



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date		Period end date
From	01 04 2024	To	31 03 2025

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name FRIARY BRASS BAND

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1137290

Charity's principal address C/O 37 PONDTAIL ROAD

FLEET

Postcode

GU51 3JF

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	David Wicks	Chairman		
2	Lauren Straker	Secretary		
	Jane Challis	Treasurer	01.04.2024 – 17.06.2024	
3	Christopher Straker	Treasurer	From 17.06.2024	
4	Hannah Richards	Contest Secretary		
5	Andrew Singleton	Band Manager		
6	Alistair Richards	Band Librarian		
7	Michael Trumble	General MT member		
8	Christopher Attwood	General MT member	From 17.06.2024 (additional appointee)	
9	Richard Straker	Digital Media Manager		
10	Stephen Thorpe	Minutes Secretary	From 28.06.2024 (previously vacant)	
11	Timothy Straker	Public Relations Officer		

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Description of the charity's trusts

Constitution
Unincorporated association
Election by members in General Meeting

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The trustees, who also constitute the Band's management team, are elected by the members in General Meeting.

The management team meets monthly.

A risk management policy is in place, together with a risk register. The policy and risk register are reviewed regularly by the management team.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

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

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

The Friary Brass Band undertakes a wide variety of activities aimed at increasing public awareness and appreciation of brass band music. These activities include self-promoted concerts, concerts and other events to raise funds for other charities, outside engagements for individuals, organisations and events and public engagements, as well as contests.

The Band is keen to encourage all players to develop their musical skills. Potential new players are also welcomed to rehearsals, and open rehearsals are held from time to time to enable members of the public to see how, for example, the Band prepares for a major contest.

The Band is also keen to maintain and develop links with educational establishments for mutual benefit in developing musical skills.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

Friary Brass Band does not make grants, although as stated above, some events raise funds for other charities.

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

2022-2023 was another successful year for the Band, with notable successes on the contest stage, although the number of other engagements was down on the previous year. The following engagements were undertaken by the full Band unless otherwise stated:

Concerts and other engagements:

2024

- ♪ Armed Forces Day (cornet player)
- ♪ Great Bookham concert
- ♪ British Bandsman concert, Reading
- ♪ Lewes Bonfire parade
- ♪ Guildford Remembrance events
- ♪ Joint concert with Vivace Chorus, Guildford
- ♪ Carol concert, Hogs Back Brewery, Tongham

2025

- ♪ Ibstock School Brass Day, Roehampton

Contests:

2024

- ♪ British Open Spring Festival, Grand Shield, placed 9th
- ♪ National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain, placed 11th

2025

- ♪ London & Southern Counties Regional Championship, placed 8th

As far as concerts were concerned, we were delighted to return to St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham and once again, the event was sold out. We were invited to return later in June this year. The carol concert at Hog's Back Brewery - a new engagement in 2021 – was yet again so successful that a repeat booking was made for December 2025. A return concert with the Vivace Chorus at Guildford's premier venue, G Live, was extremely well-received and we hope to arrange another joint concert with them in the next few years. The Band was also pleased to be asked to perform at the traditional Lewes Bonfire parade, again with a subsequent request for 2025.

Other than the Band's equal best result of 11th place at the National Championships, on the contest stage, Friary's results were somewhat disappointing, in particular at the regional championship where the Band failed to qualify for the National Championships for only the second time since 2013.

Friary was ranked 43rd in the world as at 31st March 2025 (2024: 31st) according to www.4barsrest.com, but remains the highest ranked band in London & Southern Counties region. The www.brassstats.com table ranks the Band at 33rd as at 31st March (2024: 28th)

The Band's Management Team continually reviews progress against the Band's objectives.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Band's Reserves Policy was revised in January 2022 and is still considered to be appropriate. In summary, reserves should normally be maintained at a level between 70% and 100% of forecast annual running costs, excluding members' expenses. They should not be allowed to fall below 50%, and any amount above 100% should be deemed to be surplus reserves with a clear plan in place for their utilisation.

Sustainability of the Band is of paramount importance. External charitable or other grant support for running costs is not generally available, hence the need to maintain a prudent amount in the Band's reserves to ensure short term continuity.

The Reserves Policy is re-examined annually, in conjunction with the Band's annual budget and forecast, with any changes to be approved unanimously by the entire Management Team.

Friary Brass Band remains well funded, unlike many brass bands - including some major names - which have been pushed to the brink of closure over the past three years due to the lack of income from engagements, contests and recordings. That said, reserves were utilised to subsidise running costs for the previous three years to the extent of some £12,000 in total, but the past year shows a welcome return to an annual surplus.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The Trustees are pleased to report a surplus of £10,085 for the past year (2023/24: shortfall £2,830)

Principal sources of income were GiftAid on donations of members' expenses £16,013 (2023/24: £19,171); engagement fees £9,800 (£6,400) and members' subscriptions £8,125 (£7,355). £960 was also obtained from the sale of acoustic panels which the Band had purchased for a previous rehearsal venue.

The major items of expenditure were for the Band's Musical Director's fees £12,517 (2023/24: £14,458); rehearsal venue hire £7,647 (£4,615 – new venue higher costs only applied for three months January to March 2024) fees for guest players £875 (£4,963 – seats vacant in previous year now filled; equipment hire and maintenance £1,540 (£463).

Members' travel expenses are donated back to the Band and GiftAided): these totalled £29,9339 in 2024/25 (2023/24: £93,257 – exceptionally high because of catching up on previous years post Covid). The higher than usual level of expenditure on music in 2023/24 was mostly on new commissions for the Brass in Concert contest; the Band did not compete in this last year.

The Band does have an investment policy but in view of the possible need to access its reserves at short notice, these are maintained in the form of cash deposits. These totalled £42,066 at the end of the financial year (2023/24: £44,896). There are no long term investments.

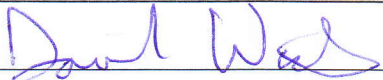
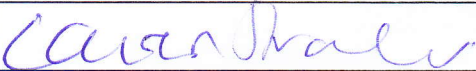
Section F

Other optional information

Section GDeclaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	David Wicks	Lauren Straker
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairman	Secretary
Date	27.08.2025	27.08.2025

FRIARY BRASS BAND

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

RECEIPTS

INTEREST		823.37
SUBSCRIPTIONS		8,125.00
ENGAGEMENTS	Full Band	9,250.00
	Sole/Ensemble	550.00
CONTEST PRIZES		425.00
CONCERT INCOME		327.45
FUNDRAISING/DONATIONS		
	Refreshments	31.27
	Easy Fundraising	19.84
	Donations	1,050.00
SALE OF ACOUSTIC PANELS		960.00
CHARITY A/C DISBURSEMENT		710.78
GIFT AID		16,013.55
TRAVEL EXPENSES DONATIONS		29,339.83
CD SALES		90.00

67,716.09

Balances brought forward 2023/2024

Lloyds A/c No 1	241.10
Lloyds A/c No 2	225.34
Deposit A/C	41,600.00
Notice Account	0.00
Supporters' A/c	0.00
Cash Float	0.00
	42,066.44
	109,782.53

Treasurer : C Straker



PAYMENTS

CONDUCTORS	General	9,140.00
	Contest/Concert	3,377.00
GUEST PLAYERS	Contests	766.60
	Concerts	108.90
CONTEST ADMIN		188.90
CONTEST ENTRY FEES		1,025.00
INSURANCE		754.94
CONCERT COSTS		289.94
ADMINISTRATION		1,537.21
HALL HIRE	Regular	5,886.24
	For Contests	1,761.64
UNIFORMS		255.11
EQUIPMENT/ACCESSORIES Purchases		253.00
INSTRUMENT PURCHASES		0.00
EQUIPMENT/ACCESSORIES Hire/Servicing		1,540.34
VAN/COACH HIRE		599.38
MUSIC		347.66
GIFTS		174.37
TRAVEL EXPENSES		29,339.83
GIFT AID TO CHARITY A/C		284.25

57,630.31

Balances carried forward 2025/2026

Lloyds A/c No 1	975.56
Lloyds A/c No 2	275.13
Deposit A/C	16,868.60
Notice Account	34,014.93
Supporters' A/c	0.00
Cash Float	18.00
	52,152.22
	109,782.53

Independent Examiner : M Keates FCA



FRIARY BRASS BAND - Supporters' Club

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

RECEIPTS

PAYMENTS

	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>
Balances brought forward 2023/2024	0.00	Balances carried forward 2025/2026	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>

Treasurer : C Straker

Independent Examiner : M Keates FCA




FRIARY BRASS BAND - Charity Account

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

RECEIPTS

PAYMENTS

Collection - The Meadows - Dec 24	1,137.43	Disbursement to Main Band funds	710.78
Gift Aid claimed on Meadows (GASDS)	284.25	Donation paid to MacMillan Cancer Support	710.90
	<u>1,421.68</u>		<u>1,421.68</u>
Balances brought forward 2023/2024	0.00	Balances carried forward 2025/2026	0.00
	<u>1,421.68</u>		<u>1,421.68</u>

Treasurer : C Straker

Independent Examiner : M Keates FCA




FRIARY BRASS BAND

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FRIARY BRASS BAND - Supporters' Club

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

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Treasurer : C Straker

Independent Examiner : M Keates FCA




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