

RYE ARTS FESTIVAL CIO
Registered charity no. 1175309

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

CHATSWOOD ASSOCIATES
Abingworth
New England Lane
Rye, East Sussex TN31 7NT

RYE ARTS FESTIVAL CIO
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

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RYE ARTS FESTIVAL CIO
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Charity Information

Trustees:	Andrew Stuart	
	Linda Harland	Until 13-Mar-23
	John Case	Until 16-Nov-23
	David Angell	
	Arabella Ansar	Appointed 13-Mar-23
	Michael Boyd	Appointed 13-Mar-23

Registered Charity Number: 1175309

Registered address: Abingworth
New England Lane
Rye, East Sussex TN31 7NT

Accountants: Chatswood Associates
Abingworth
New England Lane
Rye, East Sussex TN31 7NT

Main Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent ME19 4JQ

RYE ARTS FESTIVAL CIO

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2023

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

The financial statements of the charity which is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statements of Recommended Practice" applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charitable incorporated organisation are to advance education for the public benefit by promoting and providing opportunities for the appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the arts and in particular music, opera, dance, film, literature and the visual arts, through an annual arts festival in and around Rye, and other activities from time to time.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

Rye Arts Festival CIO, formerly Rye Arts Festival, was constituted by the Constitution dated 16 October 2017. The CIO took over from the Rye Arts Festival charity no 270474 on 1 January 2018.

Appointment of Trustees

The maximum number of Trustees is eight. Trustees serve for a three-year period retiring by rotation and are decided by the members at Annual General Meeting. Vacancies between AGMs may be filled by the existing Trustees.

Trustee induction and training

New Trustees are provided with information on structure, business plans and recent financial performance of the CIO and are encouraged to consult with the Officers to facilitate the understanding of their role.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the management of the CIO. It regularly considers the operational risks that the Charity faces and is satisfied that it has adequate systems in place to minimise their impact. The Board has appointed, on an annual basis, a Festival Organising Committee and monitors its compliance with standing orders and terms of reference.

Health & Safety

In 2017 the Trustees established a Health and Safety subcommittee to advise on policy and implementation. All appropriate personnel undergo first aid training, and our Stage Manager has undergone specialist Safeguarding training. All venues used in the Festival are risk assessed. The subcommittee regularly review the insurance policy to ensure adequate cover.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The 2023 Festival was a success on many levels. It brought talkers and performers with a national and international reputation to the Rye audience; showcased the very best of local talent from across the different fields of the arts; achieved a much-needed surplus to help secure the Festival's financial future; and, thankfully, avoided the interruptions of recent years!

The programme included many local authors and people with a story to tell. Anwesha Ayra talked about how Rye has inspired her from her first visit in 1997 and 'Writing Rye in Light' is Anwesha's latest book is a collaboration between photography and poetry.

The Festival was delighted that Dr Pat Argar returned to continue her insightful talks into the writers who lived and wrote in our area. She also gave a fascinating and entertaining talk about Hop Picking in and around Rye.

RYE ARTS FESTIVAL CIO

Trustees report (continued)

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

Chris O'Donoghue talked about designing and building gardens at the Chelsea Flower Show - he has three medal-winning gardens to his name!

The author William Shaw has deservedly been called 'a modern crime master', and while he's not a local his brilliantly drawn detective DS Cupidi is!

There was a whistle-stop tour through the life and work of Sir Reginald Blomfield, an extraordinary Rye resident, by his great granddaughter, Isabel Ryan.

Local resident, Miriam McGuirk, talked about her latest book *Second Chances* to an appreciative audience in the Mermaid's Tudor Room. Jens Knoop opened his first chocolate shop in Rye just before the pandemic and expects to have 15 across the UK before the end of September and he entertained an audience about his life before chocolate and his many influences including architecture, philosophy and Japanese cinema, which lead up to his exciting new venture.

Stephen Kember, who has an antiques shop on Cinque Ports Street in Rye, is nationally well-known for his work on the BBC's hit show *The Repair Shop*, where he is the in-house musical box restorer. Stephen was in conversation with Rye's pianola specialist Mike Boyd.

The Festival included a selection of walks. Timberlina, Rye's resident bearded lady, lead three walking tours around the town highlighting landmarks and houses associated with salacious gossip and intrigue. Timberlina also hosted a Bingo Night.

Paul Goring, who is Rye's wonderful Town Crier, led an atmospheric ghost walk on a couple of evenings and also did daytime walks showing the hidden history of Rye.

After nearly 25 years Mike Boyd brought the Pianola concert back to Rye Arts Festival. And what a performance he gave! The first half featured musical interpretations on the Pianola, and the second half featured a Reproducing piano!

And drama is always present at Rye Arts Festival, with the Rye Players once again leading the way with a performance at the Tudor Room in the Mermaid Inn. 'Book Club', which is about a local dysfunctional book club, was a tour de force! A total triumph!

Martin Wimbush and Sally Bayly and friends came back on the last weekend of the Festival. With songs, poems, reading and laughter.

Celebrating the 90th anniversary of the release of *King Kong*, we screened the movie at the Kino, with a special introductory talk by our local monster expert and number one fan, Oliver Brooks.

The Classical Music programme was varied and focussed on young musicians. It kicked off with a wonderful concert on Saturday 16th September by the acclaimed British pianist Cordelia Williams. The Festival was delighted that Cordelia was able to perform in 2023 as her concert had to be cancelled at short notice in 2022 owing to the sad death of Queen Elizabeth II.

And also with a re-arranged concert we enjoyed the Ensemble Hesperis, whose concert was of Venetian Baroque composers inspired by Canaletto's famous views of Venice. The concert was brought to Rye in partnership with the City Music Foundation (CMF), which helps promote rising young talents. CMF was also instrumental in the Mikeleiz-Zucchi Duo concert featuring saxophonist David Zucchi and Spanish accordionist Iñigo Mikeleiz-Borrade. And those who came to see and hear the young Lithuanian pianist Gabrielė Sutkutė to Rye were served up a real treat. Her musicianship was truly extraordinary, and we were lucky to enjoy a concert from a future star.

There was an awesome foursome of folk and blues music concerts, with the Errol Linton Blues Vibe gig selling out within days of going on sale. Rye Community Centre also played host to Martin Simpson, the legendary

RYE ARTS FESTIVAL CIO

Trustees report (continued)

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

folk singer/guitarist, who made a triumphant third visit to Rye.

Last year, the Rye audience was looking forward to the Fay Hield Trio's gig, but it had to be cancelled at the last minute owing to a tragedy affecting the band, so we were delighted that they were able to come to Rye for this Festival. Fay has one of the finest voices of her generation and is supported by Sam Sweeney (ex Bellowhead) on fiddle and Rob Harbron, heralded by The Guardian as a 'concertina Wizard'. Enthusiasts of down-home Mississippi blues loved the pure atmosphere created by Kelvin Davies and Gary Jones.

Turning to the movies, 50 years after its release, we offered a golden anniversary screening of 'The Sting' the film that reunited Paul Newman and Robert Redford after 'Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid'. Going back further in time, in partnership with Rye Film Club we presented a double bill of black and white films, both shot locally – 'The Loves of Joanna Godden' and 'The Quiet Woman'. A packed audience at Rye Community Centre was enthralled!

Turning to books and talks, wine writer Henry Jeffreys spoke about the amazing success story of English wine, much of it produced on our doorstep!

Sarah Stanfield was 'Barmy in Wonderland' exploring the lives and writing of PG Wodehouse and Lewis Carroll and reveals the many connections between the two authors. The audience was spell-bound and educated by her talk.

A younger (mainly female) audience joined Louise Boyce, mother of three and a model, to hear her tell tales from her debut book in the intimate surroundings of Rye Brewery Yard Club. It was a hurtling gallop through the 'real' parenting calendar, covering the highs and lows of modern motherhood.

Patrick Diamond talked about the Labour Party's past civil wars, and Rye Rugby Club hosted rugby writer Peter Bills for an affectionate history of the rugby across the channel published to coincide with France hosting the 2023 Rugby World Cup.

Moving on to drama, which was headed by an award-winning actress, Melanie Gall, who flew in especially from the US to perform at Rye. She performed 'Ingénue, Judy Garland and Deanna Durbin' which told the true tale of the lifelong friendship - and rivalry - between Durbin and Garland. Melanie also performed 'A Talent to Amuse' – a play about the fascinating true story of Noel Coward's irreverent and unforgettable life, featuring a dozen iconic songs, including 'Mad About the Boy', and 'Mad Dogs and Englishmen'.

Heather Alexander, fresh from winning awards at Buxton Festival, presented 'ROOM: A Room of One's Own', a one-woman-play about Virginia Woolf in 1929 as she haunts the shadows of Oxbridge.

Volunteers Members and Sponsors

The Organisers and Trustees of Rye Arts Festival are delighted by and thankful for the loyal support of our Members, Benefactors, sponsors and advertisers whose generosity gives the Festival's finances a huge boost before the tickets go on sale and whose contributions allow us to bring world class acts to Rye and charge very reasonable ticket prices, thereby meeting our charitable objective of promoting the arts and providing experiences which will encourage people to participate. The Trustees would also like to thank all the members of the Organising Committee and volunteers, without whom we could not put on the festival.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 are attached to this report. These show a surplus of £18,773 (2022 £5,806). This consisted of a surplus for 2023 of £11,985 and a write back of unneeded accruals from the previous year of £6,788. This surplus has meant that the CIO's reserves have increased to £50,712, which is a much healthier level. The Trustees believe that the appropriate level of reserves would be around

RYE ARTS FESTIVAL CIO

Trustees report (continued)

FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)

which is a much healthier level. The Trustees believe that the appropriate level of reserves would be around £60,000, which would enable the festival to survive a disastrous year should the festival have to be cancelled at the last minute.

Reserves Policy

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

Investment powers and policy

The Trust Deed authorised the Trustees to make and hold investments using the General Funds of the CIO. The Trustees having regard to the cash flow requirements of the Charity keep available funds in interest bearing accounts.

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), 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 and 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.

FUTURE PLANS

We continue to seek new trustees. The Board will be seeking to broaden audience base and introduce new forms of event which will help achieve an increase in revenue. The Trustees are keen to develop the membership base and to increase involvement by them in the Festival.

APPROVAL

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

Andy Stuart, Trustee
24 January 2024

RYE ARTS FESTIVAL CIO
Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees

I report on the unaudited accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 set out on pages 6 to 12.

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 Acthave 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.

David Andrews ACIB, MCICM, FCT
Chatswood Associates
Abingworth
New England Lane
Rye, East Sussex, TN31 7NT

25 January 2024

RYE ARTS FESTIVAL CIO
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	
	Notes	2023	2022
		£	£
Income:			
Donations	2	10,884	21,690
Charitable activities	3	57,970	46,913
Investment income		232	26
Membership		6,150	6,445
Total income		75,236	75,074
Expenditure:			
Charitable Activities	4	56,463	69,268
Total expenditure		56,463	69,268
Net income/ (expenditure)		18,773	5,806
being net movement of funds for the period			
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward at 1 January		31,939	26,133
Total funds carried forward at 31 December		50,712	31,939

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

RYE ARTS FESTIVAL CIO

Balance Sheet as at

31 December 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	10		-		-
Current assets					
Debtors	11	8,500		8,504	
Cash at bank and in hand	14	62,354		50,689	
		<u>70,854</u>		<u>59,193</u>	
Creditors	12	20,142		27,254	
		<u>20,142</u>		<u>27,254</u>	
Net current assets			50,712		31,939
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>50,712</u>		<u>31,939</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted funds	15		<u>50,712</u>		<u>31,939</u>

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 24 January 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Andy Stuart, Trustee

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

RYE ARTS FESTIVAL CIO

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP(FRS102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statements of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

1.2 Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing at least £500 for use by the charity are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over the expected useful lives on the following basis:

Equipment and software - 20% pa straight line basis

1.3 Income recognition policies

Items of income are recognised and included in the accounts when all of the following criteria are met:

- The charity has entitlement to the funds
- any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable
- the amount can be measured reliably.

1.4 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

1.5 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity.

1.6 Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified under the following activity heading:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of events and educational activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

1.7 Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back-office costs, finance, and governance costs which support the Charity's artistic programmes and activities.

RYE ARTS FESTIVAL CIO

Notes to the financial statements (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023

1.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

1.9 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of one year or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.10 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.11 Financial instruments

The charity only had financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

1.12 Volunteers

The Festival is run almost entirely by unpaid volunteers and their input continues to be a key element in the Festival's ability to control expenditure.

2 Donations	2023	2022
	£	£
Sponsorship	7,980	17,980
Donations	560	611
Gift aid claimed	2,344	3,099
	<u>10,884</u>	<u>21,690</u>

RYE ARTS FESTIVAL CIO

Notes to the financial statements (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
3 Charitable activities				
Income				
Ticket and programme sales	51,230		39,968	
Bars (net)	1,420		40	
Advertising revenue	5,320		6,905	
Other income (non-festival)	-		-	
Total income		57,970		46,913
Less expenditure				
Direct cost of events	36,840		43,243	
Prior year costs	(6,788)		-	
Other Festival expenses	1,421		180	
Printing and design	8,547		6,646	
Publicity expenses	7,735		9,148	
Other costs (non-festival)	78		-	
Total expenditure		47,833		59,217
Net income/(costs)		10,137		(12,304)
Festival sponsorship (note 2)		7,980		17,980
Festival surplus/ (deficit)		<u>18,117</u>		<u>5,676</u>
4 Expenditure				
Direct costs		47,833		59,217
Governance costs (note 6)		276		560
Support costs (note 5)		8,354		9,491
		<u>56,463</u>		<u>69,268</u>
5 Membership and support costs				
Advisors		-		-
Stationery and postage		127		97
Website costs		3,424		5,133
Subscriptions and sundry expenses		583		-
Insurance		2,128		2,131
Travel costs		-		25
Accountancy		750		750
Telephone		121		95
Bank charges		1,221		1,148
Depreciation		-		112
		<u>8,354</u>		<u>9,491</u>

RYE ARTS FESTIVAL CIO

Notes to the financial statements (continued) **for the year ended 31 December 2023**

6 Governance costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Committee expenses	-	363
AGM costs	276	197
	<u>276</u>	<u>560</u>

7 Staff costs

No remuneration was paid to staff costs in the year.

8 Trustees' expenses

There were no Trustee expenses during the period.

9 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year.

10 Fixed assets for use by the Charity

	Equipment	Software	Total
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets			
At 1 January 2023	-	552	552
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>552</u>	<u>552</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2023	-	552	552
Charge for year	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>552</u>	<u>552</u>
Net book value	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

11 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	-
Prepayments	8,500	8,500
Gift Aid	-	4
	<u>8,500</u>	<u>8,504</u>

12 Current liabilities

Sundry creditors	20,142	27,254
	<u>20,142</u>	<u>27,254</u>

RYE ARTS FESTIVAL CIO

Notes to the financial statements (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023

13 Investment Income

All of the charity's investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts.

14 Cash at bank and in hand

	2023	2022
	£	£
CAF Bank	34,548	14,516
Lloyds Bank	26,944	32,971
PayPal	862	3,202
Cash in hand	-	-
	<u>62,354</u>	<u>50,689</u>

15 Analysis of charitable funds

Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds

	Funds at 01-Jan-23	Income	Expenditure	Funds at 31-Dec-23
	£	£	£	£
General Fund	31,939	75,236	(56,463)	50,712

16 Taxation

As a registered charity, the Festival is exempt from tax on charitable activity.