

WORCESTER MELA

England & Wales · Charity number 1206966

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2024-02-09

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

Contact

Address The Kiln Co-Working CIC
2 Copenhagen Street
Worcester
WR1 2HB

Phone 07908754485

Email chair@worcestermela.org.uk

Website <https://worcestermela.org.uk/>

Activities

Objects: FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN AND TO PROMOTE THEIR APPRECIATION OF THE ART AND CULTURE OF SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES BY THE PROVISION OF AN ANNUAL ARTS FESTIVAL IN THE CITY OF WORCESTER AND OTHER ASSOCIATED EVENTS.

Activities: To bring together different communities within Worcestershire by strengthening integration & cultivating, nurturing and encouraging the exploration of South Asian culture. To document & preserve the social impact of Worcestershire South Asian Communities. To deliver an annual Mela Festival & projects held in the city of Worcester & Worcestershire.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Worcestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£65,894	£79,202	-	-
2024-08-31	£36,325	£38,779	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Abdul Riaz	Chair	2023-10-10
Gemma Helen Dhami		2024-06-24
Jabran Khalid		2023-10-10
Romana Ali		2024-08-23
Sam Narr		2025-07-01
Zeffira Husein		2026-01-21

WORCESTER MELA

England & Wales - Charity number 1206966

Accounts

Chairman's Annual Report 24/25

It has been another incredible year for Worcester Mela, and I would like to thank the board for their continued support and belief in me as Chair. We need to acknowledge the support of the public and our generous funders in what we have achieved and not to mention, Elaine Knight who has been a constant source of strength and support for us throughout. We honestly could not have achieved much of this without her. A thank you to outgoing members Kay and Sajeeda Begum for their incredible support and a warm welcome to new members Sam and a hello to potential future board members/advisors.

Projects Delivered

Melting Pot & Film

The Legacy of the Melting Pot project, spearheaded by [Worcester Mela](#), was an 18-month initiative funded by Arts Council England that documented and celebrated the contributions of South Asian migrant communities to Worcester's industrial history from the 1960s to the 1990s, focusing on factories like [Lea & Perrins](#), [Metal Box](#), and [Royal Worcester Porcelain](#). The project involved community workshops, story collection, and was culminated in a multi-disciplinary performance at the Worcester Mela annual festival in September 2024, incorporating dance, music, and storytelling to bring these "hidden" histories to life for the public.

Qawwali night - Sell out event 1st time held in Worcester incredibly popular, and people wanted more, 1st test event for us as a paid event tickets at £10 a ticket. Families of all ages and descriptions attended an amazing night of qawwali. Total paying attendees 90.

Mela Day Over 4-5,000 visitors up approx. 1,000 on last year, another successful event, with the sports zone a huge success. The Malayali community came for the first time to the event, and they absolutely loved being part of the Mela! All the feedback incredibly positive!

This year we have brought in a record £220,000 in funding, more than we have ever done!

Funding Received / Won –

Place Partnership Funding £165,000 over 2 years 2025-2027

Mary Hill Trust £16,550 Youth
Project, Nov 26-Nov 27

Bransford Trust £15,000 (5K on
Worcester Mela, 10k towards MHT youth Project)

Worcester City Council £12,500 Spent on Mela Day 2025

Eveson Trust £5,000 MHT youth
project (Nov 26-Nov 27)

Worcester Community Tr £1,200 Women's Sports/Health
and Wellbeing (Ringfenced)

Public Health £5,000 MHT allocated
towards MHT youth project Nov 26-nov27

£220,000 total

Bids put in :

Severn Trent Community Workshops £20k Decision in Nov 25.

EOI

Bagri Foundation in Partnership with Redditch Groups-
Charpai- A way of Life Circa 60-80k?

Future Bids

Heritage Lottery Fund Khudadad Khan- Reenactment Nov/Dec
26

BFI UK Film- Documentary Khudadad Khan in partnership with
Worcester Film Festival Dec 26

NPO Arts Council England – July 2026 £1.2m over 3 years
decision in 2027

Elevate Fund Arts Council- £120,000 bid July 26 decision in
April 27

Organisational Development bid- No Funder identified yet
URGENT

25/26

Stitching Light October 29TH/30TH 2026 RPW Severn
St Worcester

Youth project Nov 26 (12-16mths) Planning stage now
 Place Partnership 8 Community events to be held by
 Jan/Feb 26 to shape
 Prospero Digital project- as part
 Global Materials Lead by Worcestershire Museums

Partnerships

Without Walls

Emergency Exit Arts

University

Public Health

Worcester city council and County

Museums

How College

Accounts and Financial Position

Balance	38297.19	Money Expected
42803.44	-26550 MHT	5000 Ph
-4856.25	-1200 SPORTS	5000 Eveson
	-2250 DEBBIE BIRCH	75000 Pp
		12
	-7200 BOARD DEVELOP MTHS	
	RESERVE	
	1100 S	

Rebrand

This is needed and plans are afoot to put a project plan together with the aim of launching this in May 2026 ahead of the SAHM project.

Sam and I are working on the rebrand- have contacted the university as well for support and we have a quote from WAB for a marketing strategy. Need to allocate a budget for this from Place Partnership

Board Matters

We need to recruit at least 2 board members/advisors to make ourselves more resilient – skills in fundraising/theatre/business/accountancy/legal

Lack of responsiveness from the wider board remains an issue, granted some board members have had other things going on and we are volunteer board, I try to carry the burden as much as I can, but help would be appreciated! And going forward We need to share the workload,

I will be working with Sam to develop a collaboration space with the board, so we can get more cohesive flow of info and involvement.

We all need to do our DBS checks, they must be done yearly those that are out of date or if you haven't not done one then we need to sort this asap. I will send out links please respond.

Roles that need to be filled

Bookkeeper – admin assist/Secretary – Have sent Vice chair a brief for this role and awaiting board sign off

Summary

We have had an incredible year and we continue to grow organically and at pace, the visit from Arts council in July and then for Sofia to visit the Mela Show in August highlighted the importance they place in Worcester and recognised the incredible investment that they have made in Worcester Mela, this bodes extremely well for us for NPO and shows we are well and truly worthy of what we have achieved. I am incredibly proud of you all and what you have helped Mela become, we are only just starting, and I now firmly believe we deserve this, and we will make international inroads into the work we are doing!

Appendix

Worcester Mela – Evaluation Summary (10th August 2025)

Overall Experience (Q1)

- Most frequent words: Fun, Colourful, Inclusive, Creative, Friendly
- Positive atmosphere described as welcoming, vibrant, and enjoyable

- Food, workshops, and performances highlighted as memorable

How People Felt (Q2)

- 77% felt Happy
- 56% felt Impressed
- 46% felt Inspired
- 44% felt Connected to others
- No negative emotions reported (0% sad, bored, confused)

Workshops & Acts Quality (Q3)

- 78% rated 'Very Good', 22% 'Good'
- Praised for organisation, inclusivity, family-friendliness
- Crafts, cooking demos, and performances highly appreciated

Activities & Engagement (Q4)

- Popular activities: Henna (46%), Tote Bag Colouring (32%), Tie Dye Flowers (26%), Dhol Crew & Drumming (26%)
- Cooking demos & storytelling also well-received

Community Impact (Q5–Q6)

- 80% came specifically for the Mela Marquee & Stage
- 74% said events like this improved their impression of Worcester
- Feedback highlighted stronger sense of inclusion, culture, and vibrancy

Suggestions & Feedback (Q7)

- Requests for more traditional Asian workshops, more seating, and halal food options
- Loved children's crafts, big colouring boards, and cooking demos
- Strong call for 'more events like this'

Audience Profile (Q8–Q10)

- Age: Majority under 18 (78%), followed by 25–34 (16%)
- Ethnicity: 65% White, 35% Asian/Asian British
- Gender: 65% Female, 35% Male, no non-binary/prefer not to say

**WORCESTER MELA TRADING AS WORCESTER MELA EVENT
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

LLOYD & SMITH ACCOUNTANTS
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS (MEMBERSHIP NO: 04343419A)
36 Harrington Road
St Johns
Worcester
Worcestershire
WR2 5HD

WORCESTER MELA Trading As WORCESTER MELA EVENT
Business Details
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

Proprietor

WORCESTER MELA

Accountants

LLOYD & SMITH ACCOUNTANTS
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS (MEMBERSHIP NO: 04343419A)
36 Harrington Road
St Johns
Worcester
Worcestershire
WR2 5HD

**WORCESTER MELA Trading As WORCESTER MELA EVENT
Accounts Approval Statement
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025**

I approve these Income and Expenditure Accounts.
I acknowledge my responsibility for the accounts including the provision of all the information and explanations necessary for the completion.

.....
WORCESTER MELA

WORCESTER MELA Trading As WORCESTER MELA EVENT
Accountant's Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

In accordance with the engagement letter, we have prepared the accounts from the accounting records, information and explanations provided to us.

This report is made to you in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken to enable us to prepare the accounts on your behalf and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the client, for our work or for this report.

You have approved and acknowledged your responsibility for these accounts.

We have not been instructed to complete an audit of the accounts. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records, information or explanations you have provided. Therefore we do not express any opinion on the accounts.

Signed

.....

LLOYD & SMITH ACCOUNTANTS
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS (MEMBERSHIP NO: 04343419A)
36 Harrington Road
St Johns
Worcester
Worcestershire
WR2 5HD

WORCESTER MELA Trading As WORCESTER MELA EVENT
Income and Expenditure Account
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

	2025	
	£	£
Turnover		
Grants and subsidies received		63,536
Cost of Sales		
Purchases	4,274	
Materials	703	
Tools	499	
Subcontractor costs	51,704	
Hire and leasing of plant, equipment and vehicles	11,400	
Marketing and advertising costs	3,746	
	<hr/>	
		<hr/> 72,326
GROSS LOSS		(8,790)
Expenditure		
Protective clothing	214	
Travel expenses	308	
Hotel expenses	1,538	
Security costs	947	
Vehicle running costs	39	
Advertising and marketing costs	35	
Legal fees	775	
Professional fees	2,847	
Charitable donations	(2,358)	
Sundry expenses	173	
	<hr/>	
		<hr/> 4,518
NET LOSS		<hr/> <hr/> (13,308)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

to the Trustees of Worcester Mela

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation – CE035211)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Worcester Mela (Charity number 1206966) for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Worcester Mela, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (“the Act”).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity’s accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner’s statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Nohman Aziz

Independent Examiner

Regulated by the Certified Public Accountant Association

Membership Number: 04343419A

Date: 27 February 2026

WORCESTER MELA

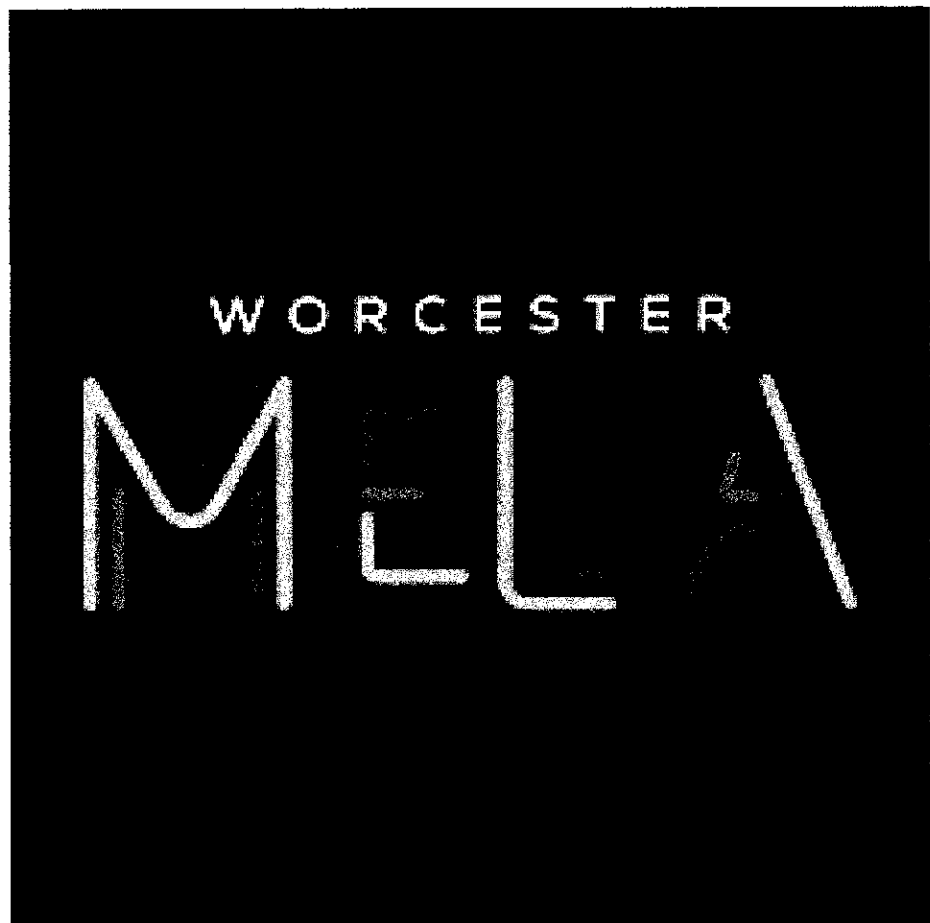
England & Wales - Charity number 1206966

Accounts

WORCESTER MELA

Charity number: 1206966

ACCOUNTS PREPARED BY:
LLOYD & SMITH ACCOUNTANTS 36 Harrington Road,
Worcester, WR2 5HD



CHARITY ACCOUNTS

For the Year Ended 31 August 2024

CONTENTS

1. Trustees' Annual Report
2. Statement of Financial Activities
3. Balance Sheet
4. Notes to the Financial Statements
5. Independent Examiner's Report
6. Declaration & Signatures

Objectives and Activities

The Worcester Mela exists to:

- Promote harmony among diverse communities through South Asian arts, music, dance, and heritage. The festival serves as a platform to showcase diverse cultural expressions and foster mutual understanding between different communities.
- Provide educational opportunities related to South Asian culture, history, and traditions by organizing workshops, interactive sessions, and school outreach programmes. These activities help educate people about the rich heritage of South Asian communities and their contributions to British society.
- Host the annual Worcester Mela Festival and related cultural events, creating an inclusive space for people from all backgrounds to come together and celebrate diversity. The event features live performances, culinary experiences, traditional arts and crafts, and a range of family-friendly activities.
- Document and preserve the contributions of Worcestershire's South Asian communities by maintaining an archive of past Mela events, recording oral histories, and collaborating with local heritage institutions. The charity aims to ensure that the legacy and cultural impact of South Asian communities in the region are recognised and celebrated for future generations.

The Worcester Mela exists to:

- Promote harmony among diverse communities through South Asian arts and heritage.
- Provide educational opportunities related to South Asian culture.
- Host the annual Worcester Mela Festival and related cultural events.
- Document and preserve the contributions of Worcestershire's South Asian communities.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

Charity Information

Charity Name: Worcester Mela

Charity Number: 1206966

Registered Address: 125 Victoria Avenue, Worcester, WR5 1EE

Legal Structure: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) **Date of Registration:** 9 February 2024

Regulatory Oversight: Charity Commission for England and Wales

Website: <https://worcestermela.org.uk>

Bankers: Lloyds Bank, 4 The Cross, the Avenue, Worcester, WR1 3PY

Independent Examiner: LLOYD & SMITH ACCOUNTANTS 36 Harrington Road,

Worcester, WR2 5HD

Trustees

Trustee Name	Role	Date of Appointment
Abdul Riaz	Chair	10 October 2023
Jason Jones	Trustee	05 November 2024
Romana Ali	Trustee	23 August 2024
Kay Bruton	Trustee	24 June 2024
Gemma Helen Dhami	Trustee	24 June 2024
Jabran Khalid	Trustee	10 October 2023

Achievements and Performance

- Successfully organised the **Worcester Mela Festival**, attended by over **5,000 people**, featuring a diverse range of performances, food stalls, and cultural exhibitions. This has significantly enhanced community cohesion and cultural appreciation.
- Delivered **10+ cultural workshops and performances**, including traditional music and dance workshops, storytelling sessions, and hands-on arts and crafts activities for children and adults. These initiatives have increased public engagement and education about South Asian culture.
- Secured critical grant funding to sustain ongoing activities and outreach. These funds have enabled the charity to plan future events, expand its reach within the local community, and invest in marketing and operational improvements to enhance the overall experience of the Worcester Mela Festival.
- Strengthened partnerships with local businesses, schools, and community groups, fostering long-term collaborations that will support the charity's mission of promoting cultural diversity and inclusion.
- Increased public awareness through strategic marketing campaigns, local media coverage, and social media engagement, leading to higher attendance and participation in Mela events.
- Enhanced volunteer engagement, with a growing network of dedicated volunteers who contribute to event planning, logistics, and outreach activities, ensuring the sustainability and success of Worcester Mela's initiatives.
- Secured critical grant funding to sustain ongoing activities and outreach.
- Worked with other NPO organisations across the country to develop skills and share learning.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Income	2024 (£)
Grants and Subsidies	35,700
Sales	385
Subcontractor Refund	240
Total Income	36,325
Expenditure	2024 (£)
Materials	104
Subcontractor Costs	1,844
Insurance	392
Printing & Stationery	259
Subscriptions	884
Professional Fees	28,927
Hire & Leasing	6,369
Total Expenditure	38,779
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,454)

The charity recorded a **net deficit of £2,454**, reflecting increased professional fees and operational costs.

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 August 2024

Fixed Assets

	2024 (£)
Equipment	-
Total Fixed Assets	-

Current Assets

	2024 (£)
Bank Balance	63,446.49
Total Current Assets	63,446.49

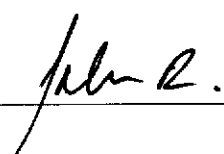
Liabilities

	2024 (£)
Creditors	1,200.00
Total Liabilities	1,200.00

Funds

	2024 (£)
Restricted Funds	58,000.00
Unrestricted Funds	5,446.49
Capital Introduced	2,454.00
Total Funds	62,246.49

These financial statements were approved by the trustees on 14 March 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed:  (Chair) Date: 17th MARCH 2025

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- **Charities SORP (FRS 102)**
- **UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP)**
- **Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102)**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I have examined the accounts of Worcester Mela for the year ended 31 August 2024, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and related notes to the financial statements. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and applicable UK accounting standards.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner: The trustees are responsible for ensuring that the charity maintains proper accounting records and for preparing financial statements that comply with applicable law and regulations. It is my responsibility to examine the financial records and statements and to report whether, in my opinion, proper accounting records have been kept and whether the financial statements agree with those records.

Scope and Basis of the Examination: I have conducted my examination in accordance with the applicable guidelines issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. My examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. My work has been carried out to the extent necessary to provide a reasonable basis for my conclusions.

Independent Examiner's Statement: In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

1. The accounting records were not kept in accordance with applicable legislation; or
2. The financial statements do not accord with the accounting records and comply with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Having reviewed the financial records and statements, I am satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the financial position of Worcester Mela as at 31 August 2024 and its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended.

Date: 17 March 2025 Based on the financial records provided, I confirm that the accounts are accurate and comply with applicable financial reporting standards.

Signed: 

Mr Nohman Aziz
Lloyd & Smith Accountants
36 Harrington Road, Worcester, WR2 5HD

Signature: Jabba Riaz
Jabba Riaz (Chair), 25, 2025 09:30 PM

Email: chair@worcestermela.org.uk