



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report from 01 October 2023 to 30 September 2024

Charity name: The Cookham Festival, registration number 1094999

Objectives and Activities

The purpose of The Cookham Festival is to advance the education of the public in music and the arts in particular, but not exclusively, by organising music festivals in Cookham (in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead).

The trustees, through the committee, organise an arts festival in Cookham for the public benefit, with events that celebrate music, the spoken word and the visual arts for education and enjoyment. Surplus funds are distributed to local organisations and charities for the promotion and facilitation of arts in the community.

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The Cookham Festival owes its success to the work and commitment of a 16-strong committee who manage the events and administration, finance, marketing etc associated with the Festival and to the 74 volunteers from the local community who were deployed during the Festival.

Achievements and Performance

In Spring 2023, between the 2022 and 2024 Festivals, we organised a Comedy Club and a literary festival with workshops and authors.

The main Festival took place over 17 days between 3rd and 19th May 2024 with over 60 events at local venues showcasing predominantly local talent.

This launched with Theresa May in conversation with Lord Young of Cookham; spoken word events included talks on Sir Nicholas Winton (by son Nick); Banksy (Professor Paul Gough) and Cookham Abbey (archaeologist Gabor Thomas), five years in solitary confinement (Sir Terry Waite), and a conversation between Times theatre critic Clive Davies and senior producer at ATG Productions, Richard Darborne. Talks by local residents Ross Kemp and Lorraine Kelly were well received and the Comedy Club drew a capacity audience.

The [Sculpture Garden](#) has a national reputation, runs throughout the Festival and brings many visitors to the grounds of the private Odney Club, courtesy of the John Lewis Partnership. We offered a wide range of art workshops, both before and during the Festival, attracting people of all ages and abilities. 45 artists signed up for the En Plein Air event, painting views of Cookham from their chosen vantage point. Artists proudly exhibited their artworks created during the Festival, and many were purchased.

This year guided walks celebrated local landscapes, wildlife, birdsong and the life and works of Stanley Spencer.

Highlights of our popular music programme included a children's cantata *The Wind in the Willows: A Cookham Adventure* from local musician and composer Rob Castell, performed by children from all four local primary schools; an evening of *Love, Fidelity & Temptation* from [Rogue Opera](#); Toby Cruse with his Stars of the West End and a concert by talented local young musicians. Cantorum Choir, led by musical director Oliver Gooch, brought the Festival to a rousing finale with a joyous and uplifting programme.

A new venture in 2024, was Formosa Fest, filling the gap left by Rock The Moor. Local bands performed a variety of genres including country, rock, and DJ sets – so something for everyone during the day-long event.

The Festival has no specific objectives for fundraising or raising monies from our activities. However, we aim to improve our performance vs the previous Festival:

- We sold 4,351 tickets via online portal TicketSource (+36% vs 3,195 in 2022)
- Online ticket sales and income from the Sculpture Garden raised £119,425 (+£437% vs £26,910 in 2022)
- We received £5,556 in grants and donations (vs £5,550 in 2022)
- We made a surplus of £35,728 (+78% vs £20,080 in 2022)
- From this surplus we donated £37,500 (+87% vs £20,080 in 2022) to local charities and organisations

Feedback from this Festival was overwhelmingly positive and visitors are looking forward to returning in 2026.

Recipients of the charity's surplus in 2024 – local schools and organisations – each submitted proposals as to how they would spend the funds in line with the Festival's objectives, to promote and facilitate arts in the community.

Schools and education

Chiltern Music Academy	£2,000	violins and violas
Cookham Dean School	£2,000	Create a quilt to celebrate 150 th anniversary of school
Cookham Montessori	£2,000	Visits from theatre group and classical music group
Cookham Nursery	£2,000	Art materials and a performing art group
Cookham Rise School	£2,000	Visits from String Fever and Rogue Opera
Furze Platt Senior School	£2,000	13 keyboards
Herries School	£2,000	The beat goes on, dance, stomp
Holy Trinity School	£2,000	Projector

Other local organisations

Holy Trinity Church	£15,000	Sound system
	£3,000	Seed funding for concert
	£1,000	New bell ropes
St John the Baptist Church	£1,000	Seed funding for concert
Stanley Spencer Gallery	£1,000	Guest speaker at Gallery's Spring event
Cookham Abbey dig	£500	Artist in residence
Total	£37,500	

Financial Review

The 2024 Festival generated a surplus in excess of £35,728.

Reserves have been maintained at the opening value with all the surplus generated by the 2024 Festival distributed to local charities. The reason to hold reserves is to ensure pre-publicity, bookings for professionals and venues can be made prior to ticket income being generated.

At 30 September 2024, reserves (balance carried forward) were £18,462.

Our results show that The Cookham Festival is a thriving and successful charity. The main Festival will take place again in May 2026.

The charity's principal sources of funds are ticket sales, grants and donations.

To date, most events have been held indoors so weather has not been a risk factor. However, if this were to change to more outdoor events, inclement weather could become a major risk factor.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Cookham Festival is an unincorporated association, governed by a Trust Deed.

Trustees are appointed by a resolution of the trustees passed at a special meeting. New trustees are directed to Charity Commission website for more information.

Trustees appoint and constitute such advisory committees as they may think fit. They take strategic decisions and delegate responsibilities through a committee that assists with the management of the Festival and the Trust's affairs.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Cookham Festival
Other name the charity uses	Cookham Festival
Registered charity number	1094999
Charity's principal address	Worcester Cottage High Street Cookham SL6 9SQ

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	Derek Bond	Chairman		Cookham Festival Committee
2	Ann Greenwood	Secretary		Cookham Festival Committee
3	Stephanie Diggon	Administrator		Cookham Festival Committee

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved – Not applicable

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity – Not applicable

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Not applicable

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details – Not applicable

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature

Full name(s) Derek Bond
Position Chairman

Date 9 December 2024



The Cookham Festival 2024

3rd – 19th May

Financial Statements

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Registered Charity number: 1094999

Income and Expenditure

Year to 30 September 2024

Income	2022	2024
	£	£
Grants and Donations received	5,550	5,556
Surplus on events	21,360	38,661
Total Income (analysed by event on page 4)	26,910	44,217
 Expenditure		
Publicity and advertising	3,638	2,269
Administration	2,956	5,952
Public Liability insurance	236	268
Total Expenditure	6,830	8,489
 Festival Surplus before donations	20,080	35,728
Donations to local charities	20,080	38,000
Festival surplus/(deficit)	-	(2,272)
Surplus from 2023 mini festival		2,303
Festival deficit for 2023/24		31

Balance Sheet

30 September 2024

	2022 £	2024 £
Current Assets/Liabilities		
Cash at bank	38,261	43,962
Accounts receivable	150	-
Accruals	(19,980)	(25,500)
Net Assets	18,431	18,462
Accumulated fund		
Balance brought forward	18,431	18,431
2023 mini festival surplus		2,303
2024 deficit		(2,272)
Balance carried forward	18,431	18,462

Approved by:


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Philippa Haederle

Date:

8th October 2024

Event outcomes 2024	Income £	Expenditure £	Outcome £
Adam Vetere	481	794	-313
All things Indian	1,279	710	569
Art on the Streets	130	384	-254
Art Workshop	6,001	4,072	1,929
Bell ringing extravaganza	216	216	0
Birds, wildlife, Wild Cookham	623	230	393
Cantorum	5,467	5,745	-278
Chalk the Walk	0	72	-72
Clive Davis	575	253	322
Comedy Night	6,072	2,531	3,541
Concertini	809	1,985	-1,176
Cookham Dig Showcase	1,400	210	1,190
Cullen-Castell	2,270	1,968	302
Dance	970	724	246
Discover Cookham	5,725	4,377	1,348
Fiction Workshop	260	544	-284
Formosa Fest	13,641	15,710	-2,069
John Timewell	705	210	495
Justin Newland	200	128	72
Lee Barn	22	0	22
Lorraine Kelly	2,388	374	2,014
Nick Winton-Beyond the Movie	2,346	310	2,036
Ovey's Farm	1,340	25	1,315
Paul Gough	1,350	360	990
Rogue Opera	3,236	3,798	-562
Ross Kemp	1,891	310	1,581
Sculpture Garden	36,200	14,890	21,310
Shelleys of Marlow	492	212	280
Stanley Spencer walk	429	215	214
Stars of the West End	5,533	4,278	1,255
Terry Waite	2,456	377	2,079
The Walnuts	2,084	773	1,311
Theresa May	3,515	1,748	1,767
Vasilis - saxophone	1,261	1,163	98
Waterways	849	390	459
Will Gompertz	1,645	310	1,335
Wind in the Willows	4,624	4,525	99
Young archaeologists	143	80	63
Young Musicians	797	207	590
TOTAL FOR EVENTS	119,425	75,208	44,217
Administration			-8,489
SURPLUS			35,728

Charitable Donations

	AMOUNT
Donations paid	£
Chiltern Music Academy	2,000
Cookham Nursery	2,000
Cookham Rise School	2,000
Friends of Cookham Abbey	500
Furze Platt Secondary School	2,000
Holy Trinity Bell Ringers	1,000
Holy Trinity School	2,000
Sir Stanley Spencer Gallery	1,000
	12,500
Donations awaiting application forms	
Cookham Dean School	2,000
Cookham Montessori	2,000
Herries School	2,000
Holy Trinity Church - seed funding	3,000
St John the Baptist - seed funding	1,000
Other - recipient(s) to be confirmed	15,500
Balance on Accruals	25,500
Total donations made 2023/24	38,000

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P Haederle
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8th October 2024