



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
of the Friends of Buxton International Festival (FoBIF) CIO
held at 10.30am on 7 March 2025 at the Lee Wood Hotel Buxton and by Zoom**

Some 70 Friends attended the meeting in person with Zoom being available for those not able to attend in person.

Tony Parsons, Chair, opened the meeting at 10.30am by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending. He thanked Pete Spriggs for all his work as immediate past Chairman and Louise Potter for hosting his retirement party. Tony also acknowledged the contributions made by Pat and Philip Holland in hosting Friends' events at their home over very many years.

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies were noted for the 40 persons who had indicated that they were unable to attend the meeting.

2) Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 March 2024

The minutes were unanimously approved, subject to the amendment of Laytons as examiners, not auditors. **Proposed: Pete Spriggs. Seconded: Sue Parsons.**

3) Examined Financial Statements, including the Trustees' Annual Report for Year ended 31 October 2024

The report had been made available on the BIF website. Tony Parsons gave a brief commentary on the Annual Report, having shown the video overview of the 2024 Festival and highlighting some critical points.

These included:

- Ongoing excellent communication between the Friends, Buxton Festival Foundation and the Festival itself.
- Friends are core to the success of the Festival, being hugely supportive in so many different ways and in buying 1/3 of all tickets sold.
- A big thank you also to all the Festival office team for all their background support of the Friends.

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 2024. She noted that £200,000 had been donated to the 2024 Festival and that the Friends' reserves, as at the year end, stood at £45,000 for the Festival to draw upon and £25,000 for the Friends.

No questions were raised about the details of the accounts.

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 2024-2025

It was unanimously agreed that we should appoint Laytons of Buxton as the charity's examiners for 2024-2025. **Proposer: Philip Barton. Seconded: Louise Potter.**

5) Election of Committee members (trustees)

Tony Parsons confirmed that Pete Spriggs, Judy Barker and Louise Potter had all retired by rotation and Judy Barker and Louise Potter were offering themselves for re-election. Lindsay Crowe was also put forward as an additional trustee. In the absence of any other nominations, they were duly deemed elected as trustees.

6) Buxton Festival Foundation update

Kate Redford as recently appointed chairman of the Foundation gave an update as to the Foundation. She thanked Jane Davies for all her work for and commitment to the Foundation and Festival over so many years, leaving the Foundation in a very healthy position. Total funds currently stand at just under £475,000 with £432,000 held in an Income and Growth Fund.

A grant to the 2024 Festival of £50,000 supported the orchestra of Opera North being engaged for Ernani.

The Foundation was looking to continue to build its endowment in part through the promotion of legacy giving and an anticipated legacy from the late Rex Keen was 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 2025 update

Michael Williams as CEO of the Festival, Vicky Dawson (Book Festival Director) and Neil Hughes (Jazz Director) then each gave an update of plans for the 2025 Festival.

8) The provisional date for the next AGM was set for Friday 27 February 2026.

9) Any other business

Tony Parsons reminded the meeting of three upcoming Friends events, namely Hamlet 45 years on with Donald Maxwell on Wednesday 26 March 10.30 – 12.00, a concert and afternoon tea at Lydgate House Friday 25 April 14.00 – 16.30 and Jazz at the Rookery on Wednesday 4 June 18.30 – 20.30

There was no other business raised and, as chair, Tony Parsons closed the formal part of the meeting thanking all for their attendance and participation.

There followed a well-attended recital by Ben Tarlton (Cello) and for those who wanted to stay, lunch at the Lee Wood Hotel.