Charity Registration No. 1188959

# DEVIZES ARTS FESTIVAL (1188959)
# TRUSTEES' REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2026

# *DEVIZES ARTS FESTIVAL*

## *LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION*

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**Trustees**:

Mr V McNamara
Mrs J Edwards
Mrs C Goodwin-Figes
Mr G Batten
Ms G Neil
Mrs P Morgan
Mr J Bradford
Mrs D Junghanns
Mrs L Holmshaw
Ms M Jackson
Mrs K Campbell
Mr M A McQuaid
Mr A Woodison

**Secretary**: Mrs C Goodwin-Figes

**Charity number**: 1188959

# *DEVIZES ARTS FESTIVAL*

## *TRUSTEES' REPORT*
## *For The Year Ended 31 August 2026*

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2026

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005.

**Structure, governance and management**

The charity was established by a charitable trust deed on 14 January 2000. The trustees who served during the year were:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr V McNamara | Ms G Neil | Mrs L Holmshaw |
| Mrs J Edwards | Mrs P Morgan | Ms M Jackson |
| Mrs C Goodwin-Figes | Mr J Bradford | Mrs K Campbell |
| Mr G Batten | Mrs D Junghanns | Mr M A McQuaid |
| Mr A Woodison | | |

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The trustees review the level of reserves to ensure the continuation of the festival in the future. A target level has been set equivalent to a minimum of the total anticipated annual cost of the festival, and a maximum of two years anticipated costs.

**Trustees' responsibility for the accounts**

Charity law requires the trustees of the festival to prepare statements of account for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the festival and of its incoming resources and application of resources for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

-select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
-make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

-to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the methods and principles set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities and to state whether or not the accounts have been prepared in accordance with that statement and applicable accounting standards;

-prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the festival will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which are sufficient to show and explain the Festival's transactions, and to disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the Festival, and to enable them to ensure that any statements of account comply with the requirements of the

Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the festival and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Objectives and activities**

The charity's objects are to advance the education of the public in the arts and in particular, but not exclusively, by the organising of an annual arts festival in Devizes and the surrounding area.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

**2026 Review**

This time last year, we were looking forward to an evening with Simon Evans, sharing his reflections on AI and other humorous observations on modern life. A thoroughly enjoyable way to round off 2025 before turning our attention to the small matter of our 40th anniversary. Forty years since the first Devizes Arts Festival in 1986, and we wanted to mark the occasion in a few different ways.

At our launch party, we introduced a competition to identify famous faces from festivals past. Some found it rather easier than others. We also plan to hold our 40th anniversary charity quiz in the Autumn, proceeds of which will be donated to the Mayor's charities.

We also wanted to make something of the anniversary in our publicity, while also linking it to sustainability and doing our bit to end the single-use plastic bags that are given away each market day. So we gave away five-hundred commemorative festival tote bags, produced locally by a company in Westbury using certified sustainably sourced cotton. Each featured an original piece of artwork commissioned especially for the festival anniversary from local artist Richard Cole, who very generously donated his sketch.

But enough about the anniversary. What about the festival?

Well, we think it may have been our largest ever. We staged 38 events, which we believe is probably a record, and welcomed more than 3,600 attendees, putting us right up there with our most successful years. Like many other festivals and live event promoters, we'd seen audiences decline since Covid, with a general reluctance to venture out to concerts, talks and performances. This was the first year we've seen encouraging signs of that trend reversing.

It's genuinely difficult to pick highlights because the quality of the programme was so consistently high.

The prisoners' art exhibition was one unexpected delight. The standard of work was quite remarkable. We also had two events that brought the festival very different audiences to our usual crowds. Spoken-word poet Harry Baker spoke a great deal about his experiences as a new father, which turned out to be particularly popular with younger women, teenagers and their mums. Who knew! Then there was a Devizes band who qualified for inclusion in the festival programme on the grounds that they're now based in Bristol. They brought a completely different crowd: children, teenagers, friends of the band, friends of the band's parents, some of the band's grandparents, and plenty of general music lovers. They put on a fantastic show. The band's mums had arranged the room brilliantly, and Danny and his team on the sound desk surpassed themselves.

Anthony Horowitz was an absolute delight. People had travelled considerable distances to see and hear him. I spoke to one family who had come all the way from the Devon coast, while others had travelled from the Midlands. They all had the

opportunity to meet him afterwards, so at least they left as very happy people facing a long journey home. And Anthony himself insisted on donating his entire appearance fee to charity, which we will give to the Mayor's Appeal.

Some performers you know are going to be excellent. Others, perhaps less well known, surprise everyone with just how good they are. We had several of those this year, but the one who stood out for me was pianist Beatrice Nicholas. She performed at St John's, where the acoustics were wonderful and the playing superb. Her programme showcased African-American composers in the first half, followed by a mixture of European classical music and jazz in the second. A beautifully judged performance and a real discovery.

We've welcomed several new faces to the organising team. In fact, with so many people leaving and so many joining, we've taken the opportunity to rethink the whole structure of the organisation. I decided to introduce a bit of devolution into the running of the festival, shortly before our fearless new Prime Minister took over and announced his own plans for Devolution. I'm not claiming full credit but you know, we did it here first!

In practical terms, we're moving towards a smaller group of trustees, responsible for governance and oversight, and a larger, more flexible team of volunteers responsible for developing the programme and making things happen. It is intended give people more freedom to work on the areas that interest them, while making better use of everyone's time and talents.

We've also had to adapt to changes in the way major live events are promoted. We sometimes book big names who are appearing on national tours, and we'd like to do more of that. But performers and their agents increasingly expect tickets for next summer's tours to be on sale from the preceding autumn. Traditionally, we've put ours on sale just six weeks before the festival.

For 2026, we experimented with an early ticket release for five key events. It doubled our workload, didn't produce any additional ticket sales, and gave us no indication that audiences particularly wanted two separate booking windows. So naturally, we've decided to make an even bigger change. We're bringing the entire timetable forward, putting tickets for all events on sale to Friends at the beginning of February, rather than mid-April. That has consequences for everything else. Booking performers used to be an autumn activity. This year, we've spent much of the summer talking to agents from deckchairs and pool bars. And someone's Christmas is going to be considerably busier than usual. Hopefully the marketing team noticed that when we all agreed to the change.

My fellow Chair, Jean Edwards, sadly stepped down after June's festival along with Philippa Morgan and George Batten. I would like to thank all three and they are already greatly missed. As always, my thanks go to the wonderful team who work so hard to bring the festival together, and a particular welcome to the new stars who are already stepping up magnificently to fill the very large gaps left by Jean, Philippa and George.
Thanks also to our wider supporters: to Jackie for running the Friends; to Jo and everyone at Devizes Books for handling our offline ticket sales; to all our sponsors; to the Town Council for everything they do; and, of course, to all of you for supporting the festival, not just in June but throughout the year.

Vincent McNamara
Devizes Arts Festival co-Chair
10 November 2026

Jean Edwards
Devizes Arts Festival co-Chair
09 November 2026

# *DEVIZES ARTS FESTIVAL*

## *INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF DEVIZES ARTS FESTIVAL*

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I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2026 which are set out on pages 7 to 15.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

(i) examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
(ii) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
(iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(a) That gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
(i) To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
(ii) To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act;

have not been met; or

(b) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the Accounts to be reached.

Richard Hopkins
61 Avon Road
Devizes
SN10 1PS

Signature R. Hopkins

Date 24.09.26

# *DEVIZES ARTS FESTIVAL*

*STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES*
*INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT*
*For Year Ended 31 August 2026*

| | Notes | 2026 £ | 2025 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Incoming resources from generated funds** | | | |
| Donations/Grants | **2** | **10,204** | 12,361 |
| Sponsorship | **3** | **8,250** | 7,350 |
| Investment Income | **4** | **0** | 0 |
| | | **18,454** | 19,711 |
| **Incoming resources from charitable activities** | **5** | **61,877** | 53,254 |
| **Total incoming resources** | | **80,331** | 72,965 |
| **Resources expended** | | | |
| **Charitable activities** | | | |
| Festival costs | **7** | **75,805** | 69,906 |
| Governance costs | **8** | **2,068** | 2,079 |
| Other Expenditure | **9** | **192** | 0 |
| **Total resources expended** | | **78,065** | 71,985 |
| **Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds (a)** | | **2,266** | 980 |
| Fund balances at 1 September 2025 | | **117,600** | 116,370 |
| Audit Over accrued<br>Prior Year Adjustment | | **0** | 250 |
| **Adjusted Retained Earnings (b)** | | **117,600** | 116,620 |
| **Fund balances at 31 August 2026 (a+b)** | | **119,866** | 117,600 |

# *DEVIZES ARTS FESTIVAL*

## *BALANCE SHEET*
## *As At 31 August 2026*

| | Notes | 2026 £ | 2025 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Investments** | **13** | | |
| Low Risk MPS Defensive Portfolio | | **98,444** | 92,801 |
| Investment Revaluation Reserve | | **-28,444** | -22,801 |

| **Fixed Assets** | **14** | **Gross** | **Accm Dep$^{n}$** | **2026 Net** | 2025 Net |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **£** | **£** | **£** | £ |
| | | | | | 0 |
| | | **8,944** | **8,176** | **768** | 0 |

| **Current assets** | **15** | **2026** £ | 2025 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cash at bank and in hand: HSBC | | **48,389** | 47,334 |
| Debtors | | **0** | 0 |
| Prepayments | | **7,569** | 3,626 |
| | | **55,958** | 50,960 |
| Total Assets | | **126,726** | 120,960 |

# *DEVIZES ARTS FESTIVAL*

## *BALANCE SHEET (CONT)*
## *As At 31 August 2026*

| | | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | £ | £ |
| **Creditors: amounts falling due within one year** | **16** | **0** | 0 |
| **Income In Advance** | **17** | **5,449** | 3,160 |
| **Accruals** | **18** | **1,413** | 200 |
| **Current Liabilities** | | **6,862** | 3,360 |
| **Total Assets less Current Liabilities** | | **119,864** | 117,600 |
| Unrestricted funds | | **119,864** | 117,600 |

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 10 November 2026

Vincent McNamara
Devizes Arts Festival co-Chair

Jean Edwards
Devizes Arts Festival co-Chair

Tony Woodison
Devizes Arts Festival Treasurer

# *DEVIZES ARTS FESTIVAL*

## *NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS*
## *For The Year Ended 31 August 2026*

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### 1 Accounting policies

**Basis of preparation**
The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 and the Charities Act 2011.

**Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discrtion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

**Incoming resources**

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, and it it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably

**Resources expended**

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis and includes VAT, which cannot be recovered.

**Charitable activities**

This includes those items incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries.

**Debtors**

Debtors are measured at their recoverable amounts

**Taxation**

No provision for taxation is required as the entity is a Registered Charity and all funds are applied for charitable activities.

# *DEVIZES ARTS FESTIVAL*

## *NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS*
## *For the Year Ended 31 August 2026*

**2 Donations**

| | **2026** | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| | **£** | £ |
| Friends subscriptions (1 Sept 2025 to 31 Aug 2026) | **3,788** | 3,315 |
| Donations | **566** | 5,240 |
| Grants receivable | **5,850** | 3,806 |
| | **10,204** | 12,361 |

**Friends of the Festival**

As at 31 August 2026, the number of subscribed friends stood at 251, 3 fewer than the previous year. The actual value of subscriptions received at that date amounted to £3,765. However, as the festival (Summer and Autumn) falls across two financial years, 50% of 2025/26 subscriptions are carried forward to the following year and 50% brought forward from 2024/25.

**Grants receivable for core activities**

Unrestricted funds:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Devizes Town Council Benefit | **5,850** | 3,806 |
| | **5,850** | 3,806 |

**Local Authority Grants**

Devizes Town Council allows the Festival use of Town Council venues for performances, free of charge, during the festival and at reduced rates at other times.

These amounts have been quantified with the benefit shown under Grants receivable and the expense under the relevant headings.

**3 Activities for generating funds**

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Event sponsors | **8,250** | 7,350 |
| | **8,250** | 7,350 |

**4 Investment income**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bank Interest | **0** | 0 |

**5 Incoming resources from charitable activities**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Festival ticket sales | **61,877** | 53,254 |

**6 Total resources expended**

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| **Charitable activities** | | |
| Festival costs: | | |
| Activities undertaken directly (Note 7) | **75,805** | 69,906 |
| Depreciation (Note 9) | **192** | 0 |
| **Governance costs (Note 8)** | **2,068** | 2,079 |
| | **78,065** | 71,985 |

| 7 | **Activities undertaken directly** | **2026** | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | **£** | £ |
| Artists Fees and Costs (incl. Fringe) | | **45,216** | 44,493 |
| Sound and lighting | | **12,715** | 9,145 |
| Venues | | **6,563** | 4,406 |
| Security | | **1063** | 983 |
| Event Other Costs | | **847** | 1,040 |
| Liability Insurance | | **1,512** | 1,483 |
| Launch Party | | **588** | 713 |
| Programme & Website Design | | **2,792** | 4,104 |
| Programme Brochure Printing | | **690** | 390 |
| Publicity and Advertising | | **2373** | 3129 |
| Box Office and Telephone costs | | **0** | 20 |
| Contribution to Sustainable Devizes | | **1116** | 0 |
| Fruitless Payments | | **330** | 0 |
| | | **75,805** | 69,906 |

| 8 | **Governance costs** | **2026** | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | **£** | £ |
| Governance costs comprise: | | | |
| Independent Examiner | | **200** | 200 |
| Admin Expenses | | **831** | 499 |
| Licences | | **383** | 266 |
| Purchases | | **86** | 432 |
| Credit Card Cost | | **397** | 362 |
| Bank & PayPal Charges | | **86** | 167 |
| AGM Costs | | **85** | 153 |
| | | **2,068** | 2,079 |

| 9 | **Other Expenditure** | **2026** | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | **£** | £ |
| In-Year Depreciation | | **192** | 0 |

**10 Fruitless Payments** **(Expenditure with no Return or Benefit)**

A non-refundable fee of £330 was paid in connection with the Charlotte Philby event. It was subsequently established that the fee was unnecessary, resulting in an avoidable expenditure of £330.

**11 Trustees**

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year.

**12 Employees**

There were no employees during the year.

**13 Investments**

£70,000 was invested on 14 July 2014 in a low risk investment portfolio with Investec Wealth. Movements in valuation, as at 31 August each year, are not realized through the Income and Expenditure Account but are taken to the Investment Reserve on the Balance Sheet.

| | **2026** | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| | **£** | £ |
| Balance as at 1 September | **92,801** | 87,833 |
| Additions | **0** | 0 |
| Appreciation / - Depreciation | **5,643** | 4,968 |
| Balance as at 31 August | **98,444** | 92,801 |

**14 Fixed Assets (Depreciated over 5 years)**

| All Fixed Assets have been depreciated and accounted for through the Income & Expenditure Account. | **Gross** | **Accum[d] Dep** | **NBV 2026** | NBV 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **£** | **£** | **£** | £ |
| | **8,944** | **8,176** | **768** | 0 |
| | **8,944** | **8,176** | **768** | 0 |

| 15 | **Current Assets:** | | **2026** | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **£** | £ |
| | **Cash at bank & In-Hand** | | | |
| | | **HSBC** | **48,389** | 47,334 |
| | | **Cash** | **0** | 0 |
| | | | **48,389** | 47,334 |
| | **Trade Debtors** | | **0** | 0 |
| | **Prepaid Expenditure** | | | |
| | Bank & Credit Card Costs | | **64** | 24 |
| | PayPal Costs | | **1** | 0 |
| | Insurance Sept/Oct 2025 | | **253** | 249 |
| | D Olusoga Fee | | **7000** | 2550 |
| | Postage | | **251** | 188 |
| | Advertising | | **0** | 75 |
| | Serenity Audio | | **0** | 540 |
| | | | **7569** | 3626 |

| 16 | **Creditors: amounts falling due within one year** | **2026** | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | **£** | £ |
| | Other creditors | **0** | 0 |

| 17 | **Income In Advance** | **2026** | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | **£** | £ |
| | 50% Friends Subs carried forward | **1883** | 1905 |
| | Friends' Subscriptions | **30** | 60 |
| | David Olusoga Tickets | **3536** | 1195 |
| | | **5449** | 3160 |

| 18 | **Accruals** | **2026** | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | **£** | £ |
| | Independent Examiner | **200** | 200 |
| | Hire of Venues | **560** | 0 |
| | Artists' Fees | **150** | 0 |
| | Event Fees | **500** | 0 |
| | Bank Charge August (rounded up) | **3** | 0 |
| | **Total Accruals** | **1,413** | 200 |