



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 October 2022 To

30 September 2023

Charity name: Chester Folk Festival

Charity registration number: 1192704

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To advance public education in, and appreciation of British and Multicultural Folk Arts (including traditional and contemporary folk music, dance, crafts and spoken word such as poetry and storytelling) in Chester and surrounding area through the staging of an annual folk festival and the provision of a range of participatory workshops, activities and other events throughout the year.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	After the success of our first 'post-lockdown' event in November of 2022, we decided to run an annual 'showcase' event highlighting emerging young talent. Again, this was held in November at All Saints Church in Hoole, Chester and was very well supported. When planning the 2023 February Folk Day, the facilities at All Saints provided us with more space and options. We decided to take advantage of these and move the event there. Again, the day attracted a wide audience of both local and travelling supporters. The event made a profit which boosted our operational funds. The 2023 Main Festival was again held at Kelsall Green and was very well supported and welcomed by residents, supporters and paying ticket holders. We ran many 'free' events during the festival which benefitted local residents and their children. In July 2022 we obtained funding from another Charity, The Earl of Chesters Benevolent Fund, specifically to help us run a series of free workshops for musicians and singers in the Chester and surrounding area. These commenced in January of 2023 and ran

		through to May. The workshops culminated in a performance at the Festival by the young participants. The Trustees believe that our charity continues to fulfil its obligations set out in its governing document. We are run entirely by volunteers. The events we put on totally depend on large numbers of people giving up their time and expertise to set up and run our events as well as clear away afterwards. We believe that we bring entertainment and awareness of the Folk Arts to the public, both locally resident and further abroad.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	All trustees have read and have appropriate regard to the relevant guidance.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	Autumn Evening Concert held at All Saints Church, Hoole November 2022 February Folk Day held at All Saints Church Hoole February 2023 Main Folk Festival held at Kelsall Green Kelsall in May 2023 Funding secured to run a series of free music workshops for young people at Storyhouse from January to May 2023.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Overall, the charity made a small surplus in the year of £828 (2022: £4,300 deficit) reflecting a return to more in person live events post pandemic. The charity continues to work to slowly increase reserves whilst ensuring that our events are affordable and accessible to as many people as possible.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The charity aims to maintain a healthy reserve to support its objectives and be able to fund investment in future activities. Overall, the Charity aims to maintain reserves in excess of £2,000.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	As at 30 September 2023 our reserves were £4,405 (2022: £3,577)
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed , royal charter)	Para 1.25	Association Model Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association , CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Nominated by original members and thereafter elected / re-elected at the AGM in accordance with the constitution

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Chester Folk Festival
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1192704
Charity's principal address	21 Dee Fords Avenue Chester CH3 5UP

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	Elizabeth Armstrong	Chair		
2	Cheryl Hunt	Treasurer		
3	Paul Thompson			
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

--

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

--

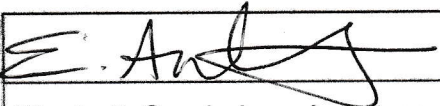
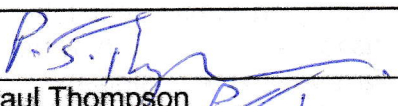
Other optional information

--

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Elizabeth Sarah Jane Armstrong	Paul Thompson
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Trustee

Date 23/7/2024



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/10/2022		30/09/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Sales - Tickets, programmes, bar and catering	43,322	-	-	43,322	32,813
Council funding, grants & donations	5,871	-	-	5,871	3,192
Programme adverts & stall concessions	1,530	-	-	1,530	1,073
Merchandise sales	1,228	-	-	1,228	1,326
Interest	8	-	-	8	1
Roundings	-	-	-	-	1
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	51,959	-	-	51,959	38,406
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	51,959	-	-	51,959	38,406
A3 Payments					
Performers fees & accomodation costs	17,240	-	-	17,240	13,587
Catering & bar costs	1,599	-	-	1,599	1,061
Printing, stationery, postage & other consumables	1,002	-	-	1,002	1,972
Security & first aid cover	5,986	-	-	5,986	4,387
Transport costs	1,500	-	-	1,500	1,050
Publicity costs	640	-	-	640	558
Fees & licences (inc. PRS)	1,749	-	-	1,749	1,355
Venue & equipment hire (inc. waste disposal)	14,096	-	-	14,096	11,788
Public Announcement System and Sound Engineers	3,930	-	-	3,930	2,500
Website hosting, online platform fees & computer equipment	100	-	-	100	460
Insurance, conferences & subscriptions	1,156	-	-	1,156	1,044
Merchandise costs	1,198	-	-	1,198	852
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Roundings	1	-	-	1	-
Sub total	50,197	-	-	50,197	40,614
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Fixtures, fittings & equipment purchases	934	-	-	934	2,092
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	934	-	-	934	2,092
Total payments	51,131	-	-	51,131	42,706
Net of receipts/(payments)	828	-	-	828	- 4,300
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	3,577	-	-	3,577	7,877
Cash funds this year end	4,405	-	-	4,405	3,577

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

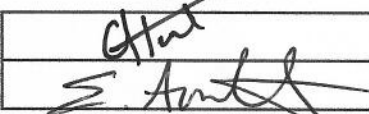
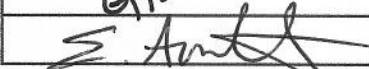
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Treasurers Account	2,778	-	-
	Deposit Account	908	-	-
	Paypal & Cash	719	-	-
	Total cash funds	4,405	-	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))				
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets				
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use				
	Stage & chairs	Unrestricted		
	Lighting equipment	Unrestricted		
	Computer equipment (Laptop, NAS Drive, Electronic payment card reader)	Unrestricted		
	Miscellaneous small chattels (e.g. signage, leaflet display, etc)	Unrestricted		
B5 Liabilities				

Section C Notes

C1 Notes

The Charity received notice of it's registration on 8th December 2020, as such there are no prior period accounts figures provided above. For the purpose of simplicity and future comparability the accounts have been prepared for the year ended 30 September 2021 rather than the period from 8th December 2020 to 30 September 2021.

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Cheryl Hunt	23/7/24
	Elizabeth Armstrong	23/7/24

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the 'Chester Folk Festival' CIO

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the 'Chester Folk Festival' CIO (the Festival) for the year ended 30 September 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Festival 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 Festival'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.

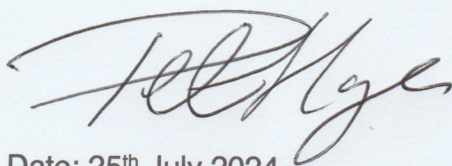
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Festival as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed by the Independent Examiner:



Date: 25th July 2024

Name and address of the Independent Examiner:

Peter Hayes FCCA
4 Southgate
Chorltonville
Manchester
M21 8EA