



Great Bowden Recital Trust

**Financial Report
2023-24**

*Music development, appreciation and
participation for all*



ABOUT GBRT

Great Bowden Recital Trust (GBRT) is a charitable trust, founded in 2004 and registered in 2006, promoting music in Market Harborough and the surrounding area. The Trust's charitable purpose is 'Music development, appreciation and participation for all'.

Music has been proven to have a visible, positive impact on the lives of people of all ages, building confidence, communication and discipline, increasing co-ordination and encouraging social relationships. The Trust continually strives to encourage personal development by using music in all its forms, including running a range of community choirs and ensembles, organising concerts and events in the local area and beyond, European concert tours and an annual Junior X Factor talent competition for young musicians and singers. Surplus funds generated by these activities are used to fund a grant programme for young people in financial need to help to pay for singing and instrumental lessons.

GBRT's Trustees

GBRT is managed by volunteer Trustees and Choir/Ensemble Secretaries. New Trustees are recruited by invitation from the Trustee board and are provided with copies of the most recent Accounts. They are also briefed on their legal obligations under charity laws, and on the content of the governing document of the Trust, together with the decision-making processes and recent financial performance.

The trustees during the 2023/24 financial year were:

Sue Benson, Managing Trustee
Linda Pentland, Finance Trustee and Chairman
Graham Vick
Poppy Shortland
Debbie Smith
Lucy Ingall
Jim Holyoak



GBRT's Areas of Activity

The Trust's activities divide into four key areas:

1. Music Development

GBRT believes that an individual's financial circumstances should never be a barrier for progressing and developing their skill of singing or playing an instrument. The Trust provides grants towards instrumental or vocal lessons for local young people in financial need. We also work with local schools to help to promote music.

2. Music Appreciation

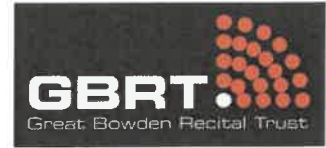
GBRT organises concerts and events including an annual Community Concert which showcases local young singers and instrumentalists, some of whom are performing in public for the first time. The Trust's choirs and ensembles also perform at a range of local and regional concerts raising money for GBRT and for other charities and good causes.

3. Music Participation

The Trust provides opportunities for everyone to become involved in music regardless of age, experience and background. GBRT's five choirs and ensembles have over 150 members. The annual GBRT Junior X Factor competition provides the opportunity for positive feedback from professional musicians and for the finalists to perform on stage to supportive audiences.

4. For all

GBRT believes that music should be accessible to everyone. Inclusion is important to us and we are working to remove barriers to participation. We are proud to be a pilot group for Making Music's INCLUDE project.



Music Development

We received 24 applications for funding for our grant programme in 2023/24 which was nearly 3 times as many applications as 2022/23. Eighteen of these applications were successful, including 7 continuing students and 11 new applicants. A total of £4,614 was awarded to fund 721 lessons. We were very grateful to receive a donation of £1000 from Landmark Practice Development to support our grants programme in addition to the funds we generated from our other activities.

GBRT is a member of the Harborough Alliance for Music Education, a forum to bring together music leads from local schools organised by Robert Smyth Academy. We have also been involved with setting up Creative Harborough, an initiative to promote arts activities in the town and encourage more people to get involved. GBRT was one of 20+ groups to take part in the launch event on 2nd March 2024 and we continue to be actively involved in the development of this initiative.

Music Appreciation

GBRT organised four concerts during the 2023/24 financial year:

- GBRT Community Choir, accompanied by a live band and invited soloists, put on a gala concert to raise funds for the local NSPCC branch on 17th June 2023. The concert was a huge success and raised £2000 for the NSPCC through ticket sales, donations and raffle tickets.
- GBRT's annual Community Concert on Saturday 11th November provided an opportunity for eight young people to perform on trombone, piano, voice, guitar and French horn. GBRT Youth Choir also took part.
- GBRT Community Choir and Northampton Male Voice Choir performed together in a sold out concert in Market Harborough on Saturday 18th November. This was the first time that the two choirs had performed together and was a great success, raising over £500 for GBRT from ticket sales and donations.
- GBRT Community Choir was joined by Robert Smyth Academy's Secret Choir for a concert in Market Harborough on Saturday 18th May, raising over £500 in donations for the school towards the purchase of a new baritone saxophone.

GBRT's choirs and ensembles also took part in the following events organised by other organisations:

- Performances at The Café @ Welland Park:
 - GBRT Community Choir, Sunday 25th June 2023
 - GBRT Community Choir Carols in the Park, Sunday 17th December 2023
 - GBRT Flute Choir, Sunday 19th May 2024
- GBRT Carnival Drums at Foxton Locks Fun Day on 15th August 2023
- GBRT Orchestra Sunday Afternoon Concert at St Peter's Church, Church Langton on Sunday 24th September 2023
- GBRT Community Choir performed at the Eco Village's Winter Fair on Saturday 25th November 2023
- GBRT Community Choir supported Specsavers Market Harborough's Dickensian fundraiser on Saturday 9th December 2023
- GBRT Carnival Drums performed at Kettering Christmas Market on Saturday 16th December 2023



- Members of GBRT Community Choir supported TLC Voices at the Laura Centre Memorial Service in Leicester on Sunday 12th May 2024

Music Participation

GBRT runs five choirs and ensembles – Community Choir and Flute Choir for over-18s, Carnival Drums and Orchestra for all ages, and Youth Choir for school years 5-13.

Each group is self-funding as every member pays an affordable termly subscription fee to cover the costs associated with running the group as detailed below. Surplus funds are used to fund the charity's general running costs and grant programme.

Carnival Drums	17 rehearsals
Community Choir	23 rehearsals
Flute Choir	18 rehearsals
Orchestra	17 rehearsals
Youth Choir	18 rehearsals

GBRT launched a new after-school music club, Music Makers, in four primary schools in September 2024 which received an overwhelming response from parents and children. More than 50 children in school years 1-4 took part in the groups during the year and the children came together for a joint performance at GBRT Junior X Factor Finals in March. The club, run by Graham Vick and supported by a team of volunteers, teaches singing, performance skills and the basics of music theory while having fun with warm-up exercises, games, and creating rhythms and sounds using body percussion, speech, rhyme and syncopation.

In addition, GBRT organised a workshop for members of GBRT Flute Choir 4th November 2023 led by low flutes specialist Carla Rees, GBRT Community Choir attended UK Choir Festival on Sunday 8th October 2023 and GBRT Flute Choir took part in the first Birmingham Flute Choir Festival on 1st March 2024.

GBRT Junior X Factor heats were held on the weekend of 9/10th March and 13 talented young people took place in the Finals Saturday 16th March. The competition was funded by grants from Market Harborough and the Bowdens Charity and Leicestershire and Rutland Freemasons Charity.

In April 2024, 48 members of GBRT Community Choir took part in a concert tour to Umbria in Italy. The group stayed in Passignano-sul-TRASIMENO, overlooking Lake Trasimeno, and performed at the Chiesa San Filippo Neri in Florence, Sala Dei Notari in Perugia and the Teatro in Tuoro overlooking Lake Trasimeno.

For All

In September 2023 GBRT was selected as one of four music groups from across the UK to take part in a pilot project on inclusion run by Making Music, the umbrella body for leisure-time music groups. Funded by Arts Council England, INCLUDE aims to help member groups in Levelling Up for Culture Places in England connect with new members of their community and include a wider diversity of people in their normal activities. Diversity means including the widest range of people from our community and recognising, respecting and celebrating each other's differences. This includes a broad range of identities such as ethnicity, disability, neurodiversity, gender, sexuality, and socioeconomic background. The pilot project which will run until March 2025 and what we learn will be shared with all of Making Music's member groups. Our involvement in the project will focus on our



instrumental groups - GBRT Carnival Drums, GBRT Flute Choir and GBRT Orchestra - but the lessons that we learn will be applied to all of our activities.

The first phase of the project was to get a better understanding of the demographics of our current membership compared to our local area. We asked members to complete an anonymous survey and compared the results to the most recent census data for South Leicestershire and North Northamptonshire. We found that our membership was broadly representative of the general population but the main groups that were underrepresented being 20–35-year-olds and men. GBRT's trustees had a very helpful session with Making Music's project lead Elizabeth Palmer to discuss the results and start to develop an action plan for the project. We decided to focus on the following areas:

- Developing a strategy to ensure that all our activities are as inclusive as possible, such as setting up 'buddy' schemes in our ensembles to make new members feel welcome, reviewing the accessibility of our communications and website, and asking members if there's anything we can do to improve access to rehearsals and resources.
- Encouraging more people to get involved in music making by raising the profile of our activities in North Northamptonshire, looking at ways to encourage more men and 20–35-year-olds to get involved in our choirs and ensembles, and promoting the mental health and social benefits of music.

We have reviewed our online and written communications to ensure that they are accessible by:

- offering a text only digital version of programmes for use with screen readers and online translation services as an alternative to printed programmes.
- reviewing our website to ensure that it meets accessibility standards.
- replacing PDFs on our website with more accessible formats such as HTML and Word documents.
- adding additional information about accessibility at our rehearsal and concert venues to our website and publicity materials.
- making sheet music available in alternative formats for members who need it.
- adding an open question to our registration forms and booking forms to ask whether members have any access needs.

We are working on extending our activities into North Northamptonshire:

- we organised an inclusion event in Corby on 21st February 2024 for local music groups to discuss ways to encourage men to get involved in music making, with speaker Will Prideaux from Peterborough Sings.
- GBRT Carnival Drums performed at Kettering's Christmas Market in December 2023 and are booked to perform at two more events in Kettering in 2024.

We received a grant of £2000 from Howard Watson Symington Memorial Charity to make a video promoting the mental health benefits of being part of community music making.

Legacy

We were very honoured and grateful to receive a generous legacy from the estate of Elizabeth Howe, who was a member of GBRT Carnival Drums and a supporter of our charity. GBRT's trustees have given careful consideration to how best to use these funds to have a long-lasting impact.

- Funds were allocated to updating GBRT's sound equipment including the purchase of a digital mixing console, a stage box, 3 monitors and 2 sub-woofers plus cables and accessories. We worked with



Brickworks Studios to design a high-quality and affordable system that will be durable and be flexible enough to cover different types and sizes of events and gigs.

- We purchased a bass flute and an alto flute for GBRT Flute Choir which will add depth to the sound of the group and enable members to have a chance to play lower flutes which they might otherwise not be able to experience as they are less common and more expensive to own.
- Funds have been allocated to GBRT Carnival Drums to repair and update instruments, to GBRT Orchestra to purchase new music and to GBRT Youth Choir to put towards activities to attract and retain new members.
- We are creating “The Elizabeth Howe Legacy Fund” – a project which will encourage primary school pupils to learn musical instruments. It is still in development but is intended to begin early in the 2024-25 academic year and will focus on students who face greater barriers than most to musical participation. We believe that, as a former primary school headteacher, Liz would very much have approved.

GOING CONCERN

Subscriptions

GBRT’s main source of income is subscriptions paid by members of its choirs and ensembles. These are paid in advance before the start of each term. MDs are engaged to run these rehearsals on a freelance basis, which allows flexibility. Trustees regularly review the subs income received for each choir and ensemble to ensure that the costs of rehearsals can be met, and are able to adjust the number and/or length of rehearsals offered if necessary. There is currently sufficient surplus generated from subs to fund GBRT’s essential running costs and grant programme.

Concerts and Events

The Trust generates additional income from donations made by audience members at concerts and performances.

Essential Running Costs

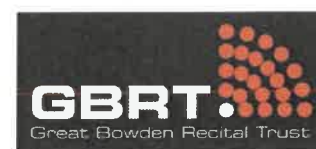
As the Trust does not own or rent any offices or employ any staff, essential running costs (e.g. insurance and independent examiner fees) are relatively modest. The Trust is carrying forward sufficient surplus funds from the 2023/24 financial year to cover all essential costs for 2024/25.

Grant Programme

The Trust uses any surplus generated from its other activities to fund a grant programme for young singers and instrumentalists who need help to pay for their specialist music lessons. The grant programme is funded from the surplus generated in the previous financial year and amount of funding made available can be adjusted according to the available funds. Grants are awarded for one school year.

Going Concern

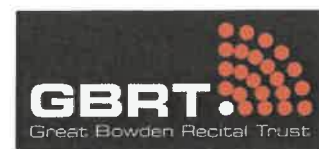
For the reasons set out above, GBRT’s Trustees are confident that the Trust will continue to be a going concern throughout the 2024/25 financial year.



Income and Expenditure

For the year ended 31 May 2024

Account	2024
Income	
Clothing - Hoodies T shirts Masks	505.00
Collection Boxes	56.60
Donations - General	1,566.38
Donations - Performance	1,465.21
Event Income	9,445.65
Grants	4,700.00
Other Revenue	20,876.78
Subscriptions In	18,528.79
Tour Income	22,334.32
Total Turnover	79,478.73
Gross Income	79,478.73
Administrative Costs	
Accompanist	1,620.50
Accounts and Audit	498.00
Donations Given	2,485.62
Equipment Purchased	8,309.08
Garage Hire	1,285.00
General Expenses	781.27
Grants Given	4,680.63
Hoodies Tshirts Masks	619.50
Insurances and PRS	643.83
Junior X Factor costs	1,217.75
Junior X Factor Prizes	862.19
Marketing	1,361.86
Music	1,243.50
Musical Director	9,895.10
Other Event Costs	6,411.79
Printing, Post and Stationery	608.11
Square Fees	41.15
Tours	28,863.57
Venue Hire - Concerts	773.30
Venues - Rehearsal	2,030.50
Volunteer and Trustee Costs	329.92
Total Administrative Costs	74,562.17
Operating Surplus	4,916.56



GBRT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES SUMMARY

Monetary Assets

	1st June 2023	31st May 2024
Funds in GBRT Bank Accounts	£16,325.64	£21,242.20

Creditors

Invoices due to be paid for this period	£0.00	£0.00
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Reserves

The Trust maintains minimal reserves sufficient to meet its day to day requirements

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

GBRT Trustees' Declaration

The Trustees have thoroughly reviewed and understood all aspects of the accounting information for the period 1st June 2023 to 31st May 2024, have had regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit and approve, in full, the figures provided within this Report and the Income and Expenditure Summary.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Linda Pentland
Chair of Trustees

Date: 30th December 2024



**Independent Examiners Report
To the Trustees of Great Bowden Recital Trust
For the year ended 31 May 2024**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 May 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 charity 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.

 06/01/2025

Alexander West FCA

**Somerbys Chartered Accountants
30 Nelson Street
Leicester
LE1 7BA**