

HELLENIC CULTURAL SOCIETY OF BRISTOL "METHEXIS"

Annual report and financial statements for
the first two financial years of operation:
August 2023 - 6th April 2025

Charity Number: 1206301

Reference and administrative information

Charity name: Hellenic Cultural Society of Bristol "Methexis"

Other name the charity uses: Methexis

Registered charity number: 1206301

Charity's principal address: 190 Ilminster Avenue, Knowle, Bristol, BS4 1BY

Charity trustees (in alphabetical order)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
Gavriela Maria Matziri	Secretary
Anastasia Miltsakaki	Member
Evangelia Mitsiakou(*)	Member
Ioannis Panes	Assistant Treasurer
Anagnostis Samanis	Vice President / Head Treasurer
Maria Sifnaiou	President / Chair

(*) Resigned on August 2024

Objectives and activities

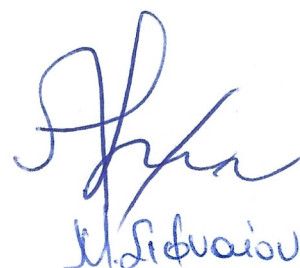
Type of governing document: Constitution

Charity type: Charitable Incorporate Organization

Our aim as an organisation is to advance the education of the public in Bristol and the surrounding area in the subject of Greek arts and culture, in particular though not limited to the art of dance, through the provision of workshops, classes and performances.

The Hellenic Cultural Society of Bristol Methexis undertakes the following activities in order to further its charitable objects and purposes for the public benefit:

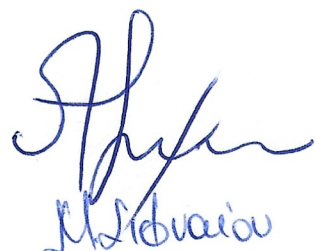
- Organisation of the Greek dancing club at enhancing the cultural imprint in the public of Bristol while in parallel trying to achieve financial viability.



M. Sifnaiou

- Organisation and finalisation of legal documentation and policies of the organisation according to directions and guidance of the Charity Commission.
- Introduction of other cultural clubs aiming to run them in similar standards as the Greek dancing club (i.e. Hiking club).
- Organisation of bonding activities or/and gatherings (Greek gathering coffee, Greek nights, Special celebrations of Greek history/tradition, Christmas party, National Independence Day etc.)

The Trustees confirm that they are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have complied with their duty to have due regard to that guidance, in the conduct of their activities. They are aware of no occasions in which they have had no depart from that guidance during the financial year in review.



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Achievements and performance

1st Year of operation August 2023 – 6th April 2024

During the first year of operation, the Trustees of the Hellenic Cultural society of Bristol "Methexis" completed the foundational administrative work required for the organisation's establishment. This included finalising the Constitution, preparing all required legal documentation and submitting the necessary material to the Charity Commission, which granted approval for the society to operate as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). In parallel, the board developed, documented and implemented internal policies and governance procedures as well as defining the roles and responsibilities of each trustee in accordance with Charity Commission guidance.

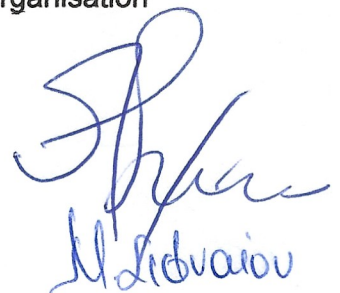
Cultural activities were centred around the Greek dancing club, which began operating on a weekly basis and provided an accessible introduction to Greek culture within the wider Bristol community and surrounding areas. The Trustees successfully coordinated the dance instructor, venue bookings, memberships and payments, ensuring the financial viability of the club throughout the 1st year operational period August 2023 – 6th April 2024. Preparatory work also began on developing additional cultural activities, including the initial planning for a future hiking club which aims to further enhance the Society's cultural and community offering.

Alongside these core activities, the society organised a series of bonding and community events, aligned with its charitable purpose of promoting Greek culture and strengthening social engagement. These included a Sunday noon Greek gathering coffee event in November 2023 and a Christmas party in December 2023. Both events attracted participation from members and non-members and contributed to raising awareness of the Society within the local community.

2nd Year of operation 7th April 2024 – 6th April 2025

During the second year of operation, the Trustees of the Hellenic Cultural Society of Bristol "Methexis" continued to maintain all administrative and governance responsibilities established during the first year. The Board reviewed, updated and improved the Society's policies as well as introduced new ones to reflect the growing needs of the organisation and ensure alignment with Charity Commission expectations. Duties and role descriptions assigned to each Trustee were also refined to support clearer responsibilities and more efficient operation.

Cultural and educational activities expanded considerably during this period. The Greek dancing club continued to run weekly lessons throughout the new season (September to June), supported by a structured enrolment process and updated documentation for all participants. For the first time, the Society introduced a feedback mechanism that allowed dancers to express what they enjoyed in the classes and suggest areas for improvement. During this period, the Society also introduced private dancing lessons for individuals who wished to prepare specific dances for personal occasions such as weddings. Participation in the dancing club increased significantly compared with the first year, strengthening the financial stability of the organisation



and broadening engagement with the Greek community and the wider public in Bristol and surrounding areas.

In addition, the Society introduced an annual membership scheme. Members received an official membership card that provided reduced prices for participation in cultural events and access to discounts offered by local businesses that collaborate with the Society. This new scheme contributed to increased member commitment and helped foster closer ties with local Greek companies and shops.

The second year also marked the creation of the Society's cultural dancing team. This group trained separately from the regular dancing classes and prepared to represent the Society at public performances. The team performed at a cultural event hosted on a Greek Navy vessel visiting Southampton and was invited to perform at two Greek restaurants, a wedding in January 2025 and a birthday celebration in April 2025.

A wide range of bonding and cultural events were organised across the year. These included a free hiking tour in the Bath countryside near the Avon river in May 2024 with around twenty-five participants, followed by a large summer party on 6th July 2024 attended by more than one hundred people. On 5th October 2024 the Society organised a free educational excursion to the British Museum in London, which attracted around fifteen participants. A community coffee gathering took place on 17th November 2024, encouraging social interaction among members and new participants. A Halloween party for children of members and non members took place on 27th October 2024, drawing approximately fifty attendees including accompanying parents. The Christmas party on 14th December 2024 became one of the Society's largest events, attracting around one hundred and twenty people and featuring live music, dancing and a buffet with traditional Greek dishes. In January 2025, the Society organised the traditional Greek "Kopi tis Pitas" event, where participants shared pieces of the New Year's cake containing a symbolic hidden coin, with the winner receiving a small gift and wishes for a prosperous year. The year concluded with a carnival party on 1st March 2025, attended by more than forty people who enjoyed an evening using carnival costumes, music and dancing. Throughout the year, the Society also ensured that individuals facing financial hardship were offered free access to selected activities and bonding events, supporting inclusivity and enabling participation regardless of financial circumstances.

In addition to its cultural activities, the Society expanded its charitable support by providing financial contributions to other organisations carrying out important social work. During this period, donations were made to “Mothers for Mothers” in the United Kingdom and “Humanity” in Greece, reflecting the Society’s commitment to supporting broader charitable initiatives beyond its own programmes.

These activities demonstrate the Society's continued growth in cultural engagement, community participation and organisational capability throughout its second year of operation.

John
M. Dixon

Financial Review

During the first and second year of operation, the Hellenic Cultural Society of Bristol "Methexis" ended each financial period with a positive balance. The main income sources and expenditure categories are summarised below.

Table 1. Financial summary for the 1st and 2nd year of operation of the charity

Year of operation	1st	2nd
Financial figures	Amount [£]	Amount [£]
Total income:	3,629	10,638.15
• Donations	261	40
• Payments received for dancing lessons	3,168	5,446
• Payments received for private dancing lessons	0	255
• Memberships	0	505
• Dancing performance income	0	759.5
• Events income	200	3,456.66
• Event refund (income)	0	121
• Purchases refund	0	54.99
Total expenditure	2,620.49	8,228.58
• Dancing club teaching cost	1,000	1540
• Dancing club room rental cost	1,575	2462
• Refund to dancing lessons requests	20	0
• Refund to private dancing requests	0	50
• Dancing performance expenditure	0	362.25
• Organisation's operational cost	25.49	1060.27
• Events expenditure	0	2,455.55
• Event refund to payments requests	0	46
• Money spent to charities	0	252.51
Profit:	1,008.51	2,409.57

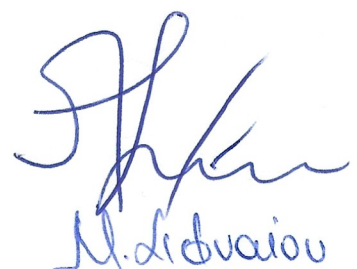
Income was generated through the following activities:

- Donations from members and non members of the Hellenic Cultural Society of Bristol "Methexis".
- Payments from participants attending the Greek dancing club, either through monthly memberships or pay per lesson options.
- Payments received from individuals requesting private dancing lessons.
- Annual membership subscriptions to the Society.
- Fees received for hiring our dancing team to perform at cultural, community and private events.
- Revenue from the organisation of bonding and cultural events, including Christmas celebrations, carnival events, summer parties and other gatherings.
- Refunds received from event related costs or operational expenditures.

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M. Arduvanou

Expenditure for the charitable organisation is categorised as follows:

- Payments to the dancing instructor, calculated on an hourly basis according to the terms of the service agreement.
- Rental costs for the venue used for weekly dancing lessons and other cultural activities.
- Refunds issued in cases where payments needed to be returned to the dancing club participants.
- Costs associated with organising and delivering dancing performances when the dancing team is hired.
- Operational costs related to essential running expenses and consumables required for the functioning of the Society.
- Expenses related to the costs incurred to organise bonding events.
- Refunds issued to event participants in accordance with the society's cancellation policy.
- Financial contributions made to charitable organisations to support their social work.



M. Lefkariou

Future plans

The Society's priorities for the coming year focus on strengthening its cultural, educational and community activities while maintaining financial sustainability. A key objective is to preserve and further enhance the financial viability of the Greek dancing club by expanding participation, updating class structures when needed and ensuring that the club continues to operate to a high standard. The Society also aims to broaden its cultural offering through the development of additional clubs and activities, including other dance styles, amateur theatrical lessons and hiking initiatives. Fundraising activities will also be further developed to support key programmes and ensure that future cultural initiatives can be delivered to a high standard. In addition, the Society plans to introduce recreational sports activities, including the creation of basketball and football teams, with the intention of participating in or hosting community tournaments in collaboration with other cultural groups and societies. The Society also intends to establish a mentoring programme aimed at supporting young people with guidance on professional development, CV preparation and other career related skills.

Building on the successful organisation of bonding events during the past two years, the Society intends to continue delivering well structured cultural gatherings designed to strengthen community ties and attract participants from diverse backgrounds. As part of this expansion, the Society plans to organise dancing workshops for children aged five to twelve, with the long-term aim of establishing a year-round children's dancing club operating on a regular basis. The Society also aims to expand its educational provision by organising themed workshops, guest talks and book presentation events designed to promote cultural learning and intellectual engagement within the community.

Looking ahead, the Hellenic Cultural Society of Bristol "Methexis" aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Ensure ongoing financial sustainability through diverse fundraising activities and targeted grant applications.
- Regularly review and improve governance, policy documents and operational procedures to support effective and responsible management.
- Expand outreach initiatives to promote Greek cultural heritage across Bristol and the surrounding areas.
- Increase member engagement through a wider programme of cultural events, workshops and educational seminars, including traditional crafts, cooking activities and dance workshops.
- Establish new cultural and educational groups within the Society to provide additional opportunities for participation.
- Strengthen the Society's digital presence to broaden public visibility and support community engagement.
- Build collaborations with cultural organisations and charities to develop joint projects and shared activities.
- Develop partnerships with local Greek businesses and shops to support community involvement and sponsorship initiatives.




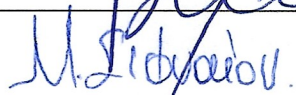
M. Libourou

- Grow the scale and quality of annual cultural events, including seasonal celebrations, festivals and community gatherings.
- Acquire necessary equipment and materials, such as dance accessories and branded items, to support organisational activities and fundraising.
- Expand structured fundraising efforts to support future cultural projects, educational initiatives and community events, ensuring that the Society's activities continue to reflect its cultural and charitable purpose.
- Develop sports related and educational initiatives, such as recreational team activities and thematic workshops, that provide additional avenues for cultural expression and community participation.
- Implement mentoring and youth development initiatives that offer guidance on career progression, employability and key professional skills, supporting young people within the community.

These objectives reflect our dedication to preserving, celebrating and sharing Greek culture, striving for meaningful growth and impact in the years ahead.

Declarations

The board of trustees declare that they have approved this current annual report.

Name	Signature
Anagnostis Samanis	
Maria Sifnaiou	

Date

12/01/2026