



BRECON JAZZ CIO

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Charity Registration No. 1207811

Principal Address:

The Foundry Music Venue
Bell Lane, Brecon, LD3 9EE

Current Trustees

Sharon Gunde (Chair)
Roger Cannon
Peter Jones
Rod Paton
Lynne Gornall (Ex Officio Brecon Jazz Club)
Lindsay Hay (Ex Officio Brecon Frazz)

OTHER OFFICERS

Minute Secretary: Margot Hollingdale

Independent Examiner/Treasurer:

Chris Baker
Fernlea, 1 St. David's Crescent
Llanfaes, BRECON LD3 8DP

Brecon Jazz CIO

AGM Notes for Annual Report 2025

INTRODUCTION

The idea for 'Brecon Jazz' as an organisation, to obtain and register for charitable status, was publicly inaugurated in December 2022, when a large group of members of the community met to contribute ideas. This included a representative from PAVO (Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations) whose detailed guidance was invaluable. A set of documents was prepared over the previous year by Roger Cannon of Brecon Jazz Club; this formed the basis for the discussion at the meeting where it was unanimously agreed (by vote) for 'Brecon Jazz' to apply for charitable incorporated organisation status. The meeting was minuted, and 7 attendees at the meeting then agreed to be Trustees (viz Sharon Gunde (proposed as Chair), Peter Jones, Roger Cannon, Rod Paton and Lynne Gornall, (as *ex officio* for Brecon Jazz Club) plus Angus Kings and Jonnie Howell (both since resigned), including an *ex officio* representative for the Festival Frazz Parade. Chris Baker agreed to become Treasurer and Independent Examiner.

BACKGROUND

Brecon Jazz Ltd as a non-profit corporate body was originally formed in the period 1984/86, in order to create a legal framework for the further development of an annual Jazz Festival. This arose from the work of The Brycheiniog Association of the Arts in partnership with the Welsh Jazz Society (Cardiff) who were responsible for musical direction at the time. Since 1984, various organisations and operators have taken responsibility for the annual Festival, which itself has undergone a number of iterations.

In 2015, when the then commercial operators (who had directed BJF for the previous 4 years), withdrew, the directors of Brecon Jazz Club offered to undertake the Festival organisation on a temporary basis. As the years proceeded, and having successfully sustained BJF by re-establishing it as locally-based and volunteer-run, and steering it through the loss of large-scale funding and a catastrophic Pandemic, it became clear that a restructured legal framework would be required for the future. Various meetings, including with PAVO, local stakeholders, individuals and groups took place up to the end of 2022, leading to the round-table forum described above at Theatr Brycheiniog.

Documents had been prepared and were presented on a draft constitution for Brecon Jazz CIO (charitable incorporated organisation), including a vote in favour of the 'foundation model' of operation/structure. This led to a first group of founder member Trustees who further developed the framework, then applying for registration with the Charities Commission. Approval was received in April 2024, creating Brecon Jazz CIO as an umbrella organisation; this was then able to link organisations in the locality - ones that shared a responsibility for aspects of 'Brecon Jazz' - into a common association and 'brand' identity.



Festival outdoor dance class Bulwark BJF2024.



Guildhall Concert BJF2024

GOVERNANCE

The Objects of the Charity remain unchanged apart from the inclusion of education as follows:

To advance and promote arts and culture for the public benefit in the genre of 'jazz' and improvised music: by organising events, creating artistic and educational opportunities for innovation, collaboration and performance in Brecon, and engaging with the widest and most diverse publics, especially younger people, exhibiting, documenting and securing the Brecon Jazz heritage, Brecon Jazz brand and cultural assets.

The CIO's governance is kept under review to comply with the Governance Code so far as is reasonably possible. New Trustees are appointed having regard to skills, experience and demographic diversity. Currently, we do not advertise Trustee vacancies because, in the context of a relatively small Board, we believe the current informal approach is appropriate at this stage of the CIO's development.

There is no restriction with regard to length of service or any specific term of office for the original Trustees at the date of Incorporation. Trustees are requested to undertake training using materials provided.

Declaration of interests: Brecon Jazz upholds the Charity Commission's guidelines, which state that 'Trustees are required to act reasonably and prudently in all matters relating to the Charity and need always to bear in mind that their prime concern is the interests of the Charity. They cannot let their personal views or prejudices affect their conduct as Trustees'.

A register of interests has been developed and the policy includes examples of potential conflicts which could arise and how they may be managed.

There have been some changes during the year:- two of the Trustees who were involved in the initiation stages of the CIO have since resigned, having played their part; the latter represented the Brecon Frazz and has been replaced by Lindsay Hay. In February 2025, Margot Hollingdale was welcomed as the new Minute Secretary.

ACTIVITIES

In 2024, the Brecon Jazz CIO, successfully applied for funding from the Welsh Government's 'Event Wales' programme for planning, funding and organisation of the annual Brecon Jazz Festival. An award of £82K over 3 years was received, covering the financial years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27, to be drawn down in three instalments. The Charity provided oversight of this project and the first year was successfully delivered by Brecon Jazz Club/Jazz Club Cymru who were the organisers of the

festival. As the CIO did not yet have a bank account, the first instalment was paid into the Brecon Jazz Club Festival account. Discussions for Brecon Jazz Festival 2025 took place with the Welsh Government about the transfer of contract for years 2 & 3 via a technical and legal 'novation' process. This was a transfer to a group who it was agreed would deliver the Event Wales project plan in 2025 and 2026. The group, formerly designated 'Festival Planning Group' (for BJF2024) set up as a sub group of Brecon Jazz CIO, was subsequently re-designated the 'Delivery Team' for the Festival, and its Chair (Chris Jones) party to the transfer documents. This process enabled the new group to deliver Brecon Jazz Festival 2025 independently.

The main foci of the CIO during 2024-2025 have been consultations about (i) archiving and preservation of the heritage of Brecon Jazz Festival (an application for assistance to National Jazz Archives will be re-submitted in 2026) and (ii) the embedding of jazz in the community and development of talent through the performances and educational workshops of (in this case) Brecon Jazz Club.

The Trustees undertook a training programme in November 2024, which proved very useful in helping to understand their Trustee role, also the remit and modes of operation of the CIO. Materials from these sessions are given to new Trustees, who are also directed to the advice and information on the Charity Commission's website.

Re (ii) With CIO oversight and agreement, Brecon Jazz Club began to digitise sample material for archiving. It is hoped that funding can be secured to support and complete this. In addition, a commitment had been made at the DOCJazz / Jazz Heritage Wales (JHW) conference in Swansea in 2022, that Brecon Jazz would donate some of its archives and materials to the JHW collection at University of Wales Trinity St Davids. These would include a set of the 40-year heritage of posters and brochures, some material artefacts such as merchandise memorabilia, files and so on. There will be a log of items. The handover date for this was November 2024 but JHW asked for an extension whilst their own archives were catalogued and moved. Other venues and institutions holding archive material in storage are being encouraged to put this on display and/or to make any Brecon Jazz material accessible.

In addition to umbrella relationships with the Brecon Frazz, a constituted voluntary group aiming to engage with local community, especially families, with the Brecon Jazz Festival, and whose activity is centred on the carnival style parade that takes place annually in the town on the Saturday of the Festival. Brecon Jazz Club (both ex officio members) as well as consolidating the relationship with the (Festival) Delivery Team, the CIO also has working agreements and associations with Tŷn Cerdd (diversity in music/performance) and Brecon Beacons College NPTC Group. The Charity is also maintaining wider links with Cardiff & Welsh Jazz organisations including the Tiger Bay Heritage group, Jazz Team at Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama (RWCMD), Jazz and music educational activities, the UK Jazz Promotion Network and so on. We are also in touch with other potential archive and heritage repositories. On behalf of the CIO, Brecon Jazz Club as an ex officio organisation, has hosted a series of national and international artists at its well-attended monthly events and, also, with support from a small grant from the Gwendoline & Margaret Davies Sisters Charity, instrumental workshops aimed at fostering jazz musicianship (see separate BJC report 2024/25). Plans concerning the 2025 Festival were received and will be delivered by the new team (a development of the 2023/24 Transition & Planning group), to include major headlines, multi-venue

events including use of the Market Hall and Bishops Garden, while the Frazz has announced its Festival theme of 'Our Wild Waters' to celebrate the River Usk and 250 years of the Monmouth and Brecon Canal. The Jazz Club are planning an instrumental Workshop and also a jazz Heritage event on the links between Cardiff music scene and start-up of Brecon Jazz Festival. All are seeking funding, partners, collaborations and sponsorships.

Other plans for the future for the CIO itself include formalising existing links to the BJF Delivery Team; integrating into the CIO new groups whose objectives align closely with those of Brecon Jazz; securing funding to support the objectives of Brecon Jazz CIO, especially in the area of education and jazz heritage; recruiting young people as Trustees; promoting, securing and making more accessible Brecon Jazz's heritage, brand and cultural assets.

FINANCE

This is the first year of reporting for the Charity (April 2024-March 2025) and additional dedicated on-line banking arrangements were not finalised until April 2025. By separate agreement, funding and donations received for the Festival in 2024 were paid directly to Brecon Jazz Club accounts, in order to deliver the Event Wales project and Gwendoline Davies Charity activities. Therefore, for the year April 2024 to March 2025, there were no recorded financial transactions relating to the Brecon Jazz CIO.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the Charity at any time, and for ensuring that the financial statements comply with Charity law. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the Charity's assets, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees have confirmed that, as far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Independent Examiner is unaware. Each of the Trustees has confirmed that they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the Independent Examiner.

The Trustees are aware that engagement with other organisations carries potential risks and challenges. However, the Trustees are developing association agreements that strengthen the quality, reach and impact of the CIO's work and purposes. Using protocols to help manage risk and maintain CIO independence, these will also allow effective trading structures that can also help us raise funds for the Charity,

The Trustees have satisfied themselves that other organisations, currently operating under the Charity umbrella to deliver our purposes and projects, have similar charitable aims and objectives and that these are aligned closely with those of Brecon Jazz CIO.

Signed

Sharon Gunde

CHAIR

Date: December 2025