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**THE ABBOTSKERSWELL  
FOOD AND BEER  
FESTIVAL (ABBFEST)**  
Annual Report and Accounts  
2024

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# The Abbotskerswell Food and Beer Festival (Abbfest)

Charity Number 1171953

## Commentary on the Annual Report and Accounts

Abbfest is a Community Interest Organisation (CIO) which exists to further such charitable purposes (Charitable under English law) in the county of Devon, in particular but not limited to the parish of Abbotskerswell, as the Trustees see fit from time to time by the provision of grants and other donations to charities and other voluntary organisations.

Although it is not part of its legal charitable purpose, the Trustees have always regarded the holding of a successful community event as a major objective in delivering the purpose.

The Charity's funds are entirely raised through an annual Food & Beer Festival which is organised and run by a Management Committee fully staffed with volunteers. Following on from the successful event in 2023 the 2024 event went ahead with a strong team in place led by Festival Director Roy Blunt and Treasurer Gary Wills. The robust plans and budget were somewhat foiled by less income than budgeted for through lower than expected attendance and sales. However, with a good financial plan in place, the event still generated enough income to pay thank you payments to local organisations and charity groups.

The financial outcome of the 2024 Festival allowed the Charity to both top up its operating reserves to preserve the event for future years, and generated enough surplus for "thank you" payments to be made to those organisations and volunteers that work tirelessly to support the event.

At year end 31.12.2024 the CIO funds stood at:

Cooperative Bank account: £12,953.58

Investment fund: £13,757.06

Festival surplus to be distributed: £10,790

Of which all was distributed via Thank You payments prior to year end: £10,790

## Trustees Annual Report

The Trustees of the Abbotskerswell Food and Beer Festival are:

**Amy Hedger**

*Chair*

**Catherine Howard**

*Secretary*

**Roy Blunt**

**Ann Down**

**Trevor Hardiman**

**David Munden**

**Brian Mackness**

*Trustees*

## Charity Structure

Day to day and operational management of the Abbfest Festival is delegated to the Festival Director and Management Committee. The Festival Director and Treasurer are responsible for organising and delivering the annual Festival on time and within agreed budgets, ensuring the event is compliant with licencing and safety requirements.

The Trustees are ultimately responsible for the Charity's activities including:

- Purpose and strategy
- Our reputation and values
- How we meet our financial and statutory responsibilities

In particular the Trustees pay attention to:

- The performance of the Charity's fundraising activities
- How surplus is distributed and making sure we do this fairly
- Making sure the Charity and its activities are conducted fairly, responsibly and ethically.

All other elements of the running and operation of the Charity's activities are the responsibility of the Festival Director, Treasurer and Management Committee.

Key Management Committee members are:

**Roy Blunt**

*Festival Director*

**Gary Wills**

*Treasurer*

The Treasurer prepares the budget which is reviewed by the Trustees to ensure it is reasonable and realistic. The Treasurer then is responsible for all other matters of finance and accounting.

## Treasurers' comments

Abbfest 2024 was financially a little bit of a disappointment with the surplus not achieving what we had hoped for. Bad weather didn't help sales and attendees numbers but we must ask ourselves is Abbfest the right model for what we are trying to achieve – which is to raise money for local charities and organisations. A surplus of circa £10k was achieved and distributed which is still a great amount of money but not as great as the budgeted surplus (£18k), however we all know how budgets react to real life events – such as rain, the cost of living crisis, local entertainment competition and general apathy.

On a cost exercise I think most flamboyant costs have been eliminated but we are seeing continued percentage increases in all costs. Beers and ciders costs are probably the exception with our representatives managing to gain sponsorships and price freezes on certain goods. There are areas where we strive to get value for money – we use social media advertising rather than radio advertising. We have removed the reliance on Tracmats and now have a supply of woodchip to stop cars getting bogged into the field.

We rely heavily on volunteers to run the festival and there is always a squeeze on the amount of goodwill we can eke out of everyone. All they receive for their efforts is a free polo or Tee shirt, which is actually a way of identifying them not necessarily rewarding them! If we paid for the staff on working on the festival **we would not survive**.

I know the trustees question the financial results of the festival on a yearly (if not monthly) basis to ensure it is worth it but not only does it bring in £10k for local charities and organisations it also generates an income into our local region of £82k – all spent in the Devon community!

## Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the  
accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

### Report to the trustees

Charity Name

The Abbotskerswell Food and Beer Festival (Abbfest)

**On accounts for the year ended** 31 December 2024

**Charity no** 1171953  
**(if any)**

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's trustees, 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 all 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 in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

**Date:** 26 Nov 25

**Signed:**

X

Jonathan Purvey  
Management Accountant

**Name:** JONATHAN PURVEY ACMA

**Professional qualification:** Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

**Address:** 32 Sleights Drive, WISBECH, Cambridgeshire, PE14 7BT

### **Income and Expenditure from the 2024 Festival**

#### **Income**

Tickets	
Proms	£ 2,072.10
Friday	£ 3,539.02
Sat	£ 17,487.65
Sun	£ 1,223.73
Weekend	£ 2,305.85
Sponsorship	£ 13,200.00
Beer	£ 16,322.00
Post beer sales	£ 2,200.00
Cider	£ 12,158.00
Post cider sales	£ 135.00
wine sales	£ 6,292.33
Stall rental	£ 4,100.00
Raffle	£ 3,029.10
Donations	£ 133.04
Food stalls	£ 4,450.00
Glasses	£ 1,819.31
Bank Interest	£ 600.00
Dog fest	£ 953.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£ 92,020.13</b>

#### **Expenditure**

Beer	£ 11,034.69
Cider	£ 5,776.33
Wine	£ 3,147.84
Tickets	£ 21.00
Chefs Demo	£ 108.90
Advertising	£ 848.78
Facebook	£ 520.25
Misc	£ 159.61
Bands	£ 3,785.00
Sound system	£ 8,640.00
Sunday entertainment	£ 240.00
Buses	£ 4,785.00
Electric	£ 7,006.20
Security	£ 3,667.20
Insurance	£ 766.75
Finance costs	£ 178.80

Glasses	£ 2,241.00
Licence	£ 478.29
Marquee	£ 16,073.10
Ticket costs	£ 1,195.97
Medical	£ 1,146.70
Field	£ 1,655.00
Raffle	£ 212.00
Fencing	£ 1,131.92
loos	£ 4,344.00
signs	£ 264.00
Proms	£ 1,398.75
Stage	£ 530.00
Dogfest	£ 249.63
Beer tokens	£ 201.60
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 81,808.31</b>
 <b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	 <b>£ 10,211.82</b>
charity opener	£ 500.00
 Amount for distribution	 £ 9,711.82

Actual amount distributed £10,790 by year end

Assets as at 31 Dec 2024

CCLA Invest bank account. £13,757.06

COOP bank account. £12,953.58

Total Assets. £26,710.64



## **Risk Management**

The Abbfest Charity activities throughout the year are minimal, and are centred around planning meetings in the months leading up to the event. Abbfest has in place an annual insurance policy which covers all volunteers and Trustees activities including Employers (Volunteers) Liability, Public Liability, Legal cover and Director's and Officers Liability.

For the "build up" and "delivery" phase of the event itself, the Management Committee prepares a comprehensive Risk Assessment taking into account the range of activities being undertaken on site.

The Management Committee also prepares an Event Management Plan which includes all activities from "build up" to "break down" and covers Health and Safety, Security, Capacity, Medical and Fire cover, traffic management plans, site layout and licencing requirements. This document is submitted to the Teignbridge District Council Licencing Authority and distributed via them to the Teignbridge Safety Advisory Group which includes Police, Fire, Ambulance, Licencing, Environmental Health and Highways. The document and plans require approval from all of the agencies noted, thus far we have not received any queries or concerns about how the event is run and managed.

For the Festival itself Abbfest also has a specific Event Insurance policy in place to cover the build up, event and break down period. This again includes Employers (Volunteers) and Public Liability cover.

## **Grant making and Thank You payments**

Surplus generated by the Festival is distributed in the form of Grants and Thank You payments.

Thank You payments are made to those organisations that have provided volunteers to allow the event to be run effectively and safely. The Trustees operate a tiered system of payments to donate larger sums to those organisations that have provided the most help.

Grants are distributed to organisation who apply to the Trustees for payments. The Trustees do not make any Grant decisions based on whether an organisation has helped at the festival, each application is reviewed on its own merit. The main focus of grants is to support charities local to Abbotskerswell, although the Trustees do consider applications from wider afield.

In delivering a successful community event, The Abbotskerswell Food and Beer Festival supports not only local producers and artists but provides an important source of funding to many local charities and good causes, who may struggle to survive without the funds we distribute to them.