

**Charity number 511905**

**Church Stretton and South Shropshire Arts Festival  
Report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022**

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## **Church Stretton and South Shropshire Arts Festival Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 August 2022**

The Trustees present the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022. The Trustees are satisfied with the performance of the charity during the year, consider that the charity is able to continue its activities during the coming year and that the charity's assets are adequate to fulfil its obligations.

### **Objects and activities of the charity (as extracted from the Constitution of the Arts Festival)**

"The objects of the festival shall be to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in the furtherance of the following objects: appreciation of the arts and sciences of music, opera, ballet, drama, film, literature, painting, drawing, photography and sculpture in all their aspects by the presentation of public concerts, performances, arts exhibitions and in such other ways as the festival Committee shall from time to time determine."

### **Aims of the Arts Festival**

1. To hold a festival in and around Church Stretton run by volunteers with a core of major high-quality events to include concerts, drama, talks, arts, crafts, photography, workshops and other creative and artistic endeavours.
2. To retain a core offer while annually having some experimentation such as new types of art, event or performer so that the Festival –
  - remains vibrant and interesting;
  - adapts to changing tastes; and
  - provides a continuing attractive offering for regular and first-time attendees.

### **Activities – 2021-22**

The Trustees are delighted that it was possible to hold a full Festival in 2022 for the first time since 2019. Like so many arts bodies, the Festival had to suspend all its activities with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Due to a great deal of hard work by a few core individuals, the Committee held three outdoor events in the summer of 2021 supported by a number of free morning concerts, but no indoor evening concerts and no art exhibition.

On emerging from the pandemic, the Committee faced a number of challenges:

- the loss from the Committee of some key individuals and other volunteers who had been central to the delivery of previous Festivals;
- the unavailability of one of the major venues which had hosted Festival events and the art exhibition for many years, namely, Church Stretton School; and
- a very uncertain environment for the resumption of a major festival including public readiness to return to busy events following the pandemic and an impaired economic situation.

Despite this, the Committee decided to proceed and through very hard work and in some cases, overwork, falling on some key individuals, the Festival was held from 23 July to 13 August 2022 comprising 12 paid-for events, six free coffee concerts, three free organ recitals and an Art Exhibition lasting for two weeks, including three workshops. One event had to be cancelled as the speaker for a talk contracted Covid-19.

The Exhibition moved to a new venue at the Primary School, the main performances were split between St Laurence's Church and the Silvester Horne Institute with one planned for the Parish Centre. The final concert – held one week after the end of the main programme of events - was held at Concord College in Acton Burnell. The coffee concerts continued to be held in St Laurence's as was one organ recital with two further recitals being held in other local churches.

### **Achievements and performance**

The Committee was very pleased with the reception given to the Festival. There was almost universal praise for the new venue for the Exhibition which attendees found to be intimate and engaging. Both the Committee and attendees felt that the quality of exhibits was really high.

The use of the Silvester Horne Institute for the first time was successful alongside the established use of St Laurence's Church. There was very positive feedback for the wide range of performances on offer which included the well-known poet, Roger McGough, dramas about Virginia Woolf and Mary Anning and concerts featuring higher voices and a harp, a brass quartet, a solo pianist and a *Police* tribute band, The Rozzers.

Given the slightly reduced capacity overall of the venues used compared to earlier years, attendances were very good. Ticket sales in advance were strong with most sales being made using the Ticket Source online booking facility. It was clear that once the word spread about the resumption of the Festival and the high quality of what was on offer, tickets continued to be sold - in many instances right up until the night of performance. The Rozzers concert and the Roger McGough poetry recital were entirely sold out in advance.

The footfall for the Exhibition was slightly lower than in some earlier years but the volume of sales was the highest ever.

There was excellent work in generating sponsorship from local and some other businesses and sources and the Committee wishes to thank the following who were Festival sponsors: Mr Francis and Mrs Alison Acton, Mrs Meryl Austin, Belvedere Guest House, Burway Books, Continental Fireplaces, Entertaining Elephants, Mr Howard Franklin, Dr Albert Gallon, Jemima's Kitchen, Peter Jenison Memorial Trust, Matthew Mills Graphic Design, Morris Care, PCB Solicitors, Ragleth Gallery, Ragleth Inn, Peppers, September Books, Mr Alan and Mrs Elaine Stockbridge, Stretton Livestock Husbandry, Tanners Wines, Wrights Estate Agents, Victoria House Bed and Breakfast. The support given by the Green Dragon, Little Stretton and by Berry's Coffee House is also much appreciated.

Buoyed by this success, the Committee has committed to continue with a full Festival programme for 2023 and is actively working towards that.

### **Structure, governance and management**

The Festival is governed and managed by a Committee who are entirely volunteers. The Committee draws on the huge experience, enthusiasm and commitment of more than 90 other volunteers who tirelessly come together to demonstrate that the Festival is an event run by the community for the community.

The trustees of the charity at the year ended 31 August 2022 were:

Joan Arnfield (Chair)  
Sue Mitchell (Honorary Secretary and Joint Exhibition Lead)  
Andrew Hall  
Andrew Robinson (Treasurer)  
Claire Tocknell (Classical Music Director)  
Kath Stephenson (Joint Exhibition Lead and Sponsorship Lead)  
Sandra Whitlock (Drama and Popular Music Director)

During the year, Alan Stockbridge (immediate past Chair) stood down as a Trustee and Andrew Hall was appointed as a Trustee and took up the role of Governance Lead and Vice-Chair.

During the year, the Committee commenced a programme to update all of its documentation and policies. The Committee is very well aware that it relies on the huge input, enthusiasm and skill of a few key people. This remains a continuing risk and the Committee will continue to address this in various ways.

The Committee wishes to record its very warm thanks to all those who have contributed to the Festival in any way including the 81 members of the Festival – without such support and commitment, the Festival simply would not happen.

#### **Reference and administrative details**

The full name of the charity is: Church Stretton and South Shropshire Arts Festival  
Registered Charity number: 511905

#### **Financial review**

The Charities Acts require the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent: and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material change.

The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Acts. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Committee was very pleased to achieve a net surplus on the year of £4251.43. A small working surplus is essential as the Festival has to meet some costs upfront each year ahead of generating any income. This outturn has led to the reserves for the Festival standing at £44,225.32 compared to £39,973.89 at the end of 2020-21 financial year.

While the Festival benefits from strong sponsorship locally, it does not rely on any grant income either locally or nationally.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 25 October 2022.

#### **Independent Examination**

The Trustees have opted to have an Independent Examination by a suitably qualified Chartered Accountant. The Independent Examiner appointed by the trustees is Ruth Whiting of RLW Accountants whose report together with the accounts for 2021-22.

Joan Arnfield  
Chair of the Committee 2021-22  
Trustee, on behalf of the trustees

**Independent Examiner's report on the accounts**

**Report to the trustees of Church Stretton and South Shropshire Arts Festival**

**On accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022**

**Charity Number 511905**

Set out on pages 2 to 3

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st August 2022

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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").

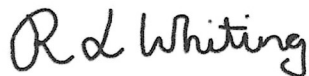
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention 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 Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records
- 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Ruth Whiting of RLW Accountants  
Chartered Accountant  
Castle Green, Ludlow Road, Little Stretton, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 6RB  
24th November 2022

**Church Stretton and South Shropshire Arts Festival  
Receipts and Payments Accounts  
for the year ended 31 August 2022**

	2022	2021		2022	2021
	£	£		£	£
<b>Receipts</b>			<b>Payments</b>		
<b>Festival</b>			<b>Festival</b>		
Ticket sales	28,923.25	8,785.57	Artists fees and expenses	22,267.82	455.74
Free concerts	2,062.11	2,294.00	Free concerts	190.03	340.70
Refreshments	2,358.85	-	Refreshments	2,090.93	64.49
CD's and books	190.55	-	Outdoor events	-	13,260.89
			PRS	1,285.16	290.47
			Piano	1,160.00	872.80
			Hire of premises	1,830.67	63.00
<b>Exhibition</b>			<b>Exhibition</b>		
Exhibition Entry	1,203.00	-	Payments to exhibitors	9,791.76	-
Exhibition fees	754.00	-	Hire of premises	1,195.00	-
Exhibit sales	12,252.20	-	Insurance	2,132.42	-
Workshop fees	1,855.00	-			
<b>General</b>			<b>General</b>		
Donations	637.00	660.98	Publicity	6,101.21	587.01
Sponsorship	3,350.00	1,260.00	Programmes	167.68	17.00
Grant	-	5,000.00	Administration	319.45	302.03
Gift Aid	1,426.91	339.30	Insurance	692.51	751.90
Bank interest	27.87	37.07	Ticket source fees	2,283.15	630.15
Membership	775.00	682.50	Free transport	-	30.00
Sundry	0.01	24.32	First Aid	56.53	350.00
	<u>55,815.75</u>	<u>19,083.74</u>		<u>51,564.32</u>	<u>18,016.18</u>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<u>4,251.43</u>	<u>1,067.56</u>			

**Church Stretton and South Shropshire Arts Festival**  
**Statement of assets and liabilities**  
**as at 31 August 2022**

	2022	2021
	£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>		
Festival current account	16,482.31	14,471.94
Art exhibition current account	4,731.18	2,490.12
Paypal	1.83	1.83
Virgin Account	23,010.00	23,010.00
	<u>44,225.32</u>	<u>39,973.89</u>

The assets of £44,225.32 (2021 £39,973.89) includes an amount of £30,000 (2021 £30,000) deemed to be an emergency fund.

Signed on behalf of the trustees on 24th November 2022

J Arnfield  
Chairman

A Robinson  
Treasurer