



For Period

From

Period start date		
1	Oct	2024

To

Period end date		
30	Sept	2025

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name **Buxton Well Dressing Festival**

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) **1156707**

Charity's principal address **17 Lansdowne Road**

Buxton

Postcode

SK17 6RR

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	Richard Lower	Chair		
2	Kathryn Gilson	Member		
3	Christine Gould	Well Dressing Secretary		
4	John Moss	Vice-President		
5	Martin Gilson	Treasurer		
6	Helen Barker	Minutes Secretary		
7	Linda Grooby	Secretary		
8	Aneta Mosley	Member		
9				

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
none	

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members

Management Committee: **Richard Lower, Martin Gilson, Christine Gould, Maureen Kitchen, Charles Kitchen, Helen Barker, Graeme Kitchen, Colin Phillips, Jane Fletcher, Linda Grooby, Aneta Mosley, Mark Stout**

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution: last amended at Extraordinary General Meeting on 4 th April 2014
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	A Charitable Incorporated Organisation with voting members other than its charity trustees
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected at a General Meeting and re-appointed annually at the AGM held in November or December

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.

Buxton Well Dressing Festival is a Registered Charity (Charity Number 1156707)

The Buxton Well Dressing Festival is managed by a committee of members that includes trustees.

All trustees, committee members and members give their time voluntarily and received no remuneration or other benefits.

Section C Objectives and activities

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

To promote the arts and advance education for the benefit of the public in Buxton, Derbyshire and the surrounding area, in particular but not exclusively by:

- (1) preserving and promoting the historical tradition of a Well Dressing Festival and
- (2) advancing education in the historical tradition and craft of well dressing, particularly but not exclusively, through the provision of workshops, exhibitions and demonstrations.

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 focus of our activities remains the Well Dressing Festival which takes place in Buxton every July.

This includes the preservation of the historical tradition of a Well Dressing Festival in Buxton which began in 1840.

The festival includes:

- The annual dressing of the floral boards. This includes the engagement with students from Buxton Community School who design and dress their own floral boards.
- The blessing ceremony, where local dignitaries, clergy and town's people process through the town blessing each well dressing and giving thanks for the provision of water.
- The selection and crowning of a Well Dressing Queen and Retinue. The Well Dressing Queen and Retinue represent Buxton at events in Buxton and the surrounding region.
- A carnival parade around the streets of Buxton, creating a day of celebration in the town supported and enjoyed by many organisations, individuals and businesses.
- A fun fair on Buxton Market Place for the entertainment of the people of Buxton and the surrounding area.
- Other events and competitions.

Details and information can be found on our website:
www.buxtonwelldressing.co.uk

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

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

A great contribution is made by member volunteers and other volunteers from Buxton.

We are grateful for the many hours volunteers have spent working to make the Buxton Well Dressing Festival a success. Without this valuable contribution of time, energy and expertise we would not have been able to maintain our traditional festival.

We are also grateful for the financial contribution made by donation, sponsorship and grants that allows the costs of staging the festival events to be met.

Thank you to everyone.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

During 2025 we have again organised the full range events of the Buxton Well Dressing Festival, although this is becoming more onerous with increasing requirements of regulations and expectations.

- The Well Dressings featured Vermeer's Girl with a Pearl Earring and celebrated Newborough National Nature Reserve on Anglesey.
- In the Pump Room the lion-head fountain commemorated 50 years of Buxton's Billerette dance troupe, and the pupils from Buxton Community School designed and dressed the Children's Well on Spring Gardens.
- The Buxton Well Dressing Festival Queen Layla Haskins was crowned by her mother who had been a past Buxton queen.
- Our Queen and Retinue have won many awards whilst representing Buxton in neighbouring carnivals and events.
- Increased demands from Derbyshire County Council's Emergency Planning and representatives from the emergency services for Buxton's busiest day of the year (Well Dressing Carnival Day) is leading to extra work and costs.
 - The footprint for the funfair was reduced by High Peak Borough Council, so was a smaller event.
 - Emergency Medical cover was stipulated to be required to meet potential demands from 20,000 people that could be in Buxton on the day.
 - An emergency control centre was required to be set-up and manned for the whole day.

Thank you to everyone for their hard work.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	We endeavour to hold reserves to cover one year's expenses of running the Buxton Well Dressing Festival
Details of any funds materially in deficit	Not applicable
Further financial review details (Optional information)	
<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Our principal sources of funding remain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public collections made during the carnival and at the well dressings Sponsorship and grants Advertising revenue for our programme Fund raising events <p>We thank everyone for their generous support.</p> <p>Details of income and expenditure will be reported in detail at our AGM on Wednesday 26th November 2025.</p>

Section F Other optional information

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Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Richard Lower</i>
Full name(s)	Richard Lower
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair
Date	9th January 2026

Buxton Well Dressing Festival

Receipts and Payments for the year ending 30th September 2025

Receipts		Payments
Opening Balances 1st October 2024		
Nat West Current Account	£14,857.05	
Nat West Business Reserve Account	£6,284.38	
CC Bank 120 Day Notice Account	£65,943.23	
Cash at hand	£95.70	
Liabilities	£0.00	
	£87,180.36	
Interest Nat West Business Reserve Account	76.48	
Interest CC Bank 120 Day Notice Account	2,842.26	
Well Dressing Festival - Receipts (List 1)	£18,482.79	
		Closing Balances 30th September 2025
		Nat West Current Account
		Nat West Business Reserve Account
		CC Bank 120 Day Notice Account
		Cash at hand
		Liabilities
		£14,035.06
		£6,360.86
		£68,785.49
		£0.00
		£0.00
		£89,181.41

Statement of assets and liabilities at 30th September 2025

Bank balances and cash at hand	£89,181.41
Debtors	£0.00
Liabilities	£0.00

Total Receipts	£21,401.53
Total Payments	£19,304.79
Profit / (Loss) for year ending 30th September 2025	£2,096.74

I have confirmed the bank balances with the supporting bank statements:

Trustees:

Treasurer

Chairman

Scrutineer

Signed:

Date:

[Signature]

8/10/2025

Richard Lower

20/10/2025

[Signature]

7/11/2025