

Forest of Dean Brass

Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 March 2025

Charity Registration Number 1197059
Forest of Dean Brass

Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees

P Berrow (Chair)
R Deeks
S Sexton
R Stratford

S Sharma
M Nash
F Ruck
T Whittard

Charity Number 1197059

Principal Address

Onward Hall
Stag Hill
Yorkley
Gloucestershire GL15 4TD

Independent Examiner

Mark Turley
High Roost
6 Lynwood Road
Lydney GL15 5SG

Bankers

Lloyds Bank PLC
55 Newerne Street
Lydney GL15 5RA

Forest of Dean Brass

Trustees' Report - Report Contents

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Forest of Dean Brass Final Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102).

1. Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (registered 13 December 2021).

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

P Berrow (Chair)

R Deeks

S Sexton

R Stratford

S Sharma

M Dobbs

F Ruck

T Whittard

The Trustees are elected annually at the AGM.

2. Objectives and Activities

The objects of the charity are in all cases for public benefit to provide, advance, develop and maintain public education and appreciation of the art of music, in particular Brass Band music, in all its aspects by provision of training in and playing of musical instruments, practice, preparation and presentation of public performances and similar activities and in such other ways as the Charity Trustees shall from time to time determine.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake, and have complied with their duty to have regard to guidance on Public Benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

3 Achievement and Performance

Under our Musical Director Martyn Patterson's support and commitment, the band continues on a positive journey, in terms of musical standard. Martyn engages well with the individuals in the band and he is very much respected in what he wants to achieve. Where he is a little inexperienced as a Musical Director, there have been a few communication issues, which the committee are working with him to support, to make sure that he verbally communicates more before taking action. This will lead to less confusion when dealing with any changes. Feedback to us from varying sources tell us that our standard is now high and Martyn believes that we still have a way to go to get the standard that he feels we are capable of. Martyn has engaged other musicians to support him and in so doing support the band to improve standards. He will always find a replacement for himself if he cannot commit to a rehearsal or concert. Concerts are now seen as professional engagements, regardless of venue, ensuring that the band gives an excellent musical experience each time.

3.1 Rehearsals

Rehearsals are attended by all playing members with little absence apart from holidays and illness. The commitment shown from all playing members is a credit to the band, committee and trustees and one to be applauded. As with any band we have a few gaps in our structure which ebb and flow as people come and go.

3.2 Performances, Competitions and Fundraising events

Items Extracted from Muzudo App

Fri 26 Apr 2024 18:30-21:30	Drill Hall Concert
Thu 06 Jun 2024 20:00-22:00	D day celebrations - Blaisdon
Sun 23 Jun 2024 14:30-17:00	Nags Head Concert for Myra's retirement
Sun 30 Jun 2024 11:15-14:15	Cainscross Town Council - Summer Event
Sat 13 Jul 2024 12:30-16:00	Aylburton Carnival 2024
Sun 21 Jul 2024 10:30-11:30	Scarr Bandstand
Sat 27 Jul 2024	Welland Steam Rally 2024
Sun 28 Jul 2024	Welland Steam Rally 2024
Tue 06 Aug 2024	Annual Trustees Meeting
Sun 11 Aug 2024 14:00-16:30	Ross on Wye Bandstand
Tue 20 Aug 2024	FodB AGM all welcome 7pm - 8pm
Mon 26 Aug 2024	Fundrasing - Parkend Carnival Burgers & Hotdogs
Sat 14 Sep 2024	Heritage Open Day - small group concert
Sat 28 Sep 2024	Fundraiser - Harvest Festival Auction
Sun 13 Oct 2024 14:15-17:00	30th Anniversary Concert
Sat 02 Nov 2024	SWBBA 76th Annual Championships

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Sat 02 Nov 2024	SWBBA 76th Annual Championships
Sun 10 Nov 2024 13:30-14:30	Remembrance Service Yorkley
Sun 24 Nov 2024 12:15-13:40	GBBA Own Choice March & Test Piece Contest
Sun 01 Dec 2024 10:00-11:30	Coleford Baptist Christmas Tree Service
Fri 06 Dec 2024 18:00-20:30	Carols Across the Valley, The Pludds
Sat 07 Dec 2024 16:45-18:00	Yorkley Christmas Tree Lights Switch on
Wed 11 Dec 2024 18:00-19:30	Aylburton Christmas Carol Singing Event

Fri 13 Dec 2024 14:00-17:00	Christmas Carolling - Morrisons Abbeydale
Sat 14 Dec 2024 11:00-16:00	Christmas Carolling - Morrisons Abbeydale
Thu 19 Dec 2024 14:15-15:00	Yorkley School carolling
Thu 19 Dec 2024 19:00-21:30	Christmas Concert with Yorkley School Choir
Fri 20 Dec 2024 10:15-11:45	Parkend School - carols
Fri 20 Dec 2024 17:30-20:00	Carol Playing - Wetherspoons, Chepstow
Sat 21 Dec 2024 09:30-15:00	Christmas Carolling - Chepstow Tesco
Sun 22 Dec 2024 09:30-15:00	Christmas Carolling - Chepstow Tesco
Tue 24 Dec 2024 17:30-19:15	Coleford Baptist Church
Wed 25 Dec 2024 09:45-11:00	Christmas Morning Carolling - Yorkley
Sat 15 Feb 2025 13:00-14:30	Welsh Open Brass Band Entertainment Championship
Sun 23 Feb 2025	FULL BAND
Sat 01 Mar 2025 17:45	Concert in Filton testpiece and own choice piece
Sat 08 Mar 2025	West of England Regional Championships 2025
Tue 11 Mar 2025	Not Playing - Bag2school - Fundraiser.

3.3 The Onward Hall - Refurbishment

Refurbishment has taken a huge step forward in the last 12 months with the new roof being completed. The wall along the left side of the building has now been rebuilt, which has pleased our neighbours greatly. The hall has been decluttered and work continues to clear the stone piles in the carpark. The bad news is that the roof replacement cost was way above what was estimated due to scaffolding and labour costs. We no longer have any reserves for refurbishment and will have to seek new ways to finance the rest of the work through grants etc.

We are at least waterproof and although no insulation has been added, we already know that the band room is warmer in colder weather.

3.4 Online Activity

The Band have an ongoing Website www.forestofdeanbrass.com coinciding with twitter and facebook.

Monthly Committee meetings are still being run on Zoom and we use Whatsapp for communications and Muzudo for band members attendance and engagements which has proved successful.

3.5 Charity Registration

The Band successfully registered as a charity in December 2021. Charity Number 1197059

3.6 Musical Director – Martyn Patterson

Report not available at this time but will be for the meeting. See Page 12 Report was read out at Trustees Meeting.

3.7 Fund Raising

We continue our regular collections to bags for schools and we have reinstated our coffee morning/book sales, which are advertised and being held monthly

4. Financial Review

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to one year's expenditure. The trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

5. Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

P Berrow Chair of Trustees 31/03/25

6. Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Forest of Dean Brass

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Forest of Dean Brass for the year ended 31 March 2025.

6.1 Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

6.2 Independent Examiner's Statement

FOREST OF DEAN BRASS	
<u>ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2025</u>	
<u>Independent Examiner's Report</u>	
My examination was carried out in accordance with Charity Commission directions under the Charities Act of 1995, it included a review of accounting records maintained by the Forest of Dean Brass and a comparison of the accounts with these records.	
The accounts have been prepared from information and explanations given to me and I hereby certified them as correct.	
.....M. Turley.....	..25/03/25.....
	Date

8. Statement of Financial Activities

FOREST OF DEAN BRASS **INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2025**

INCOME

Carol Playing	£3,667.17
Concerts	£3,610.95
Subscriptions	£2,750.00

Donations	£110.00
Bag To School	£48.00
Imjin Donations	£300.00
Percussion Hire	£216.64
Carnival Catering	£1,050.00
Harvest Auction	£822.00

Hall Hire	£35.00
Meat Raffle	£264.00

Bingo M/c Hire	£20.00
Uniform	£69.00
Reinshaw Grant	£500.00
Torquay Hotel	£3,252.00

Sale of Baritone	£963.00
	£17,677.76

Onward Hall

FoD Lottery	£687.50
Donation	£206.98
Just Giving	£163.55
WDPC Grant	£2,000.00
Sale of Tin	£100.00
	£3,158.03

TOTAL	£20,835.79
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LOSS FOR YEAR	£45,767.95
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£ 66,603.74

EXPENSES

MD Expenses	£ 5,305.00
Water Rates	£ 373.94
Insurance	£ 1,118.53
Rates	£ 299.40

Heat and Light	£ 2,316.52
Registration Fees	£ 60.00
Imjin Donation	£ 400.00
Percussion Hire	£ 50.40
Subscriptions	£ 180.40
Lottery Lic	£ 20.00

Contest Expenses	£ 820.00
Post & Adverts	£ 78.00
Repairs & Maint	£ 40.00
Uniform	£ 541.00

Hall Hire	£ 152.50
PRS	£ 94.19
Gifts	£ 125.24

Torquay Hotel	£ 3,428.00
Muzodo	£ 42.00
Music Stands	£ 568.72
Stage & Fixings	£ 120.20

£ 16,134.05

Onward Hall

Scaffold	£ 9,500.00
Windows	£ 1,020.00
Tin	£ 4,871.59
Building Regs	£ 358.50
Architect Fees	£ 1,080.00
Materials	£ 14,194.60
Skip Hire	£ 710.00
Grab Hire	£ 260.00
Labour	£ 18,475.00

£ 50,469.69

£ 66,603.74

FOREST OF DEAN BRASS
BANK BALANCES @ 31ST MARCH, 2025

MONMOUTHSHIRE BUILDING SOCIETY

Balance B/fwd. 1st April, 2024	£ 28,865.04	To: Lloyds Bank	£ 18,000.00
Interest	£ 671.82	Balance @ 31st March, 2025	£ 11,536.86

LLOYDS

Balance B/fwd. 1st April, 2025	£ 30,757.75	Balance @ 31st March, 2025	£ 2,989.80
From Mon. Building Society	£ 18,000.00	LOSS as per accounts	£ 45,767.95

LLOYDS DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Balance B/fwd. 1st April, 2025	£ 1,672.37		
Interest	£ 45.89		
Subs	£ 142.89		
		Balance @ 31st March, 2025	£ 1,861.15
	£ 80,155.76		£ 80,155.76

ALLOCATED BALANCES, 31ST MARCH, 2024

Building Account	£ 11,536.86
Lloyds Current Account	£ 2,989.80
Instrument Account	£ 1,861.15
	£ 16,387.81

30th April, 2025

Treasurer
S. Stratford
 Auditor
M. Turley

Sharon Stratford
 Mark Turley

Onward hall figures were provided at the trustees meeting for perusal - see Page 13

The band have continued to develop during this year.
We managed to recruit 4 excellent additions to the band
Chris Higgs - 2nd euphonium
Louise Wall - 2nd baritone
Aidan Howgate - Eb bass
Mike Sallis- 3rd cornet
However we said goodbye (for now) to
Izzy Marriott - 3rd cornet
Aidan Howgate - Eb bass
Zach Rusling - Percussion

We have had some good achievements this year having brought home some silverware. Most notably being awarded 3rd place at SWBBA Contest at Torquay in November playing the dark, mysterious work, "Salome". This piece was a test for the band musically, but one that was relished. Generally the band have performed very well on the contest stage, however not always coming away with a result that reflects this, but that is contesting!

The band have also done well in our themed concerts throughout the year. I have chosen to adopt this method as a trial and has been popular with players and audience alike. This does however involve the band performing to a higher standard than of previously in order to access the demands of the repertoire. Our themed concerts for the 2025 concert season has been "Magnificent Creatures", which was initiated at the Welsh Open contest in February in which the band were placed higher than some notable bands.

The band have also carried out our "usual" concerts such as Welland, Chepstow and Christmas at Viney Hill, as well as new affiliations with choirs in and out of the forest, which were exciting projects to be involved in, especially at our 30th Anniversary concert.

I feel it is important for the band to venture out of the Forest more to gain more recognition.

ONWARD HALL - TO DATE

INCOME

2022

Grants	
WDPC - Solar Farm	10000.00
GCC	1500.00
WDPC	3000.00
Mid Counties Co-op	2000.00

Donations	2225.00
Sales of Books	174.65
Just Giving	302.00
Forest Lottery	598.50
Lottery Prize Donated	25.00
Bag 2 School	129.00
Sale of Cakes	67.50
Book & Cake Sales	449.60
Birthday Party	41.93
Car Boot Sale	115.70
Don. In Lieu - Rona	186.50
Christmas Concert Don.	158.00

2023

Donations	2150.00
Forest Lottery	745.50
Book Sales	679.00
Books	29.04
Don. In Lieu - R Fennell	151.00

2024

Forest Lottery	706.00
Donations	1000.00

2025

Forest Lottery	687.50
Donation	206.98
Just Giving	163.55
WDPC - Grant	2000.00
Sale of Tin	100.00

29588.95
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EXPENDITURE

2022

Structural Engineer	393.12
Insulation	4515.87
Materials	3474.50
Western Power	1339.63
Electrics	440.00

Electric Box Keys	17.50
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2023

Scaffolding	900.00
Materials	1023.57
Solicitors Fees	380.00
Wall	5188.00

2024

Wall	3995.00
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2025

Scaffolding	9500.00
Windows	1020.00
Tin	4871.59
Building Regs	358.50
Architect Fees	1080.00
Materials	14194.60
Skip Hire	710.00
Grab Hire	260.00
Labour	18475.00

72136.88
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