

WHIDDON AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Charity No: 1195063

ANNUAL REPORT

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

Statement of Income & Expenditure

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Independent Examiner's Report

2023

Trustees' Annual Report for the Period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

Charity Name: Whiddon Autumn Festival

Registered Charity No: 1195063

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

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

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 second Annual Report of the Whiddon Autumn Festival reports on the charity's year of 2023 and covering the third Festival in September 2023.

Following the success of the first two Festivals, the third Whiddon Autumn Festival ("WAF") was expanded to cover 13 events over 5 days. As usual, new venues were explored beyond the main parish churches, such as Chagford's wonderful bookshop and the gloriously-sited and remote Methodist chapel at Providence.

Once again, Corvus Consort returned as Ensemble-in-Residence under their director Freddie Crowley, WAF's Festival and Artistic Director. Harpist Louise Thomson appeared as special guest artist, featuring in five of the Festival's events, while the Festival String Quartet again appeared in several events throughout the Festival. The 2023 Composer-in-Residence was award-winning music creator Nathan James Dearden, whose newly-commissioned works were premiered at the festival by Corvus Consort, the Festival String Quartet and the WAF Children's Choir.

An expanded 'learning and engagement' programme in the lead up to the Festival prepared a larger-than-ever group of schoolchildren for the exciting experience of performing alongside professional musicians in a piece specially-created by Nathan James Deardon.

The 'Come-&-Sing' day brought together 27 local amateur singers for a day of improvised music-making and rehearsal, culminating in a performance alongside Corvus Consort in the Festival's final concert – 'Bach – Then & Now'.

More details, as well as a gallery of photos of the individual events of the 2023 Festival, can be found in the Archive section of the Whiddon Autumn Festival website.

WAF remains ever-grateful to all its Supporters: the grant-making organisations and local sponsors who helped to fund WAF 2023; the WAF Friends and Patrons whose support makes the Festival possible; the hosts who accommodated our musicians; our trustees and team members; all the wonderful volunteers who assisted our team in making the Festival run smoothly and successfully.

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 10 May 2021.

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) provides accommodation, transport, concert and venue administration, etc, during the period of the Festival.

Apart from the Festival Director, the other 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 three years:

Since the initial three-day Festival of four events over three days in September 2021, WAF 2023 saw thirteen events over five days. WAF brings world-class young professional musicians to a corner of Dartmoor that rarely sees such a level of performance and increasingly draws audiences from further afield. It draws in people from across the local parish communities - not just audience members but also school children through WAF's inspirational outreach programme, volunteers to ensure the smooth running of the Festival, keen and 'have-a-go' singers for the Come-&-Sing day, hosts to accommodate the musicians, etc.

An effective admin team has been assembled by the Festival Director, with individuals assisting him in covering most of the main tasks: general administration; learning and engagement; fund-raising; marketing and publicity; Friends coordination.

WAF is establishing itself as a regular feature of the Devon cultural scene. Plans for 2024 include a guest string quartet alongside WAF's own Festival String Quartet, exploration of further new venues, new commissions and a further-extended learning and engagement programme.

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.

Both the 2022 and 2023 Festivals exceeded their budgets and produced small surpluses. 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 and 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 and 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 the Festival & Artistic Director to be retained on a rolling annual contract for services. 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 2023, Freddie Crowley received the following remuneration from the Charity:


Festival & Artistic Director's fee:	£4,966
Performer's fees:	£1,050

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.

In addition, Freddie Crowley received £274 in reimbursement for travel expenses.

DECLARATION

The Trustees declare that, by way of a virtual meeting held on 30th June 2024, 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 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Income & Expenditure Statement		£
RECEIPTS		
Ticket Sales		10,272
Programme donations		581
Other donations		1,727
Gift Aid		1,021
Friends & Patrons Subs		3,850
Grants etc		23,540
Sponsorships & Programme Adverts		2,420
Miscellaneous		875
TOTAL RECEIPTS		44,285
PAYMENTS		
Artists Fees		19,122
Venue & Equipment Hire		3,793
IT, website, etc		1,050
Publicity, Marketing, etc		3,077
Travel		1,878
Catering etc		1,691
Admin Team Fees		11,415
General Admin		1,891
TOTAL PAYMENTS		43,916
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year		369

NOTES

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

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2023

Cash Funds	6,079	
Liabilities	0	
Net Assets		6,079

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

I report on the accounts of the company for the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023, which are set out above on page 7 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: 25 June 2024