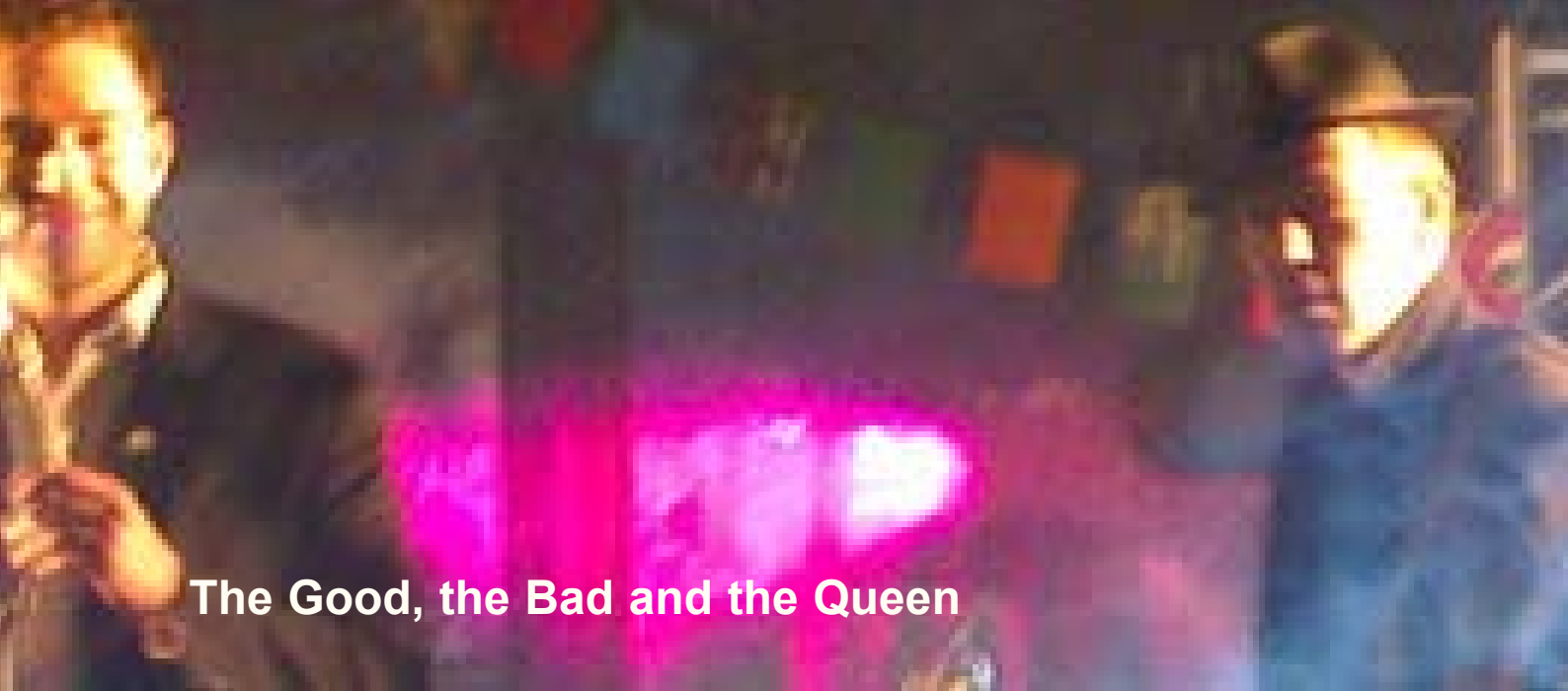
- dance music – Thrillseekers
- rock –The Good the Bad and Queen, Fortune Drive, Hard-Fi
- reggae – Zion Train, G Love and Special Sauce
- singer-songwriters – Regina Spector, Tom McRae, Willy Mason.

We also hosted capacity gigs for the wonderfully unclassifiable The Maccabees, and for Bellowhead, the jazz-folk big band now headlining the Proms at the Albert Hall.

As one mark of our success, Bristol Evening Post reviewers chose the Willy Mason event as one of their 'top ten' gigs of 2007.

Other arts events

Although music events remain at the heart of our commercial programme, we continue to develop as a venue for other arts events, including theatre, dance, and visual arts. These events have developed mainly from the community aspect of our work. However, a new licensing arrangement, and the re-opening of the upper main hall, will give scope for a new and extended programme of more commercial theatre and film events from 2008.



The Good, the Bad and the Queen

Running events

We continue to benefit from a high level of technical expertise, for example in our sound engineers, and the services of an experienced security team. However, we are aware of the need to build up the stewards' team, through a more attractive volunteer programme. We will also revise duty management arrangements, to ensure public safety at the most popular events.

The bar will be run by a new manager, drawn from experienced Trinity staff, who is also responsible for human resources issues, and for health and safety within Trinity. The resulting improvements to working practices should result in increased stability of staffing, and increased takings. Increased bar takings for 2007 more than compensated for a slight fall in ticket revenue.

Facilities

During the year we made improvements both to the sound system and the lighting rig, installing a new control system. Renewal of the stage area is planned as part of wider renovation works. However the continuing high calibre of performers has emphasised the need for upgraded green-room facilities, including showers, which will eventually be created as part of the long-term renovation plans.

Events finance

The increasing success of our commercial gigs has provided us with a greater level of unrestricted income to feed back into activities and resources for the local community.



Finance

I am pleased to report that we now have a robust and stable organisation.

It must be stressed that our good financial situation is largely due to extensive voluntary input, which is often required in the early years of a new company. To complement this our contractors do a considerable amount for very little pay. For example, we have skilled electricians, engineers, finance and management staff, all accepting around £7 per hour.

It is also due to this that we can boast so early in our life that we are fully self-supporting, surviving through our own contributions. Due to the considerable amount of dedicated input, we have had disposable income to invest in projects and improvements to the building. In particular, Trinity spent in excess of £35,000 of its reserves this year on our Objective 2 project to make the first floor accessible and to improve our facilities. We are looking to spend another £35,000 in the beginning of 2008 to complete this Access to Learning project.

In the past our stability has been largely due to our car park income, and in 2007 this income has predominantly been used for building improvements. In the future we hope to use this income as match funding to release major investment by English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Arts Council. However, we now have many sources of income.

For example, in 2007 we saw evening events beginning to generate small amounts of revenue. This has continued into 2008, accompanied by steadily increasing income from the community, generated through hall hire. We are also realising funds for our education objectives, for example £60,000 came from external funders for the Access to Learning project. As always we intend to spend more on education than we receive.



Last year our turnover was £260,000, and in total we made a small loss of £1,500. This is as expected, since as a 'not for profit' company we allocate all our funds to projects and improvements.

We are now in a position to become the community centre that we have strived to develop. For example, soon we intend to offer free use of our facilities to selected non-commercial groups and individuals. In particular, we will offer free Open Source software and free equipment use especially to deprived young adults, opportunities otherwise not available to them. We also intend to provide free education to a wide range of groups, in areas that will particularly benefit people's lives. All of this I believe will be manageable, as all our profits can be reinvested into the community.

I am very confident that next year will bring the continued growth that we have seen over the past years, and I am excited to see what impact we will have on the local community.

**Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ended
31 December 2007**

| | 2007 | 2006 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Income | <u>278,190</u> | <u>216,914</u> |
| Cost related to income | 76,981 | 100,995 |
| Gross surplus | <u>201,209</u> | <u>115,919</u> |
| Administrative expenses | 90,823 | 105,650 |
| Buildings repairs & improvements | 110,937 | 0 |
| Operating surplus/deficit | <u>-551</u> | <u>10,269</u> |
| Interest receivable | 1 | 31 |
| Deficit on ordinary activities before taxation | <u>-550</u> | <u>10,299</u> |
| Tax on surplus on ordinary activities | 0 | 1,951 |
| Retained Surplus/Deficit for the financial year | <u>-550</u> | <u>8,348</u> |

Balance Sheet
As at 31 December 2007

| | 2007 | 2006 |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Fixed assets | | |
| Sound & studio equipment | 10,646 | 14,196 |
| Office equipment | 1,800 | 2,400 |
| | <u>12,446</u> | <u>16,596</u> |
| Current assets | | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 29,633 | 26,028 |
| Debtors | 5,370 | 7,311 |
| Stock | 2,850 | 3,052 |
| | <u>37,853</u> | <u>36,391</u> |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | <u>50,501</u> | <u>49,255</u> |
| Net current liabilities | <u>-9,264</u> | <u>-12,864</u> |
| Total assets/liabilities | <u>3,182</u> | <u>3,732</u> |
| Capital and reserves | | |
| Retained surplus/deficit | 3,732 | -4,616 |
| Surplus/deficit for the year | -550 | 8,348 |
| Balance carried forward | <u>3,182</u> | <u>3,732</u> |