



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 October 2023 To 30 September 2024

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 2021, we decided to make it an annual event. This was held again in November 2023 at All Saints Church in Hoole, Chester. It was very well supported and included two young performers and a more seasoned veteran. When planning the 2023 February Folk Day, it was decided that the facilities at All Saints had provided us with more space and options. We decided to take advantage of these and moved the event there for that Folk Day and the subsequent Folk Day in 2024. Again, the day attracted a wide audience of both local and travelling supporters. The event made a profit which boosted our operational funds. The 2024 Main Festival, as usual was 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 2023, we obtained further funding from the Earl of Chesters Benevolent Fund, to enable us to again run a series of free workshops for musicians and singers in the Chester and surrounding area. These commenced in November 2023 and ran through to May 2024’. 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	The Charity would cease to function without the many volunteers who give up their time and expertise to help run our events and perform administrative duties. The trustees acknowledge this and take the opportunity to thank them for all their help.
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 2023 February Folk Day held at All Saints Church Hoole February 2024 Main Folk Festival held at Kelsall Green Kelsall in May 2024 Funding secured to run a series of free music workshops for young people in Chester from November 2023 to May 2024.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	We believe that we have met all the objectives we set out to achieve, namely, • Trilogy of Folk concert • February Folk Day • Annual 4-day Folk Festival • Funding of free workshops for young folk musicians
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 £940 (2023: £828) 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 of the 30 September 2024 our reserves were £5,345 (2023: £4,405)
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	Monies raised by ticket sales and sales of merchandise at our events
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	All year	
2	Cheryl Hunt	Treasurer	All year	
3	Paul Thompson		All year	
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	N/A
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
-----------------	------	---------

N/A		

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

--

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

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	29/07/2025
------	------------



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/10/2023	To	Period end date 30/09/2024
------------------------	---------------------------------	----	-------------------------------

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	45,304	-	-	45,304	43,322
Council funding, grants & donations	4,773	-	-	4,773	5,871
Programme adverts & stall concessions	1,988	-	-	1,988	1,530
Merchandise sales	1,245	-	-	1,245	1,228
Interest	11	-	-	11	8
Roundings	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	53,321	-	-	53,321	51,959
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	53,321	-	-	53,321	51,959
A3 Payments					
Performers fees & accomodation costs	18,761	-	-	18,761	17,240
Catering & bar costs	988	-	-	988	1,599
Printing, stationery, postage & other consumables	1,656	-	-	1,656	1,002
Security & first aid cover	5,790	-	-	5,790	5,986
Transport costs	1,824	-	-	1,824	1,500
Publicity costs	433	-	-	433	640
Fees & licences (inc. PRS)	1,264	-	-	1,264	1,749
Venue & equipment hire (inc. waste disposal)	15,107	-	-	15,107	14,096
Public Announcement System and Sound Engineers	4,190	-	-	4,190	3,930
Website hosting, online platform fees & computer equipment	100	-	-	100	100
Insurance, conferences & subscriptions	1,321	-	-	1,321	1,156
Merchandise costs	342	-	-	342	1,198
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Roundings	1	-	-	1	1
Sub total	51,777	-	-	51,777	50,197
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Fixtures, fittings & equipment purchases	604	-	-	604	934
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	604	-	-	604	934
Total payments	52,381	-	-	52,381	51,131
Net of receipts/(payments)	940	-	-	940	828
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	4,405	-	-	4,405	3,577
Cash funds this year end	5,345	-	-	5,345	4,405

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	2,851	-	-
	Deposit Account	919	-	-
	Paypal & Cash	1,575	-	-
	Total cash funds	5,345	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	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	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Section C Notes

C1 Notes

The Charity received notice of its 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	29/07/2025
	Elizabeth Armstrong	29/07/2025



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Chester Folk Festival

On accounts for the year
ended

30 September 2024

Charity no 1192704

Set out on pages

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/ 09/ 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.

Signed:

Date: 23 July 2025

Name:

James Ian Jones

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body:

Associate Chartered Management Accountant

Address:

26 Eccleston Avenue
Chester CH4 7EX

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Not applicable