



Annual Review

April 2017—March 2018

Registered charity number: 1086434

Company number: 04033853



TCC tackles social injustice by supporting diverse communities to gain the power needed to enact change. We do this through community organising: bringing together local groups, supporting them to set their own agenda, take action, and improve communities.

Our members are many different faith groups, community groups, and schools from across Wrexham, Flintshire, and Denbighshire. At our monthly meetings any of our members can raise an issue for TCC to work on, meaning our members really set our agenda. Once agreed by the other groups, we research the issue thoroughly, finding out who else might be involved, and who has the power to make a decision which will change the situation. We think about what is in their interest, and how this can be combined with the community's interests to have a positive outcome for everyone.

We work in the public arena, often with those in power, but we don't have any political allegiances. Our main aim is to build relationships and power in the community, so that people are able to have a say on decisions made about them. Since being founded in 1995 TCC has been incredibly successful in doing so.

This annual review outlines a few of our successes from the last year. A full annual report which includes the independently examined accounts is available from the TCC office and from the Charity Commission.



Wrexham Speaks!

In November TCC worked with the Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (AVOW) and Wrexham's Young Parliament, Senedd yr Ifanc to create and deliver an event for Parliament Week. *Wrexham Speaks!* featured contributions from MPs Susan Elan Jones and Ian Lucas, Toby Jones, Wrexham's youth MP, Tom Blackwell, member of Wrexham's youth parliament and Janet Jones, senior journalism lecturer at Glyndŵr University. It was fantastic working with so many young people interested in politics and public life, and our work together has led to an agreement for TCC to provide community organising training for a group of young leaders in the next year.



Vegetarian meals

The TCC group at St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School achieved a fantastic win on their vegetarian meals provision issue. The group planned and led a meeting with the catering manager for Wrexham secondary schools, who agreed to the changing the menu for all Wrexham schools to ensure there is a vegetarian option every day, and to better labelling of vegetarian food, and improvements to the pre-booking system. To celebrate their success, the group invited all of Year 7 to a homemade 'come and try vegetarian' lunchtime event.

Following a listening exercise, leaders identified an issue with town and county councillors not responding to constituents. In response, TCC developed the 'Councillors Connect' pledge. This asked candidates standing in the local elections to commit to responding to constituent and local groups' first contact within 10 working days (bar leave). As a result, the campaign gained cross party support, with Plaid Cymru Wrexham and Clwyd South Conservative signing the pledge publicly at events outside the Guildhall in Wrexham.



Councillors Connect

Note from the lead organisers

This year we've had a busy time in the TCC office with staff changes and trialling new ways of working. We'd really like to thank our trustees and member groups for your support, which has allowed us to continue delivering fantastic work and meant we've had a huge impact.

19 people attended our residential community organising training, where it was fantastic to see such a wide range of groups represented, and especially to have several young people taking part. One participant said "I thought I knew about power but didn't. It helped me understand the term and believe in myself to influence change."

Ahead of the snap general election in May we ran a roundtable accountability meeting in Wrexham, held one to ones with candidates in Clwyd South, and a group of young leaders met with candidates in the Vale of Clwyd. TCC's patron, Bishop Gregory Cameron led community leaders in signing a letter entitled *Democracy needs participation* which was widely distributed amongst diverse organisations and in the press.

Our work on Fairtrade is ongoing, with TCC supporting an event calling on Sainsbury's to continue using Fairtrade tea, and the TCC group at St. Christopher's gaining the next level of the Fairtrade School award.

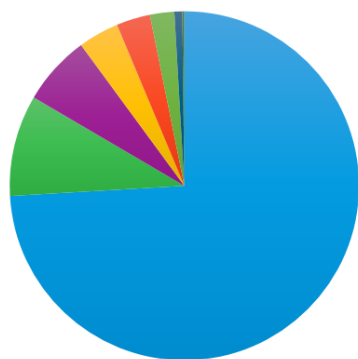
We've continued to benefit from winning the Guardian Charity Awards last year, with a package of support including strategic planning from the Foundation for Social Improvement, and media training from an ITV political reporter.

TCC Week was again a fantastic success, raising funds through a range of activities including climbing the height of Snowdon (indoors!), and a storytelling evening at Trevor Hall. We are enormously grateful to those who generously contributed their time, resources, and expertise.

As well as this, ongoing work has continued on a variety of other community issues. Thank you to all TCC's leaders and supporters who work so hard to make our work a success.

Samlex-Edwards & Kay Riley

Income



Total: £76,697

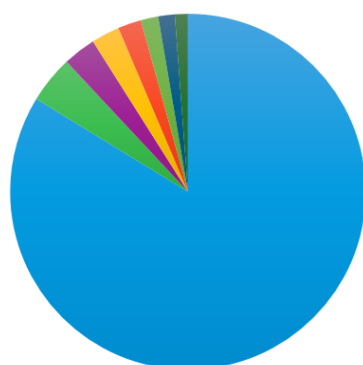
- Grants: £56,807
- Member dues: £7,200
- Supporter programme: £4,970
- Fundraising: £2,893
- Training: £2,400
- Gift Aid: £1,729
- Donations: £554
- Interest: £114

Our funders

We are very grateful to our funders who provide grants which support TCC's day-to-day running. In this financial year we received grants from The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, The Big Lottery Fund, The Presbyterian Church of Wales, St. Asaph Diocese, and the Cymru Synod of the Methodist Church.

Full, independently examined accounts are included in TCC's annual report.

Expenditure



Total: £68,725

- Salaries & employment expenses: £57,546
- Training: £2,963
- Travel: £2,048
- Legal fees & insurance: £1,772
- Actions, translation, fundraising, promotion: £1,463
- Photocopier, postage & stationery: £1,090
- Communication: £1,030
- Sundries & depreciation: £813

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Our members

Currently we have 33 groups in membership, and are always looking for new groups to join us. All groups pay annual membership dues, based on their size. However as you can see the majority of our funding comes from grants.

Being a part of TCC means that groups can raise issues for TCC to work on, share in the support and strength of other member groups, and access TCC's training free of charge. This could be either through attending one of our regular residential courses, or arranging training specifically for their group.

Our staff

For part of the year TCC's lead organiser Mrs Kay Polley was on maternity leave, and the post was covered by Ms Sam Rex-Edwards. From January 2018 Kay and Sam have job shared the lead organiser position. In June 2017 our youth and community organiser, Mrs Chloe Gallagher went on maternity leave, and in August Dr Sarah Partington took up the role as maternity cover. TCC's part-time administrator is Mrs Sue Williams.

Our trustees

Our board of trustees meets at least four times a year. The board in this year were: Rev Dr Jennifer Hurd (chair), Dr Farookh Jishi (vice-chair), Mr David Day (treasurer, stepped down in September), Ms Anna Jane Evans, Mrs Nia Higginbotham, Mrs Ann Owen, Rev Nan Powell-Davies (stepped down in August), Mrs Maria Rimmer, Ms Melanie Sinclair, and Ms Alison Tudor Williams, with Lord Bishop Gregory Cameron as TCC's patron. All groups are encouraged to nominate members to become trustees.