

THE COBWEB ORCHESTRA

(A company limited by guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31st March 2021

Charity number: 1118758

Company number: 6057812

Annual return 2020-21

THE COBWEB ORCHESTRA

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31st March 2021

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31st March 2021.

Reference and Administrative Information

Registered Charity no: 1118758

Company registration no: 6057812

Registered office: Hawkrigg
89 Gilesgate
Durham
DH1 1HY

Bankers: The Co-operative Bank plc.
PO Box 250
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its trustees who, for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report, are collectively referred to as the trustees.

The trustees serving during the financial year were as follows:

Mr. J. Bond (Chair- October 2020)
Dr. M. H. Cave (Chair- November 2020ff)
Mrs. R. Tanner (Secretary)
Mr. S. Baines (Treasurer)
Mrs C Ball (Assistant Treasurer)
Dr. M. H. Cave
Ms J. Greene
Mr. J. Hoggett
Dr. T. Mason
Revd. W. Rigby
Ms K Scott-Hughes

Ten trustees were elected to serve from October 2020 - October 2021. Dr Emma Pearson and Mr Richard Stamp were elected to the Board in October 2020. Mr J. Bond and Mrs. C. Ball resigned at the AGM in October 2020. At the first meeting of the Trustees following the AGM, Dr Michael Cave was elected Chair.

Appointment of Trustees

The members of the board of trustees are responsible for the policy and general management of the affairs of the association. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting and serve for 3 years, one third retiring annually. The Committee may co-opt up to four further members to hold office up to the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting. All members are circulated with invitations to nominate trustees prior to the AGM advising them of the retiring trustees and requesting nominations for the AGM. The Chairperson and Honorary Officers are elected for 3 consecutive years. The trustees have no interest in shares in the trust, which is a company limited

by guarantee.

Structure, Governance and Management

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2021, which comply with current statutory requirements, with the company's governing document and with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Governing Document

The Cobweb Orchestra is a charity, which together with its property shall be administered and managed in accordance with its constitution adopted on April 6th 2007 by the members of the executive committee. The Trust is a limited company by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association with no share capital, being limited by guarantee.

Organisation

The board of trustees, which can have up to 12 members, administers the charity. The board meets quarterly and there are sub-committees covering finance, human resources, membership, distinctiveness, fundraising, programming, promotion and marketing. The board contracts services for administration and creative direction as well as hiring conductors and musicians as and when required. The organisation does not have any directly employed staff.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure for the year. 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;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the charity are:

To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects.

The Cobweb Orchestra began as a 10-week course with one group in one venue with a small number of players. In October 2006 the organisation started to consider independence from North

Music Trust for various reasons. Before becoming independent from North Music Trust, there was a series of meetings to establish what the potential membership wanted from a new organisation. The answer – much the same as has always been on offer. A working party, set up as a result of these early meetings, set out to achieve this objective.

As a result of the consultation process The Cobweb Orchestra became a company limited by guarantee in January 2007 and achieved charitable status in March 2007.

The Cobweb Orchestra has maintained its open access policy and this features strongly in its charitable objectives, which feature in its Memorandum and Articles. These objectives continue to be its guiding light.

We now run nine regular orchestral groups across northern England, in Northumberland (Morpeth), Newcastle, County Durham (Dipton, Spennymoor and Ludworth), York and Cumbria (Dalston and Tebay). These groups are open-access, with no auditions or quotas and attendance is open to both the general public and members of the charity. In addition, we run events and concerts across the region, drawing together members of our regular groups with other musicians and arts organisations. These include study days, longer weekend workshops to consider larger works or chamber music and programmes focused on the development of members' skills, such as composing or conducting.

Achievements and Performance

This year has continued without in-person meetings because of Cobweb restrictions

- On March 16th 2020 our Chairman cancelled all further events in the light of the impending lockdown due to the Coronavirus pandemic, and our Director took up the challenge of providing a programme of virtual events
- These included the Cobweb Virtual orchestra which has performed several times, an online musical Book Club and a series of “Concert Parties” at which individuals play from their homes for the enjoyment of others
- In October we marked our 25th Anniversary with a programme of solo and joint performances, reminiscence and celebration
- Further new ideas, including online Masterclasses and recitals from local professional musicians
- In May 2021 an “in person” event was held to test the limitations of social distancing on performance and to inform the creation of a rigorous Risk Assessment policy. It was hoped to be able to gradually return to our regular programme of meetings as members wishes and as government guidelines allowed. (This did in fact happen.)

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charities Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

Financial Review

The income on total funds for the period amounted to £28,370 (2020: £77,866) against running costs of £22,906 (2020: £76,179), giving a total surplus of £5,464 (2020: £1,687). The total balance of unrestricted funds at the period end, including non-current assets, amounted to £37,513 (2020: £32,049) with a further £328 (2020: £328) held for restricted purposes.

We aim under our reserves policy to hold around 20% - 25% of annual unrestricted expenditure in available reserves (net current assets in the balance sheet), to mitigate financial risks. The reported surplus for the period brings our available unrestricted reserves to £23,013 (2020: £17,280). This equates to more than 100% (2020: 23%) of unrestricted expenditure for the period, which, following a number of years of reported deficits, is comfortably within our target range.

However, it should be noted that, as a result of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, expenditure for the period was vastly different to previous periods, and thus this ratio is not directly comparable.

Plans for the Future

We, as a board of trustees, continue to review our future calendar of events to ensure we offer a programme that will meet the needs of our members, whilst cognisant of the fact that the makeup of our membership may be considerably altered as a result of the ongoing situation. We have undertaken a survey of our membership to ascertain the level of engagement we were likely to enjoy as we return to a semblance of “normality.” Social distancing, mask wearing and regular ventilation now form part of our regular routine at all meetings. We work with the committees at our community venues to ensure safety and confidence for our members at all times. The trustees have been meeting monthly and then every 2 months (rather than quarterly) to keep a watching brief on the situation, both financial and vis-à-vis membership, and to support the sterling efforts of our Director and Events Administrator.

Risk Review

The trustees have identified and reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and systems have been established to mitigate these risks. A Risk Assessment Policy, focused particularly on the issues around Covid-19, has been drawn up which we intend to operate in conjunction with the policies of the venues we hire, as and when we are able to return to in-person activities..

Exemptions

This report is prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Section 415A of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 17.12.21

And signed on their behalf by



Mrs. R. Tanner
Secretary

Independent Examiners Report

Report to the trustees/members of The Cobweb Orchestra on Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021, set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of the Charity and the Independent Examiner

As members of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) and section 144(2) of the Charities Act do not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the financial statements under s.145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charities Commission, under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether any particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records.

It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on these accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave been compromised; and
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andrew French

Signed



16 January 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

		Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	2020-21 Total funds	2019-20 Total funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	-	18,489	18,489	4,055
Charitable activities	2	-	9,804	9,804	73,748
Investments	2	-	77	77	63
Total		-	28,370	28,370	77,866
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	3	-	400	400	1,054
Charitable activities	3	-	22,506	22,506	74,925
Governance	3	-	-	-	200
Total		-	22,906	22,906	76,179
Net income/(expenditure)		-	5,464	5,464	1,687
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains / losses		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		-	5,464	5,464	1,687
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		328	32,049	32,377	30,690
Total funds carried forward		328	37,513	37,841	32,377

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	2020-21 Total funds	2019-20 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
Non-current assets					
Tangible fixed assets	4	-	14,500	14,500	14,769
Current assets					
Debtors	5	-	2,605	2,605	2,659
Cash at bank and in hand		328	25,559	25,887	24,390
		328	28,164	28,492	27,049
Creditors falling due within one year	6	-	(5,151)	(5,151)	(9,442)
Net current assets		328	23,013	23,341	17,608
Total assets less current liabilities		328	37,513	37,841	32,377
Net assets		328	37,513	37,841	32,377
Funds					
Unrestricted funds	7		37,513	37,513	32,049
Restricted funds	7	328		328	328
Total funds		328	37,513	37,841	32,377

For the financial year in question, the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2016 relating to small companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.



Mrs. R.Tanner
Secretary

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Accounting Convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with FRS 102 (effective Jan 2015), the Companies Act 2006 and the requirements of the Charities SORP 2019. The trustees consider that the company is a public benefit entity. These accounts are therefore prepared on a going-concern basis.

1.2 Material uncertainty over going concern

Due to the current Covid-19 outbreak, the orchestra has taken the decision, in line with government advice, to cease its major charitable activities (the running of orchestra events) until such time as social distancing measures are lifted. Our ability to continue to operate in the long term is therefore dependent upon the length of time these measures are in force. The trustees consider that sufficient reserves are in place to cope with the most likely scenarios for length of restrictions. These accounts are therefore prepared on a going-concern basis. However, due to the significant uncertainty in timing of these restrictions, which is outside the control of the orchestra, these conditions present a material uncertainty over the orchestra's ability to continue as a going concern.

1.3 Change in accounting reference date

During the year, the orchestra changed its accounting reference date during the year from the 5 April to 31 March, slightly shortening the current accounting period.

1.4 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Deferred income balances arise when participants in charitable activities, for example residential events, pay in advance.

1.5 Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets comprise the orchestra's music library (sheet music, associated storage units and printing facilities) and instruments for use by the orchestra.

The initial carrying value of donated assets is taken to be the lower of replacement cost and recoverable amount at the date it is received. The value in use is assumed to be equal to the current replacement cost.

For the instrument bank and music library storage, depreciation calculated on a 10% reducing balance basis on cost, for IT related equipment, depreciation is calculated on a 20% reducing balance basis on cost.

Sheet music is not depreciated, as its condition and value depends chiefly on the extent of use rather than age. It is therefore subject to an annual impairment review.

1.7 Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities under the primary purpose trading exemption.

1.8 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular purposes.

1.9 Significant judgments and estimates

The trustees do not consider there to be the need for any significant judgments or estimates in applying these accounting policies, given the simplicity of the charity's operations. Other than as reported in the paragraph above regarding *Material uncertainty over going concern*, there are no assumptions or other sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date which may give rise to a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying value of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

1.10 Donated goods and services

Trustees and members of the charity contribute as general volunteers to a number of key areas of operations. These include managing the music library and general administration of membership and weekly groups. Under 6.18 of the 2019 SORP, these services are not recognised in these accounts.

2. Income

			2020-21	2019-20
	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies				
Donations	-	15,873	15,873	2,921
Gift aid	-	2,616	2,616	1,134
	-	18,489	18,489	4,055
Charitable activities				
Event fees	-	3,459	3,459	27,462
Fee refunds	-	-	-	(425)
Subscriptions	-	409	409	37,218
Membership	-	5,116	5,116	7,300
Fund raising events	-	800	800	1,742
Other income	-	20	20	451
Grants	-	-	-	-
	-	9,804	9,804	73,748
Investment income				
Interest receivable	-	77	77	63
Total incoming resources	-	28,370	28,370	77,866

3. Resources expended

			2020-21	2019-20
	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds				
Promotional expenses	-	-	-	335
Repairs and renewals	-	-	-	46
IT & Website costs	-	35	35	60
Professional subscriptions	-	365	365	366
Fundraising trading: costs of goods sold and other costs	-	-	-	247
	-	400	400	1,054
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Musicians' fees	-	2,565	2,565	20,162
Conductors fees	-	13,577	13,577	26,230
Venue hire	-	167	167	18,236
Events management	-	5,501	5,501	6,286
Hire of plant, machinery and music	-	-	-	161
Telecommunications	-	282	282	150
Postage and stationary	-	-	-	303
Travel expenses	-	-	-	2,332
Refreshments and sundries	-	13	13	639
Insurance	-	132	132	132
Depreciation of fixed assets	-	269	269	294
* Impairments of fixed assets	-	-	-	-
	-	22,506	22,506	74,925
Other expenditure				
** Accounting and bank fees	-	-	-	200
Total resources expended	-	22,906	22,906	76,179

* See following page for explanation of credit entry

** Relates to the charity's independent examination of the accounts

Trustees' remuneration and expenses

Purchases made by trustees on behalf of the orchestra and reimbursed totalled £510, for 2 trustees (£323 in 2019-20 for 3 trustees). No travel expenses were claimed by trustees during 2020-21 or 2019-20.

4. Tangible fixed assets

		Music library £	Instrument bank £	Total £
Cost	At 1 April 2020	12,920.00	4,609.00	17,529.00
	Additions	-	-	-
	Impairments / revaluations	-	-	-
	Disposals	-	-	-
	At 31 March 2021	12,920.00	4,609.00	17,529.00
Depreciation	At 1 April 2020	282.00	2,478.00	2,760.00
	Impairments / revaluations	-	-	-
	Charge for the year	56.00	213.00	269.00
	Disposals	-	-	-
	At 31 March 2021	338.00	2,691.00	3,029.00
Net book value	At 31 March 2020	12,638.00	2,131.00	14,769.00
	At 31 March 2021	12,582.00	1,918.00	14,500.00

5. Trade and other receivables

	2020-21 £	2019-20 £
Trade receivables	240	240
Gift aid claims	1,074	761
Prepayments	1,291	1,618
Accrued income	-	41
	2,605	2,660

6. Trade and other payables

	2020-21 £	2019-20 £
Deferred income	908	2,180
Trade payables and accruals	4,243	7,262
	5,151	9,442

7. Movement in funds

	At 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Fund transfers	At 31 March 2021
Unrestricted funds	32,049	28,370	(22,906)	-	37,513
Restricted funds – CDCF	-	-	-	-	-
Ludworth grant	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted funds – other	328	-	-	-	328
	32,377	28,370	(22,906)	-	37,841

	At 6 April 2019	Income	Expenditure	Fund transfers	At 31 March 2020
Unrestricted funds	29,801	77,866	(75,765)	147	32,049
Restricted funds – CDCF	414	-	(414)	-	-
Ludworth grant	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted funds – other	475	-	-	(147)	328
	30,690	77,866	(76,179)	-	32,377