Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	01	January	2025	To	31	December	2025

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	**North East Theatre Organ Association**
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	**1169463**
Charity's principal address	**c/o The Chairman, Mr. J. L. Heslop**
	25, The Green, Elwick,
	Hartlepool
	Postcode **TS27 3EF**

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	John Leister Heslop	Chairman		
2	David Wright	Honorary Secretary	(Re-elected as Trustee at AGM 08/07/2025)	
3	Joseph William Marsh			
4	David Kirkbride			
5	Suzanne Kirkbride		(Re-elected as Trustee at AGM 08/07/2025)	
6	James Robinson			
7	Rosilyn Ann Raine	Joint Friends' Secretary		
8	Barry Raine	Joint Friends' Secretary		
9	Geoffrey Donald Jackson	Honorary Treasurer / Ticket Sales Officer		
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				

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)	CIO Foundation Model Constitution dated 31st August 2016
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by Members of the CIO to serve for a 3 year period

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.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits in return for duties carried out on behalf of the charity.

The Trustees have considered major risks associated with the day-to-day operations carried out by the NETOA and have produced a number of Risk Assessments and Policies to assist with addressing these and other statutory requirements. Insurance is carried to cover the charity against losses associated with the premises of the New Victoria Centre, Howden le Wear and the Wurlitzer Theatre Organ and other contents; also Public and Employers Liability Insurance. Although there are no paid employees of the charity, the 'Employees Liability' section of the insurance covers volunteers working on behalf of the charity and visiting professional musicians employed on a one-off contract basis.

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 theatre pipe organ music, its history and heritage. This is to be achieved by the preservation of a theatre pipe organ (or organs) and using this / these organ(s) to educate the public through open days, performances and other means; training and education of those who wish to learn the skills of playing and maintaining such organs, etc. Also to further such other purposes as are exclusively charitable under the laws of England and Wales, as determined by the Trustees.

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 of the NETOA CIO have kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at trustee meetings and when planning activities, etc. and when carrying out their duties.

Although the Covid 19 pandemic is now several years behind us, like the majority of voluntary organisations we continue to notice some on-going effect on the operation of the charity. We have continued to operate a full programme of events and to evolve our programme offer in the light of experience whilst monitoring audience numbers and reactions. Visits by outside organisations (such as U3As, Womens Institutes, Rotary & Probus Clubs, Age UK, works organisations, etc.) who typically visit the New Victoria Centre to learn about the history and development of the theatre organ have continued to build up again during 2025 and these visits, together with such events as the Heritage Open Day, contribute towards attracting new audience members to regular concerts, etc.

Organ practice sessions for Friends of the NETOA and Friends Concerts were resumed but numbers attending were still limited at times.

Additional information relating to the history and development of the theatre organ, the NETOA and details about our own organ installation in particular are now made available to the general public via the NETOA website in furtherance of the objectives relating to education in theatre organ matters and we had a successful day when we joined in the national Heritage Open Days programme in September - see below).

Further detailed information about the activities and their success is provided in the 'Achievements and Performance' section of the report.

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.

The contribution made by volunteers to the charity's operation has, as always, continued to be of the greatest importance as the North East Theatre Organ Association continues into its second half-century of activity.

Having been originally founded in 1968, the Association had operated as a non-charitable not-for-profit organisation until becoming a CIO on 4th October 2016 and during that earlier period, the great generosity of many donors and the practical help of almost 200 volunteers made possible a project that led to the great honour of the NETOA being presented with the 'Queen's Award for Voluntary Service' (sometimes called the "MBE for Volunteer Groups") in 2016. We believe that we were the first organisation operating in this particular sector to have been given this award.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Following the retirement of our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Joseph Marsh, after over 30 years in the post, Mr. Geoffrey Jackson took over the role with effect from the beginning in the year. Mrs. Irene Hatton had also retired as Independent Examiner of the Association's accounts and Mr. Malcolm Darby agreed to take over this position. Mr. Marsh remained as a Trustee to assist and advise in whatever way he could.

Further insulation work was carried out in the building to continue the energy efficiency drive: this time during the 'shut-down' period in January and February the exposed exterior wall at the end of the Solo organ chamber had insulated plasterboard fixed to it (which required removal / replacement of two ranks of organ pipes). Another important maintenance task involved taking up part of the Tea Room floor to rectify some loose / uneven joists before the start of the concert season, once this was done a new section of carpet had to be sourced and fitted in the central part of the room.

As we prepared for a new concert season we introduced a new ticket sales system using the commercial provider 'Ticketsource'. This catered for online ticket sales linked to our website and also telephone sales and added a small booking fee to the ticket price. Overall the use of this system seemed to prove very successful.

It has always been a policy of the NETOA to encourage young people to get involved with the theatre organ and Declan Poole is one of those young players who, from an early age, has played at various events on the New Victoria Centre Wurlitzer. When Declan expressed a wish to enter the American Theatre Organ Society's 'Young Theatre Organist of the Year' competition at their annual convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, we immediately offered him our organ as a practice instrument (as it is quite similar to the organ in the Oriental Theatre, where the competition was to be held). Declan, who comes originally from Cumbria, first made a recording on the NETOA Wurlitzer which had to be submitted for approval by the competition committee in order to gain entry to the competition proper and he then returned to Howden le Wear to rehearse his full competition programme. We are pleased to report that he was the winner of the competition, which was held in July.

The A.G.M. of 'Members' of the NETOA CIO was held on 8th July 2025.

An approach had been received in 2024 from the organisers of the Durham Brass Festival regarding the possible use of the New Victoria Centre and the Wurlitzer organ for an event during the Brass Festival and after lengthy discussions and investigations this was arranged for the 2025 Festival which took place on Saturday 19th July. Organist Howard Beaumont and the Stanhope Silver Band under the direction of Dennis Noble cooperated in a very successful programme of music played to a sell-out audience.

Section D Achievements and performance

Durham Fire and Rescue Service carried out an inspection at the New Victoria Centre on Wednesday 13th August (the first for some time) and requested that we submit copies of the fire alarm and fire extinguisher service records and our Fire Risk Assessment. An updated plan was included in the latter document incorporating additional information which had been requested during the visit and a letter of compliance was subsequently received from the Fire Service on 27th August.

We undertook extensive refurbishment of the Wurlitzer Harmonic Tuba rank a couple of years ago with excellent results, but time constraints did not allow the 16 foot extension to the rank to be attended to at that time. So, the 14 large pipes of the extension (which are housed in the upper organ chamber) got their turn during the summer break and were removed and transported down to Shires Organ Pipes Limited in Leeds where Terry and Chris Shires and their team spent a few days correcting some mis-shapen and dented pipes, repairing a broken top window and dealing with some 'rattles' coming from the knuckles of the mitres on the bigger pipes. We soon had all of the pipes back looking (and sounding) much better!

In October we held a special event in association with the Royal College of Organists 'Play the Organ Year' hosted by David Lowe when we threw the doors open to the public who could find out all about the 'ins and outs' of the theatre pipe organ - and even have a go at playing it! This followed on to a busy Heritage Open Days Weekend in September with a steady stream of visitors coming to see the Wurlitzer. Organ chamber tours were available for those interested and visitors were able to enjoy Stuart Wright's Gavioli fairground organ playing outside in the car park, although the weather was not good!

Concert audience numbers continued to improve slowly overall and the trend for more tickets to be sold 'on the day' rather than in advance seemed to continue. Our Christmas concert was 'sold out' once again, as was the silent movie performance played in November by Aaron Hawthorne when he provided a marvellous accompaniment to 'The Phantom of the Opera' (1925) to a very enthusiastic audience.

Trustee Matters:

Two Trustees were due to retire by rota and were duly re-elected at the 2025 AGM in July (see above).

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	The charity's aim is to have a working reserve of approximately six months turnover available in the main bank account for day-to-day operational purposes. Additional (restricted) reserve funds are maintained for: a) 'Organ Maintenance, Repairs & Renovations' and b) 'Building Maintenance & Repair'. Two savings accounts are held with other banks for 'reserve funds' (one giving instant access and one 'notice' account - both paying significantly better interest than our high street bank had been offering. It is our policy to maintain each of these accounts at a level within the FSCS maximum compensation limit.
Details of any funds materially in deficit	N/A

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 CIO's principal source of funding is from running of concerts and other events featuring the Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ at the New Victoria Centre, Howden le Wear, for which admission is charged.

Other funds are raised from events organised by the Friends of the NETOA; donations from visiting organisations; participation in the annual National Heritage Open Days weekend and general donations (including from those using the organ for private practice).

Expenditure in the year has supported key objectives by continuing to maintain the New Victoria Centre (the principal operating base for the NETOA) and its Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ in good overall condition and working order, thereby providing the basis for meeting the educational and heritage objectives.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	John L. Heslop	David Wright
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairman	Honorary Secretary
Date	14.06.2026	

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

NORTH EAST THEATRE ORGAN ASSOCIATION

CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

Registered Charity Number 1169463

BALANCE SHEET AND

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER 2025

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NORTH EAST THEATRE ORGAN ASSOCIATION:

I have examined the financial statements on pages 2 to 5 with reference to bank statements and vouchers for receipts and payments.

In my opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the receipts and payments of the North East Theatre Organ Association for the year ended 31st December 2025.

MR. M. DARBY
Independent Examiner
1st February, 2026

NORTH EAST THEATRE ORGAN ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER 2025

	Note	2025			2024	
		£	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	1					
Land and Buildings			150,000		150,000	
Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ			50,000		50,000	
Fixtures and Fittings			20,000		20,000	
				220,000		220,000
CURRENT ASSETS						
Unrestricted						
Bank, Paypal and Building Society		63,475		61,710		
Cash in Hand		115		115		
			63,590		61,825	
Restricted						
Bank and Building Society deposits			54,851		54,902	
				118,441		116,727
				338,441		**336,727**
REPRESENTED BY:						
Accumulated Funds brought forward				336,727		337,399
Total net (loss) / Surplus on all Funds for the year				1,714		(672)
Accumulated Funds carried forward				**338,441**		**336,727**

JL HESLOP
Chairman

GD JACKSON
Treasurer

7th September, 2026

NORTH EAST THEATRE ORGAN ASSOCIATION

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Note		2025		2024
		£	£	£	£
Receipts from ordinary activities					
Concert income	2	10,652		10,028	
Friends' subscriptions		533		487	
Donations	3	3,887		3,113	
Sales office takings		713		1,511	
Friends' and other events		590		1,012	
Raffles		903		770	
Gift Aid		1,022		-	
Bank and Building Society interest		3,235		2,218	
			21,535		19,139
Payments on ordinary activities					
Organists fees and expenses		3,690		3,200	
Building expenses	4	10,000		9,024	
Organ tuning and maintenance		1,871		680	
Printing, postage, telephone and advertising		2,394		3,471	
Sales office purchases		115		2,285	
Refreshments		1,050		749	
Performing Right & Licence fees		204		102	
Website charges		320		320	
Bank& Card Merchant Charges	5	77		-	
Other		100		-	
			19,821		19,831
Surplus / (Loss) on ordinary activities			1,714		(692)
Adjustment due to delayed Paypal funds reported after previous year end	6		51		-
Balance brought forward			61,825		62,517
Balance carried forward			£ 63,590		£ 61,825

NORTH EAST THEATRE ORGAN ASSOCIATION

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	BUILDING	ORGAN	TOTAL	TOTAL
		2025		2024
	£	£	£	£
Balances brought forward	28,358	26,544	54,902	54,882
Receipts				
Sponsor a pipe appeal	-	410	410	85
Bank & Building Society Interest	479	479	958	755
	28,837	27,433	56,270	55,722
Payments				
Shires Organ Pipes	-	984	984	820
Insulation materials	358	-	358	-
UPS Battery	-	77	77	-
	358	1,061	1,419	820
Balance carried forward	£ 28,479	£ 26,372	£ 54,851	£ 54,902

NORTH EAST THEATRE ORGAN ASSOCIATION

NOTES ON THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

1 Fixed Assets

The values attributed to these assets represents the estimated value that the Association would expect to receive at the Balance Sheet date if these assets were sold on the open market. It is our policy to review these values at each year end and revise the figures as necessary. This removes the need for an annual depreciation charge.

The Land and Buildings comprise the New Victoria Centre (the former Trinity Methodist Church) plus the adjoining car park made up of two parcels of land (the sites of former numbers 20 & 21 High Street, Howden-le-Wear, Crook, County Durham, DL15 8EZ).

The Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ is the original instrument from the New Victoria theatre, Bradford (later known as the Gaumont theatre), complete with all additions and upgrades.

The Fixtures & Fittings comprise the Brenkert F7 Master Brenograph & attachments, the sound and lighting equipment, the seating, sanitary ware etc., fixed electrical installation, fire & security alarms, and the kitchen equipment.

2 Concert income	2025 £	2024 £
Ticket sales	8,730	8,892
Refreshments and programmes	1,422	636
Theatre Organ Club Concert Support Grant	500	500
	£ 10,652	£ 10,028

3 Donations

Use of New Victoria Centre	100	232
Organ private practice	1,110	975
General donations	2,267	1,906
Sponsor A Pipe Appeal (SAPA)	410	-
	£ 3,887	£ 3,113

4 Building expenses

Electricity and gas	5,096	5,676
Insurance	2,082	1,926
Water	224	242
Repairs and maintenance	2,598	1,180
	£ 10,000	£ 9,024

5 Bank and Card Merchant Charges

This line has been added to show these charges as a separate item for greater clarity, following the application of bank charges by Lloyds Bank plc to the Association's main current 'Charity' account in 2025.

6 Paypal Account

The adjustment of £51 has been made to allow for Paypal funds received but which went unaccounted for due to an internet reporting problem with our Paypal account. The account failed to deliver regular information on sales and receipts for some earlier years, (and hence we were unable to reconcile this receipt at the time). This sum was banked in 2025 but attributable to previous financial periods.