



WHIDDON AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Charity No: 1195063

ANNUAL REPORT

Trustees' Annual Report (incl. Chairman's Report)

Statement of Income & Expenditure

Balance Sheet

Independent Examiner's Report

2022

Trustees' Annual Report for the Period 1st May 2021 to 31st December 2022

Charity Name: Whiddon Autumn Festival

Registered Charity No: 1195063

Principal Address: 56 The Square, Chagford, Devon TQ13 8AE

Trustees: John Crowley (Chairman)
Neil Loden
Alison Routh
Freddie Crowley (Festival & Artistic Director)
Michael Ball

Apart from the initial Trustees, every Trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the Trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as a Trustee, the Trustees will have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the Charity.

Independent Examiner: Michael Knight

Chairman's Report:

This first Annual Report of the Whiddon Autumn Festival reports on the charity's partial first year of 2021 and the complete year of 2022. This period covers the inaugural Festival in September 2021 and the second Festival in September 2022.

The uncertainties of the Covid pandemic delayed pushing the button on Freddie Crowley's project for the Whiddon Autumn Festival ("WAF") until late April 2021. In the event, in time for the inaugural Festival on 10th-12th September 2021, a great deal of ground was covered:

- A diverse group of Trustees, with wide experience of business, the professions and professional music-making, was recruited;
- A successful application was made to the Charity Commission to establish WAF as a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation;
- A wonderfully generous and supportive group of 'Founder Patrons' provided initial funding to enable WAF to launch an attractive website and to provide a valuable financial cushion;
- With help from the Festival Manager, Katalin Oldland, some successful applications to grant-making bodies provided a solid foundation of revenue funding, either generally or for specific aspects of the Festival. A good degree of support from local businesses was also obtained, either by way of sponsorship or by taking advertisements in the Festival Programme. Most of these grant-making bodies and

businesses continued their support in 2022, as well as some new ones, including most encouragingly Arts Council England;

- Freddie Crowley, as WAF's Festival & Artistic Director, assembled an exciting programme of concerts and events for the inaugural Festival in 2021, which took place in the Chagford area, in Chagford Parish Church as well as the parish churches of Throwleigh, Drewsteignton and Gidleigh, together with an outreach session in Chagford Primary School. In 2022 the further venue of Moretonhampstead church was added, as well as a very successful Jazz Night in the Jubilee Hall in Chagford.

The 2021 Festival was a great success artistically and administratively, while in financial terms it made a small loss – unsurprisingly, given the short time frame to get everything off the ground and to spread the word among target audiences. However, the generous support of the Founder Patrons means that the WAF entered 2022 with at least something of a financial cushion to take forward to the next Festival.

In 2022, a slightly enlarged Festival continued WAF's artistic success, based on a very sound and efficient administrative platform. This time, the Festival returned a small profit, with strong attendances exceeding expectations for most of the events.

More details of WAF 2021 and 2022 are available in the Festival Archive section of the WAF website at <https://www.whiddonautumnfestival.co.uk/2021-festival-archive>.

Plans for WAF 2023 are well under way, with the Festival expanded to an extra, fifth, day. The 'Friends of WAF' scheme is gradually attracting new members. The longer lead times in 2022 gave a better opportunity for a proper marketing campaign, which helped to grow the audiences for the 2022 Festival, furthering the intended public benefits and helping to establish WAF as a regular feature of the Devon cultural scene. With WAF's further growth in 2023, the intention is to establish the Festival for the foreseeable future as an annual five day event in September.

Charity's status:

The Charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation under a CIO Foundation Model Constitution approved and adopted by the Trustees on 10th May 2021.

The Constitution was adopted by the above four first-named Trustees as 'First Trustees' at a Meeting of the Trustees held on 10th May 2021. At the instigation of the Charity Commission, and with the agreement of all five of the Trustees, it was subsequently amended on 5th July 2021 to include Michael Ball as a First Trustee

The Charity's organisational structure:

WAF's activities are organised and managed by the Festival Director, who is also the Artistic Director and a Trustee. Following the 2022 Festival, a small team was appointed to assist the Festival Director with roles including Administration, Fundraising, Publicity and Learning & Engagement. Also, a team of volunteers (recruited by the Festival Director) provide accommodation, transport, concert and venue administration, etc, during the period of the

Festival. The Trustees are entirely voluntary and provide high level management and oversight to ensure good management and governance practice, in support of the Festival Director. The Trustees also provide assistance, as required, in the smooth running of the Festival.

Trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them:

The Trustees maintain a Risk Management Schedule, which (a) covers all aspects of the charity's activities (b) identifies and quantifies the risks facing WAF and (c) the measures taken to eliminate or mitigate those risks. The Trustees review the Risk Management Schedule regularly, and at least annually, and are satisfied that all reasonable measures are being taken to reduce risks to an acceptable level.

Objects of the charity as set out in its governing document:

To promote the appreciation, enjoyment, participation and understanding of music and the arts for the public benefit, through the provision of musical events and educational activities, particularly but not exclusively in central Devon as part of an annual Arts Festival and at other times of the year.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects:

WAF has four core aims:

- to present world-class live music in a part of the country that so infrequently sees professional classical music performances.
- to provide a platform for young musicians in the early stages of their professional careers, particularly at this very difficult time for freelance artists.
- to deliver education workshops for local children, encouraging enjoyment & participation in music from an early age, and promoting values of teamwork & collectivity through group singing.
- to engage and involve the community by holding participatory events which offer local residents the opportunity to join with our professional artists in a collective performance.

The main activities to achieve these aims are the concerts and other events forming the Whiddon Autumn Festival, held each September in and around the small town of Chagford on the north-east edge of Dartmoor in central Devon.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during its first two years:

WAF is inspired by the success of concerts given by the Corvus Consort (formerly the New Oxford Consort) to a packed Chagford Church in September 2018 and 2019. These events

showed a great enthusiasm in the local community for this type of musical performance and laid the foundation for a larger Festival to take shape.

2021 saw an initial three-day Festival from Friday 10th to Sunday 12th September, with four concerts (including concerts with the Corvus Consort, a string quartet, solo voices, and a 'Come-&-Sing' community participation event), two church choral services and an outreach session in Chagford Primary School, with the participating children performing in the first concert in the Festival.

The second Festival in September 2022 expanded to nine events, once again involving the Corvus Consort, the Festival String Quartet, a soloists recital (of English song) and a Come-&-Sing session before a concert which included the Come-&-Singers and the Chagford School children who earlier had enjoyed musical workshops, all coming together in a piece specially written for the combined forces by the Composer-in-residence Anna Semple. This year also saw new events, such as an informal coffee morning and a very successful jazz evening in Chagford's Jubilee Hall

The intention in 2023 is further to expand the Festival, to include an extra day of events. In addition, over the next few years, the ambition is to involve more of the local parish communities and to embrace a wider variety of musical genres and styles, as well as to use a variety of venues in addition to the parish churches, with the aim of WAF becoming a cornerstone of Devon's cultural calendar.

Brief Statement of the charity's policy on reserves:

The Charity principal activity is concentrated on the annual Whiddon Autumn Festival, so the aim is for each year's Festival to at least break even, but ideally to make a small profit so as to build up a solid financial reserve to ensure its continuing success.

The first Festival made a small loss, but this was offset by one-off donations from 'Founder Patrons', which established 'seed-funding' to enable the Festival to commission a website and to provide a financial buffer should expenditure on the initial Festival not be covered by income. This proved to be the case and the donations from the Founder Patrons enabled WAF to enter 2022 with a small reserve.

The 2022 Festival exceeded its budget in terms of attendances and produced a small surplus. This meant that WAF's reserves, while still modest, continue to grow.

The Trustees' aim is to continue to budget for the annual Festival to make a surplus so that the Charity's reserves can grow and achieve the longer-term aim for the Charity to maintain financial reserves of approximately 50% of the previous year's total expenditure.

Public Benefit:

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in planning all WAF's events. The Trustees consider that they have satisfied the criteria of 'public benefit' in the following ways:

- The Festival benefits the communities in the Chagford area, as well as the wider region, by the provision of musical performance and learning & engagement programmes by high quality professional artists in an area that normally sees little of either.
- Members of the community have the opportunity to perform alongside the Festival's professional artists in a collaborative performance. Also, the learning & engagement programmes bring the experience of classical music and its live performance to local schoolchildren, including the opportunity for public performance as part of the Festival.
- The Festival places high importance on the encouragement of attendance at, and where possible participation in, the Festival from people from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds. The ticket pricing for the Festival's events, and especially the provision of free access for children and young people, ensures that they and their families, as well as those on lower incomes, have a reasonable opportunity of attending concerts and events in the Festival.

Payments to Trustees:

WAF's Founder, Festival Director and Artistic Director is Freddie Crowley, who is also a Trustee. This presents potential conflicts, especially with regard to his remuneration, for him and for John Crowley, who is a connected person as his father and is also a Trustee and Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

The intention is for Freddie Crowley to be retained on a rolling annual contract for services in his position as Festival & Artistic Director. The performance of the Festival & Artistic Director is reviewed annually by the Trustees. Any discussion and decision about the retention and, if so, future remuneration for the Festival & Artistic Director is made solely by the independent Trustees, with no input from the Festival & Artistic Director (should he/she remain a Trustee and whether or not in future that position is held by Freddie Crowley) nor from any connected person of the Festival & Artistic Director among the Trustees.

In 2021, Freddie Crowley received the following remuneration from the Charity:

Festival & Artistic Director's fee:	£1,000
Performer's fees:	£880

In 2022, Freddie Crowley received the following remuneration from the Charity:

Festival & Artistic Director's fee:	£3,255
Performer's fees:	£740

In setting and agreeing these fees, the Trustees are satisfied that they are in line with the normal rates in the sector and for comparable events.

DECLARATION

The Trustees declare that, by way of a virtual meeting held on 5th April 2023, they approved the Trustees' Annual Report above, that they accepted and acknowledged the Independent Examiner's Report below and that they authorised the signature of the Report on the Trustees' behalf by the following two Trustees:



.....
John Crowley
Chairman & Trustee



.....
Michael Ball
Trustee

Whiddon Autumn Festival

Receipts & Payments Accounts for the Period 1st May 2021 to 31st December 2022

RECEIPTS		
Ticket Sales	12,394	
Programme donations	718	
Other donations	2,252	
Gift Aid	1,413	
Founder Patrons Donations	6,800	
Friends Subs	1,050	
Grants etc	23,090	
Sponsorships	2,550	
Programme Adverts	1,200	
Corvus Composer-in-Residence sponsorship	850	
Miscellaneous	119	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		52,435
PAYMENTS		
Artists Fees	23,885	
Venue Hire	1,490	
IT, website, etc	6,203	
Publicity, Marketing, etc	3,353	
Travel	894	
Catering etc	2,513	
General Admin	8,387	
TOTAL PAYMENTS		46,725
Cash Funds at Year End		5,710

NOTES

1. All receipts are in unrestricted funds
2. All figures rounded to the nearest £

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2022

Cash Funds	5,710	
Liabilities	0	
Net Assets		5,710

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Whiddon Autumn Festival

I report on the accounts of the company for the period 1st May 2021 to 31st December 2022, which are set out above on page 8 and which are consistent with the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner:

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the Charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report:

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the Report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement:

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and comply with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  _____

Michael Knight MA, ACA
The Green, New Street, Chulmleigh, Devon, EX18 7DA

Date: 3rd April 2023