

**RYE ARTS FESTIVAL**

Charity no 270494

**Trustees' Report & Financial Statements  
For the period 1 October 2015 – 31 December 2016**

**GIBBONS MANNINGTON & PHIPPS LLP**

Chartered Accountants

Landgate chambers

Rye

East Sussex

TN31 7LJ

# **RYE ARTS FESTIVAL**

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# **RYE ARTS FESTIVAL**

## **Charity Information**

### **Trustees:**

Ian Graham-Bryce	Chairman - retired 7 February 2016
Mike Eve	Chairman - elected 7 February 2016
Mary Howse	Treasurer
Anne Ullman	Secretary
Catherine Bingham	Resigned 3 October 2016
Peter Brice	
Wayne Jones	Retired 7 February 2016 Co-opted 28 November 2016
Celia Langrish	Resigned 1 October 2016
Richard Marsh	Resigned 1 October 2016
Peter Mackenzie Smith	Resigned 1 December 2016
Andy Stuart	
Niki Stuart	
Jane Conlin	Elected 7 February 2016
Beth Harvey	Co-opted 28 November 2016

**Registered Charity Number:** 270494

### **Address:**

The Bartletts  
Main Street  
Beckley, Rye  
East Sussex TN31 6RR

### **Accountants:**

Gibbons Mannington & Phipps LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Landgate Chambers  
Rye  
East Sussex TN31 7LJ

### **Main Bankers:**

National Westminster Bank Plc  
High Street  
Rye  
East Sussex

# **RYE ARTS FESTIVAL**

## **Trustees' Report for the period 1 October 2015 to 31 December 2016**

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the above period.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

### **OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES**

The objects of the charitable trust are to foster and promote the improvement of artistic taste and knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the arts by the presentation or supporting the public presentation of concerts, performances and exhibitions and other activities during festival periods and at other times as occasion shall arise.

The Trustees declare that they have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

### **Structure, governance and management**

#### **Governing Document**

Rye Arts Festival, formerly Rye Festival Council is constituted by Trust Deed dated 11 October 1974 as last amended 7 February 2016.

#### **Appointment of Trustees**

As set out in the Constitution, the Executive Committee (the Trustees) is elected by the members annually. Up to four additional Trustees may be co-opted by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is authorized to appoint new Trustees to fill vacancies arising through resignation or death of an existing trustee.

#### **Trustee induction and training**

New trustees are provided with information on structure, business plan and recent financial performance of the charity and are encouraged to consult with the Officers to facilitate the undertaking of their role.

#### **Organisation**

The Executive Committee is responsible for the day-to-day management of the charitable trust. The Trustees regularly review the operational risks which the Charity faces and are satisfied that the systems currently in place are sufficient to enable such risks to be minimised.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

The forty-fifth Festival took place in September 2016. A total of 56 ticketed events were presented (with over 4,500 total tickets sold) and many additional free performances took place throughout the town centre on the opening day and also during the fortnight. In addition to its own programme, the Festival also promoted activities put on by local art galleries, Rye Museum, the ARCC centre and the Oldie magazine.

The core programme of classical music, literary talks, guided walks, contemporary music and cinema was wide ranging, exciting and of very high quality. The Trustees' policy of maintaining well supported core events while seeking new initiatives continued with the sponsoring of a play about the real-life collaboration between the Rye-born playwright John Fletcher and William Shakespeare. The play, called For All Time, was staged in London prior to coming to Rye, where the Festival performance was highly acclaimed, and it is intended the production will go on a UK tour in 2017. High quality drama was also provided by Rye-based actor Martin Wimbush, whose one-man-performance of a Meeting of Minds was a tour de force.

Classical music highlights included two new opera productions by Alisdair Kitchen's Euphonia Studio company - The Turn of the Screw (a complex work by Benjamin Britten based on Henry James's story) and the much lighter Don Pasquale by Donizetti. Both productions were highly rated by the

## **RYE ARTS FESTIVAL**

### **- Trustees' Report (continued)**

audiences and attracted deservedly glowing reviews in the media. Other highlights included performances by Tzu-Yin Huang, the winner of the 2016 Hastings International Piano Concerto Competition, the Wihan String Quartet from the Czech Republic, and La Serenissima, who are the acknowledged masters of Venetian baroque music. This year the programme included a Choral Evensong with the Chichester Cathedral Choir which was, of course, a free event.

The Literary programme was wide-ranging and highly stimulating and included a talk by Dame Joan Bakewell who reflected on ageing, which struck a chord with much of her audience! Other authors talked on subjects including Churchill's perennially sick personal finances; the global importance of Britain to all kinds of Booze; and the career of noted barrister Jeremy Hutchinson QC. And a pure literary event at Lamb House saw local Andreas Prindl inhabit Henry James as he talked about the great man and his home!

Once again, the tour of Romney Marsh churches was a sell-out and the programme of cellar walks in Winchelsea was well supported. The Rye in World War II and Medieval Rye walks were also popular attracting locals and visitors to the town.

The contemporary music offering was very strong and truly international with world-class bands from Ireland (Lynched), Wales (9Bach) and Mali and Libya (Terakaft). And The Coal Porters provided a feast of top class Bluegrass music, bringing the foot-tapping sounds of Kentucky to Rye.

The film programme was designed to recognise the talents of world class figures who had died in the last year - David Bowie and Prince - as well as the recently departed Tony Benn (film music composed by Rye's Michel Duvoisin). We were privileged also to show the iconic Cold Comfort Farm which was introduced by Sue Schlesinger, sister-in-law of the film's director John Schlesinger.

Rye Camera Club did a wonderful job capturing images at our events, which got lots of well-deserved local media coverage for the club and the Festival, and presented their own exhibition during the Festival. And a presentation by the internationally renowned photographer Martin Parr was a further highlight of this year. Rye Art Gallery hosted an exhilarating musical and visual presentation by Dave McKean on the life and work of Paul Nash and held an exhibition of the work of Charlie Cobb, last year's Festival Artist in Residence.

The Festival Trustees continued to develop community-related activities to widen the people of Rye's exposure to talented, professional performers. This year an extensive programme of free street entertainment designed for people of all ages was provided on the opening day. Workshops were provided for students at Rye's schools by many of the professional musicians and actors, and opera rehearsals were opened up to groups such as the day care customers of ARCC to enjoy free of charge. The Trustees are also selectively promoting activities outside the Festival's two weeks and this year sponsored a pre-Christmas showing of Chekhov short plays performed by the Euphonia Studio company who proved that opera singers can act as well as sing!

### **Volunteers**

The Festival is run by unpaid volunteers and their input continues to be a key element in the Festival's ability to control expenditure. We are grateful for the involvement of Friends and Patrons and the local community which is vital for the well-being of the Festival.

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Following the change of year end decided at the 2016 AGM, the financial statements attached to this report cover a 15 month period ending 31 December 2016. The accounts show a loss of £8,865 (2015 deficit £2,361). This includes a one-off cost for the independent review of governance - £9,298. The 2016 Festival was supported by sponsorship generously contributed by individuals and businesses.

## **RYE ARTS FESTIVAL**

### **- Trustees' Report (continued)**

#### **Reserves Policy**

The policy of the Charity is to maintain sufficient reserves which, in the opinion of the Trustees, allow them to cover management and administration costs and plan for the future years' festivals.

#### **Investment Powers and Policy**

The Trust Deed authorises the Trustees to make and hold investments using the general funds of the charity. The trustees having regard to the cash-flow requirements of the charity keep available funds in interest-bearing accounts.

#### **Future Plans**

Following the announcement by Ian Graham-Brice of the intention to undertake a review of corporate structure, governance and associated matters, the Trustees set in motion the process, advised by qualified independent consultants. The review has been completed and proposals for change will be tabled at the 2017 AGM.

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

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- (a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- (b) observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- (c) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- (d) state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- (e) prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements of the charity comply with Charity Commission guidance.

The Trustees are also responsible for maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

#### **Approval**

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf.

Mr M Eve  
Chairman  
13 March 2017

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF RYE ARTS FESTIVAL**

I report on the unaudited accounts of the charity for the period 1 October 2015 to 31 December 2016 set out on pages 3 to 15.

### **Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters is set out in the statement below.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Keith M Luck FCA  
Gibbons Mannington & Phipps LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Landgate Chambers  
24 Landgate  
Rye  
East Sussex  
TN31 7LJ

Date: 17 March 2017