

Appendix 4.11 Cornish Dance Society Survey: participatory action research

This Survey undertaken in partnership with the Cornish Dance Society September 2007 to August 2008. The Purpose of the survey was to provide a clear picture of Cornish dance activity which had been requested by the Cultural partnerships group within Cornwall Council

Surveys Sent out: 8

Responses 7

Time Period Covered Sep-07 Aug-08

	Displays		Social Dances		Workshops		Club Nights		Festivals	
	No	Audience	No	Audience	No	Audience	No	Audience	No	Audience
Tros ha Tres	16	600	2	59	0	0	0		2	
Bolingey Troyl	2	280	5	500	0	0	10		0	
Ros Keltek	9	2050	6	860	2	97	40		0	
Tan Ha Dowr	7	350	0	0	0	0	20		0	
Pyba	5	250	11	1000	18	400	10		3	
Hevva	16	650	9	500	2	100	0		3	
Kekezza	3	740	0	0	2	250	2		3	
Totals	58	4920	32	2960	24	847	80		11	

Notes.

- Believed to be all groups extant in Cornwall during this time period that regularly engage in the five activities listed and present their performance as Cornish.
- Does not include bands not associated with displays e.g.Dalla, Penntorr, Bagas Porthia, Bagas Degol.

Discussion and Review of survey 10th November 2008 with representatives from the groups surveyed

Discussed the importance of identifying the extent of Cornish dance activity as this is overlooked in the wider performing arts picture in Cornwall and the representations made to Cornwall Council for recognition as part of the cultural activity taking place as much as issues around funding. Private bookings still represented major cultural activity but they were invisible despite representing a very large audience (2960 + people). "Public" events organised by CDS members and other dance bands had a high profile in terms of advertising and media coverage but there was no evidence that anything like the same number of people were involved.

General feeling of groups was that they were in such great demand that this put a pressure on them to accept bookings every weekend. For many members the groups were a social activity and there was reluctance to commit such a disproportionate amount of their leisure time to this. Weddings were a major source of bookings, for example, but this was paid work rather than a leisure activity depending on the circumstances. The split or demise of several groups in recent history was attributed to this pressure. The Cornish dance movement was in some respects a victim of it's own success.

One of the reason for the popularity of folk dancing generally was that it was very accessible for a wide range of people, and a good mixer and relatively inexpensive . Organsiers liked being able to discuss the dances proposed with the dance group and ensure that they were at a level that people could manage and be taught or called through easily. Another issue was that the dance groups came packaged with a caller to act as master of ceremonies and a sound system.