The Beaminster Festival and The Friends of The Beaminster Festival

(A charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission number 1164346)

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

The Beaminster Festival and The Friends of The Beaminster Festival

Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	**3**
Trustees' Report	**4-8**
Independent Examiner's Report	**9**
Statement of Financial Activities	**10**
Balance Sheet	**11**
Notes to the Financial Statements	**12-13**

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Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Silvana Bandini
Peter Brook
Philip Crawford
Patrick Evans
Richard Fodder (Appointed 23 March 2025)
Brian Ridley
Murray Rose
Michael Ryan

Principal Trustee

Philip Crawford

Chair of Festival Committee

Philip Crawford

Artistic Director

Lois Pearson

Charity Registered Number

1164346

Principal Office

6 Fleet Street
Beaminster
Dorset
DT8 3DR

Bankers

HSBC UK

Honorary Solicitor

Kitson & Trotman
The Champions
Beaminster
Dorset
DT8 3AN

Independent Examiner

Guy Brindley
1 The Brit
East Street
Beaminster
Dorset
DT8 3DT

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Objectives and activities

Policies and objectives

The principal objective is to advance the education of the public in the arts in the town and district of Beaminster, Dorset in particular but not exclusively by organising an annual arts festival in Beaminster. During the festival, we arrange music concerts for the schools in our area and also invite those schools to participate and to perform concerts as part of the programme.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Activities to achieve objectives

The Festival was held during June/July 2025. A full program of events was held with a continued policy of engaging highly skilled artists including established and recognised performers and those at the beginning of their careers. There were twelve classical musical events and four literary talks in St Mary's Church. We held a play in the Manor Gardens, and an exhibition of local Artists in the Town Hall (in collaboration with a local arts group).

Additionally the first weekend featured an exploratory trail leading to a number of interesting but smaller gardens

During the year we also staged two classical music concerts, one in the Spring and one in the Autumn

School Activities

There was a great deal of school based educational activity with both the Primary schools, who had musicians visiting and demonstrating musical instruments, and the Senior School who held their own concert in the church with a demonstration from a visiting professional pianist. In addition some local schools have held mini concerts before the morning concerts and the students have been encouraged to stay for the following concerts and ask questions to the performing artists.

The Trustees were approached by the Head Teacher of Mountjoy School, Beaminster, in September 2025 requesting assistance to raise a sum of £4,104 to cover the costs of extra music therapy lessons for the pupils at this SEND school. The Trustees agreed to make a grant of £2,052 (50%) from the festival's reserves and to organise additional collections at festival events until the full cost

was met. The grant is shown in the accounts for 2025 whilst the balance (which did not form part of Festival funds) was raised during 2025 and early 2026.

The Festival does not use a professional fund raiser or a commercial participator.

Volunteers

The Trustees would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Festival's dedicated team of volunteers. There approximately sixty people who give their time and energy to the Festival. Without their marvellous help the Festival would not exist.

Achievements and Performance

The programme was very well received by our audiences. All the events were well supported. The quality of the artists was very much appreciated by those that attended.

The continued use of internet ticket selling has been very successful with more people being attracted from further away and some new, more local people now attending concerts.

The school events were appreciated more than usual which was rewarding for those who put in all the work to get the school's programme organised.

Once again our sponsors and donors have come forward with much needed support. It would not be possible to bring such quality events to Beaminster without the contribution made by these donors. We are very grateful to them.

Financial Stability

The Trustees are confident that the Beaminster Festival is in a stable financial position. Maintaining a substantial reserve in case of crisis has always been a policy of the Trustees.

Financial review

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Reserves policy

An adequate level of reserves for the Festival is considered by the Trustees to be £60,000. This is needed to contract good quality artists, and meet other essential costs before the Festival begins together with a contingency in case of cancellation at short notice.. At December 31st 2025 the level of reserves for the Festival stood at £61,169 (after the grant to Mountjoy) and that is in line with the desired reserve policy.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Consistent with many other Art and Music Festivals we face a wide range of challenges. The biggest of these is the unforeseen and unavoidable cancellation of a festival where the costs and cancellation charges are incurred without any corresponding income. This has now been demonstrated both in this year 2020 and subsequently in 2021 when we had to cancel the Festival.

In addition, the Festival is dependent on the continued financial support of our donors and sponsors and the dedicated support of our volunteers.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Beaminster Festival and The Friends of The Beaminster Festival (The Beaminster Festival) is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) that was registered with the Charity Commission on I 0th November 2015.

Its registered number is 1164346.

During 2025, the Trustees agreed with the committee of the The Friends of the Beaminster Festival that the activities and financial reporting of the Friends should be consolidated more fully with the other festival activities. This consolidation (which did not impact the overall position of the charity) is reflected in the Financial Report.

Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The existing trustees appoint new trustees on the basis of the appointee's knowledge, experience and ability to contribute towards the achievement of the Festival's objectives. They are appointed for a term of three years and may be re-elected at an annual meeting.

Trustees Approval

This report was circulated to the Trustees who all gave their approval to the report.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by

Philip AV Crawford Chairman of the Trustees

The Beaminster Festival and The Friends of The Beaminster Festival

Trustees Report

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable ti charities in England and Wales requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting standards and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is appropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The names of the trustees and the charity's principal advisors are given on page 1.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 20th October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Philip AV Crawford

Chairman of the Trustees

1 The Brit

East Street

Beaminster

DT8 3DT

15th October 2026

The Trustees

The Beaminster Festival and The Friends of the Beaminster Festival

I have examined the accounts presented to me for the year to 31st December 2025.

Your attention is to drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the accounts (financial statements) in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities. You understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect, 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.

Yours sincerely

Guy Brindley

The Beaminster Festival and The Friends of the Beaminster Festival

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
Income and Endowments from:		
Operating Activities:		
Festival & Friends Activities	97,766	83,007
Investment Income	1,585	1,154
Total Income	**99,351**	**84,161**
Expenditure on:		
Charitable Expenditure:		
Festival Activities	95,111	81,775
Charitable Donation	2,052	
Management and admin	1,966	972
Total Expenditure	**99,129**	**82,747**
Net Movement in funds	222	1,414
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	**61,409**	**59,995**
Total funds carried forward	**61,631**	**61,409**

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Variations of +/- £1 in aggregates are due to roundings.

The Beaminster Festival and The Friends of the Beaminster Festival

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	0	0
Current Assets		
Prepayments		0
Cash at Bank and in Hand	64912	61889
Current Assets	64912	61889
Creditors		-240
Prepayments	3281	-250
Net Current Assets	61631	61409
Funds of the charity	61631	61409
Total Funds	61631	61409

The financial statements were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 20th October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Philip AV Crawford

Chairman of the Trustees

The Beaminster Festival and The Friends of The Beaminster Festival

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025	2024
INCOME		
TICKET SALES	48,356	40,704
CHOIR	503	746
DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIP	38,883	27,873
SUBSCRIPTIONS TO FRIENDS	3,300	3,495
DONATIONS FOR REFRSHMENTS	2,013	1,522
GIFT AID	4,608	3,625
MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS	103	943
INTEREST	1,585	1,154
TOTAL INCOME	99,351	80,061
ARTISTS FEES	36,815	27,011
VENUE & EQUIPMENT HIRE	7,391	7,680
STAGE MANAGEMENT	10,151	8,594
INSURANCE	855	605
PRS	2,592	1,331
FUND RAISING COSTS	778	
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR SALARY & EXPENSES	16,583	15,197
CATERING	948	1,684
COST OF REFRESHMENTS	1,114	738
TICKETING COSTS	3,411	2,730
PIANO HIRE, TRANSPORT & TUNING	2,157.50	1,515.00
ADVERTISING & PROMOTION	6,069	5,891
PRINTING & STATIONERY	3,629	3,121
MISCELLANEOUS	445	625
SCHOOL EVENTS	1,840	645
DONATION TO MOUNTJOY SCHOOL	2,052	
TOTAL FESTIVAL EXPENSES	96,831	77,366

MANAGEMENT EXPENSES		
OFFICE HIRE	800	0
TELEPHONE & COMMUNICATIONS	413	426
SOFTWARE & IT SUPPORT	942	586
BANK CHARGES	143	270
TOTAL MANAGEMENT EXPENSES	2,298	1,281
TOTAL SURPLUS (SHORTFALL)	222	1,413

Trustees Remuneration and Expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses from the charity during the year.

In accordance with the Constitution, trustees indemnity insurance has been arranged.

Staff Costs

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

The Artistic Director received a payment of £16,000 (2024 £15,000)