

Issue 1



Scope

This is the Annual Report of the BCWB Trustees (who form the Committee). The last full AGM was held 30 June 2023. This Annual Report covers calendar year 2024, although inevitably some entries make reference to 2025 up to the date of the AGM.

BCWB Committee (i.e. Charity Trustees) between the AGMs of 27 June 2024 and 3 June 2025

Chair: Malcolm Fox Secretary: Chris Chaloner Treasurer: Ann Gordon	Band Representatives: BCWB • Rebecca Warren • Eric Bateson Blown Away! • To end 2024: ○ Elaine Amos ○ Gerald Pell • from Jan 2025: ○ Phil Allen ○ Kat Hollis Winds Of Change • Karri Chandler • Nell Buckley
General Committee members Jill Watson	

Chair – Malcolm Fox

At the 2024 AGM I took on the role of Chair. Like me, several of the Committee were new to their roles. I should like to thank the Committee for all their hard work, including the change in rehearsal venues for Blown Away! and Winds Of Change. We also coped with some mid-year band rep changes.

2025 looks as though it should be another good year for the organisation and all our bands.

Musical Director – BCWB – Paul Sidney

It has once again been an enjoyable and successful year for BCWB. Like any group, there are ups and downs, and comings and goings, however the concerts we have played have all be successful and great fun to conduct.

Membership is the main issue which causes a headache and it is always sad to see players leave and whilst we have lost some key players, we have also attracted new players, either directly or through a recommendation from the other bands within BCWB. These players have fitted in really well, and the band is still playing to a good standard with some vacancies mainly in brass and percussion. Sadly we have still required some deps to stand in at concerts but hopefully with a bit of a recruitment drive, we can address this and have the band filled with regular members.

Our concert in November was a highlight for me as we played with Charlotte Hunter who sang beautifully with the band. The band worked hard to play the different styles of music in the concert and blend with the singer making the whole evening a resounding success. Keynsham was memorable, but mainly for the thunderstorm which poured on our audience in the second half making us cut the concert short, however we did have a brave core audience that stuck it out as long as they could. All of our concerts have been a musical success and the level of performance from the band has been tremendous.

I am looking forward to this next year. We are trying a new concert venue in St Mary's Church in Shirehampton, planning two concerts to raise money for charities and also returning to Bath Parade Gardens, which is a beautiful and picturesque venue. It is important to keep trying new things, but it is also good that we are keeping some traditional venues to build on our audience base.

I would like to thank all the players, everyone on the committee for their dedication in organising the events and concerts that we do, and especially to Jill who very patiently puts up with my requests for music and organises everyone parts which makes my job so much easier. Also a big thank you to Nicola and Susannah who have stood in to conduct when I have been unable to attend.

My goal is to look for constant improvement within BCWB and myself whilst enjoying ourselves. We certainly achieved that throughout this year and I will continue to look for the small improvements that add up over the longer term. I can't wait to see what happens in BCWB as we build on the success of this last year.

Thank you

Musical Director – Blown Away! & Winds Of Change – Rob Bartlett

Winds of Change

2024 was a changeable year with regards to players joining and also leaving however we remained at a constant member level throughout the year with joiners replacing leavers.

We continued working on all aspects of playing focusing on rhythms as a priority along with dynamics.

I have stressed many time that writing instructions on parts is essential when implementing change regularly as there are many pieces to perform. This is still followed by most players and would love to see more players pencil ready when instructions are given.

After relocating to a more suitable rehearsal venue we enjoyed some good progress and readily prepared for a joint concert with Fair Winds in July which was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by both players and audience.

We followed this with a joint bandstand concert in Page Park in July which helped the players to see the progression of both bands.

Winds of change also enjoyed another performance at Clevedon Queens Square where although the audience was small was very appreciative.

Although we prepared for our usual Christmas performance due to weather were unable to perform but look forward to 2025.

A huge thank you to Nell and Karri for their tireless work in running the bands, Jackie for her support with the library and Cheryl for managing the rehearsal tea breaks.

Blown Away!

2024 was a very positive year for Blown Away! We enjoyed performing lots of new repertoire including Coldplay in Symphony which although challenging was a highlight of the season.

I was delighted by the continued enthusiasm of players asking to perform solo pieces. Mike Riley's Bass Clarinet solo in You raise me up and Julie Grays Clarinet playing in Klezmer were highlights as was Adrians Euphonium in Grandfathers Clock.

Due to opportunities within BCWB arising we were also able for Julie and Cathy (A Sax) to join BCWB which shows the ability for new experiences and new challenges offered within the BCWB family.

In July we enjoyed an outdoor concert at Blaise Castle where although challenged by the winds the band raise to the challenge admirably.

In August we performed our Summer concert to a large and appreciative audience with stand out performances by Julie, Cathy, Mike and Adrian as mentioned earlier.

As well as our yearly concert at Pensford's evergreens we also enjoyed another summer park gig at Page Park.

Although we prepared for our usual Christmas performance due to weather were unable to perform but look forward to 2025.

I'm very pleased with the development and progression of Blown Away this year but knew that this could be improved by a change in rehearsal venue so the relocation was a priority in 2024. Moving forward in 2025 I believe that even greater progression can be made.

Many thanks to Elaine and Gerry as our band reps who work worked tirelessly to ensure a rehearsal venue move in October due to the unsuitability of Christchurch. We shall miss them now that they have decided to step down from the Rep role.

We now welcome Phil Allen and Kat Hollis as our new Band Reps and look forward to a successful 2025.

Course Leader – Fair Winds – Tina Bartlett

2024 was another great year for Fair Winds. All players made great progress with their playing through lots of hard work and practice, at home and during rehearsals.

We played 4 performances in 2024, the first of which was on Saturday 22nd June, a chance to support Fresh Winds at their concert at Page Park Cafe. It was a lovely venue to hold a concert, and we enjoyed playing in the middle of some great sets performed by Fresh Winds. Fair Winds had their first chance to play some of the pieces we had been preparing such as 'Avatar: The Way of Water' and 'The Yellow Submarine' and the band did a great job as always. Heather and I also enjoyed the chance to play some duets together.

Saturday 13th July was our next concert, which was a joint concert with Winds of Change at Christchurch Downend. Everyone performed marvellously and we had lots of fun. The band presented me with a lightsaber before our performance of 'The Mandalorian' - the first time I have ever tried to conduct with one and it wasn't as easy as it looked like it would be! Other highlights were playing pieces such as 'Music from Brave' and 'Big Band Superhits'. Fair Winds players always commit to playing their best and this really shows in their performances.

On Sunday 21st July we then played another joint gig at Page Park Bandstand with Winds of Change. This was a first for the group in getting to play in the actual bandstand. They looked, sounded great and handled all their music well. It is always interesting playing outside depending on weather at any time as you all know.

Unfortunately, due to some extreme weather we didn't get to play at the Christmas Concert on the 7th December, but we still managed to have a lovely Christmas Meal outing on Wednesday 11th December at La Passione in Kingswood and then play our Christmas Concert pieces at our Christmas gig at Frome Valley Medical Centre on Wednesday 18th December which was a very fitting and Christmassy end to the year. Thanks to all who were involved with the organising of those events. Another wonderful year with a great bunch of players/people. Thanks Fair Winds!

Course Leader – Fresh Winds – Heather Platt

Fresh Winds has continued with success throughout the year. Unfortunately, Heather has been ill during the period of preparation of this Annual Report for 2024, so there is no contribution covering Fresh Winds. This absence does not carry any significance.

Group Organiser – Swing's Cool – Chris Chaloner

We continue to rehearse monthly on Sunday mornings in the Long Ashton Community Centre under the direction of Derek Lawrence. We rehearsed every month of 2024 except August (many people on holiday).

We are a non-auditioned rehearsal band founded many years ago to help Concert Band players to learn the Big Band idioms and conventions, and that is still largely the case. We mainly play the standard Big Band repertoire from sheet music but not limited to the standard lineup. Reading skills are widened through playing parts with swing conventions, and it makes an enjoyable Sunday morning. There is no pressure. If anyone wishes to try out on almost any instrument you will be very welcome. There is no requirement to be able to improvise, but those who can will get opportunities to do so.

Secretary – Jackie Gitsham before the AGM, Chris Chaloner afterwards

Committee Meetings have been held (a mixture of in-person and Zoom) on:

- 12 January 2024
- 11 March 2024
- 14 May 2024
- 15 July 2024
- 6 September 2024
- 8 November 2024

and so far in 2025:

- 22 January 2025
- 14 March 2025
- 6 May 2025

The AGM for Calendar Year 2023 was held on 27 June 2024. A proposal to change the Constitution to limit the length of service of Committee Members was rejected. [Note that there is already a limit on the number of years which can be served by the 3 Officers (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer).]

Membership Report for 2024 – Jill Watson

On the 31st December 2024, the membership across the BCWB organization totaled **162** members down **171** at the end of 2023.

A breakdown of the membership, across the bands at the end of 2024, and a comparison of the six preceding years, is given below:

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Bristol Concert Wind Band	47	51	49	47	52	54	54
Blown Away!	55	53	54	51	64	67	56
Winds Of Change	32	34	32	39	38	40	37
Fair Winds	39	34	30	27	14	14	13
Wind Jammers	0	0	0	0	38	42	26
Fresh Winds	27	30					
	200	202	165	164	206	217	186
Actual Membership	162	171	138	140	184	196	172

NB The total number across the individual bands is higher than the membership figures as **31** members play in 2 or, in some cases, 3 of our bands, either through learning to play a 2nd or 3rd instrument or helping to bolster sections to enhance performance.

The Summary of Leavers & Joiners in 2024 is given below:

	BCWB	BA!	WOC	FairW	FreshW
Joiners	4	1	8	4	5
Leavers	9	3	9	1	6

Additional Notes:

- 2 members joined BCWB from BA!
- 2 members joined BA! From Fresh Winds

Music Library – Jill Watson

During 2024 **16** new pieces of music were purchased across the three bands. Please see the Treasurers Report for details of these new pieces.

The auditing and preparation of each piece is an ongoing task but at the end of 2024 of the **948** pieces of music recorded as being in the library, a total of **146** pieces have now been identified as not being viable but that still leaves a possible total of approx. **802** pieces. Of the **802** pieces, at the end of 2024, **404** pieces had been fully processed and can confidently be used by the bands and this number is rising with each new purchase and band request for a piece that has not yet been prepared.

The Music Library can be viewed by all band members from within the Members area of the BCWB web site.

This preparation work ensures that these pieces can be taken out of the library in the full knowledge that they are viable. The preparation work also ensures that all parts are trackable, so that there is no guesswork as to who was in possession, and is responsible for any given part. This has helped to reduce the amount of music going missing, significantly.

The librarians work includes the following tasks:

- ensuring the music is complete and prepared for loan
- preparing music to ensure readability, and recreating missing parts, for those pieces that are out of print.
- ensuring everyone gets a part for each piece being used by the band
- making the music available to you when you next attend a rehearsal, even if you were not at the rehearsal when it was initially handed out
- ensuring all the music is collected in when no longer needed
- chasing parts not handed in from those individuals that the parts had been allocated to
- ensuring all parts are returned to their original envelopes and then returned to the library for another band to borrow

There are a number of people who are involved in these many tasks and a big thank you to them for all that they do to keep the music library in order. Everyone also has a part to play in looking after the library by ensuring that music, in your possession, is looked after, and returned in a timely manner.

Musical Instruments – Susannah Holmes

With no learning band starting this year, there has been less movement of instruments in and out of the band room. Several people have returned instruments as they are buying their own which is excellent. It was agreed that 2 large (expensive) instruments could be loaned out for a 4th year for two members of Tina's Wednesday band. Both instruments were serviced at the cost of the borrower and this was mutually agreed to be a good arrangement. Focus in next few months to arrange returns of approx. 4 instruments from Tina's closing band who are not intending to join WOC as it takes in Fair Winds.

Engagements in 2024

Date - 2024	Day	Band	Event	Venue
23 Mar	Sat	All	Soirée	W-o-T Village Hall
28 Mar	Thu	BA!	Rehearsal	Downend Library
23 Apr	Tue	All	Annual General Meeting	Christ Church Downend
2 May	Thu	BA!	Pensford Evergreens	Pensford Village Hall
18 May	Sat	BCWB	Spring Concert	THURC
27 June	Thu	All	Annual General Meeting	Christ Church Downend

7 July	Sun	BA!	Park gig	Blaise Castle Museum
13 July	Sat	BCWB	Workshop+concert	Brimsham Green School, Yate
13 July	Sat	WOC+Fair Winds	Summer Concert	Christ Church, Downend
21 July	Sun	WOC+FW	Park gig	Page Park bandstand
21 July	Sun	BCWB	Park gig	Lees Hill Park
3 Aug	Sat	BA!	Summer Concert	Christ Church, Downend
11 Aug	Sun	BA!	Park gig	Page Park bandstand
18 Aug	Sun	BCWB	Park gig	Blaise Castle Museum
31 Aug	Sat	WOC	"Park" gig	Queen's Square, Clevedon
1 Sep	Sun	BCWB	Park gig	Keynsham Bandstand
19 Sep	Thu	BA!	Pensford Evergreens	Pensford Village Hall
9 Nov	Sat	BCWB	Autumn Concert	THURC
7 Dec	Sat	All	Christmas event	Hanham Community Centre
8 Dec	Sun	BCWB	St Peters Carol Service	St Peters Brislington
18/19 Dec		All bands	Carolling	Parkway Station

The Hanham Christmas event was severely disrupted by bad weather. Rather than the carefully scheduled programme, an informal (and enjoyable) event was held involving those who could get there.

Videos - Chris Chaloner

Some of the engagements were recorded and uploaded to Youtube.

2024-12-07 BCWB All Bands Christmas Bonanza (Hanham Community Centre) – abandoned in normal form because of bad weather https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZHAemooGeQQYvkSPo57i82p7qf5DSDXC is the link to the playlist https://youtu.be/cJPM3s6kQtA?si=6mYEwB-a2fLRgc7s is the only content – Blown Away! 70s Tribute (YMCA)
2024-11-09 BCWB Autumn Concert THURC, with Charlotte Hunter (soprano) https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZHAemooGeQRejqYqZhhlpGkgWJKxskeN&si=xRqRoV8NVZp6FoSS
2024-09-01 BCWB Keynsham Bandstand https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZHAemooGeQSd6pGzDZzCkZ-cwyEcnuA&si=qG32w-fr26x93arg
2024-08-31 Winds Of Change – Queen's Square, Clevedon https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZHAemooGeQSeWb02o7sJlo1_qh6yuuWZ&si=sEb9nzpfTyCATMWD
2024-08-11 Blown Away! Page Park https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZHAemooGeQTDNdm-IN-Oov98yrjU5LkI
2024-08-03 Blown Away! Summer Concert, ChristChurch Downend https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZHAemooGeQTGUycnYXWC48CtCE_DvfK7
2024-07-21 Winds of Change + Fair Winds, Page Park https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZHAemooGeQRKA2SmxcimeYLy5LG-j98r
2024-07-07 Blown Away! Blaise https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZHAemooGeQQ2QJS9I6-JtzL-ZSDxKF0i&si=v7Gmr9o5EDbaK0sM
2024-07-06 Winds of Change + Fair Winds (+A Fair Breeze) Summer Concert, ChristChurch Downend https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZHAemooGeQSKjgGOhOej2-yQzfrhqtUT&si=VBGlC9DhwevAE4Mh
2024-05-18 BCWB Spring Concert https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZHAemooGeQThPf1VfMt3h_wWYZ4T3P4U&si=ae92XoVWN4NK2zki
2024-03-23 BCWB all bands soirée, W-o-T Village Hall https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZHAemooGeQQfK8vKSitLX-8yHHjlizog&si=hGSe21FggP4yUjIj

I confirm that I have checked through the accounts and that all the queries I have raised have been answered to my satisfaction. Please note that I have not undertaken a formal audit or verified any balances or transactions but have limited my checks to a review of the accounts, cash book and bank balance and asking questions to understand what they represent, I have not identified any material inconsistencies or omissions.



2/5/25

Deborah Thompson

2024 BCWB Accounts

	2024	2023
<u>Income</u>	£	£
Subs BCWB	7,270	6,135
Subs Blown Away!	7,235	6,530
Subs Winds Of Change	3,340	3,480
Gift Aid on subs (2020 to 2023)	7,569	
Concerts	3,291	2,502
Instruments	90	0
Other	1,285	368
	<u>30,080</u>	<u>19,015</u>
<u>Payments</u>		
Rent	5,921	5,405
MD fees	10,100	9,815
Music	969	1,826
Concerts	2,459	1,918
Instruments	73	232
Other	3,195	2,889
	<u>22,717</u>	<u>22,084</u>
Other Receipts/Payments	<u>0</u>	<u>200</u>
Surplus/(loss)	7,363	-2,869
B/F 01/01/24	13,596	16,465
@ 31/12/24	<u>20,959</u>	<u>13,596</u>

Band owned instruments: Current replacement value approx £59,000 (per insurance schedule)

Details of income and payments

<u>Music</u>		<u>Payments</u>	<u>Concerts</u>		<u>Income</u>	<u>Payments</u>
		£			£	£
Hymns for windband	BCWB	49	2023	Christmas Concert MD fee		65
Can can	BCWB	8	2023	BCWB - Blaise	100	
A Medieval Christmas	BCWB	107	23/03/2024	Soiree	188	22
Glenn Miller in concert	BCWB	72	18/05/2024	BCWB - THURC	564	503
A Christmas Overture	BCWB	68	07/07/2024	BAI - Blaise	100	65
A dashing gallop	BAI	43	13/07/2024	WoC/Fair Winds	197	310
African Bell Carol	BAI	43	13/07/2024	BCWB - Brimsham Green School		65
YMCA	BAI	49	21/07/2024	WoC/Fair Winds - Page park		65
Eighties Flashback	BAI	62	21/07/2024	BCWB - Lees Hill		65
Highlights from Moana	BAI	55	03/08/2024	BAI - Summer concert	368	311
Now we are free	BAI	67	11/08/2024	BAI - Page Park		65
Last Christmas	WoC	65	18/08/2024	BCWB - Blaise	100	65
Cartoon Christmas	WoC	57	31/08/2024	WoC - Clevedon		65
Selection from the Rolling Stones	WoC	54	01/09/2024	BCWB - Keynsham	200	65
Oompa Loompa	WoC	39	19/09/2024	BAI - Pensford	70	65
A Little Night Music	WoC	60	09/11/2024	BWCB - THURC	721	165
Game of Thrones	WoC	71	07/12/2024	Christmas Hanham	683	295
			22/03/2025	Soiree 2025		204
		<u>969</u>			<u>3,291</u>	<u>2,459</u>
<u>Instruments</u>		<u>Income</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Other</u>		<u>Income</u> <u>Payments</u>
		£	£			£
Bass Clarinet repair			73	Carols 2023	300	
Contribution to trumpet service		30		Carols 2024	548	
Contribution to trombone service		30		Insurance		804
G Hunter Cornet Louise		30		Christmas Concert donation		1050
		<u>90</u>	<u>73</u>	Sum-up machine		36
				Tea money		200
				Stationery & photocopying		90
				Uniform	379	391
				Making Music Subscription		110
				Domain names		29
				Room hire for meetings		20
				Flowers re Christchurch		20
				Band logo wipe cloths	59	101
				Website		115
				Making Music Subscription		230
		<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>		<u>1,285</u>	<u>3,195</u>
<u>Other Receipts/Payments</u>		<u>Income</u>	<u>Payments</u>			
		£	£			
Deposit return re soiree 2024		100				
Deposit re THURC May 24		200	200			
Deposit re soiree 2024			100			
		<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>			

