TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND

Buidheann Dannsa Tradiseanta na h-Alba
Traditional Dance Collogue o Scotland

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Charity No: SC045085

Traditional **Dance** Forum of Scotland is a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) SC045085
Registered offices at Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR

TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND (TDFS)
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
1 APRIL 2024 – 31 MARCH 2025

REGISTRATION NUMBER SC045085

Principal Office: Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High St, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR

Board and Office Bearers During the Period:

One Trustee resigned from the Board during this reporting period i.e. Bernie Hewitt citing no longer interested in the Forum's activities. He was commended for his services to the Forum as a Dance Music Ambassador and Treasurer from 2017 until 2023.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Background and Context

Based on concerns by many people in the Scottish traditional dance world that it was not getting the profile and promotion it should, an initial meeting of group representatives and individual practitioners was convened in April 2012 in Edinburgh, assisted by Voluntary Arts Scotland.

At this gathering, it was agreed to form the Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland (TDFS) with an initial steering group to go through the set-up process. Also agreed was that the forum would be grassroots 'bottom-up' rather than 'top-down' structure with a primary focus on advocacy, support and collaboration - bringing together different groups and individuals in their local, national and international contexts.

The Steering Group produced a Constitution, which was adopted at the Inaugural General Meeting of the TDFS in November 2013. An application was subsequently made for incorporation as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), which was accepted in September 2014.

Part of this process is working in conjunction with the Traditional Music Forum and Scottish Storytelling Forum through the collective Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland (TRACS) as a vehicle for appropriate joint activity and advocacy. This arrangement is also providing administrative support to the TDFS.

Governance Structure

TDFS is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) regulated by OSCR and governed by the Constitution as agreed by the Forum in General Meeting; motions passed by the Forum in the General Meetings.

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the Forum. The Board holds regular meetings and generally controls and supervises the activities of the Forum, in particular, the Board is responsible for monitoring the financial position of the Forum.

Appointment of Trustees

Elections are held annually by the Forum in the General Meeting. A person must be a member of the Forum in order to stand for election to the Board. The members of the Board can, however, increase the expertise available to the Forum by co-opting relevant non-members and/or members. At each Annual General Meeting, one third of the Trustees are subject to retirement by rotation but shall be eligible for re-election provided they have not served as a Trustee for six consecutive years.

Membership

Membership is open to all organisations and individuals supporting the objects of the Forum.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Purpose

The Forum's objectives are:

The advancement of the arts, heritage, and culture by promoting Scottish culture through Scottish dance style(s), dances of Scottish origin or other related traditional and social dance established in Scotland, thereby, to get more people dancing.

The Forum seeks to achieve this by Forum membership and three main routes of support:

Festivals, Productions and Residencies with the aim to:

- Foster local, national and international activity
- Encourage and undertake relevant research
- Encourage the development and maintenance of archives of relevant material
- Act as a voice for traditional dance

- Celebrate diversity and sharing traditions
- Support and enable communication, involving both network development and information dissemination

The Forum seeks to achieve its aims through:

Festivals: including organising / supporting workshops, public events and conferences; supporting trainers, educators and facilitators; connecting networks through awareness raising and collaboration

Productions: including help develop the accessibility of research and archive material through producing dance theatre show for the stage and screen

Residencies: including developing and promoting educational resources and providing advice and linking people to various aspects of support and mentorship in diverse settings from primary schools to national dance centres

MAIN ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR (1 April 2024–31 March 2025)

The main activities and achievements of the Forum over this reporting period are summarised at Annex A.

Summary of Accounts for the Period ending 31 March 2025

The Summary of Accounts is attached.

This has been a good year for the Forum, with several significant developments. Throughout the financial year the full-time Curator (contracted and paid for by TRACS) has brought considerable curatorial expertise, including fundraising, project management and event organisation experience. Her efforts with the support of the Convenor and other Trustees have raised over £38,000 in grants and corporate sponsorship for specific projects, as well as over £7,000 in earned income and donations from these projects. The contribution from TRACS this year is negligible at £261. This represents a sustainable turn towards diversifying the Forum's income streams.

The Trustees also agreed that membership of the Forum should continue to be free for the immediate future. This was for two main reasons:

To encourage more people to join or to continue as members in the current strained financial times.

To allow the Curator more time to concentrate on fundraising rather than administering membership subscriptions, and this has proven to be very cost effective.

Several members who had set up standing orders in the past have continued to pay these, and these funds, with the consent of the members concerned, will be held over until such time as membership subscriptions are re-introduced.

The Forum overall has been much more active than previous years as can be seen from the significant changes in income and expenditure on Projects (including Productions, Residencies and Festivals), as well as Earned Income and donations from projects such as ***Pomegranates, Ceilidh Plus, Elegies, Trad Dance Cast, The Bright Fabric of Life, 10 out of 10, D is for Dance and ReFashion.***

There is currently an excess of Income over Expenditure in the Restricted funds. This is all earmarked for projects and events which will be taking place in the financial year 2025/26.

The £13,298 Miscellaneous Income came primarily from the corporate sponsorship campaign towards the production of the new screen dance entitled ***The Bright Fabric of Life.***

Risk

TDFS is not exposed to any significant financial risk other than underlying structural uncertainties in our relationship with TRACS, including the employment of our Curator who is contracted and paid by TRACS, rather than TDFS. To mitigate this risk we will seek further legal advice and clarity.

There is a potential risk of improper use of donations, subscriptions or grants received. To mitigate this risk, all funds are carefully monitored and allocated in line with the purposes for which they have been provided.

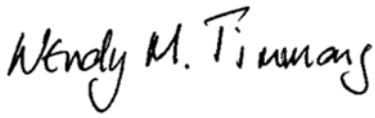
During this period the Trustees also maintained Public Liability, Professional Indemnity and Trustee's Liability insurance.

TDFS is committed to a no-deficit policy. Any threat of deficit will lead to a corresponding reduction of activities.

Reserves

A reserve of £1,000 has been maintained in order to cover any administrative costs should the charity be wound up for any reason.

APPROVED BY THE TRUSTEES AND SIGNED ON THEIR BEHALF BY:



DR. WENDY TIMMONS, TDFS CHAIR

12 July 2025

Annex A: Main Activities and Achievements.

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

To the Trustees of the Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on the following pages 8 and 9.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations, and they consider that the audit requirement does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to our attention:-

a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect of the requirements:-

(i) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44 (1)(a) of the 2005 Act and the Accounts Regulations, and

ii) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the Accounts Regulations they have not been met, or

b) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signature 

Name Iga Bozyk

Address 132/1 Easter Road, EH7 5RJ Edinburgh

Date 25/07/2025

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ACCOUNTS SUMMARY

TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND BALANCES YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025	2024	2023
ASSETS			
Fixed Assets			
Property			
Pull-up banners - Nil value	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1 TB hard Drive	£0.00	£50.00	£0.00
Current Assets			
Bank Account	£15,626.57	£ 20,445.44	£31,229.62
Capital and Reserves	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Assets	**£15,626.57**	**£ 20,445.44**	**£31,279.62**
LIABILITIES			
Nil	£0.00	£0.000	£0.00
Total Liabilities	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Net Working Capital (Assets - Liabilities)	**£15,626.57**	**£ 20,445.44**	**£31,279.62**

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TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

As at 31/03/2025	2025	2025	2024	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted
Income				
TRACS Support	x	261.00	x	12500.00
Membership Subscriptions	27.69	x	88.00	x
Grants	x	25417.00	x	14650.00
Earned Income and Donations from Projects	x	7063.40	x	x
Miscellaneous, inc Projects Sponsorship	x	13298.00	1643.46	x
Totals	27.69	46039.40	1731.46	27150.00
Total Income	**£46,067.09**		**£28,881.46**	
	2025	**2025**	**2024**	**2024**
Expenditure	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted
Mentoring	x	x	x	x
PayPal Fees (Membership)	x	x	1.33	x
Promotion	x	x	x	x
TDFS/Board Expenses	84.55	x	228.25	x
Events	x	x	x	x
Insurance	84.00	x	84.00	x
Projects	x	50715.41	x	39332.06
Donations	x	x	x	x
Miscellaneous	2.00	x	20.00	x
Totals	170.55	50715.41	333.58	39332.06
Total Expenditure	**£50,885.96**		**£39,665.64**	
Net Income (Income - Expenditure)	-4818.87		-10784.18	
Total Brought Forward	20445.44		31229.62	
Total Carried Forward	**£15,626.57**		**£20,445.44**	

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Annex A to
TDFS Report to
OSCR
dated 12 July 2025

MAIN ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS



The Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland is a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
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HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2024 - MARCH 2025





20 FEBRUARY 2025

Masked dancers, costume designer **Gerry Gapinski**, mask maker **Lorraine Pritchard** and festival co-curators gathered to launch our fourth annual Pomegranates Festival programme of 15 events which ran from 25 to 30 April 2025 at 5 venues across Edinburgh. We announced this year's festival themes: traditional dance, masks and intangible cultural heritage.

★★★★★ 'Pomegranates Festival continues to be an important platform celebrating Scotland's rich traditional dance heritage alongside the diverse influences that shape our communities today.' **Vanessa Boyd, Creative Scotland**

22 FEBRUARY 2025

We were invited to contribute to the conference **By Creating We Think** and present some of the research findings from our screen dance exploratory project **By Leaves We Live** aiming to 'dance in the footsteps' of Scotland's early environmentalists and educators Patrick Geddes and Margaret Morris. The conference was officially part of the Edinburgh 900 celebrations.

Our **By Leaves We Live** project was funded by the British Council through the UK-France Spotlight on Culture Programme.





8 MARCH 2025

Released to mark International Women's Day, our latest **Trad Dance Cast** podcast episode once again celebrated the role of women in traditional dance. Our Trad Dance Cast host **Eleanor Sinclair** talked to dance researcher **Alena Shmakova** who uncovered the dance herstory of Scotland, from the Renaissance to the Georgian era, with a focus on Mary, Queen of Scots and lead dancer Sophia Parker.

Tune in to travel to 16th century Scotland and meet Mary, Queen of Scots. Find out how her passion for dance had provoked John Knox's protestant fury and backlash: www.tdfs.org/trad-dance-cast

21 MARCH 2025

With our first **Ceilidh Plus** for 2025 we marked Ireland's patron St Patrick and the 10th anniversary of Scotland's first Bulgarian School 'Nadezhda Stanchova - Lady Muir'. Once again, we offered a taste of world dance rolled into three hours of fun, this time with Irish Ceilis, Bulgarian Horos and Scottish Ceilidhs. We were guided by our dance callers **Dianne Newman, Ariana Stoyanova and Marina Sharp**, plus our ace dance musicians **Morag Brown, Lewis Powell-Reid and Frazer Watson**. Our 150 guests enjoyed our new photo booth and the special Bulgarian snacks.

Part-funded by the Consulate General of the Republic of Ireland in Scotland, in partnership with the Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Centre Scotland, Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh College. www.tdfs.org/ceilidhplus



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Registered Charity SC045085

TRACS

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