

# WELLS CITY BAND

England & Wales · Charity number 1206500

## Details

---

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2024-01-11

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

---

**Address** 11 Kings Castle Road  
Wells  
BA5 3LS

**Phone** 07932078748

**Email** [wellscitybandba5@gmail.com](mailto:wellscitybandba5@gmail.com)

**Website** [wellscityband.org](http://wellscityband.org)

## Activities

---

**Objects:** THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE 3.1 TO PROMOTE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP, AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN, AND APPRECIATION OF THE ART OF MUSIC, ESPECIALLY BRASS BAND MUSIC, IN AND AROUND THE CITY OF WELLS (IN SOMERSET), AND IN THE UNITED KINGDOM MORE GENERALLY BY: A) OPERATING AN AMATEUR BRASS BAND OPEN TO THE WIDEST POSSIBLE MEMBERSHIP; B) FACILITATING THE MUSICAL EDUCATION OF BAND MEMBERS OF ALL ABILITIES; C) PRESENTING PERFORMANCES IN PUBLIC, INCLUDING FOR CIVIC OCCASIONS; D) ENTERING INTO AFFILIATION, ASSOCIATION OR COLLABORATION WITH ORGANISATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT AND PROMOTION OF MUSICAL EDUCATION AND PERFORMANCE, AS THE TRUSTEES SHALL DETERMINE FROM TIME TO TIME. 3.2 TO FURTHER SUCH EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT AS THE TRUSTEES IN THEIR ABSOLUTE DISCRETION SHALL THINK FIT FROM TIME TO TIME, IN PARTICULAR THROUGH THE MAKING OF DONATIONS.

**Activities:** Training and educating people of all ages and abilities from 8 years upwards to play brass musical instruments and perform a wide range of music for public benefit in and around Wells.

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Somerset

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£17,329	£13,825	-	-
2024-08-31	£15,908	£20,326	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Benjamin Matthew Collins</b>	Chair	2024-01-11
Angela Mary Humphries Cert. Ed.		2024-01-11
Geoffrey Baker-Hytch BA, PGCE		2024-01-11
James Michael Reeve BA MEd		2024-01-11
Paul Denegri HonARAM		2024-01-11
Rachel Cooper BSc NPQSL		2024-01-11
Susan Trudy Kerton		2024-01-11
Tanya Lesley Flagg BA MA		2024-01-11

**WELLS CITY BAND**

England & Wales - Charity number 1206500

---

# Accounts

---

## **WELLS CITY BAND ANNUAL REPORT for the year 2024-2025 (1/9/24-31/8/25)**

Welcome to our charity's second Annual Report. Thanks to each of the following officers of our charity who have contributed their separate reports:

Chairman, Musical Director, Finance Officer, Brass Academy Coordinator,  
Band Manager, Safeguarding Officer, Librarians.

### **Chairman's Report**

I can't believe it is that time already and I'm writing another report on what has been another excellent year for Wells City Band, marked by significant achievements both musically and organisationally. The standard of our playing has continued to improve, with sound quality and musical confidence going from strength to strength. As with any active band, we have said farewell to some players and warmly welcomed new ones into the Wells City Band family.

#### Remembering Flaggy

Earlier in the year, we were deeply saddened to lose our dear friend and soprano player, (Graham) John Flagg, affectionately known as 'Flaggy'. He contributed a huge amount to the band over many years, particularly in looking after the band instruments. His dedication and support behind the scenes were greatly valued. He is very much missed by all who knew him.

#### Rehearsals and Facilities

One of the most significant developments this year has been our move to the Portway Annexe. This was a major step for the band and, after a few initial teething problems, it is proving to be a very successful change. The rehearsal environment has greatly improved, particularly in terms of sound quality, which has had a noticeable positive impact on our playing. As I write this, we are also in the process of organising and improving our storage facilities at the Annexe, which will further streamline operations, particularly for the library team who need easy access to their equipment and the music library.

#### Musical Leadership

Another important development has been the appointment of our Assistant Musical Director. This has already proved to be a very positive step, giving the band greater flexibility and continuity. It ensures that rehearsals can continue at a high musical level when the Musical Director is unavailable, while also providing additional musical support and leadership for the band. This appointment strengthens our musical structure and supports the band's ongoing development.

#### Players and Development

Player development continues to be a real success story for Wells City Band. It has been wonderful to welcome back former members alongside new players, and especially encouraging to see members progressing from the Academy into the main band. Their contribution highlights just how vital the Academy is to the long-term future of Wells City Band. This year has also seen a welcome return to our roots with the introduction of the maroon soft shell band jackets and a refreshed uniform. This has greatly improved our appearance and gives us a strong and recognisable presence when arriving at engagements across the city and at outdoor events.

#### Governance and Finance

This year marked the completion of our first Annual Return as a charity, including trustee reports, which represents an important milestone for the band. I would like to thank the Treasurer for the considerable work undertaken behind the scenes to ensure everything was completed accurately and on time. The committee is currently exploring the introduction of a donation QR code to make it easier for audiences to support us, particularly at events where people may not be carrying cash. Our traditional fundraising activities, including skittles and quiz nights, have once again been successful and remain an important part of our social and financial calendar.

## Performances

The band has enjoyed a busy and rewarding year of performances, including many high profile engagements. Our Spring and Christmas Concerts at The Cedars Hall were both very successful, with the Christmas Concert selling out and featuring a fantastic collaboration with Trull Children's Choir. December also saw our usual programme of carolling, which continues to be both popular and enjoyable. The Bridgwater Carnival Concert in November was, by many accounts, our best yet, with excellent sound and a strong audience turnout. We were pleased to perform at several events at the Bishop's Palace this year and to undertake a wide range of community engagements, including care home performances. A particular highlight was playing for the opening of the Glastonbury Care Home bandstand. Returning to our home bandstand in Wells was especially enjoyable, attracting a large and appreciative audience and reminding us just how valued the band is within the local community.

## Looking ahead

Looking forward, plans for 2026 are already well underway. Our Spring Concert, Swing into Spring, promises to be an exciting event, and we hope to repeat the sell-out success of the Christmas Concert. Several engagements are already confirmed, including Wells Community Day and a memorial gathering in honour of the late John Flagg (Flaggy). The bookings team are working hard to secure a varied and engaging programme of events throughout the year so keep an eye on Spond as these go up. There is more work to be done on developing our sponsorship scheme and establishing a Friends of Wells City Band group, both of which will be important in supporting the band's future sustainability.

## Thanks

In closing, I would like to thank all our players, committee members, trustees, volunteers, and supporters for their continued commitment and enthusiasm. Wells City Band remains in a strong position, and I look forward with excitement and confidence to what 2026 will bring.

## **Musical Director's Report**

2024 had witnessed many areas of success and growth for the band and going into 2025 I was interested to see how the musical direction and performances of the band would develop. I must admit to a little trepidation following on from 2024 because of the success of that year but these fears were proved to be ill-founded.

The Main Band grew healthily in numbers again recruiting new players from outside the WCB family and also new players progressing up from our excellent Academy. WCB for a third year in a row is virtually full band except for a second BBb bass and a 4th down front row. In Geoff we are fortunate we have a very strong principal BBb player although for Geoff a second BBb would really help carry the sound load and other techniques two players bring. We are fortunate to have a very good dep BBb in Alan Read from Crewkerne Silver band and Chard Concert Brass. Our front row this year has had its best year and many tell me its our strongest front for many many years.

The benefits a virtually full band such as this provides WCB with considerable musical opportunities regarding genre, technical standards and to perform an ever wider variety of repertoire. It enables rehearsals to be constructive and musically fulfilling. It also enables the MD to explore technical and musical aspects of playing that move the band forward as regards musical opportunity, the playing members technical playing and therefore increasing enjoyment in their playing and their performance opportunities.

What has pleased me (and is currently rare in brass banding) is the many varieties of performing opportunities the band have been afforded and have been invited to perform at throughout the

year. Our full concert programmes have taken place at Cedars Hall x 2 and The Three Towers Festival near Bath. Shorter programmes have been given at Wells Cathedral for the Wells Community Day, Bishops Palace for their summer music night supporting the Wurzels and Seth Lakemann, at the Bath and West Show on the bandstand and on our own bandstand in Wells including a very successful move to a Saturday lunchtime performance and also for an Eco Festival.

In and around these high profile performances I am delighted to see yet again WCB maintain its music in the community with energy, enthusiasm and commitment. Local groups have benefited greatly from the bands musicianship such as The Fibrosis Group, Music for the Mind, Bishops Palace Garden Events and many carolling appearances across the City, further afield and as far as Taunton. Both Glastonbury Care Home and Fletcher House Care Home have benefitted from several visits throughout the year. For one of these performances WCB were invited by Glastonbury Care Home to perform at the opening of their very own purpose built and excellent bandstand, A little bit of history in the making, as far as research can tell, it is the only proper bandstand situated in a care home anywhere in the UK. The conception and build of this new bandstand was inspired entirely by WCB many performance at Glastonbury Care Home over the previous three years.

Attendances at all our performances have been excellent and up on last year. This included sell outs at Cedars Hall one of which included our special guests the excellent Trull Primary School Choir at our Christmas Concert. There is no doubt the musical reputation of WCB has grown considerably in 2025 across Somerset, People in the locality identify WCB as a band of musical quality, entertaining and can feel its close connection to the community reinforced by the fact all the band live within a small radius of the City of Wells. All this is rare in the currently difficult climate for brass bands.

As far as the music covered this year it has seen us widen our knowledge and performance ever wider, from swing, jazz ballad, to classical genres, popular music, brass band originals and everything in-between. As an MD the real joy in all this broadening of genres is enabling the band to increasingly develop its stylistic playing skills on many levels; the genre, the composer, its historical position in music as well as its social history and national significance.

The sound of the band has continued to 'warm'. This is supported with a more controlled dynamic range and balance. The intonation is improving and there is a developing centre to the bands sound and tuning. Intonation can not be fixed quickly this is a very long process of developing players listening skills and aural perceptions but the band is well on its way in this journey. Audiences throughout the year have been significantly up and many have commented on WCB quality of sound, its musical shapes, musicianship, emotional connections through music and its ability to engage and entertain an audience in a unique way.

2025 has felt a very settled band on many levels and it is therefore no coincidence this is reflected in performances and rehearsal etiquette which on the whole remains excellent. The music has only developed as well as it has because of the excellent support behind it; Chairman (Ben), Band Manager (Rach), Bookings (Caron) Library Team (Jane and Vikki), Exec Committee and all other committees and their members, Secretary (Angela), Finance Team (Geoff and Sue), Safeguarding Team (Jim and Vikki), care home organisation (Janet), Christmas carolling organisation (Sue), Wells City Band Academy (Tanya and her team; Phil, Jim, Jane and Vikki), social media and website releases (Ben and Jack) and the growing support of Wells City Council which has enabled us to move into new rehearsal facilities at Portway Annexe. These much better facilities are another very big cog of considerable importance in supporting the Band in its very healthy position and its future legacy.

No matter how good the MD is he or she can only go so far with the music unless the many support teams, people and the players are pulling in the same way. WCB has at this present time

all this in place and working supremely well for the benefit of the whole of WCB family, This is very rare and on my travels out and about conducting, adjudicating, teaching and playing it has become very clear that many bands, professional musicians and other musical organisations are all looking at the success story that is WCB both on the concert platform and the behind scenes organisation. WCB currently is showing the way in what can be achieved.

Lastly the change of uniform to black shirts and the new maroon jackets has elevated the Band's appearance on stage and also on social media and in the press; the look now matches performances.

It is a very exciting time for WCB and I am delighted to be part of this success story that leads the way.

Thank you  
Paul

### Finance Report (accounting period 2024-2025)

Conforming with Charity Commission accounting standards:  
To conform with the Charity Commission's standards for reporting our financial activity, our accounts are now called 'RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS'.  
Names of categories have also been altered and re-grouped for the same purpose.

Wells City Band	End of financial year summary	2023-2024	2024-2025
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	Category code (R = RESRICTED)		
<b>DONATIONS &amp; GRANTS</b>	<b>DG</b>		
Beckington Bandits		£ 341	£ 20
Carolling		£ 1,199	£ 800
WCB Brass Academy	*	£ 2,069	*
Small Sundry Donations		£ 1,612	£ 468
Grants	<b>R</b>	£ 500	£ 1,700
<b>FUNDRAISING</b>	<b>FR</b>		
Events (raffles, socials)		£ 412	£ 650
Performance (including ticket sales)		£ 4,984	£ 4,429
Lottery (100 Club subs)		£ 562	£ 493
Other (including bank savings account interest)		£ 662	£ 34
<b>GOODS SALES</b>	<b>GS</b>		
Merchandise		£ 258	£ 168

Music (printed copies)		£	152	£	0
<b><u>MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS</u></b>	<b>MS</b>	£	3,157	£	7,761
Miscellaneous (insurance settlement)		£	0	£	806
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>15,908</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>17,329</b>
*WCBBA subs from 2024-25 included with all other membership subs					
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			2023-2024		2024-2025
<u>COSTS OF FUNDRAISING</u>					
Concert expenses		£	559	£	428
Lottery prizes (100 Club)		£	165	£	187
Instrument repairs	2024-25 includes £786 later settled by insurer	£	30	£	1,393
Miscellaneous		£	622	£	125
<u>INSURANCE/LICENCES</u>					
Insurance (Instruments & equipment)		£	632	£	707
Licences (performance / lottery)		£	112	£	119
<u>PERSONNEL COSTS</u>					
Association fees (BBE)		£	211	£	211
Beckington Bandits (23-24) WCBBA (24-25)		£	65	£	662
Gifts / awards		£	404	£	13
H&S, hygiene, safeguarding training		£	457	£	0
Professional fees (conducting)		£	2,115	£	2,815
<u>RENT</u>					
Rehearsal hall hire	2023-24 includes £2000 overdue from previous year	£	7,000	£	3,162
<u>STATIONERY</u>					

Postage	£	87	£	95
Printing	£	683	£	537
Website	£	91	£	106
<b>ASSET PURCHASES</b>				
Instruments (Main Band)	£	1,691	£	1,620
Equipment	£	0	£	818
WCBBA instruments	£	3,710	£	0
Uniform	£	3	£	36
Music library	£	1,689	£	791
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>20,326</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>13,825</b>

<b>CASH FUNDS at end of period</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>
<b>Lloyds Bank current account</b>	£ 1,705	£ 2,175
<b>Lloyds Bank Instant Savings account</b>	£ 3,074	£ 6,115
<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS</b>	£ 4,779	£ 8,290
<b>Receipts - Payments =</b>	£15908-£20326=	£17329-£13825=
<b>Year's deficit / surplus</b>	£4418 (deficit)	£3504 (surplus)

Analysis of financial activity in year :

2024-25

2023-24

Percentage (to nearest 5%) of TOTAL RECEIPTS made up by:

• PERFORMANCE FEES (including ticket sales)	25%	30%
• MEMBERSHIP SUBS (now including Academy and Beginners)	45%	35%
• Grants (restricted to the purposes declared)	10%	5%
• Carolling & other small donations	5%	20%
• ALL OTHER sources (include: Events, 100 Club, goods sales, etc.)	15%	10%
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

Percentage of TOTAL PAYMENTS (to nearest 5%) made up by:

• Asset purchases (instruments, equipment, printed music)	25%	35%
• Rent - rehearsal premises hire (this will be considerably more in 2025-2026)	25%	35%
• Personnel costs (include: conducting, safeguarding, BBE, welfare)	25%	15%
• Insurances & licences	5%	5%
• Cost of fundraising events	15%	5%
• Stationery (include: postage, printing, website, ...)	5%	5%
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

- **TRADING SURPLUS** During the recently ended financial year (Sept 2024- Aug 2025), receipts exceeded payments by over £3500, and this surplus represented about 20% of total receipts.
- **MORE GRANT INCOME** Considerably more was raised through grants (than in 2023-24), mostly to defray the cost of sound-reducing curtains for our new main rehearsal room, Chamberlain Hall in Portway Annexe. Please note that, as shown in the accounts tables above by a red 'R', grant income is usually RESTRICTED to the purpose specified and accepted in the grant bid.
- **MORE SUBS INCOME** Now that ALL members' subscriptions (Beginners, Academy, and Main Band) are equal, for accounting they are shown together (previously WCBBA subs were shown separately). Receipts from Membership Subscriptions have increased (from 2023-24), largely because of strong recruitment into Beginners and Academy, but also because the Main Band is 'full'. Provided we continue to support the Academy, we can reasonably expect this upward trend also to continue!
- **HIGH RENT COSTS** The 'Rent' (hire of rehearsal premises) comparison between years is distorted by our having had to pay £2000 in 2023-24 overdue to our previous hosts, Wells United Church. At our new, current rate of charges for Portway Annexe, a full year's hire will amount to close to £5500. In addition to premises hire, we are continuing to pay off our contribution to the cost of sound-reducing curtains for Chamberlain Hall. That contribution was agreed to be a 50:50 share with Wells City Council, so WCB had to pay £2300, of which £1500 has been raised through grants, leaving us to pay the remaining £800 from our funds, over the course of 12 months. Our rehearsal facilities are very good, but quite expensive. However, we are confident that Wells City Council will avoid sudden or steep increases in hire charges over coming years.
- **INCREASED ASSETS** Charity Commission compliant Receipts and Payments Accounts show ASSET PURCHASES separately from all other payments. This allows us to easily identify funds which have been spent on increasing our 'stock' (of instruments, equipment, uniform, and music library). The analysis above shows that a considerable part of our payments is for such asset purchases (25% in 2024-25). We must be sensible in what we treat as a 'cost' (e.g. insurance, professional fees), as opposed to an 'asset purchase'. For a payment to be treated as an 'asset purchase' it should add to our potentially 'valuable inventory'. This does not, however, imply that the cost to us of such assets is equal to their 'resale value'. For example, a used instrument is likely to be re-sold for much less than its original cost to us.
- **GIFT AID CLAIMABLE** On certain conditions, membership subscriptions may be treated as donations on which Gift Aid can be claimed from HMRC. In the current financial year, 2025-26, we intend to begin claiming Gift Aid on several different sources of donations, including 'bucket collections', some membership subscriptions, and other sundry donations.
- **SPONSORSHIP** We have yet to launch a SPONSORSHIP CAMPAIGN, as intended for the past couple of years. If this happens during the current financial year, we may hope to raise some continuing useful income from this source.
- **MUCH LOWER UNIFORM COSTS** Recent (sensible!) decisions about indoor and outdoor band uniform have relieved us from the pressure to raise large amounts of money; this would have had to be from grants or sponsorship or a massive fundraising effort, since Wells City Band has never succeeded in generating enough from 'normal' activity for such projects. This experience should guide us when considering expensive purchases (including instruments) in future!

Geoff Baker-Hytch  
Treasurer

Report prepared 20.10.2025

## **Wells City Band Brass Academy Co-ordinator's Report**

2025 saw the third year of our transition to WCB Brass Academy, and it's been another successful year. Sue, James, Emily, Walter, Eliza, and Rex have all moved from beginners to Academy Band, and Emily has further progressed into Main Band. Henry will be moving up to Academy Band when our Spring Term starts. We have also had a number of new beginners throughout the year, and 3 more starting soon. It is lovely to have Amanda back in Academy Band too after a period of illness.

It is heartening to see how many main band members have come up through our training programme, this is the true measure of our success.

Congratulations must go to Naomi and Rudy who auditioned and have been awarded a place in the Somerset Youth County Wind band, and were also asked to dep for County Orchestra over Christmas.

Summer 2025 saw another change of personnel in the Brass Academy teaching team. Jon and Alison had to step down for various reasons, although Jon still helps out when he is able to. Jim has taken charge of teaching the beginners group, with help from Geoff. Paul works with the Academy Band every other week when he is able to, which means I can spend a bit of time getting to know the beginners. Phil has been a fantastic addition to the teaching team, focussing mainly on the back row cornets in Academy Band who he has worked wonders with. Between them Paul and Phil have a wealth of knowledge and experience that is invaluable, and is making a huge difference to the Academy.

2025 also saw a change of venue, giving us even more room to work with. After a few teething problems the Academy has settled in well.

Our change of focus since last summer has gone fantastically, and we played 2 concerts this Christmas without needing additional help, only Academy players and tutors. This has greatly taken the pressure off main band players, particularly on cedars hall concert days. Our annual 'Chip Concert' in July was a huge success, and band supporters really enjoyed seeing the progress of the learners. The main comment from the audience was about the lovely atmosphere.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the whole Brass Academy team for their hard work and dedication, both at rehearsals and behind the scenes. It is a team effort to teach the next generation of players and ensure that Wells City Band exists well into the future.

On a more personal note the past year has been awful for me, and I would like to thank each and every member of Wells City Band for their support, cards, flowers, hugs, laughs, thoughts and prayers. I would not have got through it all without my band family holding me up, and I am truly grateful to be part of such a wonderful group of people.

Tanya Flagg  
Brass Academy Co-ordinator

January 2026

## **Band Manager's report**

It has been a pleasure to be part of WCB as our journey continues and preparing this report made me reflect again on how far we have come in the last 3 years. I continue to receive comments from new members about how special it feels to be welcomed into the WCB family. It is something that must not be underestimated or taken for granted.

The move to the Portway Annexe has made rehearsal evenings far easier on a practical basis, with plans to enable wider percussion to be available for both rehearsals and performances. Thank you to all who have helped in anyway.

We are aware that car parking can be frustrating, however with the councils plans to charge in the evenings we need to recognise that free parking is at a premium and therefore we should perhaps celebrate what we do have on offer.

Feedback would suggest that the move to the Spond app for communication to players about events has also been well received across the 3 sections of the band. Most players are also remembering to use the [absences@wellscityband.org](mailto:absences@wellscityband.org) to provide the team with as much information as possible to plan rehearsals, thank you.

We have a growing list of quality dep players who are willing to help us out on the rare occasions we need to fill gaps, as long as we have plenty of notice, but it is essential that players give their availability for events ASAP and that they contact the band manager directly if this changes (NOT just by changing it on the Spond app expecting the team to notice, please!)

Feedback from both players and our audiences has been overwhelmingly positive about our change in uniform this year.

It is encouraging to see The Academy continuing to welcome new players and great to see increasing numbers of home grown players now holding their own within the main band. It is a privilege to be part of WCB and I would like to particularly thank all individuals who give back, by giving up their time, often behind the scenes, going unnoticed, to help ensure everything goes smoothly, enabling so many others to enjoy making music.

Rachel Cooper  
Band Manager.

### **Safeguarding Officer's report**

Wells City Band has continued to address all Safeguarding issues during the course of the year, in order to ensure that all children and young people (ie under 18) and vulnerable adults remain safe at all times during their banding activities, whether they are in the Main Band, Academy or Beginners sections.

All chaperones, tutors and MDs, who are working directly with young people, are required to have Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, and these are monitored regularly to ensure that they are all up to date. In addition, all Band Committee members, in their supervisory capacity, also have a current DBS enhanced certificate, together with all Trustees, who have overall responsibility for children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Band.

Brass Bands England have very recently introduced a new, more direct system for obtaining DBS certificates, which will involve a fee of £25 per application, if there are more than two per year for each band organisation. Therefore it is important for everyone to subscribe to the DBS Update Service (for free) and then renew their subscription every year. Otherwise it means having to go the whole process every three years, with additional cost for the Band.

Also several adults are currently in receipt of Safeguarding training certificates, either with Brass Bands England (BBE), or via their work in education or other relevant areas. This has to be renewed every two years and helps to keep people up to date with the latest developments.

Furthermore we have continued to obtain, through BBE, a Body of Persons Approval (BOPA) for every Band event, allowing children under 16 to perform in public, and then inform the local authority in order to make their Safeguarding team aware of the details. For this we also have to make sure that the children are supervised by a chaperone at all times, in order to guarantee their safety during the event. It is also worth noting a more recent ruling by BBE that parents playing in the Band can be responsible for their children, as long as they are "within sight and sound".

We therefore have a range of policies and procedures in place, which are available via the Spond app, to ensure that all members, and especially our children and vulnerable adults, are able to enjoy being part of the Wells City Band, learning and playing their instruments in a relaxed and supportive environment.

I should finally wish to thank all Band members who have provided support to our children, young people and any vulnerable adults during this last year. Furthermore we must continue to remember that ultimately Safeguarding is the responsibility of us all.

Jim Reeve, Safeguarding Officer.

### **Librarians' Report**

The distribution of music to all players is working smoothly thanks to the efficiency of Paul and Tanya in getting lists to us in good time.

Vikki is in charge of all membership bookwork , updating the library lists and liaising with Paul on social media. Jane looks after academy music and register, and in the storage of returned music. We both work together in putting your music ready in the packs.

We thank Angela and Amanda for their help in registering the academy player's arrival and departure for safeguarding.

There is a problem with the lack of filing cabinets for all our music as W/X/Y/Z are still in boxes. Geoff will you please look at the possibility of fitting in another cabinet at the Town Hall in the Spring.

Dep packs for all brass players have been successful but we need a couple of weeks warning of any changes in percussion for concerts as last minute packs are not always able to contain all that is needed.

Thank you all for your patience; we sort about 1,000 pieces of paper for each concert so there will be occasional problems, but we love doing it, love listening to your music on Fridays, and feel a real part of the band even if we are in our little room!

Jane and Vikki  
Librarians for Wells City Band.



## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period  
from

11/01/2024

To

31/08/2024

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>				
Donations	1,288			
Charitable activities	12,190			
Other trading activities	1,311			
Other	840			
Grant (from local government)		1,700		
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	15,629	1,700	-	17,329
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>				
	- 0			
<b>Sub total</b>	15,629	1,700	- 0	17,329
<b>Total receipts</b>	15,629	1,700	- 0	17,329
<b>A3 Payments</b>				
Costs of fundraising	2,133			2,133
Insurances / licences	826			826
Personnel costs	3,701			3,701
Rent	3,162			3,162
Stationery	738			738
<b>Sub total</b>	10,560			10,560
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>				
Instruments (Main Band)	1,620			1,620
Sundry equipment	1,645			1,645
<b>Sub total</b>	3,265			1,382
<b>Total payments</b>	13,825			13,825
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	3,504			3,504
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>				
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	4,779			4,779
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	8,283			

### Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Lloyds bank current account	2,175	-
	Lloyds bank instant savings account	4,408	1,700
		-	-

	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>6,583</b>	<b>1,700</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		
		<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>
	<b>Details</b>	<b>to nearest £</b>	<b>to nearest £</b>
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	N/a	-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
	<b>Details</b>	<b>Fund to which asset belongs</b>	<b>Cost (optional)</b>
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	N/a		-
			-
			-
			-
			-
		<b>Fund to which asset belongs</b>	<b>Cost (optional)</b>
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Brass musical instruments		-
	Library of printed music parts		-
	Stock of Wells City Band uniforms		-
	Miscellaneous equipment (mostly for performance)		-
	<b>Details</b>	<b>Fund to which liability relates</b>	<b>Amount due (optional)</b>
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	None		-
			-
			-
			-
			-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	
	Geoffrey Baker-Hytch	Geoffrey Baker-Hytch	
	Susan Kerton	Susan Kerton	

<b>CC16a</b>
<b>Last year</b>
to the nearest £
5,221
8,141
1,384
662
500
15,908
0
15,908
15,908
1,376
744
3,252
7,000
861
13,233
1,691
5,402
7,093
20,326
- 4,418
4,779
<b>Endowment funds</b>
to nearest £
-
-
-



**WELLS CITY BAND**

England & Wales - Charity number 1206500

---

# Accounts

---

## **CHARITY TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Wells City Band: History, background, and operation of our charity**

Being among the ten oldest brass bands in Britain, Wells City Band can trace its history right back to 1839, when a band with that name entertained the 'City and Corporation' of Wells in Somerset at a civic dinner with music played on brass instruments. Giving amateur musicians the opportunity to learn to play - to a high standard - a wide range of music, and perform for public audiences at such events was, and still is, at the heart of the work of Wells City Band. Throughout this long period, the Band has gone under several different names, has had many musical directors, has fluctuated in numbers of players, and was completely revived at one point, about 40 years ago.

In recent decades a 'training band' led by experienced Band members introduced new players of all ages and abilities to playing brass instruments and learning the rudiments of music theory to support their musicianship. These trainees, in time, took their places in the 'Main Band', playing in public.

The Band's records show performances at a large range of local public and civic events over many years: national commemorations, mayor-making, Somerset carnivals, Christmas carolling, summer bandstand concerts, as well as more formal concerts in local parish churches, Wells Town Hall and, more recently, Cedars Hall (the state-of-the-art concert venue attached to Wells Cathedral School).

Recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic prompted a re-think of all our activities, and spurred us to establish a 'Brass Academy'. Starting with just a couple of keen, complete beginners our Wells City Band Brass Academy (WCBBA) grew to around 30 in little over a year. Alongside offering regular musical education - hardly available at all in most schools in the 2020's - the Academy also began to supply a steady stream of players promoted to playing with the Main Band.

Although Wells City Band in the past very occasionally competed in local and regional brass band contests, approaching 200 years after our first documented performance, we are quite definitely now a community band, with the people and events of our local area at the core of our existence and purpose.

In 2022 we engaged a new musical director with a strong background in professional music-making and specialist brass education. This has given us fresh inspiration and put us on our current journey towards high-quality rehearsal and performance of a wide repertoire, embracing traditional brass band standards, arrangements from many genres, and original compositions. Now, every rehearsal is a masterclass!

Our rising profile and wider appeal in our local area, coupled with our clear focus on public service through accessible teaching and performance, led us to register as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) with the Charity Commission in early 2024.

As stated in our constitution, adopted when we registered our charity, our objects are:  
'To promote, improve, develop, and maintain public education in, and appreciation of the art of music, especially brass band music, in and around the City of Wells, and in the United Kingdom more generally by: operating an amateur brass band open to the widest possible membership; facilitating the musical education of band members of all abilities; presenting performances in public, including for civic occasions; entering into affiliation, association or collaboration with organisations for the support and promotion of musical education and performance, as the trustees shall determine from time to time'.

At the outset our charity appointed (a maximum of) 9 trustees, all of whom also play important roles in the day-to-day running of the Band. The routine operation of the Band is delegated by the trustees to a small 'Executive Committee' which is in regular, close contact via electronic media, and

a larger 'Full Committee' representing the wider membership (of our Main Band and Academy). Each committee meets periodically (at least once every couple of months), in addition to the mandatory AGM. Occasionally, the Executive Committee meets at short notice to consider an urgent matter arising.

The officers of the Executive Committee are: chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, band manager, safeguarding officer, and musical director. Of these, all are volunteers except the musical director, who is paid at professional rates per rehearsal and concert for his services. The Full Committee includes all the 'Executive' members plus roles such as bookings officer, membership secretary, and publicity officer.

The general conduct of all members is regulated by our 'Code of Conduct' which clearly sets out the responsibilities and benefits of membership of Wells City Band. We are proud that our organisation works with a wide range of people of all abilities from age 8 upwards, including members with neurodivergent conditions and disabilities, providing a safe and supportive social and cultural outlet, in which all can thrive and reach their potential.

All players, from the newest beginner to the most experienced soloist, are expected to show each other equal respect. Safeguarding is of paramount importance to us, in all settings where we meet to rehearse or perform. Furthermore, the Band is well-known for taking good care of members, especially if they are struggling musically or personally. Wells City Band goes well beyond statutory responsibilities in considering members' welfare, and this is an important and much-valued aspect of our community band.

The same open and inclusive attitude is always extended towards the other, equally important beneficiaries of our Band activities - our audiences. Whether at large civic functions or in the relative privacy of care homes, we look to engage our audience in our music making. As conductor and compère, our musical director shares stories and reflections with audiences, many drawn from his vast professional musical experience. He also often tells our listeners that without them we would have nobody to perform for!

## **Wells City Band financial activity in 2023-2024**

### **RECEIPTS: What funds did our charity receive, and what were the sources of those funds?**

During the financial year 2023-24 Wells City Band registered as a charity. To begin with, this new status did not make a big difference to our funding, but we expect this to change gradually. We intend to register with HMRC for Giftaid, and possibly also for VAT. We are devising a sponsorship scheme which we hope will attract more interest because we are now a registered charity. In the same period the Band had its second-highest ever total of money incoming and outgoing, reflecting the bigger scale of our activities. Some details of our income and expenditure are set out below.

## **FUNDRAISING**

This year ticket sales and fees for public performances became our largest single source of income (nearly £5000, around 1/3 of total income). We are keen to keep a balance between genuinely affordable ticket prices and generating a surplus from concerts. Our recently formed close relationship with Cedars Hall in Wells (through which we benefit from their online marketing) has widened our appeal and greatly boosted our ticket revenues. We performed at several public events for the first time, including the Bath and West Show and 'Stokefest', a village gala day. Fees paid by event hosts and surpluses from ticketed concerts allow us to provide more performances for the general public free of charge, such as bandstand concerts in Wells and nearby towns, and musical afternoons for local care home residents.

Other significant fundraising included: social events such as quiz and skittles evenings for our informal 'supporters group' (which we have decided to transform into a more formal and self-sustaining 'Friends of Wells City Band' during next financial year); our '100 Club' lottery brought in a modest income which has not increased over recent years, prompting us to consider either re-launching or scrapping it; moving money from our current bank account to instant savings not only allowed us to monitor our cash reserves easily, but also raised a small amount in interest.

## **GOODS SALES**

We sold a small amount of branded Band merchandise (e.g. history books, printed music, ties, stationery). In future, with our increasing presence and popularity in the community and wider area, we hope to considerably increase the range and amount of merchandise we sell.

## **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

In the previous year we set a new rule that members' subscriptions should cover all essential outgoings. These subs totalled around £3000 (for a half-year). Please see 'PAYMENTS' (below) for what we identified as essential outgoings.

## **DONATIONS and GRANTS**

Traditional Christmas carol 'busking' outings and similar informal open-air playing continued to bring in substantial small donations, on which we intend to claim government Giftaid in future. We believe we could increase such informal 'bucket' collections, perhaps by sending out small groups of players to more locations or on more occasions.

Our recently formed 'Wells City Band Brass Academy' attracted over £2000 in funds, much of which was spent on equipping this rapidly growing section of the band with instruments and printed music, and occasional professional group tuition.

Around £350 was raised in (mainly) small donations specifically for 'Beckington Bandits', an accessible music group overseen by Wells City Band, which gave opportunities to young people who found it difficult to take part in conventional bands. During the year their low-cost rehearsal premises were closed, and the group could not afford to continue, though some of their former members had already joined Wells City Band, where they were able to further develop their musicianship. Beckington Bandits had small residual funds, held within Wells City Band's bank accounts. With the consent of a few identifiable donors, a decision was made to make this money available to our Brass Academy, with its similar charitable purposes.

We obtained one small local authority grant (of £500), which contributed to a musical instrument for one of our improving young musicians, enabling them to progress to playing with our main Band. Now that we have registered our charity, we have begun to find we are more likely to secure funding from a wide range of local and general grant-makers. So, in the next couple of years, we intend to focus grant bids on some of the most important costs of carrying out our purposes, such as musical direction (at full professional rates), and maintenance and replacement of instruments.

Some Band members own their instruments, but many players require us to supply them with a decent, playable instrument. It is important to point out the very high cost of quality musical instruments. Some of our most expensive instruments were bought over 20 years ago with generous grants. Brass and percussion instruments tend to have quite a short useful lifetime. We monitor wear and tear carefully and periodically maintain and service selected instruments. However, one by one they need to be replaced. To fully equip a complete brass band at today's prices could easily cost around £ 1/4 million! So, clearly, we accept that replacements and additions to our stock are a major expense which must be carefully planned and budgeted for over years rather than months. Whenever Wells City Band has needed new instruments they have generally been bought with targeted fundraising or grants. We expect this to continue in the long term, since our routine income is unlikely to cover the large outlay for these essential assets.

### **PAYMENTS: How did our charity spend its funds, and what was the benefit to the public?**

As referred to above under 'MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS' we identified the following outgoings as 'essential' (or 'unavoidable'): 'rent' (hire of rehearsal premises); licences (PPL / PRS, small lottery); insurance of our inventory of musical instruments and sundry performance equipment (valued, in total at around £120,000); safeguarding (health and safety equipment, first aid and safeguarding training, DBS checks, association fees); instrument repairs and maintenance; professional fees for musical direction of rehearsal and concerts. Over many years Wells City Band's income has usually exceeded outgoings, allowing a variable cash 'buffer' to be available. As a registered charity we will, however, formally set aside a reserve fund (probably within our instant savings bank account) to cover unavoidable costs for a minimum of six months of operation of our charity.

Rent has increased dramatically in recent years, to this year's peak of £7000 (admittedly including £2000 due, but not invoiced, from the previous year). It is very important to have long-term use of high-quality premises for teaching and rehearsing. With our Brass Academy growing so quickly, alongside recruiting and keeping a full Main Band, we planned to find a new rehearsal space. While we will try to limit the cost of suitable rooms, this is likely to be a considerable cost in coming years.

Safeguarding is central to all our activities, so our Safeguarding Officer sits on our Executive Committee and is a trustee. Safeguarding and related costs (itemised above) are, therefore, substantial. We firmly believe that it is very much in the public interest that we take the best possible care of all Band personnel in all the varied settings where we meet, whether among our own group of adult and junior players, or in performance spaces.

When we first engaged our present Musical Director he received no payment from us, but this was not sustainable, and so, more recently, we have made formal arrangements to pay for rehearsals and concerts. Recognising the importance of high quality, professional musical leadership to the musical education and training we provide, we expect this to be a significant cost over the long-term.

### **ASSET (AND INVESTMENT) PURCHASES**

Apart from the running costs explained above, we made various purchases which added to our stock of Wells City Band assets. In 2023-24 we bought several new instruments (and sundry equipment) to supply our growing Academy and players promoted to Main Band. With a full band including some 'additional' players, we were able to offer more public performances. At the same time, the availability of small ensembles enabled us to provide music for more restricted settings, such as local care homes. We also bought many new sets of printed music to add to our library; this increased our active repertoire and, thereby, our appeal to a wider public audience.

The Band made no investment purchases in the reporting period. Furthermore, there are currently no plans to acquire investments, as income is not expected to grow enough to provide any investable surplus.

### **STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES**

#### **ASSETS**

Our charity currently owns no buildings or other large, saleable assets, and we have no plans to acquire such property. Nevertheless, we have other realisable assets, especially our large inventory of musical instruments, insured for a total of around £120,000. These instruments are mostly out on loan to Band members, with some kept in safe storage for new or improved players. Other Band assets include a stock of players' uniforms, together with music stands, stand banners, and sundry performance equipment. We are currently reviewing our Band attire for different types of performance - formal and informal concerts, and

seasonal open-air playing. Also, as a modern organisation with a variety of communication needs, we own electronic equipment such as a laptop, mobile phone, printer, card readers, and a PA system. In the decisions we come to and choices we make regarding all asset purchases, we are always mindful of our responsibility to spend charity income properly, prioritising public benefit rather satisfying personal preferences.

## **LIABILITIES**

Wells City Band had no outstanding liabilities before registering as a charity, nor did it incur any new liabilities in 2023-24.

Geoff Baker-Hytch, WCB Trustee and Treasurer.

## **Reports on aspects of our charitable work from other Wells City Band Trustees**

### *Summary of our Chairman's Report to AGM*

In 2023-2024 Wells City Band delivered a packed programme of concerts and public performances, including a sell-out Christmas concert with a children's choir, and appearances at major regional events. We are planning to launch a sponsorship scheme to support long-term growth, and we welcomed the 'Friends of Wells City Band' group to lead community fundraising. Looking ahead, we plan to expand our reach through festivals, improved rehearsal facilities, and investment in youth development via our academy band - ensuring brass band music continues to benefit and inspire the wider community in 2025 and beyond.

Ben Collins, WCB Trustee and Chairman.

### *Wells City Band Brass Academy (WCBBA)*

The Wells City Band Brass Academy (WCBBA) completed its second successful year, and yet again exceeded my expectations. Five intermediate level Academy players moved up to the Main Band where they are playing extremely well. Another five trainees moved from Beginners to the Academy Band. A further two Beginners will move from Beginners to Academy Band when our new term starts in January. We also have a new adult learner starting in January. Our focus for 2025 will be to increase our number of Beginners as we now have vacancies again.

Congratulations are due to one of our youngest players who auditioned for and was awarded a place in the Somerset Youth County Wind Band, and has since been offered a Music Scholarship at Wells Cathedral School, specialising in brass (trumpet and cornet).

Summer 2024 saw a change of personnel in the Brass Academy teaching team. As Coordinator, I am now focussing on work with the Academy Band, and I am delighted that two very experienced musicians (who are also professional teachers) are working with our Beginners.

Our Musical Director, Paul Denegri, agreed to work with our Academy players on alternate weeks, as often as possible, and his knowledge and talent are invaluable to us all. I am looking forward to our new Main Band colleague, a former Coldstream Guardsman, joining the team and we welcome him to Wells City Band Brass Academy.

This change of roles, with a number of learners moving up from Beginners, and other players moving positions within the Academy Band, has meant a slight change of focus. We are now working on music that the Academy Band members can play without too much help from Main Band players, and have reduced to just one Main Band player acting as a section coach for each instrument. We are using mostly ensemble music rather than that scored for full brass band, so that we do not require anyone to fill in missing parts. This greatly takes the pressure off of Main Band players when we have a joint performance.

Our young players very much enjoyed being part of a youth 'scratch band' along with students from Wells Cathedral School, as part of our Spring Concert in May 2024, raising money for Teenage Cancer Trust. The workshop with Ian Porterhouse from Tredegar Band was very enjoyable and informative, and I do hope we can work with him again sometime.

Our annual 'Chip Concert' in July was a huge success, and band supporters really enjoyed seeing the progress of the learners. We also played in the Foyer at Cedars Hall as pre-concert entertainment for the Christmas Concert, getting the audience in a festive mood with some popular carols.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the whole Brass Academy team for their hard work and dedication, both at rehearsals and behind the scenes, particularly our two librarians, for their efforts with admin and library. Thanks to all of the Main Band members who give up their time each week to help and support the Brass Academy. It is a team effort to teach the next generation of players and ensure that Wells City Band exists well into the future.

### Community Outreach

#### **Museum project 2023-2024**

In 2023 Wells City Band was invited to be part of Wells Museum's 'Search and Learn' Project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Working with their Project Manager, Victoria Northwood, we undertook to create an exhibition about the Band to go on display in the Museum. We decided to highlight the close links the Band has maintained over many, many years with the local community, particularly through some of the local people who have been involved. The exhibition was displayed from October 2023 to January 2024 and attracted considerable interest from local residents and the many visitors Wells welcomes all year round.

#### **Cubs Music Badge 2023**

When we were first recruiting to the WCBBA, the leaders of Wells City Band Brass Academy had a great time helping a group of cubs from (a large village near Wells) Wedmore Beavers, Cubs & Scouts to achieve their Stage 1 Music Badge. We talked about the music we like, sang a song about black socks, and learned enough about playing brass instruments to join in with a George Ezra song. Even the cub leaders had a go, much to everyone's amusement! We finished the evening with a short performance. We intend to offer similar workshops to local schools and youth groups in our area from time to time in future, especially when we have several vacancies for Beginners.

Tanya Flagg, WCB Trustee and WCBBA Co-ordinator.

### Safeguarding in Wells City Band

Wells City Band continued to address all safeguarding issues during the course of the year, in order to ensure that all children and young people (i.e. under 18) and vulnerable adults remain safe at all times during their banding activities, whether they are in the Main Band, Academy or Beginners sections.

All chaperones, tutors and MDs, who all work directly with young people, are required to have Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, and these are monitored regularly to ensure that they are all up to date. In addition all Band Committee members, in their supervisory capacity, also have a current DBS enhanced certificate, together with all Trustees, who have overall responsibility for children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Band.

We also have several Band members who have undergone safeguarding training, either with Brass Bands England (our national association), or via their work in education or other relevant areas.

Furthermore we continued to obtain, through Brass Bands England, a Body of Persons Approval (BOPA) for every band event, allowing children under 16 to perform in public, and then inform the local authority (in

our case, Somerset Council), in order to make their safeguarding team aware of the details. For this we also have to make sure that the children are supervised by a chaperone at all times, in order to guarantee their safety during the event.

We therefore have a range of policies and procedures in place, which are available for all members via the 'Stack Team App' which we use for internal communications, to ensure that everyone, and especially our children and vulnerable adults, can enjoy being part of the Wells City Band, learning and playing their instruments in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Jim Reeve, WCB Trustee and Safeguarding Officer.

### Band Management

As Band Manager of WCB, I'd like to thank everyone who showed their support to me both personally and as a member of the WCB family in 2023 - 24. It was a year full of challenges which proved, once again, that WCB is a very special group of people. In this role I think we must take time to appreciate and reflect on the journey, and be careful not to take what we have for granted. Momentum is key and we need to keep looking forward, and be to be proactive to ensure that Wells City Band continues to thrive. We are blessed with a fantastic Musical Director and a dedicated group of volunteers working effectively together to ensure the Band runs smoothly. I would like to encourage every member to consider how they are personally contributing to the running of our band. As we continue to grow and flourish, it is vital that the load needs to be shared more equally, rather than falling to the same few people, many of whom have busy lives, with work and family commitments. I look forward to next year, with my responsibility to ensure that, at all times, we present the best version of our band. In this regard, it is important to have enough other members to fill key roles such as uniform, instrument, and front-of-house coordinators, enabling me to continue to focus on my role as Band Manager.

### Musical Director's Report

Many long-standing members of the Wells City Band family, from players to supporters, commented to me on many occasions that 2023 was the most wonderful and successful year in their time with the band, in some cases stretching back decades. One supporter said it was probably the best year in the Band's very long history!

Following a year like that, 2024 could easily and understandably, have felt a little flatter or less exciting and engaging. However, 2024 proved the exact opposite and was another year full of so much that is right in a healthy brass band, or any musical ensemble - in the rehearsal room, on the concert platform, and away from the actual music-making in the exciting and the good, and in the rare, more challenging, moments.

What makes our band so extraordinary (in these tough times for brass bands in the UK) is the following:-

- (1) WCB is that rarity of a full band (minus one BBb bass, but the one incumbent player amply makes up for that!). Currently, WCB is one of only two full brass bands in Somerset, and for many a mile beyond, into Dorset and Wiltshire;
- (2) We have the further joy in that we are slightly over in numbers of a standard brass band line up. This means we nearly always rehearse and perform at 90% attendance, which is what we are close to achieving every week. This not only makes rehearsals much more interesting and satisfying because the band can work in more detail on finer points of development, it also means morale and confidence of the band stay high;
- (3) The Academy band continues to thrive under Tanya and her team, staffed by Main Band players. This feeds into the Main Band both musically and in maintaining the full line up that we enjoy. The Academy strength and growth will provide a long- term legacy of excellent banding for others to enjoy in years to come;

(4) Musically the band is now in a place in its technique where I can go further in the nuances of the music, such as style, genre, historical connections, country and composer of origin, and social influences, instead of chasing notes and correcting rhythms. The Band's evolution to this point in under three years is remarkable. The consequence is the most exciting of all, in the fact that the Band now has the abilities and the confidence to 'put the music first and music does the talking'. This is when the joy and magic of playing music become really special. I believe WCB is now at this point, and without making any changes to the playing personnel, the Band can go forth and really enjoy everything that making music offers to a good band;

(5) We have continued to broaden our repertoire. With a full band this opens up so many more possibilities of rehearsing new works from our own library, and of add to the library. The Band is turning over repertoire quickly between major concerts, and linking these nicely into the summer open air events through to indoor full concerts;

(6) I'm delighted that community banding is still high on our radar of importance and long may this continue, in care homes, at civic events, acts of remembrance, national celebrations, Christmas carolling and services, and much more. A healthy brass band serves its community in any way it is able to. Thank you to our Care Home Coordinators, Paul and Sue, for all their efforts in pulling these events together so successfully, with the excellent support of our Bookings Officer, Caron, and Band Manager, Rachel;

(7) Probably the most significant musical barometer of how good the Band is, and how its following has grown, is our twice-a-year residence at Cedars Hall, a professional concert hall. Not only performing there, in properly staged concerts, but linking with youth performers and enabling local children to have the opportunity to perform in that environment, and also to sing with a brass band. If that wasn't enough, to sell out the concerts is quite simply remarkable and a huge testament to just how healthy Wells City Band is in every single area of its family, on and off-stage. It is interesting to note that every band would jump at this chance, but only the Cory and Tredegar bands have joined WCB as brass bands accepted to play at Cedars Hall. Cedars Hall are delighted to have us, not only for a very obvious reason, but they also greatly appreciate our Band's courtesy and consideration towards their staff and respect for the facilities;

(8) Rehearsal etiquette remains very good in the band, and I have to say that I love my time making music happen with WCB, to the standard and with the enjoyment that we do;

(9) Away from actual music making, I can not stress enough that it doesn't matter how good the rehearsal room is if away from it behind the scenes is not running equally well and vice versa. At WCB we have very capable people undertaking the running of the band in every aspect of its operation including Uniform Coordinator, Band Manager, Bookings Officer, Chairman, Treasurer, Bookkeeper, Academy Coordinator, Academy staff, Safeguarding Officer (and Chaperones) , Secretary, Publicity Officer - Wells City Band is a long way ahead of most bands in how it is governed and operated, behind the scenes. This has involved some brave steps and changes, but they have proved right and the benefits are now really coming to the fore;

(10) Supporting a full band every week are our two Librarians, Jane and Vikki, always on hand and running the library for both Academy and Main Band so efficiently. This is a Musical Director's joy - quick, organised access to music. It is very rare to have non-playing members at every rehearsal, supporting a band or any musical ensemble, and not just at the beginning, but helping all evening. Then we also benefit from other supporters, friends, and family helping the band with front-of-house at concerts, collecting funds, and so on.

Looking to 2025, a year to enjoy is ahead, with the two concerts at Cedars already booked for Spring and Christmas, a concert invitation to The Three Towers Music Festival near Bath (a first for WCB, and a clear recognition of just how our reputation is growing). Plus there are our usual dates in summer and autumn, with more details to follow. We can add to all this the new moves to offer sponsorship, which are well under way. This can only happen with the Band playing as we are and, if sponsorship is successful, it will bring security to the Band's future and feed its musical qualities. The Committee are also looking to find a suitable rehearsal rooms. Finding these will be a huge step forward in so many ways, musically, financially, and logistically. It's clear from the MD's stand that WCB is in a very healthy place, across every aspect of its life. We even have the unique backdrop of being the local and only band in one of the most beautiful and historical places in the UK, which only adds to our uniqueness as a brass band. This is why I was delighted to see us return to the band's smarter looking maroon traditional colours in ties and new banners. There is no doubt, when we see pictures of the Band, how good we look. Our presentation looks good to our paying audiences, as well as to those many members of the public who listen to us free of charge.

Nearly every band will rightly call itself a 'family band', and so many are. For me personally, I feel that Wells City Band has a very special family feel that goes beyond just a band family but extends into real care for people when times are challenging or tough away from the band. Through my teenage daughter's fight with cancer and the death of both my mum and my dad - all in the last two years - WCB has been a support to me that would be very difficult to find elsewhere, and not just in words but actions, or a simple warm smile that said so much to me, and gave strength to the view I've held all my life that music and the human soul are the perfect partners, especially in a band such as WCB where it stands right now, what it believes in, and how it cares for music and people. Thank you for 2024, that moved onwards and upwards from 2023 - which wasn't the easier route!

Paul Denegri, WCB Trustee and Musical Director.



## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period  
from

01/09/2023

To

31/08/2024

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>				
Events= £412				
Performance= £4984				
Lottery (100 Club)= £562				
Other (including bank interest)= £622				
<b>ALL Fundraising</b>	<b>6,620</b>			<b>6,620</b>
Merchandise sales= £258				
Music sales (printed copies)= £152				
<b>ALL goods sales</b>	<b>410</b>			<b>410</b>
<b>ALL membership subscriptions</b>	<b>3,157</b>			<b>3,157</b>
Carolling= £1199				
WCB Brass Academy= £2069 (restricted)				
Beckington Bandits= £341 (restricted)				
Small sundry donations= £1612				
Local gov't grant (Wells City Council)= £500 (restricted)				
Other grants =£0				
<b>ALL donations and grants</b>	<b>2,811</b>	<b>2,910</b>		<b>5,721</b>
<b>Sub total(Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>12,998</b>	<b>2,910</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,908</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>				
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>- 0</b>	<b>- 0</b>	<b>- 0</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>12,998</b>	<b>2,910</b>	<b>- 0</b>	<b>15,908</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>				
Concert expenses= £559				
Lottery prizes =£165				
Instrument repairs= £30				
Miscellaneous= £662				
<b>Cost of fundraising events</b>	<b>1,376</b>			<b>1,376</b>
Insurance (instruments and equipment) =£632				
Licences =£112				
<b>Insurances / licences</b>	<b>744</b>			<b>744</b>
Association fees =£211				
Beckington Bandits =£65				
Gifts /awards =£404				
H&S, hygiene, safeguarding training =£457				
Professional fees (conducting) =£2115				
<b>Personnel costs</b>	<b>3,252</b>			<b>3,252</b>
Premises hire (2023-24) =£5000				
Premises hire (uncharged from 22-23)=£2000				
<b>Rent</b>	<b>7,000</b>			<b>7,000</b>
Postage=£87				
Printing =£683				
Website=£91				
<b>Stationery (incl. printing, computing)</b>	<b>861</b>			<b>861</b>
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>13,233</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,233</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>				
Instruments (Main Band)	1,691			1,691
WCBBA (instruments/equipment)		3,710		3,710

Uniform =£3	3			3
Music purchases (band library)=£1689	1,689			1,689
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>3,383</b>	<b>3,710</b>		<b>7,093</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>16,616</b>	<b>3,710</b>		<b>20,326</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 3,618</b>	<b>- 800</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 4,418</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	- 0	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	9,197	-	-	9,197
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>5,579</b>	<b>- 800</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,779</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank current a/c	1,705	-
	Bank instant savings a/c	3,074	-
		-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>4,779</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>			
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Brass instruments	Instrument inventory	N/a
	Set of percussion instruments (kit, timpani, etc.)	Instrument inventory	N/a
	Library of sets of printed music	Music Library inventory	N/a
	Stock of Band uniforms (for loan to members)	Uniform inventory	N/a
	Sundry music performance equipment (chairs, stands, banners, mutes, etc.)	Equipment inventory	N/a
	Miscellaneous (mostly equipment for Band management, communications, performance, e.g. laptop, mobile phone, and readers, PA system, gazebo, ...)	Equipment inventory	N/a
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	None		-
			-
			-
			-
			-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	
Treasurer	<i>Geoff Baker-Hytch</i>	Geoffrey Baker-Hytch	
Bookkeeper		Susan Kerton	



3,999
547
11,564
21,888
494
-
7,611
8,105
<b>Endowment funds</b>
to nearest £
-
-
-
-
OK
<b>Endowment funds</b>
to nearest £
<b>Current value (optional)</b>
-
<b>Current value (optional)</b>
N/a
N/a
N/a
N/a
N/a
N/a
<b>When due (optional)</b>
<b>Date of approval</b>
27th June 2025
28th June 2025