

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date

Period end date

From

01

April

2024

To 31

March

2025

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Valley Brass (Haydock)

Other names charity is known by

Valley Brass Band, Valley Brass

Registered charity number (if any)

1054549

Charity's principal address

The Richard Evans Centre,

West End Road, Haydock,

St Helens

Postcode

WA11 0AH

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 Anthony Grimshaw	Chair/Safeguarding Officer, Committee Member, Band Sargeant		Executive Committee
2 Suzanne Sutcliffe	Committee Member, Safeguarding Officer		Executive Committee
3 Michael Rollinson	Minutes Secretary, Committee Member		Executive Committee
4 Robin Ramsey	Committee Member, Librarian		Executive Committee
5 Inta Varga-Vaza	Committee Member, Treasurer, Social Media		Executive Committee
6 Cristian Teesdale	Committee Member		Executive Committee
7 Christopher Whittle	Committee Member		Executive Committee
8 Carl Anthony Bretherton	Committee Member		Executive Committee
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11			
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19			
20			

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

David Chadwick – Band Manager

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

Constitution – first adopted on 6th January 1996 updated with a name change to the current name on 22nd May 2004

How the charity is constituted

Association

Trustee selection methods

Trustees are elected on to the executive committee at the AGM each year.

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.

Section C Objectives and activities

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

Amendment to the Band's Objectives "To advance the education of brass band playing and to further the development in the said art by the presentation of concerts and similar activities while also promoting the advancement of citizenship, community development, and to alleviate disadvantage and discrimination where possible" i

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)

Valley Brass Main Band

The highest musical group within our charity. Containing 29 musicians with 8 over the age of 25 and the rest under this age with the majority being under 20 years. This is the main fundraising ensemble and therefore provides nearly 100% of the financial support for the groups listed below. The group rehearses twice a week and appears at 3 festivals/competitions each year. They also perform at approximately 20 concerts and marches/carnivals/walking days as well as undertaking 30 Christmas Carol collections throughout December. The group also provide some extra concert performances for charities in Merseyside (free of charge) including the BBC Radio Merseyside Carol Concert at either Cathedral in Liverpool in aid of Children In Need.

Music Education Programmes

Our Musical Director presents workshops to Primary Schools around the St. Helens Borough. These workshops allow children to learn about the musical heritage of their area and to show them the instruments of the Brass Band in the hope of re-educating the St. Helens public in the history and importance of Brass Bands.

Learner Group (Saturday Music School)

The group meet each Saturday and are taught by our volunteer tutors. They also have regular days out and break times to promote social activities and keep things fun. They would normally perform with our training band at community fetes and three concerts organised by Valley Brass. In an area of low-income families this group provides enrichment for children who would have limited access to music and a positive social experience which is affordable.

Adult Learners/Training Band

This group combines the improving learners with adults who are learning to play a musical instrument from scratch (aged up to 80 years of age). As previously mentioned, they would normally perform at community fetes and at three Valley Brass Concerts – our Christmas Concert, Summer Concert and Halloween Concert.

School Brass Bands/Groups

Valley Brass support two high school bands – Dixon's Academy in Croxteth, Liverpool and St Cuthberts in St Helens and three primary schools: Lyme Primary, Longton Lane Primary School and Legh Vale. Valley Brass supports the education of music with provision of instruments for their brass bands. We also provide instruments for brass tuition for new year seven pupils as part of their class lessons at St. Cuthberts High School. Our musical director provides this tuition and this is part of our support of our local community and is evidence of our outreach work into the local community.

Community Centre

In 2013 Valley Brass took a 20-year lease on the former Richard Evans School to use as a rehearsal centre and provide facilities for the local community. This is on West End Rd in Haydock. We currently have a number of groups who use the building as well as

the Valley Brass Main Band, Our Centre is a base for a number of community groups with large memberships as well as Valley Brass. Adult Learners Group - promoting music and instrumental performance to adults who have never played before - and Children's Group. There is a Crochet club called Untangled - set up to support mental wellbeing, they are renowned for public displays throughout Haydock. The NW Veterans Corp of Drums - set up to promote traditional military Fife and Drums and help with Veterans mental health.

Other clubs that regularly hire rooms at the centre include: Bush Ikiru Jujitsu club, Haydock Karate club and a local Rock band.

We have supported these groups at certain times by providing very low room rentals when they have been financially challenged. This can only be done by the fundraising activities of Valley Brass.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

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

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Chair's Report: Fantastic year for the band. Started with a great trip to Normandy where we all enjoyed ourselves - thanks to everyone who worked so hard to organise this. Whit Friday was not as successful prize-wise but this is understandable given we're competing in a higher section. £10k+ in Christmas collections thanks to the whole groups hard efforts playing and collecting. Biggest achievement has to be the King's Award, something which we've earned and will stay with us as we continue to do our thing. The North West Areas were successful for the band, a great result for the band and thanks have to be given to Dave for getting the best out of the band.

MD Report: Main Band things have developed within the band's stable group, musical standards are okay but it is fair to say that commitment is something which needs to be more consistent, be it attendance or personal practice, if we are to maintain the level we're competing and playing at. Understands that this is a hobby and people have jobs and lives but there is a balance to be had which sometimes does not get met. Performance at the areas was good - we're not the best band in the section but when we work hard we can compete. There isn't necessarily a need to keep pushing up the rankings but we similarly want to improve. The band will never be an organisation that sacks players and replaces them, it is counter to the ethos at the core of the group. Attendance is certainly an issue, but there needs to be understanding and compromise; other bands might have sacked certain members but again this is not our way and not how we want to operate. Players who are in the band should remain in the band, but levels of commitment must reflect the level of involvement - if players cannot commit for reasons then they must also be willing to compromise and accept steps back or slightly different roles for competitions. The band wants to offer fairness, flexibility, and maturity to its members but this needs to be reciprocated. The diary for next year is relatively full with the usual march season - perhaps not as many concerts as we would like to continue to develop a varied programme. Trips are being organised: France in 2026 which will be another enjoyable and unifying experience for the group. Would be good to have another event for the King's Award to celebrate this properly. Training Band Things are going well and membership has increased attendance isn't great and consistent but there is now a proper core of a band that can play, and members are starting to play with the Main Band. Diary is built around the Main Band's commitments which might want to be expanded. Established an Adult Training Course which needs more effort and consistency with firm start dates. Uniforms are a constant issue with these groups because of the increase in size of the band. Kirby Lonsdale was again successful, something they can really work towards. Possibility they might be able to take part in the Red Admiral contest.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

No reserves

Details of any funds materially in deficit

N/A

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

Source of funds:

Membership subs
Donations
Performance fees
Grants
Room hires to community groups

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Inta Varga-Vaza

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Treasurer

Date

26.01.2026

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Valley Brass (Haydock)
I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Valley Brass (Haydock) (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

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 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Emma Willder, FCMA, CGMA, CG(Affiliated)

Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Date: 26 January 2026

Beyond Profit Ltd
F114 Bolton Arena
Arena Approach
Horwich
Bolton
BL6 6LB

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	31 March 2025				31 March 2024		
		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Receipts:								
Donations		10,436	-	10,436		10,192	-	10,192
Gift Aid		4,255	-	4,255		-	-	-
Grants		-	12,552	12,552		-	3,400	3,400
Job fees and concerts		9,870	200	10,070		7,222	-	7,222
Repairs/replacements		-	-	-		194	-	194
Room hire		3,922	-	3,922		2,541	-	2,541
Sales		208	-	208		130	-	130
Subs		9,820	-	9,820		8,653	-	8,653
Tour payments/refunds		4,146	-	4,146		10,328	-	10,328
Prize money		-	-	-		100	-	100
Total		42,657	12,752	55,409		39,361	3,400	42,761
Payments:								
Accountant fees		1,680	-	1,680		-	-	-
Bank charges		178	-	178		179	-	179
Building repair and maintenance		4,054	2,830	6,884		394	7,836	8,231
Concert costs		453	375	828		-	-	-
Contest entry		-	-	-		725	-	725
Cost of fundraising		21	-	21		-	-	-
Equipment		710	2,176	2,886		3,389	-	3,389
Instrument servicing/repairs		1,280	-	1,280		893	-	893
Insurance		330	-	330		685	-	685
IT costs		645	-	645		371	-	371
Licenses and memberships		509	-	509		264	-	264
Miscellaneous costs		1,545	-	1,545		1,095	-	1,095
Music		98	2,074	2,172		188	775	963
Room hire		-	-	-		240	-	240
Stationery & postage		326	-	326		529	-	529
Tour costs		200	-	200		-	-	-
Travel costs		2,382	-	2,382		19,724	-	19,724
Tutors/conductors		13,581	2,549	16,130		14,000	-	14,000
Uniforms		587	-	587		637	-	637
Utilities		9,114	-	9,114		4,292	-	4,292
Volunteers		-	-	-		75	-	75
Total		37,693	10,004	47,697		47,680	8,611	56,292
Net receipts/(payments)		4,964	2,748	7,712		(8,320)	(5,211)	(13,531)
Cash funds at 31 March 2024		17,114	5,689	22,803		25,434	10,900	36,334
Transfers between funds		(1,323)	1,323	-		-	-	-
Cash funds at 31 March 2025	2	20,755	9,760	30,515		17,114	5,689	22,803

Notes to the accounts

1) Receipts and Payment accounts

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the organisation during the financial year. In this context "cash" includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debts as they become due.

2) Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers between funds £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Restricted Funds:					
National Lottery Community Fund	2,164	-	(264)		1,900
Tourus Foundation	900	-	(400)		500
Johnsons Foundation	1,569	-	(1,622)	53	-
Victoria Wood Foundation	1,055	-	(1,049)	(6)	-
Eleanor Rathbone	-	1,900	-		1,900
Elizabeth Rathbone	-	2,375	(2,166)		209
Harry and Mavis Pilkinson	-	200	(202)	2	-
LCVS: The Rushworth Trust	-	500	(1,771)	1,271	-
PH Holt	-	7,000	(1,749)		5,251
The Duchy of Lancaster	-	777	(781)	4	-
Total Restricted Funds	5,689	11,975	(9,223)	1,323	9,760
Unrestricted funds	17,114	42,657	(37,693)	(1,323)	20,755
Total Funds	22,803	54,632	(46,916)	-	30,515

<i>Prior year comparative</i>	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers between funds £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Restricted Funds:					
National Lottery Community Fund	10,000	-	(7,836)	-	2,164
Tourus Foundation	900	-	0	-	900
Johnsons Foundation	-	2,000	430.63	-	1,569
Victoria Wood Foundation	-	1,400	(345)	-	1,055
Total Restricted Funds	10,900	3,400	8,611	-	5,689
Unrestricted funds	25,434	39,361	(47,680)	-	17,114
Total Funds	36,334	42,761	(56,292)	-	22,803

3) Related party transactions and Trustees' expenses and remuneration

The Trustees all give freely their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind (2024: £nil).

Two trustees were reimbursed for expenses relating to stationery, postage and other day to day items incurred on behalf of the charity totalling £51 (2024: £69).

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 March 2024

	31 March 2025			31 March 2024		
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total £
Cash Funds						
Cash at bank	20,755	9,760	30,515	17,114	5,689	22,803
	<u>20,755</u>	<u>9,760</u>	<u>30,515</u>	<u>17,114</u>	<u>5,689</u>	<u>22,803</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on
signed on their behalf:

and

Chair

Date:



S. A. A. A. A.



C. Teardale

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