Verwood Prize Band

known as Verwood Concert Brass

Registered Charity Number 1144224

ANNUAL REPORT

For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

Verwood Concert Brass

Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

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Verwood Concert Brass

Trustees and Advisors on 31st December 2025

Principal address:	The Band Hall Moorlands Road Verwood BH31 7PD
Management Trustees:	
Committee Officers:	
Chair:	Helen Dunnings
Vice Chair:	Sally Burrows
Secretary (Minutes and Engagements):	Louisa Elliott
Secretary (Administration):	Gwyneth Selby
Treasurer:	Robert Graves
Committee Members:	
	Karen Adams
	Daniel Burrows
	Rosie Connell
	Michael Dunnings
	Eileen Lock
	Sian Mete
	Jane Smith
	Elizabeth Tanner
	Susan Ward
Holding Trustees:	Kay Butler
	Mervyn Green
	Noel Smith
	Janet Tiller
Independent examiner:	Julia Allnutt FCA

Verwood Concert Brass

Trustees' Responsibilities

The accounts are the responsibility of the Trustees.

The Trustees have supervised the preparation of the accounts and have agreed suitable accounting policies, to be applied consistently, making any estimates and judgements on a prudent and reasonable basis.

The Trustees also have a general responsibility for ensuring that adequate accounting records are kept and for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities, and are required to act in accordance with the constitution and rules of the charity, within the framework of the law; act prudently, conscientiously and honestly, and with the utmost good faith; act in the best interests of the members and beneficiaries of the charity and strike a fair balance between the interests of the different classes of beneficiary and take advice on technical matters and any other matters which are not understood.

Verwood Concert Brass

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their annual report and accounts for the year to 31st December 2025

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity, which is a non-incorporated organisation, is governed by a constitution which was adopted on 18 March 2024.

The day to day running of the charity is the responsibility of the Management Trustees. The Management Trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting and are elected from the charity's membership. The 2025 AGM was held on 7th April 2025.

The Management Trustees throughout the year were:

Position	01/01/2025 to AGM	AGM to 31/12/2025
Chair	Helen Dunnings	Helen Dunnings
Vice Chair	Sally Burrows	Sally Burrows
Secretary (Minutes/Engagements)	Louisa Elliott	Louisa Elliott
Secretary (Administration)	Gwyneth Selby	Gwyneth Selby
Treasurer	Robert Graves	Robert Graves
Principal Band Master	Ian Harris	Ian Harris: to 1/7/2025 Jeff Brown* from 2/7/2025 - 2/9/2025 Shawn Blaker* from 3/9/2025
Town Band Master	Sian Mete	Sian Mete
Community Band Master	Louisa Elliott/Karen Adams	Louisa Elliott/Karen Adams
Publicity Officer	Elizabeth Tanner	Elizabeth Tanner
Hall Manager	Susan Ward	Susan Ward
Equipment Officer	Daniel Burrows	Daniel Burrows
Contest Secretary	Michael Dunnings	Michael Dunnings
Band Member 1	Eileen Lock	Eileen Lock
Band Member 2	Jane Smith	Jane Smith
Band Member 3	N/A	Rosie Connell

Notes
* denotes secondees who do not have full trustee status until voted in at the following AGM, if applicable. Dates denote first committee meeting following appointment.

The Holding Trustees for the charity who hold the title to the charity's property were: Kay Butler, Mervyn Green, Noel Smith, Janet Tiller.

Objectives and Activities

The Objectives of the Band are:

a) To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the Trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals.

b) To further such charitable purpose or purposes as the trustees in their absolute discretion shall think fit but in particular through the making of grants and donations.

In pursuit of these objectives and activities the Trustees have paid due consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objectives:

The key activities of the year have been to support the objectives of the band through the fostering and facilitation of the musical aspirations of Verwood Concert Brass (VCB) members and to further their musical advancement, by providing musical entertainment for others, participating in and promoting musical activities including concerts and contests and collecting money on behalf of designated charities and participating in other additional activities for the purposes of public benefit.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year:

Fostering and furthering the musical aspirations and advancement of VCB members is a key objective of the charity.

The three bands (Community Band, Town Band, and Principal Band) along with The Acorns and Ensemble Group that comprise VCB have been active throughout the year. The Community Band and Acorns Group have seen an increase in membership, welcoming both young people and adults, of varying ability and experience. In addition to weekly rehearsals, guidance and support have been provided by other more experienced band members. Given the pressure on school curriculums to give adequate time for music education, VCB provides an additional valuable service to school age children.

The transition structure set up between the three bands and Acorns continues to provide an excellent opportunity for players to move up the band structure as their expertise and experience grows. Likewise, it also allows players to move down the band structure, should

they feel they would be better suited, for whatever reason, playing in a less challenging band.

Ultimately, the band structure supports the aim of VCB to offer accessibility and opportunities for players of all standards and aspirations. This can be deemed a successful strategy as VCB has more than 80 members. Relatively few of the hundreds of brass bands in the UK have anywhere near this number of members and sadly some bands are discontinuing due to lack of players.

Verwood Concert Brass has been very active in supporting and entertaining the community throughout the year. In particular, VCB played a key role in providing musical entertainment in the community with three formal concerts at The Verwood Hub and a concert at Verwood Methodist Church and at Kinson's St Andrew's Church, three free Brass on the Grass open air concerts in Verwood, two coffee afternoons at The Verwood Memorial Hall, an ensemble concert at Poulner Church and numerous carolling events over the festive season, including a free outdoor 'Carols by Torchlight' evening and a festive concert at a local care home.

VCB also supported community events such as the Trinity School Fete, Ferndown Fete, Verwood Rotary Club Rustic Fayre, Remembrance Sunday Service and parade and the Verwood Town Council's Christmas Extravaganza. It is always keen to participate in other civic celebration events, such as coronations, jubilees and commemorations as and when they arise.

The preservation of the tradition and heritage of brass banding is a key aim of the Trustees especially given the extremely long history of the band, which started in 1864. Brass Band contests are an important way to uphold this tradition with both the Principal Band and Town Band competing throughout the year. Participation and successes at contests help to evidence the objective of advancement and improvement but it also brings pride to the wider community in seeing its local bands competing with other bands from up and down the country.

The following extracts from the website brassbandresults.co.uk show the contests entered and the positions gained.

Verwood Concert Brass (Principal Band)

Date	Contest	Position	Additional Prizes
22/02/2025	Oxford & District Winter Contest (Championship Section)	1st	Best: Cornet Player Tenor Horn Player
9/03/2025	West of England Regional (Championship Section)	4th	
10/05/2025	British Open Spring Festival (Senior Cup)	6th	
17/11/2024	Wessex Brass Band Association Winter Contest	3rd	Best Horn Section

The Principal Band is a Championship Section band and is one of the top ranked bands in the West of England region. It also competes in the prestigious national event, the British Open Spring Festival.

Verwood Town Band

Date	Contest	Position	Additional Prizes
12/02/2025	Oxford & District Winter Contest (Second Section)	3rd	
09/03/2025	West of England Regional (Second Section)	3rd	
13/09/2024	National Championship of GB (Second Section Final)	8th	
29/11/2024	Wessex Brass Band Association Winter Contest	9th	

This was the first year that the Town Band played as a Second Section band having been promoted from the Third Section. On gaining a 3rd place finish at the West of England Regional Second Section contest, the Town Band qualified to compete in the National Championship for the third year in a row. Very few non-Championship Section bands have achieved this.

Verwood Community Band

Although the Community Band does not generally compete in contests it did enter the local Wessex Brass Band Association Winter Contest on 29/11/2025 as a way of developing the band and giving some contest experience to the players. They came a creditable 12th and won special prizes for having the youngest player and the best player.

Financial Review

The charity had a cash holding of £37,961.87 at the year end, all of which was in unrestricted funds. The Trustees regularly consider whether to set aside an amount to meet any unforeseen expenditure that may occur at any point during the year.

Reserves were depleted due to the extensive cost of repairing the charity's property – the band hall. With the band hall repair project having been fully and successfully completed during the 2024 financial year, the Trustees were able to set aside £20,000 at the start of the 2025 financial year as a reserve fund. The reserve fund was not utilised during 2025.

The Trustees have given further consideration to the level of reserves that should ideally be held. Consequently, and given the organisations strong financial position, they have decided to allocate a further £10,000 to the reserve fund bringing the total reserves to £30,000 for the start of the 2026 financial year. The Trustees also considered that this amount will restore the reserves to a sufficient level that they will seek to maintain going forward, with the addition of annual inflationary increases. They will continue to keep this under review and adjust it if considered necessary.

Of the £37,961 cash holdings and with £30,000 being allocated to reserves, the Trustees consider that the remaining £7,961 will be sufficient to maintain the charity's ordinary day

to day activities given the normal cash flow pattern of income and expenditure anticipated for 2026.

The Trustees' considered opinion is that the financial position is such that the charity is a viable ongoing organisation for the foreseeable future.

It is worth noting that through the extensive fund raising activity required to repair the band hall, the Trustees have gained significant experience and knowledge in how to successfully raise further funds, be it additional concerts, sponsorship, applying for grants and donations etc, should the need for additional unforeseen funding, in excess of the reserves, arises again in the future.

Reporting Serious Incidents

The Trustees declare that there are no serious incidents or other matters relating to our charity over the financial period to 31 December 2025 that should have been brought to the Charity Commission's attention.

Verwood Concert Brass

Report of the Trustees (Continued)

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees.

Signature: H Dunnings

Full Name: HELEN DUNNINGS

Position: CHAIRMAN

Date 30/3/2026

Signature: R Graves

Full Name: ROBERT GRAVES

Position: TREASURER

Date 30/3/2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A **Independent Examiner's Report**

Report to the trustees/ members of	**Verwood Prize Band (Verwood Concert Brass)**		
On accounts for the year ended	**31st December 2025**	**Charity no (if any)**	**1144224**
Set out on pages	10 to 11		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention ~~(other than that disclosed below *)~~ in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:	[signature]	**Date:**	11/02/2026
Name:	JULIA ALLNUTT		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (FCA)		
Address:	19 LITTLE DEWLANDS, VERWOOD, DORSET, BH31 6QA.		

Verwood Concert Brass

Accounts for year ended 31 December 2025

General Fund (unrestricted) Receipts and Payments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Receipts		
Donations, sponsorship and grants	7,346.37	24,706.55
Fundraising and sundry income	6,715.11	16,886.06
Interest on deposit account	406.69	57.27
Members' subscriptions	13,633.00	11,429.00
Concerts and engagements income	15,488.99	11,534.70
Gift aid receipts	2,067.16	2,349.67
	45,657.32	66,963.25
Asset and investment sales		
Receipts from sale of instruments	-	-
Payments		
Cost of fundraising and sundry income	125.37	407.65
Expenses re concerts and engagements	2,278.42	1,374.89
Musical Director expenses	11,855.00	10,840.00
Repairs and maintenance	2,940.00	102,327.78
Light and heating	2,497.08	3,610.72
Rates and water	284.69	229.40
Insurance and licences	2,181.14	2,906.36
Telephone and web site	607.64	471.03
Contest and affiliation fees	9,229.99	20,568.72
Donations paid	451.74	-
Printing, postage, stationery and sundry	1,236.66	1,532.28
	33,687.73	144,268.83
Asset and investment purchases		
Purchase of instruments/Cases	1,182.00	499.99
Purchase of uniform and music	1,879.70	659.54
	3,061.70	1,159.53
Net of receipts / (payments)	**8,907.89**	**- 78,465.11**
Cash funds previous year end	29,053.98	107,519.09
Cash funds this year end	**37,961.87**	**29,053.98**

Verwood Concert Brass
Accounts for year ended 31 December 2025

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Assets	31/12/2025	Notes	31/12/2024	Notes
Bank & Cash Balance				
Lloyds Current Account	£ 11,694.90		£ 28,918.84	
Lloyds Instant Access Account	£ 5,634.53		£ -	
Lloyds Deposit (Reserve) Account	£ 20,384.23		£ -	
Lloyds Instant Access (Defibrilator) Account	£ 93.27		£ -	
Cash in Hand	£ 154.94		£ 135.14	
	£ 37,961.87		**£ 29,053.98**	
Property				
Band Hall, Moorlands Road, Verwood (Freehold)	£484,100.00	2	£470,000.00	1
Storage Unit	£1,794.00	4	£ 1,854.00	3
	£485,894.00		**£471,854.00**	
Instruments				
Brass	£155,738.00	6	£144,738.00	5
Percussion	£31,419.50	6	£31,419.50	5
Accessories e.g. mouth pieces, mutes, straps, lyres	£3,542.11	6	£0.00	5
	£190,699.61		**£176,157.50**	
Equipment e.g. stands, chairs, tables, kitchen, marques etc	**£2,000.00**	7	**£964.25**	5
Music	**£95,850.00**	8	**£94,750.00**	8
Uniform	**£26,801.00**	9	**£18,373.00**	9
Cups & Trophies	**£0.00**	10	**£0.00**	10
Total Assets	**£839,206.48**		**£791,152.73**	

Liabilities	31/12/2025	31/12/2024
	£0.00	**£0.00**

Reserves	31/12/2025	31/12/2024
	£839,206.48	**£791,152.73**

Notes

1 Insured rebuild cost. Keith Shearing of Shearing Homes, advised Sally Burrows (VCB Vice Chair) on 18/10/2024 that the rebuild cost would be £470,000 which is the amount used for the October 2024 insurance renewal.

2 Insured rebuild cost. Rebuild cost figure used in the insurance renewal October 2025.

3 Cost price. A metal storage unit was purchased on 16th September 2024 for £1,845 plus delivery costs.

4 Replacement cost price. The same metal storage container now retails at £1,794. Therefore this value has been used.

5 Replacement cost price. Figure obtained from audit in October 2024 for insurance purposes.

6 Replacement cost price. Figure obtained from Equipment Inventory as at 19 October 2025.

7 Insured value. The value of general contents of the band hall at the October 2025 insurance renewal.

8 Replacement cost price. Based on number of music pieces at year end multiplied by the average purchase costs of music.

9 Replacement cost price. Based on audit of uniform held and estimated replacement cost of items.

10 Correction. For 2024 the insured value of Cups & Trophies of £5,500 was used as the asset value. However, the insurance is to cover the cups & trophies won during the year but returned to contest organisers the following year and therefore are not assets of VCB. The few cup & trophies that VCB actually own are deemed of insignificant value to be classed as an asset. Therefore the 2024 figure has been corrected to £nil and a correct entry of £nil has been entered for 2025.