Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1st January to 31st December 2025

Charity name: Minehead and Exmoor Music Festival Society

Charity registration number: 260276

Objectives and Activities

The purpose of the Society is to promote the performance, appreciation and understanding of classical music by arranging concerts of orchestral music, recitals and other performances as part of an annual music festival held in the town of Minehead in West Somerset and in other locations on Exmoor.

The ethos of the Society is that first-class live performances of classical music should be available to as many people as possible and not confined to those living in or close to cities. The Society believes that the Minehead and Exmoor Music Festival demonstrates one way in which this can be achieved and is consistent with the Charity Commission's guidance on providing public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

In 2025 the principal activity of the Society was the arrangement, promotion and management of the annual Minehead and Exmoor Music Festival.

The festival continued the Society's long-standing objective of bringing high-quality live classical music to Minehead and the surrounding area. The Society continued to rely on the commitment of its volunteers, musicians and supporters to enable the festival to take place.

Following the changes to the Society's organisation and management in the previous two years, the committee continued to build on the successful transition to the new management, as indicated by the ticket sales for the orchestral concerts, which were higher than in the previous year (968 in 2025 compared with 909 in 2024).

The Society also continued to provide opportunities for young people to experience live classical music through the Young Musicians Recital and the Student Family Ticket Scheme.

The Student Family Ticket Scheme, introduced in 2023 with support from the Fairfield Charitable Trust, enables young people under the age of 16 who are having instrumental music lessons to attend concerts accompanied by a parent. The scheme covers the cost of tickets for both students and parents and is intended to make attendance possible for young people who might otherwise be unable to attend because of the cost. In 2025 the grant covered the cost of 38 Adult and 42 Student tickets (35 and 48 respectively in 2024)

The financial results for 2025 were stronger than those for 2024. The Society recorded a surplus for the year, enabling the reserve fund to be rebuilt following the deficit recorded in 2024.

Volunteers

Running the festival, which is the central activity of the Society, is made possible by the voluntary contributions of very many people: the musicians in the orchestra, who give their time unpaid to rehearse and perform an intensive programme of orchestral music concerts; the 'Festival Hosts' – local residents who provide the musicians with free bed and breakfast accommodation; and 'Festival Friends', supporters who make an annual donation to the festival.

In a wider context – and not directly the responsibility of the Society – there are other volunteers without whom the festival would not be possible. In particular, the Regal Theatre in Minehead, which hosts the orchestral concerts, is managed and run by volunteers.

Financial Review

In 2025 the total income of the Society was **£32,627.39** and the total expenditure was **£29,087.90**, resulting in a **surplus of £3,539.62**.

This represents a significant improvement compared with 2024, when the Society recorded a deficit of £4,463.90. The surplus has enabled the Society to rebuild its reserves, which had fallen to a level that the trustees considered lower than desirable.

The Society's income in 2025 came principally from donations, grants and sponsorship, ticket sales and other festival-related sales and income.

Donations

Donations recorded in the 2025 accounts totalled **£5,820.64**, comprising Gift Aid donations of £4,346.25, Gift Aid tax repayments of £1,086.59 and non-Gift Aid donations of £387.80. The majority of the donations were from Festival Friends, who continued to provide an important source of regular support for the Society.

Grants and Sponsorship

Income from grants and sponsors totalled **£7,350** in 2025, a significant increase on the figure for 2024 (£2,600).

This represents an important contribution towards the cost of staging the festival and supports the Society's objective of maintaining high-quality performances while keeping ticket prices at a level that enables as many people as possible to attend.

Ticket Sales and Other Sales

Income from sales totalled **£19,664**, comprising:

- advertising in programmes: £500;
- programme sales: £704; and
- ticket sales: £18,460.

Ticket sales therefore remained the Society's largest individual source of income.

The Society needs to balance the requirement to generate sufficient income from ticket sales with its objective of keeping the festival accessible to the local community. Ticket prices also need to remain comparable with those of other events at the Regal Theatre.

Other Income

Other income recorded in the accounts totalled **£261.62**, comprising lottery income of £196 and deposit account interest of £65.62.

Expenditure

Total expenditure in 2025 was **£28,837.90**.

Administration costs totalled **£3,863.31**. These included advertising, website and domain costs, insurance, postage, programme printing, stationery, the Family Ticket Scheme, ticket administration, refreshments and sundry expenditure.

Expenditure on performers and the orchestra totalled **£24,974.59**. This included catering, the conductor, fixing, honoraria, instrument hire and tuning, music hire, PRS charges, soloists, travel, accommodation and venue hire, together with fees for the Young Musicians Recital.

The principal costs of the festival therefore continued to be the engagement and support of the musicians and performers and the hire of the venues required to stage the concerts.

Reserve Policy

For the Society a reserve fund in the Accounts serves two purposes.

First, it acts as a cushion against the fluctuations in the balance of the Society's accounts that occur during the year. Most festival expenditure is incurred either before or just after the festival, while major income, particularly from ticket sales, does not necessarily reach the Society at the same time. The reserve is therefore necessary to cover the interval between expenditure and receipt of income.

The second reason is that the yearly balance of the account can vary from year to year because of the uncertainty in grant and sponsorship income on which the Society relies. Historically, the festival making a deficit has not been a rare occurrence. As long as the reserve is sufficient to absorb fluctuations in the final figure in the accounts this is not a problem.

The 2024 deficit had reduced the reserve to **£3,636.69** at the end of that year. The 2025 accounts show total balances of **£7,176.31** in the Treasurer's Account and Deposit Account. The surplus achieved in 2025 has therefore enabled the reserve to be substantially rebuilt.

Although the reserve is now stronger than at the end of 2024, the trustees continue to consider it desirable to maintain and, if possible, increase the reserve towards a level closer to the core cost of the festival. This will provide greater protection against fluctuations in annual

income and expenditure and will help the Society manage the timing difference between expenditure and the receipt of ticket and other income.

Strategy for 2026

Following the improved financial result in 2025, the Society will continue to seek to strengthen its financial position while maintaining the quality and accessibility of the festival.

The committee will:

1. continue to explore opportunities for increasing local business support and sponsorship;
2. continue to seek grant funding where appropriate;
3. maintain and develop the Festival Friends scheme and other sources of individual donations;
4. review ticket prices and other sources of festival income to ensure that they remain appropriate and sufficient to support the festival;
5. continue to monitor expenditure carefully, particularly the major costs associated with performers, travel, accommodation, catering and venue hire; and
6. seek to maintain and gradually increase the Society's reserve so that it provides an adequate cushion against variations in annual income and expenditure.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Minehead and Exmoor Music Festival Society is an unincorporated association registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The management of the Society is by the Committee, which has the power of co-option. The Society's constitution specifies that the Committee may appoint no fewer than two of its members as Trustees of the Society. In practice it has appointed three Trustees.

The Committee as a whole is responsible for complying with the requirements of the Charity Commission. Each year the planning, organisation and management of the festival is carried out by the members of the committee, which meets at regular intervals to monitor progress and make any decisions that are required.

The constitution allows the Committee to appoint a Musical Director, to whom it may delegate responsibility for devising the concert programmes.

The fact that the Minehead and Exmoor Music Festival has been organised annually for very many years may give the impression that its continuation is assured and that the organisation and running of it occurs more or less automatically each year. This, of course, is not the case and each year there are new difficulties to be overcome and challenges to be met.

The trustees are confident, however, that with the dedicated committee, the support of the musicians and volunteers and the excellent local support for the festival, the Society will continue to fulfil its charitable objectives and that the festival will continue to flourish.

Reference and Administration Details

Charity name: Minehead and Exmoor Music Festival Society

Other names the charity uses:

1. Minehead & Exmoor Music Festival (publicity)
2. Minehead Music Festival (bank account)

Registered charity number: 260276

Charity's principal address: Langdales, Church Rd, Minehead, Somerset TA24 5SA

Trustees:

Tracey Thurlow (Treasurer)

Paula Tysall

Michael Dewar

This draft deliberately leaves out unsupported 2025-specific claims such as the **festival dates, number of concerts, ticket attendance and number of young people using the Family Ticket Scheme**. Those details can be inserted if you have the 2025 festival programme or committee records.

One other point worth checking before submitting it to the Charity Commission: the accounts label the two closing bank balances **"31/12/24"**, even though they are in the 2025 accounts. I have avoided changing that apparent date discrepancy in the report rather than assuming it is an error. The 2024 report itself records the previous year-end reserve as £4,578.

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
nehead and Exmoor Festival Society	260276

Receipts and payments accounts CC16a

For the period from 01/01/2025 **To** 31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations and Grants	12,702	-	-	12,702	-
Activities for generating funds	19,664	-	-	19,664	-
Lottery	196	-	-	196	-
Bank account interest	65	-	-	65	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total*(Gross income for AR)*	32,627	-	-	32,627	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	32,627	-	-	32,627	-
A3 Payments					
Advertising	1,512	-	-	1,512	-
Admin costs	1,736	-	-	1,736	-
Printing and stationery	614	-	-	614	-
Ticket admin costs	866	-	-	866	-
Catering	3,968	-	-	3,968	-
Orchestral Musicians and soloists	6,560	-	-	6,560	-
Instrument and Music Hire	1,555	-	-	1,555	-
Travel and accommodation	7,569	-	-	7,569	-
Venue hire	4,708	-	-	4,708	-
Sub total	29,088	-	-	29,088	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	29,088	-	-	29,088	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,539	-	-	3,539	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	3,539	-	-	3,539	-

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	Treasurer's Account	596	-	-

	Deposit Account	6,581	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	**7,176**	**-**	**-**

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) Agreement Error OK OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Minehead and Exmoor Festival Society

On accounts for the year ended

December 2025

Charity no (if any)

260267

Set out on pages

(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 trustees of the Trust, 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 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- 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.

* *Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:



Date:

16/10/2026

Name:

Ian David Lockhart Bogle

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

N/A

Address:

1 Hanbury Mews,

London, N1 7DW

Section B **Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.
The accounts were prepared carefully and I saw no anomalies.

The year saw a welcome increase of the reserves. It still remains below a comfortable level given the potential call on it if there were to be a major problem particularly around the time of the Festival when cash balance can get low. However I know that the Trustees have a campaign to improve this situation over the coming years.