



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	1	2	2024	To	31	1	2025

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Hexham Abbey Festival of the Arts
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	1184685
Charity's principal address	Parish Centre
	Beaumont Street
	Hexham, Northumberland
Postcode	NE46 3NB

### 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	Charles Richard Snow	Trustee - Chair		
2	Martin John Hughes	Trustee		
3	Denis James McCaldin	Trustee		
4	Roy Dallison	Trustee		
5	Caroline Jane Watson	Trustee	Appointed 18/12/2024	
6	Ralph Frederick John Wrighton	Trustee	Appointed 18/12/2024	
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

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## Section B Structure, governance and management

**Description of the charity's trusts**

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Trust Deed
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CIO
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	By unanimous invitation from current trustees. Trustees are selected in order to maintain a skill set commensurate with delivering the aims and objectives of the charity.

**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.

The Charity has made a major change to its governance structure by delegating its powers to three committees: a Festival committee, a Chorus committee and a Finance committee, in accordance with section 14 of the Charity's governing document.

The Finance committee, consisting of the Chair of Trustees, the Honorary Treasurer (not a Trustee), and one other person, oversees the day-to-day management of the Charity's finances.

One of the events in the annual Festival includes a performance given by a number of singers known collectively as the Festival Chorus. All members of the Chorus are associate members of the Festival under the provisions of section 17 of the governing document. The Chorus committee is appointed by the associate members (ratified by the Trustees), and will also include a Trustee.

The Festival committee consists of all of the Trustees, with the addition of nominated individuals selected for their expertise in various areas. The Festival committee is responsible for the overall smooth running of the Festival.

These changes were agreed unanimously by the Trustees at their meeting of November 5<sup>th</sup> 2025

## Section C Objectives and activities

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

To encourage and promote amongst members of the public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the arts, primarily but not exclusively, music.

**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)**

A Festival consisting of six highly successful and largely well-attended concerts was held, providing the opportunity for the general public the experience a variety of musical forms.

The trustees have had regard to the guidance as set out in Charity Commission documents PB2 and PB3.

**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.

Volunteers are fundamental to the smooth running of the Festival. The volunteers who are also members of the Festival committee assist with such matters as publicity, handling of IT issues, and general support for the Artistic Directors of the Festival throughout the planning stages of the Festival.

During the Festival itself, many volunteers are recruited to provide front-of-house services (stewarding, programme selling, etc.), and also assistance with behind-the-scenes activities such as staging, lighting and sound services.

Since stewarding is a specialised activity, involving as it does, detailed knowledge of the venue, and the Health and Safety and Safeguarding policies of the venue, all of the stewards recruited for help at the Festival are also regular volunteer stewards at Hexham Abbey. The same applies on the rare occasions when Festival events take place in venues other than Hexham Abbey.

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

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

A successful Festival was held between September 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 2024, on the theme of "Ancient to Modern", related to the 1350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Hexham Abbey by St. Wilfrid in 674AD.

The Festival opened with Festal Choral Evensong, sung by the combined choirs of Hexham Abbey.

Some 200 children from 7 local schools participated in a Schools event, which included learning and performing a new work composed by local musician, Fiona Lander. This resulted in the production of '1350', a composition in words and music telling the story of the history of the Abbey from its earliest time, in a thoroughly contemporary way. The work was then performed at a free event in front of a large audience of families and friends.

Two concerts, one a jazz evening and another focussing on music from Latin America were held on the next two evenings, and a lunchtime concert was held to celebrate the first anniversary of the notorious felling of the sycamore tree on Hadrian's Wall. This concert included a new work "Lament for the Tree" for solo 'cello, and a poem by local poet Stan Beckensall on the same theme.

The contribution of the Festival Chorus consisted of a performance of Haydn's 'Creation', which seemed appropriate for the theme of the Festival. The Festival concluded with the traditional candlelight concert, this year given by the a *capella* group The Marian Consort.

Overall, audience numbers were perhaps a little disappointing, especially the Jazz evening, but the Classico Latino, Festival Chorus and candlelight concerts each attracted approximately 80% capacity.

## Section E

## Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

A minimum of £5000 is held to prepare for a successful, and possibly more adventurous, Festival in future years.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

N/A

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- 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.

The Charity's principal sources of income are donations, ticket sales and subscriptions from associate members. Gift Aid also provides a source of income based on associate members' subscriptions and other personal donations.  
The Charity does not invest.

## Section F

## Other optional information

## Section G

## Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Charles Richard Snow

Martin John Hughes

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Trustee – Chair

Date

14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Trustee



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name  
Hexham Abbey Festival of Music and Arts

No (if any)  
1184685

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

Period start date  
01/02/24

To

Period end date  
31/01/25

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	9,262	-	-	9,262	-
Closure of HAFC Account	2,273	-	-	2,273	-
Ticket Sales	12,229	-	-	12,229	-
Bar Receipts	881	-	-	881	-
Fundraising	3,441	-	-	3,441	-
Membership subscriptions	4,260	-	-	4,260	-
Gift aid reclaimed	1,749	-	-	1,749	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>34,095</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34,095</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>34,095</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34,095</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Artists' Fees	22,864	-	-	22,864	-
Advertising and Promotion	1,507	-	-	1,507	-
Venue Hire	4,249	-	-	4,249	-
Technical Equipment	820	-	-	820	-
Concert Day Expenses	68	-	-	68	-
Sundries	538	-	-	538	-
Donation – Tynedale Hospice at Home	241	-	-	241	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>30,287</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,287</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>30,287</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,287</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>3,808</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,808</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>9,380</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,380</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>13,188</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,188</b>	<b>-</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash at Bank	13,188	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	13,188	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



HEXHAM ABBEY FESTIVAL OF ARTS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Donations	9,262	7,475
Hexham Abbey Festival Chorus	2,273	3,000
Ticket Sales	12,229	10,323
Bar Receipts	881	1,801
Fund Raising	3,441	
Subscriptions	4,260	
Gift Aid Tax Repayment	1,749	
	<u>£ 34,095</u>	<u>£ 22,599</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Orchestra	3,585	2,455
Musical Director and Repetiteur	2,486	2,615
Soloists/Individual Performers	2,693	3,100
Musical Groups and Agents	14,100	8,308
Publicity	1,507	1,667
Concert Day Expenses	68	65
AV Hire	820	450
Hexham Abbey Hire	4,249	3,625
PRS	--	138
Donation - Tynedale Hospice at Home	241	--
Sundries	538	153
	<u>£ 30,287</u>	<u>£ 22,576</u>
<u>SURPLUS</u>	3,808	23
<u>ACCUMULATED FUND AS AT 31 JANUARY 2024</u>	<u>9,380</u>	<u>9,357</u>
<u>ACCUMULATED FUND AS AT 31 JANUARY 2025</u>	<u>£ 13,188</u>	<u>£ 9,380</u>
<u>REPRESENTED BY</u>		
Bank Current Account	<u>£ 13,188</u>	<u>£ 9,380</u>

I have examined the above accounts and confirm that  
they agree with the records of the Charity.

*David L. Kilner*

David L Kilner  
Chartered Accountant  
16 May 2025