

**BITTERN PRESS**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND  
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**31 MARCH 2025**

Charity Registered no: 1202105

**BITTERN PRESS**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

The Trustees are pleased to present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY,  
ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISORS**

<b>Status</b>	The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales.
<b>Trustees</b>	<p>The directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its trustees for the purpose of the charity law. The trustees and officers serving throughout the year were as follows:</p> <p>Christine Margaret Airey Simon Peter Airey Kenneth William Baird Moira Pomeroy Bennett (resigned 24 July 2025) Gillian Burrows Dr Philip Reed</p>
<b>Chairman</b>	Dr Philip Reed
<b>Bankers</b>	<p>Barclays Bank UK plc 20–21 Cornhill Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 1DY</p>
<b>Solicitors</b>	<p>Brabners LLP Horton House Exchange Flags Exchange Street E Liverpool L2 3YL</p>

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# **BITTERN PRESS**

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

### **TRUSTEES REPORT**

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011; the Companies Act 2006 the Constitution and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2025).

#### **Our purpose and activities**

The charity's purpose is to advance education of the public in the arts, particularly, but not exclusively, in the subject of music in such ways as the charity thinks fit, including (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing):

- The publication and national and international distribution of books on the arts;
- The commissioning of such publications;
- Undertaking academic research, the results of which are made public;
- The publication of articles in journals and elsewhere in any format;
- The dissemination of information via websites and through traditional and new media; and
- The peer review of publications.

#### **Activity**

The charity was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 28 February 2023 and took over the assets donated to Bittern Press CIO.

In the event of the dissolution of the company its members have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

The current members of the company are its directors/trustees.

#### **Organisation**

The charity is governed by its constitution, which sets out the charity's purpose and how it is run.

The number of trustees shall not be less than three but shall not be more than twelve. The statutory power of appointing new trustees shall apply, but if there are no trustees in office to effect an appointment of new trustees, such appointment shall be effected by such living person or persons who was or were first a trustee or trustees. Any one trustee may, when there are more than three trustees, retire as a trustee.

Performance is regularly reviewed and reports received by the Board of Trustees.

#### **Trustees**

The present trustees and those resigning in the year are set out below:

Christine Airey  
Simon Airey  
Kenneth Baird  
Moirra Bennett (resigned 24 July 2025)  
Gillian Burrows  
Dr Philip Reed

# **BITTERN PRESS**

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

### **TRUSTEES REPORT**

#### **Investment powers and policy**

Surplus cash funds of the charity not immediately required for its purposes can be invested in securities or property as may be thought fit. The trustees must review the investment policy on an annual basis.

#### **Review of the year, including financial review and plans for future periods**

The Bittern Press was established as a charitable incorporated organisation in 2023, having previously been active as the Bennett Book Society/Bittern Press since 2011.

The CIO was established as a starting point to increase public understanding of the achievements of composer Benjamin Britten and singer Peter Pears at Aldeburgh, Suffolk, and elsewhere, and of activities broadly related to them.

The Bittern Press supports publications that are inherently not commercial and that require the Bittern Press's intervention and support, with the intention of extending public knowledge and understanding. In addition, the Bittern Press furthers its educational objectives through talks, promotion through the media and through associated promotional events with the aim of reaching as many members of the general public in the UK and internationally as possible.

#### **Activity to date**

Prior to the establishing of the CIO, the Bennett Book Society/Bittern Press published three books:

- Moira Bennett: *Making Musicians: A Personal History of the Britten-Pears School*
- Moira Bennett: *Change of Key: Africa to the Arts*
- Steuart Bedford with Christopher Gillett: *Knowing Britten*

Bennett's *Making Musicians* was met with national and international acclaim, and was one of *Classical Music's* books of the year; Bedford and Gillett's volume was equally well received (reviews in *Opera*, *Gramophone* and *BBC Music Magazine*) and was Presto Music's Book of the Year as well as being shortlisted for a prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society Award (Story-telling Category).

Around the time of publication, Moira Bennett discussed her book on BBC Radio 3's *In Tune*, the station's popular drive-time programme. Bedford and Gillett's book was launched at the 2022 Aldeburgh Festival at an associated concert, which included participation from several distinguished singers, notably James Bowman and Ann Murray. There were also similar events at Opera Holland Park and Grange Park Opera.

#### **Activity in 2024/25**

2024/25 has necessarily been a year of consolidation for the Bittern Press. During this period, we have developed and launched our website ([bitternpress.org](http://bitternpress.org)), which draws attention to our current and future publications and promotes our educational work. The website includes a Journal to engage wider public understanding of, and engagement with, our core charitable purposes. We have also registered for Gift Aid and established appropriate annual insurance cover.

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There are 7 projects currently active:

- Elizabeth Sweeting: The Best and Happiest Days: A memoir of the early Aldeburgh Festivals by the first manager, and her correspondence with Benjamin Britten
- Painting Britten: 100 Visions of His Music
- A Carl Loewe Song Companion
- Jennifer Bate, Concert Organist – A Companion
- Ludwig Hesse: Ausflug Ost
- Eric Crozier and Nancy Evans: Working with Britten
- The Letters of Frank Bridge to Benjamin Britten, 1929–41

The first three of these projects are due to be published in 2026. The first two will be jointly launched at a prestigious event and exhibition at the Aldeburgh Festival in Suffolk during June. There will also be a preview piece in the *BBC Music Magazine* for *Painting Britten*. The *Carl Loewe Song Companion* will be launched in the autumn of 2026 at a series of private and public song recitals in London and internationally, including London's Wigmore Hall, the UK's most prestigious song-recital venue, and involving internationally renowned singers such as the British baritone Roderick Williams and the German soprano Juliane Banse.

### **Financial review**

The charity recorded a deficit during the year of £11, which represents a deficit on unrestricted funds.

Total income for the year amounted to £72.

### **Reserves policy**

It is the policy of the charity to endeavour to hold reserves in its unrestricted funds in order to establish an appropriate level of working capital and to protect the future operations of the charity from the effects of any unforeseen and material variations in its income streams, as part of a policy of good financial management practice.

### **Funding**

The trustees are satisfied that the charity's assets attributed to each of its individual funds are available and adequate to fulfil its obligation in relation to those funds.

### **Risk management**

The trustees continue to be aware of their responsibilities regarding risk management and meet periodically to profile risks, review controls already in place and embed new controls and update existing controls to mitigate significant risks.

Signed on behalf of the trustees on 14 January, 2026.



**Dr Philip Reed**  
Trustee

## **BITTERN PRESS**

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

#### **Trustees' responsibilities in relation to financial statements**

The charity trustees (who are also the directors of Bittern Press for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group of the incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure of the charitable company for that year. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They 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 are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**By order of the Trustees**



**Dr Philip Reed**  
Trustee

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**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Notes	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £
<b>Income:</b>				
Income from donations	2a	-	-	-
Income from charitable activities:				
Other income	2b	-	72	72
Investment income	2c	-	-	-
<b>Expenditure:</b>				
Cost of raising funds				
Commercial trading operations	3	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Other expenditure	4	-	83	83
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		-	83	83
Net expenditure and net movement in funds for the year		-	(11)	(11)
Total funds brought forward		-	2,027	2,027
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		-	<b>2,016</b>	<b>2,016</b>

	Notes	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
<b>Income:</b>				
Income from donations	2a	-	4,601	4,601
Income from charitable activities:				
Other income	2b	-	270	270
Investment income	2c	-	-	-
<b>Total income</b>			4,871	4,871
<b>Expenditure:</b>				
Cost of raising funds				
Commercial trading operations	3	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Other income	4	-	2,844	2,844
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		-	2,844	2,844
Net income and net movement in funds for the period		-	2,027	2,027
Total funds brought forward		-	-	-
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		-	<b>2,027</b>	<b>2027</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.



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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets		-	-
Investments		-	-
		-	-
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks		-	-
Debtors		8	-
Cash at bank and in hand		2,936	4,869
		2,944	4,869
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors falling due within one year	8	928	2,842
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		2,016	2,027
<b>Net Assets</b>		2,016	2,027
<b>The Funds of the Charity</b>			
Restricted income funds		-	-
Unrestricted income funds		2,016	2,027
<b>Total Funds Employed</b>		2,016	2,027

The trustees have prepared the accounts in accordance with section 138 of the Charities Act 2011. These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act relating to small companies in accordance with FRS102 and constitute the accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and for circulation to the members of the Company.

For the year covered by these accounts the Company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees, who are directors of the Company, acknowledge their responsibility for ensuring the Company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these accounts.

Approved on behalf of the trustees on 14 January, 2026.



**Dr Philip Reed**  
**Trustee**

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**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**NOTES**

**1 Accounting policies**

**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Bittern Press meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant policy note(s).

**Going concern**

The trustees have reviewed the funding requirements of the charity for the next 12 months and concluded that the charity is able to continue operations within existing funding facilities. The trustees confirm that the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements remains appropriate.

**Income**

**Donations and legacies**

All monetary donations and gifts are included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable, provided that there are no donor-imposed restrictions as to the timing of related expenditure, in which case recognition is deferred until the precondition has been met.

**Other Income**

Other incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when receivable.

**Investment income**

Investment income, including associated income tax recoveries, is recognised when receivable.

**Expenditure**

Expenditure, which is charged on an accruals basis, is allocated between:

- expenditure incurred directly in an effort to raise voluntary contributions (fundraising and publicity)
- expenditure incurred on charitable activities.

**Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities to further any of the purposes of the charity.

Restricted funds are donations the donor has specified are to be used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity. Expenditure for the purposes is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of overheads and support costs.

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1998 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to charitable objects.

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**NOTES (CONTINUED)**

<b>2</b>	<b>Restricted Funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2025 £</b>
<b>2a Donations and legacies</b>	-	-	-
	-	-	-
<b>2b Income from charitable activities</b>			
Other income	-	72	72
	-	72	72
<b>2c Investment income</b>			
Bank interest	-	-	-
	-	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	-	72	72
<b>2</b>	<b>Restricted Funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024 £</b>
<b>2a Donations and legacies</b>	-	4,601	4,601
	-	4,601	4,601
<b>2b Income from charitable activities</b>			
Other income	-	270	270
	-	270	270
<b>2c Investment income</b>			
Bank interest	-	-	-
	-	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	-	4,871	4,871

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**NOTES (CONTINUED)**

3	Expenditure	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
		Funds	Funds	Funds
		2025	2025	2025
		£	£	£
	<b>Cost of raising funds:</b>			
	Administrative costs	-	-	-
	Governance costs (Note 5)	-	-	-
	Staff costs	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
4	<b>Expenditure on charitable activities:</b>			
	Administration costs	-	2,844	2,844
	Staff costs	-	-	-
			2,844	2,844
5	<b>Governance Costs</b>			
	Trustees' expenses	-	57	-
		-	57	-
6	<b>Employees</b>	2025	2024	
		£	£	
	Wages and salaries	-	-	
	Social security costs	-	-	
		-	-	
		-	-	
	<b>Average number of employees</b>	-	-	

7 No trustee or person connected with a family or business connection with a trustee received remuneration in the year, directly or indirectly.

Expenses reimbursed in respect of travel and subsistence were paid to trustees during the year amounting to £57.

No indemnity insurance was in place during the year. Indemnity insurance commenced in July 2025.

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**NOTES (CONTINUED)**

<b>8</b>	<b>Creditors</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Other creditors and accruals	928	2,842
		<b>928</b>	<b>2,842</b>

**9 Analysis of net assets between funds**

	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Revaluation Reserve £</b>	<b>Total Funds £</b>
<b>2025</b>				
Cash at bank and in hand	-	2,936	-	2,936
Other net current assets/ liabilities		(920)	-	(920)
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,016</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,016</b>
<b>2024</b>				
Cash at bank and in hand	-	4,869	-	4,869
Other net current assets/ liabilities		(2,842)	-	(2,842)
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,027</b>		<b>2,027</b>

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**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Donations and legacies	-	4,601
Other incoming resources	72	270
Investment income	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>4,871</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Royalty payments	27	1,251
Mailing expenses		3
Travel and subsistence	56	-
Legal and professional fees	-	900
Accountancy services	-	690
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2,844</b>
<b>Net (expense)/income and net movement in funds for the year/period</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>2,027</b>