

Stockton Heath



Stockton Heath Festival Trust Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Trust Information

Registered Office:

C/O Finton Doyle Accountants
Whitehouse
Wilderspool Business Park
Greenalls Avenue
Warrington
WA4 6HL

Trustees:

Mathew Forshaw	Chair
Darren Smith	Secretary
David Craggs	Treasurer
Helen Dutton	Trustee (resigned September 2024)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The 2024 Stockton Heath Festival was another great event with a full programme that covered music, dance, drama, art, crafts and light entertainment pulled together by the fantastic Organising Committee. Staffed entirely by unpaid members, the Committee were assisted in the running of events, organising on-field facilities and the selling of tickets by a troupe of around 30 volunteers from the local community, without all of whom the Festival would not be possible.

The Trustees would like to formally thank the Organising Committee for all their efforts in organising the 2024 Festival. We know that without their hard work and dedication the Festival would not be possible.

Established in 2008, Stockton Heath Festival Trust is a registered charity which aims to celebrate arts, culture and heritage, and to generate community spirit. In doing so it also strives to be accessible to all local residents irrespective of age, means, occupation or cultural background via the provision of a mix of both ticketed and free events, with something of interest to all.

Although named Stockton Heath Festival, the event draws audiences from all the neighbouring communities of South Warrington including Appleton, Walton, Grappenhall & Thelwall and beyond.

The benefits the Festival brings to the local community include:

- Encouraging local talent through entries in the art competition, inclusion of up and coming local performers in music, dance and drama in both the daytime and evening events;
- Increasing awareness of the local community – raising local knowledge via the Stockton Heath village competitions, events held in local facilities e.g. local schools, churches, Appleton Parish Hall and the QEII Jubilee Field and encouraging local groups to participate in the local flower and history groups, and local sports groups;
- Partnership working with local organisations – the Community Police, Promote Stockton Heath, local churches and schools, and local businesses;
- Supporting local charities through provision of free pitches at the festival markets, fundraising raffles and publicity;
- Promotion of community spirit by providing an opportunity for local people to come together. Over 1,400 people attended ticketed events during the 2024 Festival period and estimated attendances on the festival field over the weekend exceeded 3,500;
- Promotion of the local area to a wider audience through the website <https://stocktonheathfestival.co.uk>, articles in the local press and via social media. Programmes are hand delivered to local households and businesses prior to the Festival, and used at venues;
- Promotion of local businesses and organisations through listing in various Festival publications and publicity on the field and at ticketed events;
- Sponsors and grants supporters featured in programmes, website and on Facebook.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Although organised by a relatively small number of local volunteers, Stockton Heath Festival is very much a community event, drawing a variety of support from many quarters. Staging the Festival costs in the region of £45,000 each year and whilst just over half of this was recovered from ticket sales, stalls and catering income, the rest of the money was generated by the fundraising efforts of the Festival volunteers. Critical to the Festival's success each year is the support received from the local Parish Councils of Stockton Heath, Appleton and Walton, and from Warrington Borough Council via a local area fund application.

Organisation

Our patron is Tim Firth who grew up in Stockton Heath. Tim is a screen and song writer famed for Calendar Girls and several musical collaborations with Gary Barlow amongst many productions for film, theatre and television. His musical THE BAND features the music of Take That, while A DIFFERENT STAGE is based around the early life of Gary Barlow and was toured nationally throughout 2023. He continues to write prolifically for stage and screen, with his latest play, This Is My Family, showing over this summer.

The Trust is run by four trustees who oversee the running of the charity. The charity is an unincorporated association which was formed on 14 January 2009 by Trust Deed. In 2024 our trustees were Mathew Forshaw (Chair), David Craggs (Treasurer) Darren Smith (Secretary) and Helen Dutton. Special thanks go to Helen who stepped down as a trustee after fourteen years of service.

The Festival is organised and run by an Organising Committee which is made up entirely of volunteers from the local community. It benefits from the continuity of a number of experienced members but is also able to attract new members into their ranks.

New trustees can be nominated by the Organising Committee and following nominations any new trustee is appointed by the existing Trustees. All key decisions relating to the running of the charity are made by the Trustees. All decisions relating to the running of the festival are made by the Organising Committee with guidance from the Trustees when required.

Finances

A balance on the unrestricted fund account of £15,258 was carried forward from 2023 to 2024. This gave us a good reserve for moving forward, but not as strong as previous years.

Income for the year was £41,609 which included £13,311 from ticket sales and £15,450 from sponsorship and grants.

Expenditure for the year was £39,762 which included £22,754 on site costs and £10,021 on artists' performance fees.

With a rise in sponsorship and grant income and an overall reduction in costs there was a profit for the year of £1,847 and reserves carried forward to 2024 stood at £17,105. This was an excellent result after a number of years of losses.

As a charitable trust, it is the policy of the Trustees to maintain a reserve that enables us to prepare for the following year, with a maximum reserve equivalent to about 50% of our annual expenditure.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Going forward, it has been recognised by the Trustees that continued deficits are not sustainable over the long-term and costs need to be kept under review.

Public Benefit Statement

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

Summary of events and achievements

The Trustees and Organising Committee continued to meet throughout 2024, online where necessary. Commitment and enthusiasm for the Festival remains strong, both within the organisation and in the wider community.

Despite mixed weather, once again to healthy sales being reported by stall holders and caterers over the weekend. Seven events sold out (>95%): Sublime Science, local Walking Tours, two Little Movers events, the Clay Workshop, Animals Takeover and a Stockton Heath history talk.

Comedy play My Friend Mrs Flint, the open air presentation of Romeo & Juliet, the Appleton History talk and the three Headliners in the marquee - The Fleegles + Bemonts, Killers Kollektive and Deltatones - were all very popular too. Overall, of the 2,545 tickets available, 56% were sold. Although this was down on the 2023 figure, the income generated was comparable.

Some of this year's highlights....

Once again the Art Exhibition at St Thomas' church was well attended, while away from the field there was a free Family Heritage Trail through Stockton Heath village. There were musical performances from Olivia Booth, Si Bernard, Kiwi Chorus and Alisha Stewart. We had the Warrington Rock Choir, a Sea Shanty Choir and Melody Makers Choir, plus dance performances from Studio 54, AT Dance and the ever-popular Earl of Stamford Morris troupe. Thursday evening also saw the Comedy Night in the Scout Centre and the performance of My Friend Mrs Flint.

The main events on Friday were a performance by local favourites The Fleegles and The Bemonts, a performance by Lymm Concert Band, and more comedy with an Evening of Comic Verse.

Saturday saw a variety of events in the Children's Marquee including Baby Sensory and musical theatre workshop with AT Dance. Elsewhere there were two history talks as well as plenty of free events on the Festival Field. Saturday evening saw the ever-popular Illyria putting on Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet in Grappenhall Walled Garden. In Festival Marquee we had professional tribute band The Killers Kollektive, while over in St Thomas's Church there were performances by Melody Makers Choir and Sixpence Voice Studio.

Sunday saw more events in the Kids Zone including Little Movers and activities sessions. Other events included a clay workshop and Circus Skills, while in the library there were poetry, writing and badge making sessions. Meanwhile for the grand finale, the Festival Marquee saw The Deltatones perform a series of hits from the 50s to the present day.

Across both Saturday and Sunday Steve Lewis once more did an excellent job as Compere on the Festival Field.

A wide variety of art and culture events were held over the four days at a range of venues. This included:

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

- The Art Exhibition
- Comedy Night
- A wide variety of Music, Songs and Dance
- Festival Family Movie Night
- Heritage Walks and Talks
- Live Theatre
- Sports, Dance and Circus Skills workshops

Festival goers also had the opportunity to:

- make pixel art magnets
- join a free line dancing session
- wander around the market stalls and be tempted by the art, crafts and food
- buy fresh produce at the allotment open day
- partake in the sports taster events in Alexandra Park
- enter their pets in the dog show run by the Greyhound Trust
- join the Festival Songs of Praise
- watch the Bollin Morris Dancers in Victoria Square

Reflections and improvements for the future

The 2024 was a great success; however it has been acknowledged that for the Festival to survive it cannot sustain large losses as it did in 2023. At the time of writing this report the 2025 Festival is almost on us, with finances once again finely in the balance. The organising committee have done another excellent job with the planned programme and we’re looking forward to another successful event, which will be reported on after the end of the year.

Volunteers

The Organising Committee and over 30 volunteer festival crew bring everything together. The Committee do an extraordinary job with great attention to detail to make the Festival a success. We see many motivating factors for why people volunteer to help us, such as a way to get to know their community, giving something back and the love of the arts. We also recognise the enormous personal value people gain from volunteering; it can be such a help to get people ‘back on their feet’ after difficult times. Please do come and join us!

Signed.....
Mathew Forshaw, Chair of Trustees

Date..... 20.10.2024

STOCKTON HEATH FESTIVAL TRUST

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

STOCKTON HEATH FESTIVAL

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Unrestricted 31 December 2024		Unrestricted 31 December 2023	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Incoming Resources from Generated Funds</u>				
Festival Income				
Box office, and on line takings	13,311		14,992	
Stall and catering income	7,715		5,430	
Art exhibition	844		470	
		21,869		20,892
Fund Raising Income				
Warrington Lottery	255			
Donations	431			
Sundries	122		0	
Barclaycard refund	170		0	
Grand draw	1,686		0	
Commission on bar takings	2,024		2,172	
		4,687		2,172
Voluntary Income				
Sponsorship	8,750		6,750	
Grants	6,700		6,200	
		15,450		12,950
Investment Income				
Bank interest received		78		49
Total Incoming Resources		42,085		36,063
<u>Resources expended</u>				
Festival Activities				
Festival Site costs	22,754		24,195	
Artists performance fees	10,021		11,797	
Art exhibition	0		150	
Photography exhibition	0		0	
Scarecrow competition	0		0	
Hire of external venues	567		610	
Licenses	103		63	
Festival programmes	2,898		2,990	
Printing, postage and stationery	762		809	
Insurance	1,391		1,362	
Computer and website costs	156		231	
Subscription	120		120	
Barclaycard reader charges	160			
Sundry costs (volunteers)	315		476	
Amortisation	600		0	
		39,847		42,803
Fund Raising Expenditure				
Lottery and raffles	0		5	
		0		5
Carried Forward		2,237		-6,745

STOCKTON HEATH FESTIVAL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - Continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

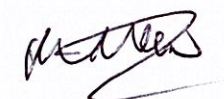
	Unrestricted 31 December 2024 £	Unrestricted 31 December 2023 £
Brought Forward	2,237	-6,745
Governance Costs		
Accountancy fees	390	408
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES	1,847	-7,153
Fund Balance Brought Forward at 1 January 2024	15,258	22,411
Fund Balance Carried Forward at 31 December 2024	<u>17,105</u>	<u>15,258</u>

STOCKTON HEATH FESTIVAL

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	<u>Notes</u>	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
INTANGIBLE ASSETS					
Intangible assets	2		1,200		900
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	3		216		21
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	4	808		204	
Cash at bank		<u>15,372</u>		<u>14,523</u>	
		<u>16,180</u>		<u>14,727</u>	
CREDITORS					
Creditors	5	<u>491</u>		<u>390</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			15,689		14,337
TOTAL ASSETS LESS			<u>17,105</u>		<u>15,258</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
UNRESTRICTED FUND			<u>17,105</u>		<u>15,258</u>

The Financial Accounts were approved by the Trustees on 20.10.2025



M. Forshaw
Chairman

STOCKTON HEATH FESTIVAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 ACCOUNTING BASIS

The financial accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: 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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

2 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Web-site Design £
Cost	900
Additions	900
At 31 December 2024	1,800
Amortisation	
Charge for the year	600
At 31 December 2024	600
Net Book Value	
At 31 December 2024	1,200
At 31 December 2023	900

3 FIXED ASSETS

	Festival Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 January 2024	3,918
Additions	195
Disposals	0
At 31 December 2024	4,113
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2024	3,897
Charge for the year	0
Eliminated on disposals	0
At 31 December 2024	3,897
Net Book Value	
At 31 December 2024	216
At 31 December 2023	21

STOCKTON HEATH FESTIVAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS - Continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

4 DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Artists Deposit 2024	604	0
Storage fee half year	204	204
	<u>808</u>	<u>204</u>

5 CREDITORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Festival creditors	-	-
Accountants fees	390	390
Site costs adjustment	101	
	<u>491</u>	<u>390</u>

STOCKTON HEATH FESTIVAL TRUST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS TO THE TRUSTEES
OF THE STOCKTON HEATH FESTIVAL TRUST
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Ms Su Rai BA(Hons) FCA DCHA
Raise
Chartered Accountants
Trimble House
9 Bold Street
Warrington
Cheshire
WA1 1DN

Date: 17/10/25

Reserves policy

The Trustees have examined the requirements for free reserves and they consider that, given the nature of the charity's work, free reserves should be equivalent to approximately 50% of anticipated annual expenditure. The trustees are of the opinion that this provides sufficient flexibility to cover temporary shortfalls incoming resources

Accounting policies**Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is legally /contractually entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' or 'revenue', is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised when it is incurred and is reported gross of related income in the following bases: Cost of generating funds comprises the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of other income generation. Charitable expenditure comprises direct expenditure including direct staff costs attributable to the Charity's activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources as detailed below. Governance costs include those costs incurred in the governance of the Charity's assets and are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets are capitalised. Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases: Depreciation is charged on Festival Equipment at a rate of 33% Straight Line. The view of the Trustees is that the Equipment will serve the Festival for 3 years.

STOCKTON HEATH FESTIVAL TRUST

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

STOCKTON HEATH FESTIVAL

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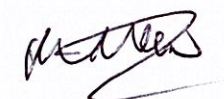
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