Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	01	04	2025	To	31	03	2026

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	FRIARY BRASS BAND
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	1137290
Charity's principal address	C/O 37 PONDTAIL ROAD
	FLEET
Postcode	GU51 3JF

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	David Wicks	Chairman		
2	Lauren Straker	Secretary		
3	Christopher Straker	Treasurer		
4	Hannah Richards	Contest Secretary		
5	Andrew Singleton	Band Manager		
6	Alistair Richards	Band Librarian		
7	Michael Trumble	General MT member		
8	Christopher Attwood	General MT member		
9	Richard Straker	Digital Media Manager		
10	Stephen Thorpe	Minutes Secretary		
11	Timothy Straker	Public Relations Officer		

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Unincorporated association
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Election by members in General Meeting

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The trustees, who also constitute the Band's management team, are elected by the members in General Meeting.

The management team meets monthly.

A risk management policy is in place, together with a risk register. The policy and risk register are reviewed regularly by the management team.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of brass band music in all its aspects.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

The Friary Brass Band undertakes a wide variety of activities aimed at increasing public awareness and appreciation of brass band music. These activities include self-promoted concerts, concerts and other events to raise funds for other charities, outside engagements for individuals, organisations and events and public engagements, as well as contests.

The Band is keen to encourage all players to develop their musical skills. Younger players are welcomed to join rehearsals to help with their musical development and gain experience by sitting alongside its members. Friary is also keen to maintain and develop links with educational establishments for mutual benefit in developing musical skills.

Potential new players are also welcomed to rehearsals, and open rehearsals are held from time to time to enable members of the public to see how, for example, the Band prepares for a major contest. .

The Band's Public Relations Officer regularly visits two local nursing homes to play recorded sessions of brass band music to residents.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Friary Brass Band does not make grants, although as stated above, some events raise funds for other charities.

Section D Achievements and performance

2025-2026 was another positive year for the Band, with some success on the contest stage, and more engagements than during the previous year. The following engagements were undertaken by the full Band unless otherwise stated:

Concerts and other engagements:

2025

- Godalming bandstand concert
- Great Bookham concert
- Armed Forces Day (cornet player)
- Lewes Bonfire Parade
- Guildford Borough Council Remembrance events
- ITV 'Win Christmas' filming (not full band)
- Hogs Back carol concert
- Carolling, Chertsey Goose Fair (not full band)
- Sarcoma UK carol concert (a number of Friary players performed as part of Brass Coalition band)
- Carolling, The Meadows, Camberley

2026

- Hartley Wintney concert
- Ibstock School Brass Day, Roehampton

Contests:

2025

- British Open Spring Festival, Grand Shield, placed 9th
- Wessex Brass Band Association contest, placed 1st (together with numerous specific awards)

2026

- London & Southern Counties Regional Championship, placed 6th

As far as concerts and civic events were concerned, we were delighted that apart from the Chertsey Goose Fair carolling, all the above were return engagements, an acknowledgement of Friary's reputation. Indeed, we have already been asked to perform again at all of them in the next 12 months, with the exception (as yet) of only the ITV filming, Chertsey Goose Fair and Sarcoma UK carol concert. These would not be booked until much nearer the time.

On the contest stage, apart from the Wessex BBA event – a new contest for the Band - Friary's results were a little disappointing, in particular at the regional championship where the Band failed to qualify for the National Championships for only the third time since 2013.

As a result of the contest results, Friary was ranked 55th in the world as at 31st March 2026 (2025: 43rd) according to www.4barsrest.com, but remains the highest ranked band in London & Southern Counties region. The www.brassstats.com table ranks the Band at 45th as at 31st March (2025: 28th)

The Band's Management Team continually reviews progress against the Band's objectives.

Section D Achievements and performance

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Band's Reserves Policy was revised in January 2022 and is still considered to be appropriate. In summary, reserves should normally be maintained at a level between 70% and 100% of forecast annual running costs, excluding members' expenses. They should not be allowed to fall below 50%, and any amount above 100% should be deemed to be surplus reserves with a clear plan in place for their utilisation.

Sustainability of the Band is of paramount importance. External charitable or other grant support for running costs is not generally available, hence the need to maintain a prudent amount in the Band's reserves to ensure short term continuity.

The Reserves Policy is re-examined annually, in conjunction with the Band's annual budget and forecast, with any changes to be approved unanimously by the entire Management Team.

Friary Brass Band remains well funded, unlike many brass bands - including some major names. The past three years have seen an annual surplus.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The Trustees are pleased to report a surplus of £9,999 for the past year (2024/24: surplus £10,085)

Principal sources of income were GiftAid on donations of members' expenses £14,809 (2024/25: £16,013); engagement fees £9,625 (£9,800) and members' subscriptions £8,575 (£8,125).

The major items of expenditure were for the Band's Musical Director's fees £11,167 (2024/25: £12,517); rehearsal venue hire £7,726 (£7,647); general administration (including website and software costs, PRS licence and Brass Bands England membership) £1,129 (2024/25: £1,537); fees for guest players £795 (£875);

Members' travel expenses are donated back to the Band and GiftAided under an HMRC approved scheme): these totalled £49,260 in 2025/26 (2024/25: £29,340 – 6 months' expenses only due to timing of GiftAid claim).

The Band does have an investment policy but in view of the possible need to access its reserves at short notice, these are maintained in the form of cash deposits. These totalled £62,1561 at the end of the financial year (2024/25: £52,152). There are no long term investments.

Section F Other optional information

The Band's Musical Director for the previous two years, Nigel Taken, stood down at the end of 2025, and an extensive search was made for a replacement. A total of eleven responses to the vacancy advertisement was particularly pleasing, and after two rounds of auditions and interviews, the decision was made at the beginning of March to appoint Captain Andrew Porter FRSM FTCL BMus Hons GRNCM. Andrew is also currently Director of Music of the Grenadier Guards and has held a number of other prestigious military band appointments.

David Wicks stepped down as the Band's Chairman at the 2026 AGM to concentrate on his other musical activities. Andrew Singleton, previously the Band Manager, was elected as the new Chairman.

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	ASingleton	CStraker
Full name(s)	Andrew Singleton	Lauren Straker
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairman	Secretary
Date	09.09.2026	09.09.2026

FRIARY BRASS BAND
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2026

RECEIPTS

INTEREST			233.26
SUBSCRIPTIONS			8,575.00
ENGAGEMENTS	Full Band	9,025.00	
	Sole/Ensemble	600.00	9,625.00
CONTEST PRIZES			0.00
CONCERT INCOME			0.00
FUNDRAISING/DONATIONS			
	Chertsey Carols	23.50	
	Easy Fundraising	130.45	
	Donations	500.00	653.95
CHARITY A/C DISBURSEMENT			695.26
CD SALES			0.00
MISCELLANEOUS	Hotel for Grand Shield		62.00
TRAVEL EXPENSES DONATIONS			49,259.73
GIFT AID			14,809.47
			83,913.67

PAYMENTS

CONDUCTORS	General	8,580.00	
	Contest/Concert	2,587.00	11,167.00
GUEST PLAYERS	Contests	754.70	
	Concerts	40.00	794.70
CONTEST ADMIN			109.00
CONTEST ENTRY FEES			875.00
INSURANCE			754.94
CONCERT COSTS			5.80
ADMINISTRATION			1,129.04
HALL HIRE	Regular	6,568.40	
	For Contests	1,157.65	7,726.05
UNIFORMS			84.22
EQUIPMENT/ACCESSORIES Purchases			278.49
INSTRUMENT PURCHASES			0.00
EQUIPMENT/ACCESSORIES Hire/Servicing			120.89
VAN/COACH HIRE			267.16
MUSIC			890.08
GIFTS			219.45
TRAVEL EXPENSES			49,260.43
GIFT AID TO CHARITY A/C			232.31
			73,914.56

Balances brought forward from 2024/2025

Lloyds A/c No 1	975.56	
Lloyds A/c No 2	275.13	
Deposit A/C	16,868.60	
HTB SME Easy Access	0.00	
Notice Account	34,014.93	
Supporters' A/c	0.00	
Cash Float	18.00	
		52,152.22
		136,065.89

Balances carried forward to 2026/2027

Lloyds A/c No 1	768.12	
Lloyds A/c No 2	276.85	
Deposit A/C	4,083.36	
HTB SME Easy Access	57,000.00	
Notice Account	0.00	
Supporters' A/c	0.00	
Cash Float	23.00	
		62,151.33
		136,065.89

Debtors Outstanding:
Savings Interest Accrued to 31/3/26 1,524.13

Treasurer : C Straker

Independent Examiner : M Keates FCA

FRIARY BRASS BAND - Supporters' Club
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2026

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
	0.00		0.00
Balances brought forward from 2024/2025	0.00	Balances carried forward to 2026/2027	0.00
	0.00		0.00

Treasurer : C Straker

Independent Examiner : M Keates FCA

FRIARY BRASS BAND - Charity Account
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2026

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Collection - The Meadows - Dec 25	1,158.22	50% Disbursement to Main Band funds	695.26
Gift Aid claimed on Meadows (GASDS)	232.31	50% Donation to MacMillan Cancer Support	695.27
Collection - Chertsey Goose Fair	23.50	100% Disbursement to Main Band funds	23.50
Transfer from Main Band Funds	7.56	Bank Charges	7.56
	1,421.59		1,421.59
Balances brought forward from 2024/2025	0.00	Balances carried forward to 2026/2027	0.00
	1,421.59		1,421.59

Treasurer : C Straker

Independent Examiner : M Keates FCA

FRIARY BRASS BAND
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Treasurer : C Straker

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