Community Music Whickham and Swalwell
CIO Registered Charity Number 1162027

Trustees' Annual Report for the year 31st March 2026

The Trustees are pleased to present this report for Community Music Whickham and Swalwell (hereafter referred to as CMWS), which was registered as a charity on 5 June 2015. The registered office is 3 Washingwell Park, Whickham, Tyne and Wear, NE16 4QW.

CMWS was formed by a group of people from the local community who wished to promote and inspire excellence in music, support the fulfilment of personal aspirations and enjoyment in making music, and provide performance opportunities so that the local population could benefit from these activities.

Trustees

- Lynne Bloxham – Chair
- Daniel Binns – IT Adviser
- Jennifer Boynton – Vice-Chair
- Mavis Beadle – Assistant Treasurer
- Anne Lindsley – Secretary
- David Megginson – Membership Lead
- Alan McBurnie - Treasurer
- Brian Stoneman – Policy Adviser
- Amy Tate – Safeguarding andVolunteer Coordinator
- John Treherne – Artistic Director
- Hannah Tate

Governance and Management

The governing document is the Community Music Whickham and Swalwell CIO Constitution, adopted by the Trustees on 17 May 2015 and recognised by the Charity Commission upon registration of the CIO on 5 June 2015.

All Trustees were briefed on their roles and responsibilities, given copies of the organisation's governing documents and referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on becoming a trustee and on public benefit. They are kept informed by the Chair of all relevant correspondence and updates from the Charity Commission.

Following the resignation of David Megginson. Two new Trustees, Mavis Beadle and Hannah Tate, were appointed during the period of this report.

The Trustees hold regular, usually monthly, meetings throughout the year. Some operational and planning matters are delegated to subcommittees made up of Trustees. All meetings are minuted.

The Trustees work entirely on a voluntary basis.

There is one service provider, who acts as tutor and conductor of the Community Orchestra. Their work is covered by a Service Level Agreement, which includes clauses relating to quality and assessment. During the period covered by this report, following the resignation of the previous conductor, a new conductor was successfully appointed. All other tutors are Trustees who work on a voluntary basis.

CMWS has an honorary partnership with our two local churches, St Mary the Virgin, Whickham, and Holy Trinity Church, Swalwell.

Objectives

The objective of CMWS CIO is:

For the public benefit, to advance education and appreciation in all aspects of music-making through the provision of tuition, materials, performance opportunities, public concerts, lectures and recitals.

CMWS aims to encourage performance opportunities for musicians of all ages and abilities. Our programme of events has increased in both number and variety, thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of the Trustees.

Activities

Over the twelve months since the last report, CMWS has supported the following activities:

- Continuation of music theory classes remotely.
- Performance assessments, similar to examinations, to assess the progress of individual students, either online or in person according to the candidate's preference.

These assessments provide an indication of individual progress and standards.

- Weekly term-time rehearsals of the handbell group, Bells Up.
- Weekly term-time rehearsals of the Community Orchestra in preparation for concerts and other events.

For both ensembles, CMWS provides rehearsal space, tuition and sheet music.

Everyone is welcome to join one or both groups without discrimination, and no audition is required.

The ensembles have continued to support local churches and charities by performing free of charge at selected events.

CMWS continues to emphasise the importance of performance experience and providing participants with suitable materials and instruments in good repair.

Instruments are loaned to students free of charge. However, borrowers, or their parents or guardians, are asked to insure any instrument on loan.

Events and Performances

CMWS arranged and supported the following events and performances during the period covered by this report.

Bells Up – 3 June 2025

Bells Up held a free open evening, inviting members of the public to listen and try their hand at playing handbells.

Community Orchestra – 6 October 2025

The Community Orchestra held a similar free open event, with the aim of attracting new members.

Bells Up – December 2025

Bells Up performed at the Gift Day coffee morning at Holy Trinity Church, Swalwell, on Saturday 6 December. The group also performed at the Carol Services at Chase Court sheltered accommodation and St Mary the Virgin Church, Whickham, on 16 and 21 December.

Community Orchestra – 21 December 2025

The Community Orchestra performed at Swalwell Community Centre for the Holy Trinity Church, Swalwell, Carol Service.

William Shield Festival of Music

7 October – 16 November 2025

The annual William Shield Festival celebrated the life and work of the locally born composer, who was born in Swalwell. Shield was Master of the King's Musick from 1817 to 1829 and composed operas performed at Covent Garden.

CMWS organised a celebration of his music, including a weekend of highlights from his operas, featuring arias and choruses.

The Festival presented a programme of concerts, recitals, talks and opera celebrating the music of William Shield and his contemporaries.

Tuesday 7 October – Northumbria University, 1.00 pm
Deborah Thorne (baroque cello) and John Treherne MBE (harpsichord) performed works by Telemann, Boismortier and Geminiani. Admission was free.

Friday 17 October – Lit & Phil, 1.00 pm
Cellist Gordon Dixon and harpsichordist John Treherne MBE were joined by mezzo-soprano Laura

Oldfield for a programme of music by Shield's contemporaries, including Handel and de Lalande. Admission £7.

Friday 17 October – Vox Populi, 6.00 pm
The Newcastle-based vocal ensemble presented *Night Prayer*, a programme of choral music and poetry featuring works by Tallis, Rheinberger, Celia McDowall and Roxanna Panufnik. Admission £12.

Saturday 18 October – Lit & Phil, 10.00–11.15 am
Recent Newcastle University graduates, including James Hall (harpsichord) and Alexandra Lee (soprano), performed music for the stage by William Shield and his contemporaries. Admission £7.

Saturday 18 October – Concert Royal, 1.00–2.15 pm
Peter Harrison (baroque flute), Rachel Gray (baroque cello and viola da gamba) and John Treherne (harpsichord) presented chamber music from the mid-eighteenth century. Admission £7.

Saturday 18 October – Talk, 3.00–3.45 pm
Dr Amelie Addison explored William Shield's chamber music, examining his string quartets and trios and the influences of his friendships and travels. Admission £7.

Saturday 18 October – Schlusskonzert, 4.30–6.00 pm
An open performance invited musicians and singers of all abilities to participate, concluding with the traditional performance of *Auld Lang Syne*. Admission was free.

15 and 16 November – Opera Weekend
Concerts took place at Valley Gardens Middle School, Whitley Bay, and Swalwell Community Centre. Featuring Rocket Opera soloists, the William Shield Chamber Orchestra, led by Bradley Creswick, and chorus, the programme included highlights from Shield's operas, alongside Mozart's early comic opera *Bastien und Bastienne*.

Ticket prices were kept as low as possible to cover costs. Under-18s and students were admitted free of charge.

The Festival was organised by Community Music Whickham and Swalwell as part of its continuing programme of music courses, recitals and cultural activities for the public benefit in accordance with the charitable aims and objectives.

Through its tuition, ensembles, performances and the William Shield Festival, CMWS provides opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to develop their skills, gain performance experience and enjoy making music together. The provision of instruments on loan and opportunities to participate without audition, helps make these activities accessible to a wider range of people. Performances also bring enjoyment to wider audiences and support local churches and charities. In this way, CMWS helps people develop their abilities, take part in community life and benefit from shared cultural experiences.

Profit and Loss Statement

Community Music Whickham & Swalwell

Year to Date 31/3/26

Income

Description	Amount
Grants	
Event tickets	1,797.83
Raffles & Donations	6,708.49
Music Fees	3,795.88

	Amount
Total Income	**12,302.20**

Costs

Description	Amount
Admin	
Services	10,952.35

	Amount
Total Cost of Sales	**10,952.35**

	Amount
Gross Profit	**1,349.85**
(Total Income less Cost of Sales)	

Expenses

Description	Amount
Web	
Marketing	
Sundries	
Room Hire	1,484.00

	Amount
Total Expenses	**1,484.00**

	Amount
Net Profit	**-134.15**
(Gross Profit less Expenses)	