

Northern Aldborough Festival

(Charity Number 1107488)

Report of the Trustees

Year Ended 31 October 2024

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the receipts and payments accounts for the year ended 31 October 2024. The trustees who held office during the period are as follows:

Trustees: Sir A Lawson-Tancred
 M C Simpson
 Mrs J Graham
 Mrs C Nickols
 R Ogden
 N Brown
 A Kitchingman
 Mrs S Hollins

The CIO's registered office:
 The Festival Office
 Aldborough Manor
 Boroughbridge
 YO51 9EP

CHAIR'S REPORT

In 2024 we celebrated a landmark - the 30th Northern Aldborough Festival - and the lavish programme included orchestras, leading instrumental soloists, jazz artists and tours of the Roman ruins in Aldborough. The programming aimed to satisfy the twin aims of the festival, one, to bring world class music making to the intimate surroundings of St Andrew's Church and the village of Aldborough and two, to showcase the very best young and emergent talent in the industry. The New Voices Singing Competition returned for its second year with a panel of luminaries including singer Sir John Tomlinson, international conductor Edward Gardner and pianist and Oxford Song Festival founder Sholto Kynoch. Our speaker was Sir Tony Robinson, renowned for presenting Channel 4's archaeological programme Time Team and for his popular role as Baldrick in Blackadder. The opera performance of Purcell's Fairy Queen was given by Armonico Consort, returning to the festival after 2023's wonderful performance of Monteverdi's Vespers. The world-famous violin virtuoso Viktoria Mullova returned in a programme of Beethoven and Schubert and the jazz evening was given by the British pianist Julian Joseph with his trio.

We introduced a new strand with our first evening of stand-up comedy, the operatically-trained comedian Amy Webber regaling the audience with tales of her hunt for a job, and panflute-player Adriana Babin travelled from Moldova to give a very well received recital.

The programme closed with an outdoor performance by leading Queen tribute act Majesty followed by a firework display.

I should like to thank my fellow trustees, friends of the Northern Aldborough Festival and our sponsors and volunteers who help to make an increasingly well-known festival a memorable experience.

Sir A Lawson-Tancred
Chair

OUR PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES

The purposes of the charity are the advancement of the education of the public in the arts of music, drama, dance and the visual arts, the development of public appreciation of the arts by the provision of suitable artistic events within an annual festival particularly involving performances by young musicians in the early stages of their professional careers and to further the social and cultural welfare of the community within the surrounding area.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance "public benefit: running a charity (PB2)". The festival relies on donations and sponsorship to cover its operating costs. Affordability and access to our programme are important to us and is reflected in our pricing policy.

The strategy used to achieve the CIO's aims and objectives is to present a broad range of musical and other artistic events within an annual festival, aimed at bringing the arts to the local community within North Yorkshire and further afield.

The concerts and stage performances

The programme achieves a mix of the arts to suit a range of public tastes with an emphasis on maintaining a popular programme which underpins the viability of the festival and to reach out to a new generation of potential visitors to the festival and the arts.

Our volunteers

The CIO relies on local voluntary help, and we wish to thank our friends for their loyal support and service.

Achievements and performance

The annual festival in 2024 included a wide-ranging series of concerts, musical and other artistic events with an emphasis on public participation and providing an opportunity to showcase the abilities of young musicians.

Financial review

During the financial year, the CIO made a small deficit but had sufficient resources brought forward to manage. The principal funding sources of income were ticket sales of £54,718 (a 5.8% rise on the previous year's performance) and donations and sponsorship including Gift Aid refunds of £46,740. The support of our donors and sponsors continues to be essential to maintaining such a varied programme of music and other creative arts. Not all the performances are self-supporting, and the performing arts rely on mixed funding to ensure a vibrant and varied programme.

Our pricing policy

Our pricing policy reflects the costs of performances reduced by the income from sponsorship to maintain prices as low as possible for each performance so as to enable all, whatever their means, to attend performances. Full price tickets vary between £10 and £35, with a typical average price of c. £25 with discounts for children. Additional discounts are made on an ad hoc basis to ensure a fuller house where relevant to encourage wider participation and new supporters.

Investment powers and policy

The trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the festival, have kept available funds in an interest-bearing deposit account.

Reserves policy and going concern

The trustees are of the opinion that the level of reserves held is sufficient to enable the CIO to continue its current activities. The trustees will continue to review the reserves to ensure that the CIO is able to meet its financial obligations. The trustees are of the view that the CIO is a going concern. Cash reserves at 31 October 2024 were £52,926.

Plans for future festivals

The CIO's plans for the future are to continue to provide an annual festival of the arts for the education of the public of all ages and backgrounds. We continue to strengthen our links with our sponsors and supporters of The Friends of the Northern Aldborough Festival. We also seek to establish, or revive and renew partnerships with other arts organisations in the region.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document & Trustees

The charity converted from a company limited by guarantee to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on the 13th July 2022. It is registered with the Charity Commission. In the event of the CIO being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 each.

Appointment of trustees

Three trustees are elected annually by the members of the charitable incorporated organisation attending the Annual General Meeting and serve for a period of three years. When considering the appointment of new trustees, they have regard to the requirement for any specialist skills needed.

Trustee induction and training

New trustees undergo training on their legal obligations under charity law and the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, the board and decision-making processes and recent financial performance of the CIO. Trustees undergo training to facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Organisation

The board of trustees administers the CIO and meet most months of the year. The trustees appoint an Artistic Director, currently Robert Ogden, and an Administrator to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity. The administrator attends board meetings but has no voting rights.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

The Artistic Director received a fee of £8,000 from his work for the CIO and his family company sponsored one performance in the festival. There are no related third parties and no other related party transactions have been reported.

The CIO has informal links with other local artistic providers.

Pay policy for senior staff

The trustees consider the board of trustees including the Artistic Director, plus the Co-ordinator, comprise the key management personnel of the CIO in charge of directing, controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All trustees give their time freely other than the Artistic Director as referred to above.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees have a risk management strategy that comprises an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces and the establishment and implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise. This work has identified that maintaining longer-term financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the charity which has led to the development of a strategic plan to allow for the diversification of funding. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for the authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of consultants, volunteers and visitors. These procedures are reviewed annually to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the CIO.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires 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 and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE TO OUR INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving our trustees' annual report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the independent examiner in connection with their preparing their report, of which the CIO's independent examiner is unaware, and
- the trustees, having made enquiries of fellow trustees and the CIO's independent examiner that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the independent examiner is aware of that information.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Sir A Lawson-Tancred - Chair

Date: 27 August 2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name

Northern Aldborough Festival

No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01/11/2023

To

Period end date
31/10/2024

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					
Ticket Sales	54,718	-	-	54,718	51,718
Primary Concert Sponsorship	20,000	-	-	20,000	18,000
Secondary Concert Sponsorship	16,036	-	-	16,036	21,500
Opera Sponsorship	-	-	-	-	500
Donations General	6,771	-	-	6,771	4,121
Miscellaneous Income	438	-	-	438	130
Program Sales	1,092	-	-	1,092	977
Program Advertising	-	-	-	-	875
Gift Aid	3,933	-	-	3,933	751
Friends Subscriptions	3,675	-	-	3,675	3,623
Friends Event Income	1,592	-	-	1,592	3,020
Other income	1,691	-	-	1,691	617
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	109,946	-	-	109,946	105,832
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	109,946	-	-	109,946	105,832

A3 Payments					
Performers	40,760	-	-	40,760	44,059
Venue Hire	3,132	-	-	3,132	435
Instrument Hire	3,186	-	-	3,186	2,700
Piano Tune	970	-	-	970	180
Flowers	115	-	-	115	139
Performers Miscellaneous	477	-	-	477	-
Performer Subsistence/Accommodation	1,721	-	-	1,721	754
Catering	1,651	-	-	1,651	-
Joinery	1,847	-	-	1,847	2,578
Technical Requirements (lighting, sound)	1,548	-	-	1,548	2,491
Toilets	2,304	-	-	2,304	450
Marquee	2,256	-	-	2,256	1,468
Last Night Costs	8,704	-	-	8,704	10,121
Sponsor Hospitality	60	-	-	60	1,939
Ticket Discounts	135	-	-	135	-
Friends Event Costs	76	-	-	76	2,013
Marketing (Print advertising)	1,280	-	-	1,280	2,495
Marketing (other)	1,301	-	-	1,301	2,790
Brochure (Design & Print)	2,356	-	-	2,356	2,115
Brochure (Postage)	1,822	-	-	1,822	2,895
Programme	1,940	-	-	1,940	2,120
Directors Salary	6,506	-	-	6,506	8,000
Administrator	13,214	-	-	13,214	12,200
Marketing Administrator	9,240	-	-	9,240	6,000
Festival Volunteers	2,264	-	-	2,264	1,560
Festival Staff Subsistence	269	-	-	269	148
Stationery	15	-	-	15	-
General Printing	238	-	-	238	249
General Postage	-	-	-	-	33
Insurance	135	-	-	135	129
PRS	1,202	-	-	1,202	563
Subscriptions	432	-	-	432	515
Licence Fees	175	-	-	175	63
Accountancy Costs	2,940	-	-	2,940	-
Miscellaneous Expenses	323	-	-	323	372
Card Payment Charges	1,986	-	-	1,986	1,960
Computer & IT Costs	525	-	-	525	533
Bank Charges and Interest	718	-	-	718	410
Friends Bank Charges	44	-	-	44	156
Suspense	-	-	-	-	109
Sub total	116,431	-	-	116,431	113,704

**A4 Asset and investment
purchases, (see table)**

CC16a

	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	116,431	-	-	116,431	113,704
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 6,485	-	-	- 6,485	- 7,872
A5 Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end		-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	- 6,485	-	-	- 6,485	- 7,872

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	Debtors Control Account	1,500	-	-
	Friends Bank Account	1,418	-	-
	Petty Cash	211	-	-
	CAF Gold	27,559	-	-
	CAF Current	310	-	-
	CAF Friends	21,928	-	-
	Total cash funds	52,926	-	-
	(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)
	Office equipment and IT - Cost		278	-
	Fixtures and fittings - Cost		25,740	-
	Fixtures and fittings - Accumulated Depreciation		- 19,434	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Trade Creditors		- 1,260	
	Accruals		2,340	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature



Print Name

Robert Ogden

Date of approval

27/08/2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF

Northern Aldborough Festival (Charity Number 1107488)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Northern Aldborough Festival (the "Trust") for the year ended 31 October 2024.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 154 of the Charities Act 2011. My independent examination work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Trust and the charity's trustees as a body, for my independent examination work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

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.

Ian P Broadley, FCA
The Courtyard
Oakwood Park
Fountains road
Harrogate
HG3 3BF

27 August 2025