

Verwood Prize Band
known as Verwood Concert Brass

Registered Charity Number 1144224

ANNUAL REPORT

For The Year Ended 31 December 2024

Verwood Concert Brass
Annual Report
For The Year Ended 31 December 2024

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Verwood Concert Brass

Trustees and Advisors on 31st December 2024

Principal address:

The Band Hall
Moorlands Road
Verwood
BH31 7PD

Management Trustees:

Committee Officers:

Chair:

Helen Dunnings

Vice Chair:

Sally Burrows

Secretary (Minutes and Engagements):

Louisa Elliott

Secretary (Administration):

Gwyneth Selby

Treasurer:

Robert Graves

Committee Members:

Karen Adams
Daniel Burrows
Michael Dunnings
Ian Harris
Eileen Lock
Sian Mete
Jane Smith
Elizabeth Tanner
Susan Ward

Holding Trustees:

Kay Butler
Mervyn Green
Noel Smith
Janet Tiller

Independent examiner:

Terry Hayden

Verwood Concert Brass

Trustees' Responsibilities

The accounts are the responsibility of the Trustees.

The Trustees have supervised the preparation of the accounts and have agreed suitable accounting policies, to be applied consistently, making any estimates and judgements on a prudent and reasonable basis.

The Trustees also have a general responsibility for ensuring that adequate accounting records are kept and for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities, and are required to act in accordance with the constitution and rules of the charity, within the framework of the law; act prudently, conscientiously and honestly, and with the utmost good faith; act in the best interests of the members and beneficiaries of the charity and strike a fair balance between the interests of the different classes of beneficiary and take advice on technical matters and any other matters which are not understood.

Verwood Concert Brass

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their annual report and accounts for the year to 31st December 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity, which is a non-incorporated organisation, is governed by a constitution which was adopted on 3 October 2011.

The day to day running of the charity is the responsibility of the Management Trustees. The Management Trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting and are elected from the charity's membership. The 2024 AGM was held on 18th March 2024 at which the constitution was amended to split the Secretary role and create committee positions for representatives from each of the three main bands.

The Management Trustees throughout the year were:

Position	01/01/2024 to AGM	AGM to 31/12/2024
Chair	Helen Dunnings	Helen Dunnings
Vice Chair	Sally Burrows	Sally Burrows
Secretary (Minutes/Engagements)	Louisa Elliott	Louisa Elliott
Secretary (Administration)	Gwyneth Selby	Gwyneth Selby
Treasurer	Gillian Graves ¹	Robert Graves
	Karen Adams	Karen Adams
	Daniel Burrows	Daniel Burrows
	Michael Dunnings	Michael Dunnings
	Robert Graves	Ian Harris
	Ian Harris	Eileen Lock
	Sian Mete	Sian Mete
	Janet Scammell	Janet Scammell ²
	Susan Ward	Jane Smith
		Elizabeth Tanner
		Susan Ward

Notes:

¹ Resigned 18 March 2024

² Resigned 17 October 2024

The Holding Trustees for the charity who hold the title to the charity's property were: Kay Butler, Mervyn Green, Noel Smith, Janet Tiller.

Verwood Concert Brass

Report of the Trustees (Continued)

Objectives and Activities

The Objectives of the Band are:

- a) To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the Trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals.
- b) To further such charitable purpose or purposes as the trustees in their absolute discretion shall think fit but in particular through the making of grants and donations.

In pursuit of these objectives and activities the Trustees have paid due consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objectives:

The key activities of the year have been to support the objectives of the band through the fostering and facilitation of the musical aspirations of Verwood Concert Brass (VCB) members and to further their musical advancement, by providing musical entertainment for others, participating in and promoting musical activities including concerts and contests and collecting money on behalf of designated charities and participating in other additional activities for the purposes of public benefit.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year:

Fostering and furthering the musical aspirations and advancement of VCB members is a key objective of the charity.

The three bands (Community Band, Town Band, and Principal Band) along with The Acorns and Ensemble Group that comprise VCB have been active throughout the year. The Community Band has seen an increase in membership, welcoming both young people and adults, of varying ability and experience. In addition to weekly rehearsals, guidance and support have been

provided by other more experienced band members. Given the reduction in time music lessons have suffered in the school curriculum VCB provides an additional valuable service to school age children.

The transition structure set up between the three bands and Acorns continues to provide an excellent opportunity for players to move up the band structure as their expertise and experience grows. Likewise, it also allows players to move down the band structure, should they feel they would be better suited, for whatever reason, playing in a less challenging band.

Ultimately, the band structure supports the aim of VCB to offer accessibility and opportunities for players of all standards and aspirations. This can be deemed a successful strategy as VCB has more than 80 members. Relatively few of the hundreds of brass bands in the UK have anywhere near this number of members and sadly some bands are discontinuing due to lack of players.

Verwood Concert Brass has been very active in supporting and entertaining the community throughout the year. In particular, VCB played a key role in providing musical entertainment in the community with three formal concerts at The Verwood Hub and a concert at Verwood Methodist Church, three free Brass on the Grass open air concerts, two coffee afternoons at The Verwood Memorial Hall and numerous carolling events over the festive season, including a free outdoor 'Carols by Torchlight' evening and a festive concert at a local care home. VCB also supported community events such as the Rotary Club Rustic Fayre, Remembrance Sunday Service and parade, the Verwood Town Council's Christmas Extravaganza, Mayor's Reception and other civic celebration events, such as coronations, jubilees and commemorations.

A major achievement of the VCB organisation this year has been the culmination of the major fund raising campaign to raise £250,000 to repair the band hall, which had suffered significant subsidence. The band hall was substantially repaired to enable VCB to hold a band hall open evening on Wednesday 20th March 2024 as a 'Thank you' for those that have given their support and made grants and donations.

Final works to the far end of the hall were completed over the summer and full and complete payment was made to the builder. This huge project has now been completed, and the charity now has a band hall that is not only safe but is now fully fit for purpose for the foreseeable future that will allow many generations to come to enjoy making music together.

The preservation of the tradition and heritage of brass banding is a key aim of the Trustees especially given the extremely long history of the band, which started in 1864. Brass Band contests are an important way to uphold this tradition with both the Principal Band and Town Band competing throughout the year. Participation and successes at contests helps to evidence the objective of advancement and improvement but it also brings pride to the wider community in seeing its local bands competing with other bands from up and down the country.

The following extracts from the website brassbandresults.co.uk show the contests entered and the positions gained.

Verwood Concert Brass (Principal Band)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Additional Prizes</u>
<u>18/02/2024</u>	<u>Oxford & District Winter Contest (Championship Section)</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>Best:</u> <u>Instrumentalist</u> <u>Percussion</u> <u>Bass Section</u> <u>Cornet</u> <u>Tenor Horn</u>
<u>10/03/2024</u>	<u>West of England Regional (Championship Section)</u>	<u>4th</u>	
<u>11/05/2024</u>	<u>British Open Spring Festival (Senior Cup)</u>	<u>16th</u>	
<u>17/11/2024</u>	<u>Wessex Brass Band Association Winter Contest</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>Best March (A)</u>

The Principal Band is a Championship Section band and is one of the top ranked bands in the West of England region. It also competes in the prestigious national event, the British Open Spring Festival.

Verwood Town Band

<u>Date</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Additional Prizes</u>
<u>17/02/2024</u>	<u>Oxford & District Winter Contest (Third Section)</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>Best</u> <u>Instrumentalist</u>
<u>10/03/2024</u>	<u>West of England Regional (Third Section)</u>	<u>1st</u>	
<u>14/09/2024</u>	<u>National Championship of GB (Third Section Final)</u>	<u>11th</u>	
<u>02/11/2024</u>	<u>Wychavon Entertainment Contest (Third Section)</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>Best Soloist</u>
<u>17/11/2024</u>	<u>Wessex Brass Band Association Winter Contest</u>	<u>8th</u>	<u>Best March (B)</u>

On winning the West of England Regional Third Section contest, the Town Band qualified to compete in the National Championship for the second year in a row. It also means the band was promoted to the Second Section in the West of England region w.e.f. 1st January 2025.

Verwood Concert Brass

Report of the Trustees (Continued)

Financial Review

The charity had a cash holding of £29,053.98 at the year end, all of which was in unrestricted funds. The Trustees regularly consider whether to set aside an amount to meet any unforeseen expenditure that may occur at any point during the year.

Existing reserves were depleted due to the extensive cost of repairing the charity's property – the band hall. With the band hall repair project having been fully and successfully completed during the financial year, the Trustees have agreed to set aside, in the new financial year, £20,000 of the £29,053 cash holding as a reserve fund for unforeseen expenditure.

The Trustees consider that the remaining £9,053 will be sufficient to maintain the charity's ordinary day to day activities given the normal break-even pattern of income and expenditure.

The Trustees' considered opinion is that the financial position is such that the charity is a viable ongoing organisation for the foreseeable future.

It is worth noting that through the extensive fund raising activity required to repair the band hall, the Trustees have gained significant experience and knowledge in how to successfully raise further funds, be it additional concerts, sponsorship, applying for grants and donations etc, should the need for additional unforeseen funding, in excess of the reserves, arises again in the future.

Reporting Serious Incidents

The Trustees declare that there are no serious incidents or other matters relating to our charity over the financial period to 31 December 2024 that should have been brought to the Charity Commission's attention.

Verwood Concert Brass

Report of the Trustees (Continued)

Declaration

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


Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees.

Signature: 

Full Name: ROBERT GRAVES

Position: TREASURER

Date 7th April 2025

Signature: 

Full Name: HELEN DUNNINGS

Position: CHAIRMAN

Date 7th April 2025



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Verwood Prize Band (Verwood Concert Brass)

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1144224

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Perry Hayden

Date:

3/3/25

Name:

PERRY HAYDEN

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Address:

5 SWAN GREEN

WILLOW WAY

CHRISTIANBURCH BH23 1DD

Verwood Concert Brass

Accounts for year ended 31 December 2024

General Fund (unrestricted) Receipts and Payments

	2024 £	2023 £
Receipts		
Donations, sponsorship and grants	24,706.55	126,281.00
Fundraising and sundry income	16,886.06	32,099.46
Interest on deposit account	57.27	2,119.06
Members' subscriptions	11,429.00	11,657.00
Concerts and engagements income	11,534.70	10,524.98
Gift aid receipts	2,349.67	3,609.38
	<u>66,963.25</u>	<u>186,290.88</u>
Asset and investment sales		
Receipts from sale of instruments	-	-
Payments		
Cost of fundraising and sundry income	407.65	297.09
Expenses re concerts and engagements	1,374.89	1,210.67
Musical Director expenses	10,840.00	12,605.00
Repairs and maintenance	102,327.78	128,695.55
Light and heating	3,610.72	3,730.08
Rates and water	229.40	172.50
Insurance and licences	2,906.36	3,112.30
Telephone and web site	471.03	510.07
Contest and affiliation fees	20,568.72	18,022.68
Donations paid	-	-
Printing, postage, stationery and sundry	1,532.28	1,044.73
	<u>144,268.83</u>	<u>169,400.67</u>
Asset and investment purchases		
Purchase of instruments/Cases	499.99	2,200.00
Purchase of uniform and music	659.54	520.42
	<u>1,159.53</u>	<u>2,720.42</u>
Net of receipts / (payments)	- 78,465.11	14,169.79
Cash funds previous year end	107,519.09	93,349.30
Cash funds this year end	29,053.98	107,519.09

Verwood Concert Brass

Accounts for year ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Assets	31/12/2024	Notes	31/12/2023	Notes
Bank & Cash Balance				
Lloyds Current Account	£ 28,918.84		£82,089.01	
Lloyds Deposit Account	£ -		£25,067.26	
Cash in Hand	£ 135.14		£362.82	
	£ 29,053.98	1	£ 107,519.09	
Property				
Band Hall, Moorlands Road, Verwood (Freehold)	£ 470,000.00	2	£216,541.00	3
Storage Unit	£ 1,854.00	2a		
	£ 471,854.00			
Instruments				
Brass	£144,738.00	4	£156,093.75	5
Percussion	£31,419.50	5	£31,419.50	5
Accessories e.g. mouth pieces, mutes, straps, lyres	£2,577.86	5	£2,577.86	5
	£178,735.36		£190,091.11	
Equipment e.g. stands, chairs, tables, kitchen, marques etc	£964.25	5	£964.25	5
Music				
Pieces in library	1,895	4	1,850	
Average replacement cost	£50.00	6	£25.00	
	£94,750.00		£46,250.00	
Uniform	£18,373.00	4	£17,020.00	
Cups & Trophies	£5,500.00	7	£5,500.00	7
Total Assets	£799,230.59		£583,885.45	

Liabilities	31/12/2024	31/12/2023
	£0.00	£0.00

Reserves	31/12/2024	31/12/2023
	£799,230.59	£583,885.45

Notes

- 1 Balance reduced due to expenditure on band hall repairs.
Following completion of band hall subsidence repairs the builder, Keith Shearing of Shearing Homes, advised Sally Burrows (VCB Vice Chair) on 18/10/2024 that the rebuild cost would be £470,000 which is the amount used for the October
- 2 2024 insurance renewal.
- 2a A metal storage unit was purchased on 16th September 2024 for £1,845 plus delivery costs.
The band hall had not been formally valued for some years. This figure represents the insurable value on the insurance policy following successive years of a standard annual uplift.
- 3 Figure taken from an audit in October 2024 for insurance purposes.
- 5 The figures are taken from the inventory completed in October 2019. A new inventory will be completed during 2025.
- 6 Average replacement cost uprated from £25 to £50 to match the assumption used for October 2024 insurance renewal.
- 7 Estimated value of cups and trophies used for October 2024 insurance renewal.