

Community Music Whickham and Swalwell

CIO Registered Charity Number 1162027

Trustees' Annual Report for the year 31st March 2025

The trustees are pleased to present this report of Community Music Whickham and Swalwell (referenced hereafter as CMWS) which was registered as a charity on 05/06/2015. The registered office is 3 Washingwell Park, Whickham, Tyne & Wear NE16 4QW.

CMWS was formed by a group of people from the local community who wanted to promote and inspire standards of excellence in music, aid fulfilment of personal aspirations and enjoyment in making music and promote performances so that the local population could benefit from these activities.

Trustees

Lynne Bloxham. Chair
Daniel Binns. IT adviser
Jennifer Boynton. Safeguarding and Vice Chair
Alan McBurnie. Treasurer.
Anne Lindsley. Secretary.
David Megginson. Membership lead.
Brian Stoneman. Policy Advisor
Amy Tate. Coordinator of volunteers
John Treherne. Artistic Director

Governance and Management

The governing document is the Community Music Whickham and Swalwell CIO Constitution which was adopted by the Trustees on 17/05/2015 and which became recognised by the Charity Commission when the CIO was registered on 05/06/2015.

All Trustees were briefed on the role of Trustees of CMWS, given copies of the governing documents of the organisation and referred to the detail on the Charity Commission website related to becoming a trustee and to the guidance on public benefit. They are all kept informed by the chair of all correspondence and updates from the Charity Commission.

The Trustees hold regular, usually monthly meetings throughout the year. Some operational/ planning details were delegated to sub committees made up of Trustees. All meetings are minuted.

The Trustees work entirely on a voluntary basis.

There is one service provider who is tutor/conductor of the Community Orchestra. Their work is covered by a Service Level Agreement which includes clauses about quality and assessment. Towards the end of the period covered by this report, the service provider, who was the conductor of the Community Orchestra retired and the search began for a new conductor. The other tutors are Trustees who work on a voluntary basis.

CMWS has an honorary partnership with our two local churches, St Mary The Virgin Whickham and Holy Trinity Church Swalwell.

Objective

The objective of the CIO CMWS:

For the public benefit to advance education and appreciation in all aspects of music making, by the provision of tuition, materials, performance opportunities, public concerts, lectures and recitals.

CMWS aims to encourage performance opportunities for musicians of all ages and capabilities. Our diary of events has increased in number and variety. This is thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of the Trustees.

Over the twelve months since the last report, CMWS has supported the following activities.

Continuation of theory classes remotely.

Performance assessments - similar to examinations to assess the progress of individual students online or in person depending on the preference of the candidate. These assessments provide markers of quality and progress.

Weekly rehearsals of handbell group Bells Up during term time.

Weekly rehearsals during term time for the Community Orchestra in preparation for concerts and other events.

For each of these ensembles CMWS provides rehearsal space, tuition and sheet music.

Everyone is welcome to join one or all of these groups without discrimination and no audition is required.

We have continued to maintain an emphasis on providing performance experience and materials i.e. instruments in good repair for the participants to play

We lend instruments to students and make no charge for this but ask the user of the instrument or parent or guardian to insure any instrument so loaned.

CMWS has arranged and supported the following events /performances during the period of this report.

One of the Trustees made a film, lasting 35 minutes, describing the history and aims of CMWS which included an interview with the Chair. This was shown in St Mary's Church Whickham on 10th June to an appreciative audience.

An "Open Mic" event was held on June 1st in Swalwell Community Centre. This enabled performers of any age or ability to perform in public to a friendly audience. There was a wide range of performances which included string groups, solo singers and instrumentalists and the Community Orchestra played several pieces. One young performer played in public for the first time. There was a minimal charge to attend the event which included a pie and pea supper.

Two local Carol Services were supported by Bells Up handbell group and the Community Orchestra.

Bells Up also played to support and raise funds for Holy Trinity Church Swalwell annual Coffee Morning and Gift Day in December.

The annual William Shield Festival, to celebrate local forgotten composer William Shield took place between 15th October and 29th November 2024. Shield was Master of the Kings music from 1817-1829. He wrote operas which were performed at Covent Garden Opera House. The opera Robin Hood, which was resurrected for this festival by John Treherne and which had not been performed for over 200 years, was the main feature of this Festival..

The Festival included the following concerts-

Tuesday 15th October lunchtime recital in the Great Hall, Northumbria University at 1.10 p.m.

Heather Burns (contralto) and John Treherne (keyboard) Songs by female composers from the time of William Shield. Admission Free.

Friday 18th October Lit and Phil at 1 p.m. Gordon Dixon (cello) Davina Halford-MacLeod (Contralto) and John Treherne (harpsichord)

The celebrated cellist, Gordon Dixon, made a welcome return to the festival, performing sonatas by J. B. Breval (1756 – 1825). Breval, a Parisian cellist, was a contemporary of William Shield and was noted for sonatas which are vibrant and melodious. He was joined by Davina Halford-MacLeod, a gifted young singer who is studying at Newcastle University's International Centre for Music Studies. Admission £5.

7.30 Music for the French Kings

Amanda Babbington (musette) and David Smith (harpsichord) presented a varied and entertaining programme of music which would have entertained the French monarchs a couple of generations before the time of William Shield. The musette is a sophisticated

type of bagpipe which came into popularity in court circles during and after the time of Louis XIV, who died in 1715. Admission £10.

Saturday 19th October 11 am Deborah Thorne (baroque cello), Charles Luxford (baritone) and John Treherne (harpsichord) Performed music by G.P. Telemann, J.S. Bach and Geminiani. Charles sang well-loved songs by William Shield, including 'The Arethusa'. Admission £5.

1 pm Mary Tyers (flutes, recorders and voice) with Stuart Hardy (folk fiddles) This vibrant and varied programme of largely folk music captivated the audience. Mary and Stuart made their first appearance at the festival. Admission £5.

2.15 – 3.15 Dr. Amelie Addison with Stuart Hardy – illustrated talk on William Shield and his folk-music connections. Dr. Amelie Addison has been awarded the degree of Ph.D. for her research into the music of William Shield, and she has made some fascinating discoveries about the life and times of this celebrated composer. She was joined by violinist Stuart Hardy, who performed fiddle music by Shield. Admission £5.

5.30 pm Schlusskonzert This was an opportunity to take part in the festival. Instrumentalists and vocalists are always encouraged to perform in this cheerful finale to a packed weekend of music making. Admission free.

William Shield: Comic Opera Robin Hood

The splendid Rocket Opera join the William Shield Chamber Orchestra, led by Bradley Creswick, in this comic opera's first performances since the early 1800's.

William Shield's Comic Opera of 1784 is a wonderful mixture of arias, duets and choruses interspersed with a humorous dialogue. Shield has provided us with a rather different take on the familiar Robin Hood tale, but you will recognise all the main characters. Composed in 1784, two years before Mozart's Don Giovanni, you will be intrigued by vibrant and virtuosic arias, songs with a strong folk influence, colourful duets, engaging choruses, and a joyful finale with a really happy ending. Shield's operas were designed to be an escape from the turmoil of his turbulent age, which was not very different from the world of the 21st Century. You will certainly go home with some catchy melodies going round your head and a smile on your face!

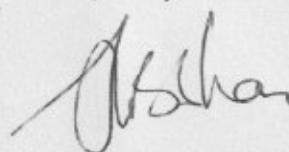
This is a completely new arrangement by the festival's Artistic Director John Treherne MBE; and Austin Gunn has brought the script up to date.

Thursday 28th November St George's Church, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne at 7.30 Admission £12 (£8 concessions) including a gala programme and refreshments

Friday 29th November at Swalwell Community Centre Admission £12 (£8 concessions) including a gala programme and refreshments

Ticket prices were as low as possible to cover costs and under 21's were admitted free. The programme was varied and CMWS activities over the period of this report consisted of concerts, recitals, lectures and performance opportunities and was for the public benefit, thus fulfilling the objects of CMWS.

Lynne Bloxham (chair)

 21/2/25

Profit and Loss Statement
Community Music Whickham & Swalwell
Year to Date

Income

Description	Amount	
Grants	1,850.00	
Event tickets	2,292.25	
Raffles & Donations	7,505.98	
Music Fees	3,536.97	
		Amount
Total Income	15,185.20	

Costs

Description	Amount	
Admin		
Services	14,208.99	
		Amount
Total Cost of Sales	14,208.99	

Gross Profit **976.21**

(Total Income less Cost of Sales)

Expenses

Description	Amount	
Web		
Marketing		
Sundries		
Room Hire	897.00	
		Amount
Total Expenses	897.00	

Net Profit **79.21**

(Gross Profit less Expenses)