



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
of the Friends of Buxton International Festival (FoBIF) CIO
held at 10.30am on 27 February 2026 at the Lee Wood Hotel Buxton**

Some 75 Friends attended the meeting. Tony Parsons, Chair, opened the meeting at 10.30am by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending.

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies were noted for the 20 or so persons who had indicated that they were unable to attend the meeting.

2) Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 March 2025

The minutes of the last AGM were unanimously approved. **Proposed: Simon Haslam. Seconded: Lindsay Crowe.**

3) Examined Financial Statements, including the Trustees' Annual Report for Year ended 31 October 2025

The report had been made available on the BIF website. Tony Parsons gave a brief commentary on the Annual Report, highlighting some critical points. These included:

- Congratulations to the Festival team but particularly Michael Williams and Adrian Kelly for creating in the 2025 Festival such a critical and artistic success.
- Friends are core to the success of the Festival, being hugely supportive in so many different ways and in buying 50% of all tickets sold and mainly through priority booking.
- Friends' Events were held throughout the year, well supported – and thanks were given to Louise Potter and her team for the enormous work which goes into making these such a success.
- Ongoing excellent communication between the Friends, Buxton Festival Foundation and the Festival itself.
- Membership of the Friends is all-important and makes it one of the most successful organisations of its type. NextGen Friends come and at 35 they go – but the hope is that later in life, they will re-find the arts when they are better able to do so.

No questions were raised about the details of the Annual Report.

Mandy Travis, as Treasurer, then introduced and summarised the published accounts drawn to 31 October 2025. She noted that £225,000 had been donated to the 2025 Festival, representing a promised £180,000 and a further drawdown by the Festival of £45,000 reserves being held on their behalf. As a result, the Friends' reserves, as at the year end, stood at £33,860 with no reserves being now held for the Festival.

The Trustees' Annual Report and the Examined Accounts (as attached) were duly noted.

4) Proposal to appoint Laytons of Buxton as the charity's Examiners for 2026-2027

It was unanimously agreed that we should appoint Laytons of Buxton as the charity's examiners for 2026-2027. **Proposer: Philip Barton. Seconded: David Brindley.**

5) Election of Committee members (trustees)

Tony Parsons confirmed that Joan Matthews, Helen Brown and Ettie Williams had all retired by rotation and were offering themselves for re-election. Lucy Marsden (known to many) was also being put forward as an additional trustee. In the absence of any other nominations, they were duly deemed re-elected or elected as trustees.

6) Buxton Festival Foundation update

Kate Redford as chairman of the Foundation gave an update as to the Foundation. Total funds encouragingly currently stand at £612,000 up from around £475,000 last year with £578,000 held in an Income and Growth Fund.

A grant to the 2025 Festival supported the BIF orchestra. A grant this year will be made to help with the new London rehearsal space.

The Foundation is looking to continue to build its endowment funds in part through the promotion of legacy giving. Anticipated legacies from the late Judith Tanner and Brenda Sharatt were mentioned. It was reiterated that those who had declared their intention to leave a legacy form part of the Malcolm Frazer Circle which has certain benefits in terms of priority booking for the Festival.

7) Festival 2026 update

Michael Williams as CEO of the Festival gave an update of plans for the 2026 Festival.

8) The provisional date for the next AGM was set for Friday 26 February 2027.

9) Any other business

Tony Parsons reminded the meeting of three upcoming Friends events. He also mentioned possible support from individual Friends in supporting the organization of the United Reform Church piano recitals and encouraged those attending to participate in the current consultation into the renewal of the BBC charter.

There was no other business raised and, as chair, Tony Parsons closed the formal part of the meeting at 11.35 thanking all for their attendance and participation. There followed a well-attended recital by Alis Hews (Harp) and for those who wanted to stay, lunch at the Lee Wood Hotel.