

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	1st	January	2025	To	31st	December	2025

Section A Reference and administration

Charity name	**Leigh Folk Arts Association CIO**
Other names charity is known by	**Leigh Folk Festival Association**
Registered charity number (if any)	**1171298**
Charity's principal address	**20 Ceylon Road**
	Westcliff-on-Sea
	Essex
	Postcode **SS0 7HP**

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	Keith Baxter	Secretary		
2	Paul Collier	Artistic Director	Until 27/8/2025	
3	John Batch	Treasurer		
4	Neil Harding			
5	Nick Dart			
6	Sarah-Jane Holmes			
7	Simon Gentry		From 27/8/2025	
8	Chris Robson		From 27/8/2025	
	The trustees take it in turn to Chair meetings.			

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

	Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
	None	

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)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	New Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the Association by way of a vote of members present at that 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.

Regular meetings of the trustee body, separate from the festival organising group, were held during the year. The trustees are all involved with organising the festival and are usually members of the festival organising group. Resources available do not permit separation of the role of trustee, which is considered best practice.

The treasurer regularly assesses the risks the Charity faces and then considers how to eliminate, mitigate or transfer the risks faced, the results are recorded in a risk register and reviewed by the Trustees.

Section C Objectives and activities

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

The Trustees are empowered to hold the Association's funds in trust for any purpose, which is charitable in accordance with the law of England and Wales, for the benefit of any individuals or group of people, or corporate bodies including the aim of organising and running the Leigh Folk Festival, and to preserve and advance the public education in the appreciation of traditional and contemporary folk music.

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 Association has been running the Leigh Folk Festival for over 30 years (with breaks only during COVID-19 and a fallow year in 2024). Due to the pandemic, the Festival could not take place in 2020 or 2021; however, the Association delivered alternative programmes the *Frontroom Folk Festival* (streamed in 2020) and *Garden Gatherings* in September 2021. Throughout 2025, we continued our focus on strengthening the festival organising group and rebuilding financial resilience to address the challenges that led to the 2024 fallow year.

The Festival successfully returned in 2025. Despite ongoing financial pressures, we were able to maintain free entry by introducing a suggested minimum donation, increasing revenue from ancillary sales, securing additional grants, reducing costs where possible, and maintaining corporate sponsorship.

During the year, the Association benefited society by providing free cultural entertainment through the Leigh Folk Festival, enriching community life and providing accessible arts experiences. The Festival supported health and mental wellbeing by offering uplifting live music and creative activities that reduce stress, improve mood, and foster a strong sense of community. It also helped strengthen social cohesion and reduce isolation by bringing people together across ages and backgrounds, creating shared community spaces and meaningful connections. The Association continued to provide valuable performance opportunities for emerging and established artists and encouraged community participation and volunteering, helping individuals build skills, confidence, and stronger ties to the local community.

The Association received grants, sponsorship, concession income, ticket sales, and donations during the year and disbursed these funds through operating expenses. Additional income was raised through merchandise and concert ticket sales.

The trustees have had regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any relevant powers or duties.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

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

We greatly value the contribution made by volunteers during the year. The event could not have happened without them. In line with other Charitable organisations, we faced difficulty in attracting sufficient volunteers willing to organise the festival. However, during 2024 and 2025 several local residents came forward to join the organising committee.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

During 2025 the Charity achieved:

- Arranging Leigh Folk Festival and fundraising concerts
- Raising funds for Leigh Folk Arts to enable the festival to go ahead in 2026.
- Strengthening reserves.
- Recruiting members to the festival organising group.
- Improving the risk assessment framework

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Trustees endeavour to maintain adequate resources to provide finance for the Folk Festival to take place. The money at the end of the year under review (£28,122) is shown on the Receipt and Payments accounts and is considered adequate for the Associations activities in 2026 if the festival is held and allowing for fund-raising activities which will take place in 2026. The trustees recognise that the increasing costs of organising the festival, in particular professional management and increasing production costs, will continue to require greater fund raising efforts.

Funds for ongoing activities are held with the Association's bankers in a current account, deposit account and within our PayPal account.

The charity's reserves are held in a deposit account, and the trustees increased the amount held in reserves by £2,577, and reserves currently stand at £13,162. These reserves are held rather than being immediately expended for our charitable aims:

- to protect against the potential for drops in future income, for example because of poor weather over the festival weekend and other contingencies; and
- to allow us the financial headroom to consider other charitable activities and be more ambitious with our fund-raising.

While good progress has been made with strengthening the financial position and reserves of the charity, our medium term objective remains to increase reserves to cover the annual expenditure of the charity.

Our reserves can be spent on any of our charitable aims.

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 fund-raising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The Charities principal sources of funding are usually grants, sponsorship, donations, street collections, sale of merchandise, sale of concert tickets, concessions fees and profit shares with drinks vendors.

We have our back catalogue available on streaming services and encourage sponsored events. We have added channels for fund-raising over the past few years, such as raffles, fundraisers, a 50/50 club, text to donate, an externally run lottery and a Big Prize Draw with varying success.

All fundraising activities are managed directly by the association or its volunteers. We did not use any professional fundraisers during the year, and no complaints were received regarding our fundraising activities

The Trustees had systems in place to continually monitor the financial position.

Systems have been implemented by the Trustees to minimise any future risk to assets.

The Treasurer regularly monitors the financial position of the Charity and reports this to the Trustees. This has identified the need to increase fund-raising effort to protect the organisation's assets and future. To enact this, a fund-raising committee seeks to widen the sources of funding and seeks

funds locally and nationally. The trustees are looking to recruit additional members to the fundraising committee, having added a volunteer with bid writing experience in 2025.

It is the trustees' opinion that continued discipline with expenditure and maintaining the increase in fund-raising effort can enable the Charity in the long term to continue its activities in furtherance of its charitable aims and to grow.

The Trustees are less concerned regarding the financial position of the Charity in the short term, given the fundraising in 2024 and 2025. If the fundraising for 2026 is not successful, with the increased costs faced by the Charity we will review the position in late 2026.

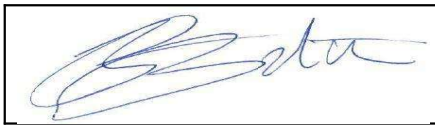
Section F Other optional information

Related Party Transactions: The charity maintains a conflicts of interest policy. During the year, two trustees performed at the festival as part of a band. A single performance fee of £200 was agreed with the group; this was in line with rates paid to similar acts and was approved by the other trustees.

The Trustees confirm that there have been no serious incidents during the reporting period that should have been brought to the attention of the Charity Commission.

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 Batch**	
Position	**Treasurer**	

Date **11/02/26**

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

gh Folk Arts Association CIO	1171298	CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	1/1/25	To	31/12/25

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	10,365	-	-	10,365	-
Sponsorship	4,150	-	-	4,150	450
Donations	17,407	-	-	17,407	4,202
Interest	379			379	160
Ancillary Income	4,369	-	-	4,369	672
Concert tickets	3,842	-	-	3,842	5,126
Giftaid	1,200	-	-	1,200	2,608
Bars/Concessions	20,957	-	-	20,957	-
Big Prize Draw	2,380	-	-	2,380	-
Fundraiser	-	-	-	-	631
50/50 and Misc Fundraising	776	-	-	776	1,524
***Sub total**(Gross income for AR)*	65,825	-	-	65,825	15,373
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
None	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	65,825	-	-	65,825	15,373
A3 Payments					
Performers	7,768	-	-	7,768	1,500
Security	3,488	-	-	3,488	-
Festival Management	12,750			12,750	-
Festival Management (2026 Festival)	4,350	-	-	4,350	-
Infrastructure	13,362			13,362	-
Insurance	2,923	-	-	2,923	706
Licences/Subscriptions	1,498	-	-	1,498	105
Promotional	2,383	-	-	2,383	533
Cost of sales/concerts	4,965	-	-	4,965	312
General expenses	3,961	-	-	3,961	855
Generators/Electricity	3,450				
Storage	1,158	-	-	1,158	1,256
Music/Volunteer catering	1,065	-	-	1,065	-
50/50 club prizes	-	-	-	-	612
Sub total	63,121		-	63,121	5,879
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	63,121		-	63,121	5,879
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,704		-	2,704	9,494
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-

A6 Cash funds last year end	25,418	-	-	25,418	15,953
Cash funds this year end	**28,122**	**-**	**-**	**28,122**	**25,447**

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	**Bank Accounts**	13,925	-	-
	Reserves	13,162	-	-
	Cash	-	-	-
	Paypal	1,035	-	-
	Total cash funds	**28,122**	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	None	-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	None	-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Equipment for Folk festival	Unrestricted funds	-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	None			

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		**John Batch – Treasurer**	**11/02/26**

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	**Leigh Folk Arts Association CIO**		
On accounts for the year ended	**31st December 2025**	**Charity no (if any)**	**1171298**
Set out on pages	**1 to 2** (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

As the charity's trustees, 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 all 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 in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:		**Date:**	**15/10/2016**
Name:	**Dr. Derek J. Oliver**		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	**PhD, DBA, CISA, CISM, CRISC**		
Address:	**Ravenswood, 148 Essex Way** **South Benfleet, Essex, SS7 1LN**		