CHELTENHAM ARTS COUNCIL

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

CHARITY NUMBER 273501

cheltenham arts council

CHELTENHAM ARTS COUNCIL

CONTENTS

	Page No.
Trustees' Report	1-3
Grants Allocation 2025	4
Trafford Fund Grants 2025	5
Independent Examiner's Report	6
Income and Expenditure Account	7
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	8
Notes to the Accounts	9

CHELTENHAM ARTS COUNCIL

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The Cheltenham Arts Council was founded in 1977. The objects of the Cheltenham Arts Council as set out in the constitution are to foster and promote the maintenance, improvement and development of artistic taste and the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the arts among the inhabitants of the Borough of Cheltenham and surrounding area for the benefit of the public.

The principal address is 8, The Grove, Hales Road, Cheltenham GL52 6SX.

Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year were as follows:
Mrs Sue Silcock (Chair)
Mr Chris Dee (Secretary)
Dr Jane Whitaker (Treasurer)
Mr Diggory Seacombe
Mr Martin Fry
Mr Stephen Gale
Dr Stephen Steinhardt
The Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Review of the year's activities and achievements

Subscriptions for 2026-2027 were kept at the level set in 2025-2026. Many of our member societies have a limited budget and it was felt that subscriptions needed to be kept at a viable level. As always, we are grateful for the continuing support of our members. It is commendable that we have over 50 organisations affiliated in total and it is always good to welcome new members. It is to be hoped that they will enjoy belonging to CAC and will appreciate all the benefits of belonging to the group.

Cheltenham Borough Council must once again be thanked for its continued support, making £5000 available in April 2025 to distribute as grants to the voluntary arts sector in Cheltenham. We continued to proceed with two separate grant allocation procedures, using the Borough Council allocation in May/June 2025 and using the Trafford Fund in October 2025. 12 grants to local societies were made in June 2025 with £1350 held over to October/November. 3 additional grants from the Borough Council, Fund were made in November and 9 grants in total from the Trafford Fund were also made in November; 3 to voluntary arts societies in the extended local area and 6 to voluntary arts societies in the local area. Sadly, no young individuals applied at this time. The trustees are intending to revise and widen their communications with local schools in September 2026 to increase knowledge of the availability of these grants.

The Annual General meeting was held in June at the brew bar and café of Ritual Roasters, a speciality coffee roasting company in Cheltenham. One of the highlights of the evening was a slideshow of photos submitted by our member societies illustrating their activities over the year.

Review of the year's activities and achievements – cont.

As promised, after the successful event the previous year, in September, CAC organised another "Celebration of the Arts" on the Promenade in Cheltenham. This year the activity was extended from just stalls advertising societies programmes to entertainments of both choral works and dance exhibitions.

The annual Awards Ceremony, where outstanding contributions to the voluntary arts in Cheltenham are celebrated, took place in March 2026. We were very grateful to Richard Gibson and the Borough Council for allowing us to host the event in the Municipal Offices. This year, The Elizabeth Webster Cup was awarded to Nathanael Horlock from St Edward's School for his support of both the Music and Drama departments at the school. In addition, Nathanael also received a voucher for £100 from the Trafford Fund. The Visual Arts Cup went to Karen Bendersky from Lansdown Studios, the Opera Group Cup, now renamed the Musical Arts Cup, went to Sue Belinfante from the Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra and the Joyner Cup went to Sally Self from the Cheltenham Local History Society. In addition, 5 other citations were awarded, and the Charles Irving Sponsorship Award went to Art Union Cheltenham, an artist owned and run gift shop and gallery in Cheltenham. Full details and photographs are on the website www.cheltenhamartscouncil.org.uk and an article will appear in the next edition of Perspectives.

Perspectives has continued to flourish. Each edition is commended both for its artwork as well as for presentation. Thanks again must be given to all our member societies who have submitted photographs and articles for inclusion in the magazine and to Elise Forbes, the editor. However, the magazine continues to be our greatest financial outlay, and the committee are always considering ways to improve the product but curtail the expense. There were also concerns that the magazine was not reaching as wide a population as was available. It was suggested that CAC website should be redesigned and that we publish Perspectives as a website "blog".

To this end, the investments that form the Trafford Memorial Fund were looked at. The value of the investments had increased considerably over the years, and it was decided that some of the investment units that were not performing well should be sold and initially used to finance a redesign of the website. Under section s.282 of the Charities Act 2011, the trustees of the Trafford Memorial Fund formed a resolution that up to £18,000 of the Fund should be freed from the restrictions with respect to expenditure of capital that apply to it. This was forwarded to the Charity Commission who approved the resolution in June 2025. The investment units were then sold and their proceeds held in COIF Charities Investment Fund.

Chris Dee, the Honorary Secretary, has a background in marketing and has taken charge of our Facebook and Instagram contributions. He volunteered to spearhead the design of a new website. A firm, 16i, of website designers in Cheltenham, was engaged in February 2026 and the website design is underway.

Finances

We maintain reserves sufficient to cover the anticipated expenditure in the following twelve months.

Operating Income of the General Fund for the year was £6,188, expenditure was £9,946. The general revenue funds stood at £5,086 on 31 March 2026.

Operating Income of the Trafford Fund was £3,154, expenditure was £2,750. The balance at 31 March 2026 was £2,178.

Details of grants paid to member societies for the period 2025-26 are shown on page 4, to applicants of the Trafford Fund on page 5.

This concludes the Trustees report for 2025-26.

Signed 22 June 2026 on behalf of the Trustees.

Sue Silcock
Chair

CHELTENHAM ARTS COUNCIL

GRANTS ALLOCATION 2025

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Society	Project	Grant £
Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra	To Celebrate Diamond Anniversary with a concert in Pittville Pump Room in Jan 26	400
Glos Writers' Network	To run two online workshops, one prose, one poetry	150
Cheltenham Choral Society	To fund a soloist for a performance of Handel's Messiah in November	300
The Oriel Singers	To contribute to the costs of a professional producer for recording of works commissioned by Oriels for 50th anniversary	450
Cheltenham Local History Society	Contribution to a Local History Afternoon organised by CLHS to be held in July	300
Holst Victorian House	To fund a room guide, music hardware and a professional oral history interviewer for the summer exhibition	300
Cheltenham Open Studios	To contribute to the running of free all-age drop-in art workshops in Pittville Park	500
Parrot Productions	To record a drama as a radio play. To produce a second drama as a docudrama	250
Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra	Masterclass with piano soloist Karl Lutchmayer playing the Ravel Piano Concerto for the Left Hand	400
Lansdown Art Studios	To support subsidised art workshops providing young people, students and newcomers with an accessible introduction	300
Cheltenham Camera Club	Supporting Annual Exhibition and Gloucestershire Young Photographers Competition for schools	350
Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts	To assist with the purchase of a new cup, to be presented to the winner of the inaugural Festival Young Performer Award	250
Cheltenham Silver Band	To commission a new piece of music for a brass band from a female composer	600
Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra	To rework for the full orchestra a new work composed by Daniel Belinfante while a prisoner in Auschwitz	500
Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts	To update and republish the 'History of the Festival (1926-2016)'	250
		5,300

CHELTENHAM ARTS COUNCIL

TRAFFORD FUND GRANTS ALLOCATION 2025

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Recipient	Reason	Grant £
Cleeve Chorale	To support the costs of their Spring Concert - Mozart's Requiem	300
Gotherington Singers	To enable the employment of professional musicians for the Christmas concert	300
Cheltenham Choral Society	Towards funding for a soloist for a concert at Christ Church Cheltenham in March 2026	200
Churchdown Male Voice Choir	To buy new musical scores that will appeal to younger audiences, suitable to sing with younger choirs, e.g. from schools	300
Gardens Gallery	To give prizes and certificates for Cheltenham Young Artist 2026	200
Oriel Singers	To test the effectiveness of paid-for social media advertising as a way to reach new audiences	100
The Playhouse Theatre	To sponsor the Production Assistant for the panto. Intended to give an employment opportunity to an aspiring performer/producer/director.	500
Susie Vaughan - Incantata Strings	To purchase M2 Low G Shruti Box and the dedicated Bowring Foot Pedal.	250
Promenade Productions	To purchase 2 x Harman Kardon Go + Play 3 portable speakers to enhance	500
Nathanael Horlock	Contributions to the life of the Music and Drama Music and Drama departments at St. Edward's school	100
		2,750

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHELTENHAM ARTS COUNCIL

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2026, which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- 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 the 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:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the Trustees have not met the requirements:

    - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
    - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirement of the Charities Act; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

S.E. Brown FCA, CTA

2 Chancel Way
Charlton Kings
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 7RR

22 June 2026

CHELTENHAM ARTS COUNCIL

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	GENERAL FUND	TRAFFORD FUND	TOTAL FUNDS	2025
INCOME				
Subscriptions 2025/26	500	-	500	390
Subscriptions 2026/27	30	-	30	1,035
Cheltenham Borough Council grant	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Stalls for Open Day	515	-	515	540
Investment income	134	3,154	3,288	3,077
Interest	9	-	9	17
Publications				
Perspectives advertising	-	-	-	175
OPERATING INCOME	**6,188**	**3,154**	**9,342**	**10,234**
Sale of investments	**5,000**	**16,996**	**21,996**	**-**
TOTAL INCOME	**11,188**	**20,150**	**31,338**	**10,234**
EXPENDITURE				
Publications				
Design costs	1,216	-	1,216	1,117
Website upload	-	-	-	243
	1,216	**-**	**1,216**	**1,360**
Direct Charitable				
Grants to Societies	5,300	-	5,300	5,800
Grants to Trafford Fund Applicants	-	2,750	2,750	2,830
Award Ceremony Costs	267	-	267	107
Stalls for Open Day	907	-	907	932
	6,474	**2,750**	**9,224**	**9,669**
Other				
Honoraria	225	-	225	175
Administration costs	18	-	18	3
Meeting room hire	20	-	20	-
Insurance	144	-	144	144
Website and domain	1,849	-	1,849	695
	2,256	**-**	**2,256**	**1,017**
OPERATING EXPENDITURE	**9,946**	**2,750**	**12,696**	**12,046**
Purchase of investments	**16,996**	**-**	**16,996**	**-**
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**26,942**	**2,750**	**29,692**	**12,046**
INTER FUND TRANSFERS	**16,996**	**(16,996)**	**-**	**-**
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	**1,242**	**404**	**1,646**	**(1,812)**
CASH RESERVES BROUGHT FORWARD	**3,844**	**1,774**	**5,618**	**7,430**
CASH RESERVES CARRIED FORWARD	**£ 5,086**	**£ 2,178**	**£ 7,264**	**£ 5,618**

CHELTENHAM ARTS COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

	GENERAL FUND	TRAFFORD FUND	TOTAL FUNDS	2025
CASH FUNDS				
Current accounts	2,874	250	3,124	2,649
Deposit accounts	2,212	1,928	4,140	2,969
	£ 5,086	**£ 2,178**	**£ 7,264**	**£ 5,618**
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS				
Debtors				
Stalls for Open Day 2025	165.00	-	165.00	-
	£ 165.00	**£ -**	**£ 165.00**	**£ -**

INVESTMENT ASSETS (Note 2)

	Units	Cost	Market Value 2026	Market Value 2025
Trafford Fund				
COIF Charities Short Duration Bond Fund Units	7,001.17	9,000	-	8,833
COIF Charities Short Duration Bond Fund Units	6,225.04	9,000	-	7,854
COIF Charities Investment Fund Income Units	2,545.75	21,000	45,365	49,592
COIF Charities Investment Fund Income Units	1,988.88	21,000	35,441	38,745
		£60,000.00	**£ 80,806**	**£ 105,024**
General Fund				
COIF Charities Investment Fund Income Units	605.97	11,864	10,798	-
		£11,864	**£ 10,798**	**£ -**

CHELTENHAM ARTS COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

1. Principal accounting policies

Basis of Accounting
These accounts have been prepared on a cash basis.

Unrestricted General Fund
These are funds, which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted Fund
The Trafford Memorial Fund was established to further the advancement of education by promotion and encouragement of music and the arts and the production and presentation of the same in the Cheltenham area.

2. Investments

Trafford Fund
The Trafford Fund charity registered number 1068041. It is linked to the Cheltenham Arts Council.

A legacy of £30,000 from the estate of Miss Anne Trafford, 'the Trafford Memorial Fund', was invested with the Charitable Organisations Investment Fund (COIF) on 25 November 1996, £9,000 in Charities Short Duration Bond Fund Units and £21,000 in Charities Investment Fund Income Units. A further legacy of £30,000 was received from the estate of Miss Cecily Trafford on 10 September 1998 which was invested into the same COIF units and proportion as the earlier legacy. The investments were completed on 9 April 1999.

Permission was granted by the Charity Commission on 17 June 2025 to transfer up to £18,000 from the Trafford Fund to the General Fund. The Charites Short Duration Bond Fund Units were sold out of the Trafford Fund on 9 October 2025 and the proceeds used to purchase 868.07 Charities Investment Fund Income Units in the General Fund. The loss on the disposal of the Charites Short Duration Bond Fund Units was £1,004.

The market value of the investments at 31 March 2026 was £80,806 (2025 £105,024).

General Fund
The proceeds of £16,995.68 from the sale of the Charites Short Duration Bond Fund Units held in the Trafford Fund were invested in 868.07 Charities Investment Fund Income Units on 9 October 2025. There was a disposal of 262.10 units on 5 March 2026 for £5,000 resulting on a loss of £132.

The market value of the investments at 31 March 2026 was £10,798 (2025 £nil).