

Fleetville Swing Band



Community through Music

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year to 31 August 2025

Charity No: 1170472

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1, the Charities Act 2011, the charity's constitution and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

Purpose

The purpose of the charity, as defined in its governing document is 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.

Main activities

Fleetville Swing Band fulfils this purpose by:

- inviting members of the community to join regular rehearsals
- performing at local charity and community events
- organising its own musical performances for the public.

Public benefit statement

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit, including the guidance on fee charging.

Fleetville Swing Band often performs at local charity and community events free of charge. When organising its own events, the trustees consider the affordability of fees to ensure the widest possible access to its musical performances. Membership subscriptions are low and not compulsory.

Achievements and performance

The highlight of our year, and possibly our most exhilarating performance ever, was honouring the 80th anniversary of VE Day at St Albans Cathedral in May 2025. To a packed audience of jive dancers, we recreated the music of the time with a special set of Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman and other 1940's swing classics.

In advance of this prestigious event, we held a black tie, dress rehearsal to an enthusiastic audience at Mid Herts Golf Club.

A new event this year - in August 2025, we enjoyed a lively outdoor performance at the Three Brewers Festival in St Albans.

Other repeat invitations included five sunny afternoon performances at 'Jazz in the Park', in September 2024, May, June, July and August 2025, organised by Verdi's restaurant, St Albans and a festive performance at the Fleetville Infant School Christmas Fair.



FSB performing at the VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations, St Albans Cathedral, May 2025

Financial review

Financial position

The income of the charity for the year was £8,388 (2024: £5,220). Expenditure was £6,745 (2024: £5,662), resulting in net income of £1,643 (2024: net expenditure of £442). The improved result reflects an increase in membership fees (from £5 per month to £12 per month for most members) to ensure we can cover the cost of contracting our professional Musical Director and other increasing costs. Unusually, we were also paid for six performances this year, compared to four in 2024.

At 31 August 2025, total reserves were £10,450 (2024: £8,807), comprising general funds of £9,450 (2024: £7,807) and two designated funds of £500 each. The purpose of these funds is explained in the notes to the accounts.

General reserves are held to allow for a smooth transition to the new financial model where we now pay professional rates for our Musical Director, deputising professional musicians and from 2025, for most of our arrangements. We have reviewed our subscription rates and are claiming Gift Aid on subscriptions, knowing that this will be re-invested in the local musical economy. This year sees a return to net income, following two loss-making years. With a strong reserves position, the trustees are confident that Fleetville Swing Band remains a going concern.

Structure, governance and management

Fleetville Swing Band is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members, registered with the Charity Commission on 30 November 2016. It is governed by its constitution, adopted on 11 September 2016. The charity inherited the assets and activities of Fleetville Swing Band, a society established in 2010 with similar objects.

Governance

The trustees of Fleetville Swing Band are responsible for the governance of the charity. Trustees are elected by the members for a three-year term, after which they must stand for re-election. There are currently six (2024: six) trustees.

Membership is open to anyone interested in furthering the purposes of the charity. We have a committed base of members who regularly attend rehearsals and performances. At 31 August 2025, there were 36 members (2024: 35 members).

Full member meetings, including an AGM, are held at least once a year where members vote to decide on decisions such as the appointment of new trustees. At other times, members delegate decision-making to a committee comprising the trustees and any other members who wish to attend. A minimum of three committee meetings is held each year.

Future plans

In August 2025, we sought the views and suggestions of members with a detailed survey, achieving 30 responses (83%). As a result, the trustees will be joined by several other committee members to extend the organisational capacity of the band. There were many excellent ideas to take forward, including making changes to our rehearsal set-up and suggestions for events. We now have working groups for new repertoire, social media and access and inclusion.

Events for 2025/26 include a return to the St Saviour's Christmas Tree Festival, another performance at Mid Herts Golf Club and our own concert at the Trestle Arts Base in St Albans.

Reference and administrative details

Trustees

Matthew Cox	Chair	
Helen Evans	Treasurer	
Sirina Wooster	Secretary	Resigned & re-appointed 21 April 2026
Alex Gould		Resigned & re-appointed 15 April 2025
Cameron Ross		Resigned & re-appointed 15 April 2025
Adrian Strain		Resigned & re-appointed 21 April 2026

Fleetville Swing Band
Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025

Principal address

23 Beaumont Avenue
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL1 4TL
www.fleetvilleswingband.co.uk

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature	<i>Matthew Cox</i>	<i>Helen Evans</i>
Full name	Matthew Cox	Helen Evans
Position	Chair	Treasurer
Date	21 April 2026	21 April 2026

Fleetville Swing Band
Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 August 2025
(including income and expenditure account)

		Unrestricted funds	
	Note	2024/25	2023/24
		£	£
Income from:			
Charitable activities	2	8,276	5,145
Investment income		112	75
Total income		8,388	5,220
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	3	6,745	5,662
Total expenditure		6,745	5,662
Net income/(expenditure)		1,643	(442)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		8,807	9,249
Total funds carried forward	7	10,450	8,807

The notes on the accompanying pages form part of the financial statements.

Fleetville Swing Band
Balance sheet at 31 August 2025

	Note	31 August 2025	31 August 2024
		£	£
Current assets			
Debtors	5	447	876
Cash at bank and in hand		10,203	7,946
		10,650	8,822
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	200	15
Net current assets		10,450	8,807
The funds of the charity		£	£
Unrestricted funds:			
General funds	7	9,450	7,807
Designated funds	7	1,000	1,000
Total charity funds	7	10,450	8,807

The notes on the accompanying pages form part of the financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the members and authorised for issue by the trustees on 21 April 2025 by:

Matthew Cox

Matthew Cox
Chair

Helen Evans

Helen Evans
Treasurer

1) Principal accounting policies

General information and basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. It is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The charity has taken advantage of the small charity disclosure exemption permitted by the SORP and has not presented a statement of cash flows.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The trustees believe that the immediate future of the charity is secure for the next 18 months and is a going concern.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further the general objects of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. Income which is subject to conditions before the charity is entitled to the funds, is deferred and not recognised until those conditions are met.

1) Principal accounting policies (continued)

Income (continued)

Donated goods and services are included at the fair value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102), no amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Support costs are the cost of functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activity. They include IT and governance costs

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,500 or more are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on the following straight-line basis:

Equipment	20% per annum
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Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stock.

Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

1) Principal accounting policies (continued)

Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010. It therefore meets the definition of a charity for UK corporation tax purposes.

2) Income from charitable activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Member subscriptions	4,582	1,890
Gift Aid claimed on member subscriptions	1,094	1,805
Performance fees	2,600	1,450
	<u>8,276</u>	<u>5,145</u>

3) Expenditure on charitable activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Rehearsal costs	3,696	2,927
Performance costs	2,295	1,467
Equipment costs	92	731
Support costs	662	537
	<u>6,745</u>	<u>5,662</u>

Support costs include insurance, PRS fees where due, marketing, website and other administration, health & safety and compliance costs.

4) Staff and trustees

The charity does not employ staff. None of the trustees are remunerated and no trustee received reimbursement of expenses incurred in the role of trustee during the period (2024: none).

5) Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	400	400
Prepayments & accrued income	47	476
	<u>447</u>	<u>876</u>

6) Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals & deferred income	200	-
Other creditors	-	15
	<u>200</u>	<u>15</u>

7) Funds

	General funds	Designated funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£	£
Balance at 31 August 2024	7,807	1,000	8,807
Net income for the year	1,643	-	1,643
Balance at 31 August 2025	<u>9,450</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>10,450</u>

General funds are held in the expectation that the costs of musical direction and sourcing musical arrangements will increase in the future.

Designated funds are held for specific purposes relating to the charity's origins as part of a wider community organisation. The Paul Olive Memorial Fund of £500 was established in memory of the band's founder to provide grants for new musical ventures in the Fleetville area of St Albans. The Fleetville Festival Fund of £500 is available to other groups who wish to organise similar community events in the future.

7) Funds (continued)

Prior year	General funds	Designated funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£	£
Balance at 31 August 2023	8,249	1,000	9,249
Net (expenditure) for the year	(442)	-	(442)
Balance at 31 August 2024	<u>7,807</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>8,807</u>

8) Related party transactions

Helen Evans (trustee & Treasurer) is the Finance Director of Making Music, the UK association for leisure time music groups and a supplier of insurance and membership services to Fleetville Swing Band. Payments of £221 were made to Making Music in 2025 (2024: £213).

9) Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Unrestricted funds	
	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Income from:		
Charitable activities	5,145	3,245
Investment income	75	-
Total income	<u>5,220</u>	<u>3,245</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	5,662	3,403
Total expenditure	<u>5,662</u>	<u>3,403</u>
Net expenditure	<u>(442)</u>	<u>(158)</u>
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	<u>9,249</u>	<u>9,407</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>8,807</u>	<u>9,249</u>