



March 2019

## GRT Annual News Round-up

The Trustees (Sue, Lyndsey and Helen Rule) have been working on developing the vision and purpose of the GRT under our tagline, “Cultivating Inclusive Communities”.

In terms of our vision:

**“ We believe in a world comprised of communities where people respect one other, share and value each other’s stories and dwell in harmony with nature. ”**

We have defined the Trust’s Purpose as:

**“ Through our network, we foster flourishing and open communities by working with people to share knowledge, skills and experiences. ”**

Scroll down for news on our strategy going forward and a look back at our activities in 2018.

### Our Strategy July 2018 to December 2019

We developed a strategy in July 2018 to focus and prioritise the work of the Trust through to the end of 2019. Through this, we are pleased to report significant progress on refining the management and oversight of the Grant Rule Trust. We have a new programme tracker in place with clear, documented governance policies and are putting in place the processes and procedures which will allow us to take the Trust to the next stage of its work.

During the next 12-24 months, we hope to be in a position expand our project portfolio, offering funding to small projects contributing towards the Trust’s aim of nurturing flourishing and open communities. We will be looking for opportunities where a small input of money can make a big difference, and we will be measuring our return on investment in terms of the knowledge, skills and experience gained – both by our ‘fundees’ and the Trust itself.

### The Trust’s activity in 2018

#### The Folk Music Community

Much of the Trust’s public activity to date has been concerned with the folk music ‘scene’ particularly in and around West Kent, where Grant lived, played and sang for so many years. People who have been involved with GRT in this way have this year organised their own events and projects to raise funds for the GRT without direct involvement from GRT Trustees. We have also benefitted from donations made to the Trust in memory of members of the folk music family we have sadly lost from our ranks during the last year. These donations will be put towards work to engage more people in discovering, playing and enjoying folk music.

Since its foundation in 2012, the Trust has been involved with, and received donations from, the annual Pig’s Ear Folk Ale festival which was started by Grant and Sue in 2003. In 2018,



the Pig's Ear Folk Ale became a membership organisation in its own right, and the work of planning and running the 2019 festival rests with an organisational committee appointed at its own AGM. As President of the Pig's Ear Folk Ale, Sue retains oversight of the event, but is no longer involved in the day-to-day organisation. Of course, the personal and historic links with the festival remain very strong and the Trustees consider it to be a wonderful example of what an inclusive community can feel like. Other music festivals can generate a similar sense of shared delight but we hope the conscious effort Grant and the rest of the Rule family made to create an event which belonged to the people who attend it contributes towards making it a very special festival.

The Trust held its first music event in Scotland - a House Concert in September 2018, which was very well attended by the community local to Sue in Argyll and Bute, and provided an opportunity to extend the GRT's network. A short leaflet describing the aims and objectives of the GRT was developed for this event and can now be used as literature to promote the Trust's work.

### ***Further Projects***

Included in our current programme portfolio are three projects which have been developed and launched by individual Trustees. These projects are not funded or managed by the Trust, but deliver value to it and contribute towards the vision.

- Sue's research into 'balanced power' across the five capitals has led to plenty of creative conversations with a variety of people and organisations local to her new home in Argyll & Bute, as well as contributing to the development of her new novel. Sue has created a blog called "The View from Rosehaugh" to share some of her thoughts and discoveries as she continues to explore the concepts of value, equality and power. <http://shehaios.co.uk/view-from-rosehaugh>
- Helen this year further developed her online platform "Our Natural Future" to share innovations and ideas on how people can adapt modern life to more sustainable living and contribute to the wider challenge of tackling structural environmental degradation. By the end of 2018, Our Natural Future had 80 followers on Facebook & 79 followers on Twitter, numbers she hopes continue to grow as she further develops the content of the site. <https://www.facebook.com/positiveworldfutures>
- Lyndsey this year further developed her "Heart of the Hedgerow" project encompassing her passions in folk music, wildlife & the environment, folk heritage and heritage farming practices. She is currently planning to deliver workshops around this subject through Chiltern Open Air Museum, due to be launched at the end of March 2019.

### **The Year Ahead – 2019**

We are expecting a busy year ahead for the Trustees with a continued focus on delivering our strategic priorities, alongside the existing projects. We are continuing to refine our processes



and policies with a view to scaling up our communications and networking towards the second half of the year.

We're excited at the prospect of being ready to expand the Trust's project portfolio around the end of the year. We will be looking for opportunities to work with new communities and expand into other thematic areas such as climate challenges and supporting social cohesion in communities.

We hope you will wish to undertake that journey with us.

Helen, Lyndsey and Sue Rule  
Trustees

Do contact us if you would like to chat to us about the Trust. Perhaps you have a new project idea in mind, expertise that might help us with our communications and website upgrade, or you'd like to discuss some of the concepts or policy work that underpins our mission. Whatever it is, we'd be delighted to hear from you.  
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