



Inspiring music in the heart of West Somerset

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

02.09.23 – 01.09.24

The Board of Trustees has pleasure in presenting their annual report and financial statements for the period ended 1 September 2024.

Reference & Administration Details

Charity name	Dunster Festival
Registered charity number	1193491
Date of registration	February 11 2021
Principal address	Dunster Festival 25 Sherrards Way London EN5 2BW
Trustees	Brigadier David Hugh Godsall MBE DL (Chair) Jessica Margaret Griffith Prendergrast Stephen Charles Rayner Clayton Alastair Bruce McIntosh Sarah Gordon
Artistic Directors	Rachel Wick Rory McCleery
Bankers	NatWest Bank 9 The Parade Minehead TA24 5NL

Structure, Governance & Management

Type of governing document Constitution

How the charity is constituted CIO

New trustees are appointed by the existing charity trustees by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the board.

Objectives & Activities

The objects as stated in its governing document, and for which the charity was established, are:

The advancement of the arts and culture, and the education of the public in the art of music, in particular but not limited to chamber music, for the public benefit by:

- a) The presentation of concerts and other musical activities, chiefly as part of an annual festival in West Somerset; and
- b) Training and coaching for those from all demographics and age groups (particularly but not exclusively for young people)

The Trustees are aware of the Public Benefit provisions of the Charities Act 2011 and of the guidance on them published by the Charity Commission. They are satisfied that the objects and the activities of the Charity are within the definitions of Charitable Purposes as set down in the Act, and in making decisions pertaining to this activity and when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant they have had due regard to both.

Dunster Festival carries out its purpose to advance the arts and education for the public benefit by:

- a) organising an annual festival of high quality concerts and performances, including repertoire which otherwise would not be performed widely, which this year took place between May 27 and 28 2023.
- b) working with young people in schools, the elderly in care homes and those with special educational needs in day centres, and amateur musicians from a variety of walks of life, introducing them to new repertoire and enabling them to enjoy music and develop and improve their musical skills.

Achievements & Performance

Across our 2024 community & outreach work we were able to provide two days of choral workshops at Minehead and Danesfield Middle schools, engaging Year 5 students and introducing them to the sound world and expressive possibilities of a cappella vocal music in sessions led by acclaimed vocal ensemble The Marian Consort. Students were encouraged to think about how they can express themselves musically using their own voices through various warm-ups, singing games and songs. These workshops were followed up with four subsequent days of coaching sessions led by experienced choral animateur specialists, in which students learnt their parts in class groups for performances of two contemporary choral works, specially devised for their age group, with a focus on the natural world and our impact on it.

These were then performed in two final performances (one at each school) involving more than 300 students singing alongside professional musicians (as well as several hundred more as audience).

As has been experienced previously, implementing projects of this nature is always challenging and relies to an extent on the goodwill of individuals in our partner organisations, as the environment within these partner organisations (schools and carehomes) is one where staff have many demands on their time and energy, and where they are often overstretched and under-resourced.

This was particularly true this year, with significant difficulties liaising with our schools partners, due to changes of personnel and staff shortages (although we were not directly affected by them, we were acutely aware that staff shortages at both senior management and class teaching levels led to unplanned short notice closure of schools), but the feedback from both staff and students was hugely positive, and is excerpted below:

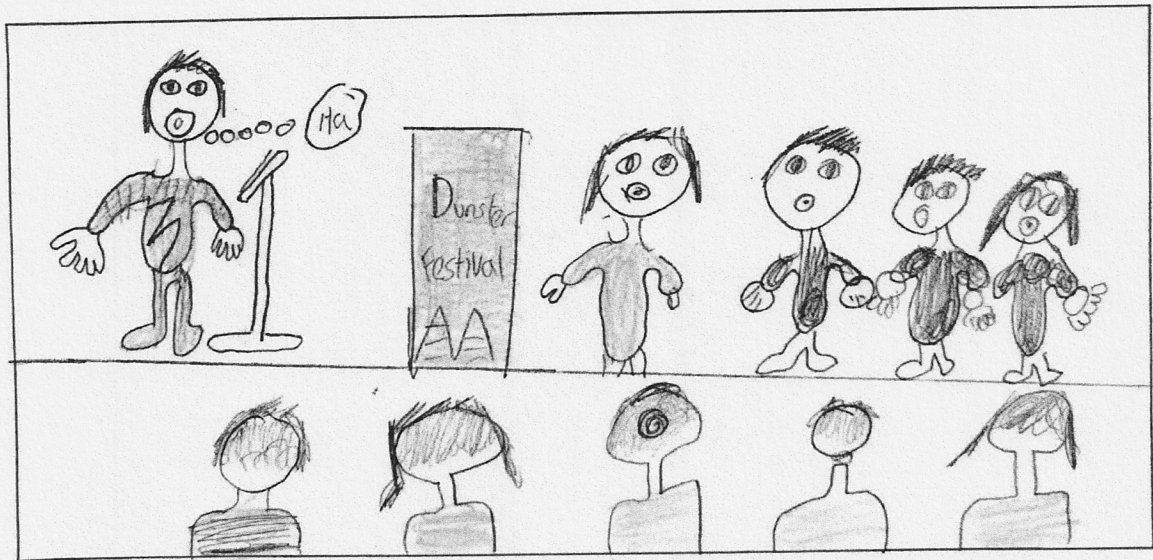
"Working with Dunster Festival is always such a pleasure for me and the children. It's wonderful to be able to immerse ourselves in experiences and music that the children would otherwise rarely encounter, and the final performances are always utterly magical. The themes and ideas that underpin the workshops feel relevant and engaging and are communicated brilliantly to the children." Y5 Class teacher, Danesfield

"Just amazing, thank you! More of it please, and more time/a longer project next time – it's been brilliant" Y5 Class teacher, Minehead Middle

"I liked the music because it was very magical and pretty, and I can't believe how beautifully you can sing" Janka

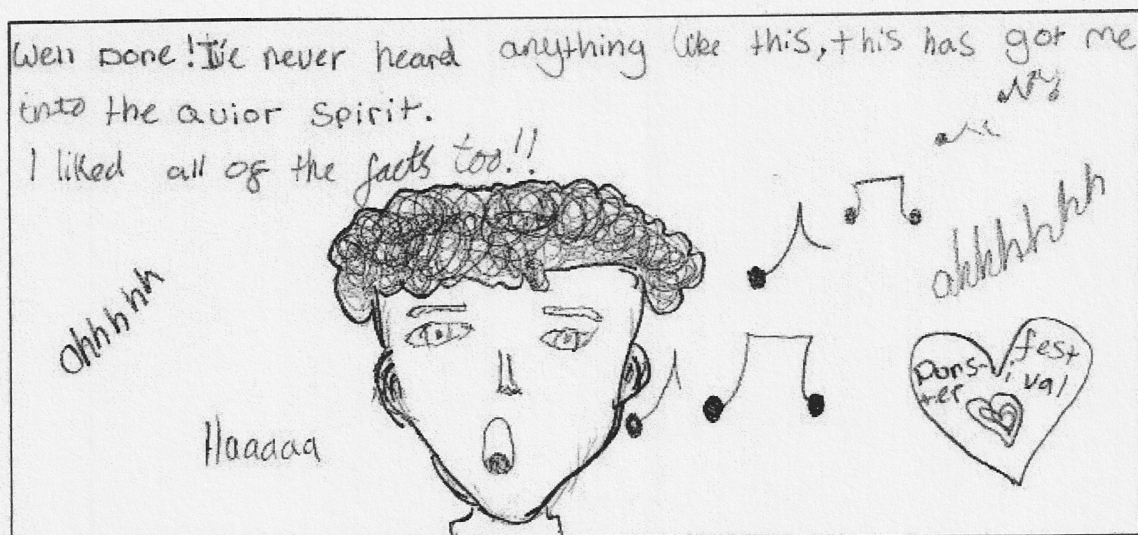
"My favourite thing was playing guess the animal and season and all the music because I found it interesting!" Nayah

"We learnt how to sing and the different tones of singing and how to work as a group" Jonah



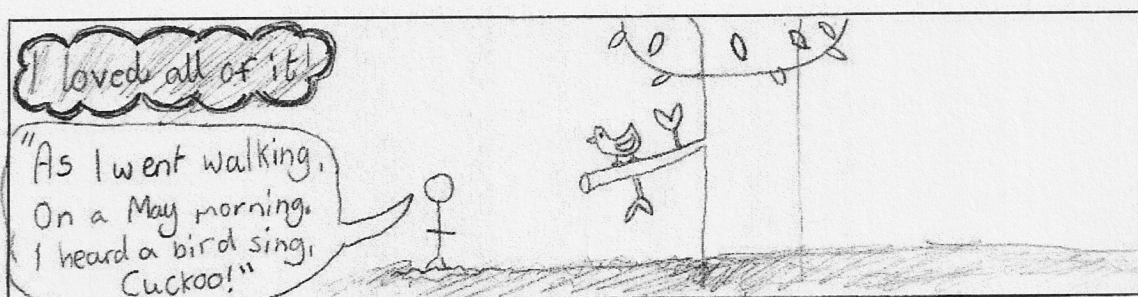
"My favourite thing about the workshop is the new song we learnt, which was really fun to sing" Isabella

"I learnt that singers sing in different languages, not just English" Jessica



"My favourite part was the new song that we learnt, which was very calming. I learnt that you need to warm up your voice" Alfie

"I did learn that I could sing and I learnt what different noises there could be like deep and high sounds and small and big sounds" Oliver



We also were able to organise performances by Festival musicians in three care homes in Minehead, engaging approximately 80 residents, staff and relatives. Our visit to Dunster Care Lodge made a significant impact on resident Eric, who engaged the musicians in several long conversations about the music and composers, revealing a considerable knowledge and interest which surprised the staff. Again, feedback was hugely encouraging.

Our live festival from May 24 to 26 2024 comprised 7 events which took place both in Dunster (St George's Church and the historic Tithe Barn) and in Watchet, the latter hosted by our partner organisation East Quay, a collaboration which has proven successful in building audiences and reaching more of our local community with high-quality live music.



Stevens & Pound interactive family performance at East Quay, Watchet

Artists featured included Scottish female string duo Sequoia, percussionist Delia Stevens and three time BBC Radio 2 Folk Musician of the Year nominee Will Pound, vocal ensemble The Marian Consort and harpsichordist Stephen Farr, performing a diverse range of styles and repertoire spanning eight centuries. One highlight was the choral workshop event, which has again proven to be a popular format – this allowed local singers (and some who had travelled significant distances, speaking to the Festival's growing reputation) to work with our Artistic Co-Director and choral music expert Rory McCleery in a friendly and relaxed environment.

Feedback from audiences was extremely positive, with numbers up slightly from 2023, and our artists were very appreciative of the opportunity to experience what it is that makes Dunster Festival so unique.

Sample Audience feedback:

"Favourite thing is the very varied programme – difficult to choose a highlight. Just keep it coming!"

"It's just great to have top class music a cycle ride away. We are so lucky"

"I'm so glad that you do all this in our local area. Well done and THANK YOU"

"Such a joy to hear such quality out in the wilds – well worth the annual drive from Ilfracombe!"

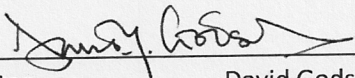
Financial Review

Dunster Festival is endeavouring, despite the difficult present financial conditions, to build up reserves, with a reserves-building strategy under regular review. Our reserves at year end were £17,100.00.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



Trustee David Godsal, Chair

29.04.25



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
Dunster Festival

On accounts for the year ended

01.09.2024

Charity no
(if any)

1193491

Set out on pages

1-2 attached

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 01/09/2024.

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:

Philip Barker

Date:

22/05/2025

Name:

Philip Barker

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

ICAEW (retired)

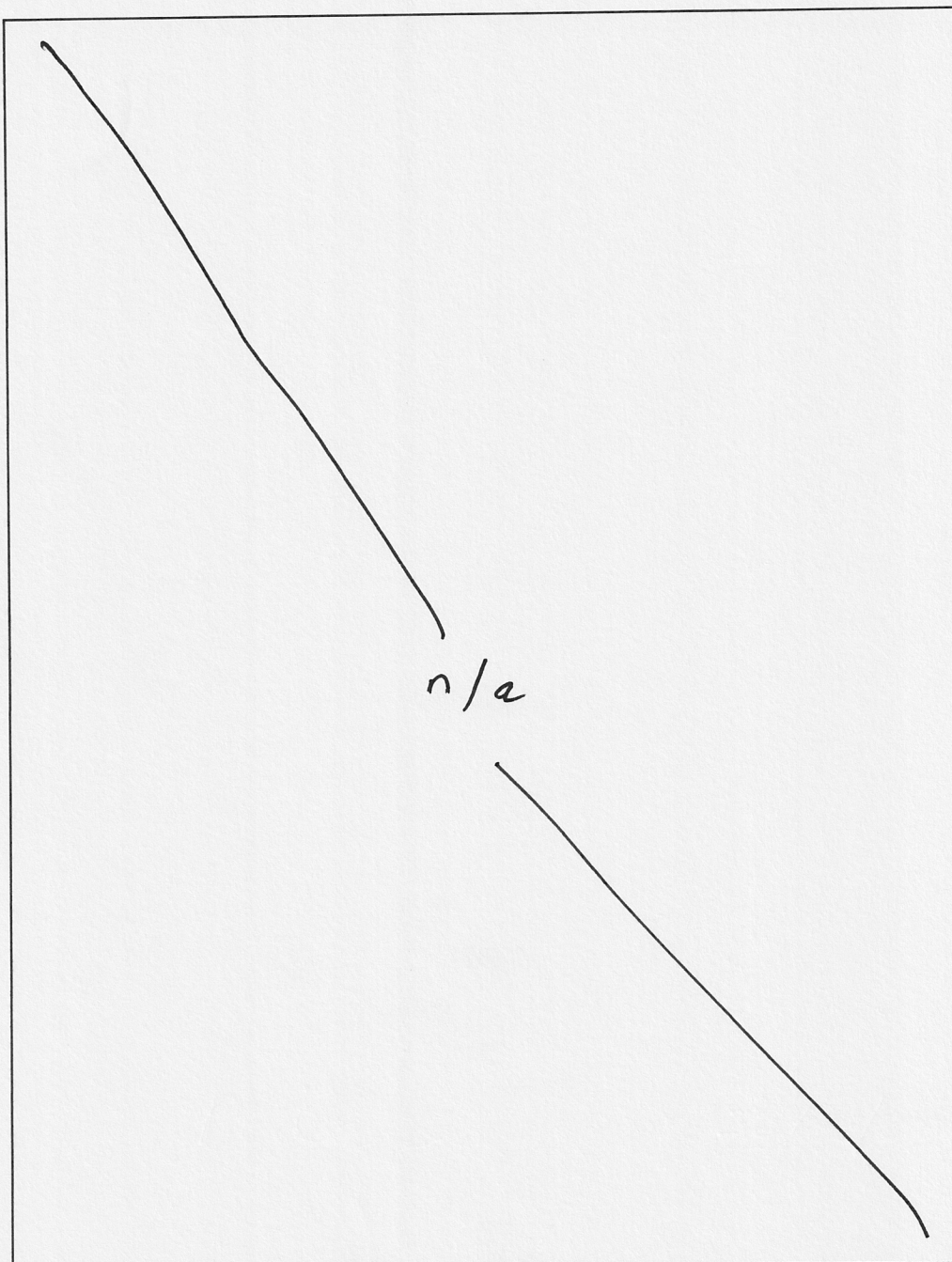
Address:

Stable Cottage, Triscombe, TA43HG

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.



n/a



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Dunster Festival

1193491

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

02.09.2023

To

01.09.2024

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					
Donations, legacies and grants	12,600	4,000	-	16,600	36,925
Live and Digital ticket sales	6,133	-	-	6,133	4,895
Partner Income	600	-	-	600	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	19,333	4,000	-	23,333	41,820
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	19,333	4,000	-	23,333	41,820
A3 Payments					
Website, software costs	947	-	-	947	941
Printing, postage & stationery	513	-	-	513	487
Insurance	178	-	-	178	207
Artist Costs	12,958	4,000	-	16,958	22,959
Event Costs	2,855	-	-	2,855	1,791
Advertising	-	-	-	-	165
Freelance staffing costs	-	-	-	-	4,430
Photography	783	-	-	783	605
Other	-	-	-	-	100
Sub total	18,234	4,000	-	22,234	31,685
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	18,234	4,000	-	22,234	31,685
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,099	-	-	1,099	10,135
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	16,001	-	-	16,001	5,866
Cash funds this year end	17,100	-	-	17,100	16,001

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	Cash held on 1.09.24	17,100	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	17,100	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

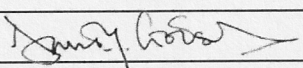
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
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 liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	David Godsal	29.04.25