



COMMITTEE MEMBERS'

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH NOVEMBER

2025



Bingley Music Town

Committee members' annual report for the year ended 30th November 2025

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Every attempt has been made to produce this document accessibly.



Review of the Year

December 2024 - November 2025

2025 was a big year for our district as Bradford became the UK's City Of Culture.

We participated in the Bingley 25 planning group that organised a weekend of cultural activity in May. This helped to connect us with other local organisations and the wider Bradford cultural community. We continue to work with other local groups through the Bingley 2026 planning group, Bingley Creates, and Bingley Town Council events.

Some of the big Bradford 2025 events were held in our district. These included Grue at Damart Mill, the Bradford Progress on the canal and of course the final event of the year, Brighter Still, in Myrtle park. Bingley Music Town members performed in some of those events, attended many other events, and helped spread the word locally about the City Of Culture in general.

Our partnership with the Bingley Camera Club and Friends of Myrtle Park (FoMP) has been positive and it's been good to continue connection with Bingley Library, local businesses and more music groups and organisations. Much of this came together, along with our partnership with the Town Council, as between us we managed to deliver 30 live music events on the Bandstand in Myrtle Park this year. (Up from 6 last year, and we're ready to do it all again in 2026)

We want to continue our aim of connecting with wider groups, venues and performers. We think 2025 has been a great year for building more connections with the planning of "Bingley 25" but we know there is more work to be done.

We'd still like to be more involved in the wider district as a whole - there are great things going on in Cottingley, Cullingworth and Wilsden, and we'd like to be better connected.



We had the opportunity to bring Bingley Music Town members together when we threw our 2nd Birthday Party at the Ryshworth Club in February. We had a room full of friendly faces and it was great to see like minded people come together. We hope to make a similar event happen in the near future and find ways of better engaging our members.

If you'd like to join us, we'd love for you to help us celebrate and support music in our communities for the benefit of all.

This year has seen a small growth in our membership, which now stands at 20 organisations and 54 individuals. This is one more organisation and 3 more members since last year, and maybe reflects the fact that, while we have a supportive membership, we don't necessarily have a membership that is active within the organisation (we know many are very busy with music and other things elsewhere though).

Our mailing list is now around about 200 people although we think about 10% of this might be spam accounts.

Our Facebook page has 774 likes and 1.1k followers

Our Instagram page is now active and has 438 followers.

Our website reports that our visits over the year were up 22% on the previous year at around 9500 over the year. We tend to see roughly 150 - 200 visits a week, with peaks when other events are happening.



Summary of the main achievements during the last year (in no particular order)

- We held Sounds in Town 3 at Wilsden Church in March and Sounds in Town 4 in October at the Edwick Church. Both events were warmly received with full audiences and an assortment of performers. All events were free to attend with donations going to Bingley Music Town and the venues.
- Bingley 25 was a 3 day event, May 3,4 and 5, where we helped organise and facilitate music in the Market Square and at Myrtle Park Bandstand with the help of the Anne Foster and Eldwick Gala PA.
- Make Music Day (21st June) was a big event held at Bingley Arts Centre in collaboration with Cllr Susan Fricker and Bradford City of Culture 2025. Local Rapper Wilko Wilkes premiered “This is Bingley” which was created with local primary school children. The day also included a handful of other local musicians.
- Cllr John Goode and Bingley Town Council helped with financial investment to put on Music at the Bandstand in Myrtle Park every Sunday with some Saturdays and midweek performances from June to August. A banner was installed to advertise these events and a new one has been erected over Winter to advertise that this will happen in 2026. We worked collaboratively with the Friends of Myrtle Park (FoMP) to ensure all the bandstand dates were covered, and to provide electricity, equipment, and to put out the chairs.
- Supported the Artisan Market and District Councillors with the VE Day Market in May and all day Summer Market in July.
- Supported Rumble up the Ryshworth in their first year of grassroots music at the Ryshworth Club, Crossflatts.



- Took part in the Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Parish Church, Bingley in December, and provided technical support to the Christmas Lights switch on.
- Provided support for Bingley First Monday Folk to help promote their events.
- Held our 2nd Birthday celebration at the Ryshworth Club, Crossflatts to bring together the steering group, followers and all music lovers with live music from Reuben and The Bridge in February.
- Our steering group has met 12 times in the year.
- Our 'what's on each week guide' has been updated and reprinted with a grant from the Shipley Community Chest
- We continue to rehome donated musical instruments and equipment.

Bingley Music Town continues to support local pubs, venues, and musicians by advertising their events across the Bingley area. In the last year, these included Bingley Rocks held over the last weekend in August, the first Bingley Pride in August, concerts at Cottingley Town Hall, music and theatre at Bingley Arts Centre, and lots of live music and opportunities for people to make music and many more.

We continue to work with Bradford Music Scene. We were asked to present an award at the Bradford Music Scene Awards Ceremony in January and have been to their networking events.

Signed on behalf of the committee:

Stephanie Laycock, Chair



General information

Main address

26 Myrtle Avenue, Bingley, BD16 1EW

Committee members (from) (role)

Stephanie Laycock	09/11/22 (Chair)
David Carpenter	09/11/22 (Treasurer and acting Secretary)
David Johnson	09/11/22
Anita Bašić	13/12/22
Liz Narey	09/11/22
Patrick Gray	12/04/23
Rachel Tyrell	14/02/24
Helen Richmond	14/02/24
Steve Spencer	14/02/2025
Jim Bailey	14/02/2025
Mike Wheatley	09/11/22 (No longer attends meetings but continues as a second signatory on the bank account)

Special mentions to regular Steering group participant:

Pete Jebb

Bankers

Virgin Money

154-158 Kensington High Street, London, W8 7RL

Our banking arrangements are the same as last year.

The account is set up such that two signatories are supposed to be required for any purchase.

Technically, there are holes in that procedure as both David Carpenter and Mike Wheatley have debit cards that could be used independently, and David and Mike have access to the account online and via a phone app.

So in practice we run a system where Mike sets up payments and David can then authorise them. (it should be noted that David as 'super admin' is able to make payments without a second authorisation, but this has not happened in this financial year)

The spending and bank balance is available to Steering Group members via a Google Spreadsheet and finance is a standing item at our monthly meetings. However in practice there is not a great deal of scrutiny of the figures, but they do get covered in some detail when we need to spend or receive money.

Governance and management

We are governed by the [rules in our constitution](#) which were agreed on 9th November 2022 and are available to all via our website - linked from the Steering Group section of the ['Membership' page](#).

The steering group meets on the second Wednesday of the month.

Meetings are advertised on the website, and by mailchimp newsletters that go to both members and non-members.

Agendas and Minutes are kept in shared Google Drive folders. Members have the right to access those folders, and should request access if they want to do so. (They can do so by clicking on links to agendas etc)

Mailchimp is also used to contact members only.

Sometimes we email people directly (e.g. for the AGM)



Aims and objectives

The aims of the Group shall be to make Bingley a place where music is celebrated and valued as an asset that sustains our health, our wellbeing, and our economy.

To that end we will:

1. Create a **Board of representatives** who will care for the Music Town idea and **monitor progress**.
2. Curate an ever evolving **plan to support and harness music** that has clear tasks that can be worked on by anyone that wants to, both within and outside of the steering group. This will include a plan to **evaluate our local music infrastructure in depth**.
3. Work towards a **formal recognition that music is an asset** that sustains the health, wellbeing, and the economy of the people of Bingley.
4. Not do all the work to achieve everything on the plan, but we will find, encourage, and support other people to follow their musical improvement passion, so that we can achieve our goals together.
5. Create a Bingley Music Town brand that local community groups, musical groups, and businesses can use to tie their events and activities together.
6. Ensure that music in Bingley will be a key cultural contribution to the Bradford 2025 City of Culture programme.

Committee Member's Highlights

Anita

This year we have managed to successfully host two more SOUNDS IN TOWN events. The first took place in Wilsden Church on March 5th, where a highly varied and entertaining evening of local acoustic music was performed to a packed-out Church. Ukuleles, Brass, Accordion, violin, piano and guitar plus vocals all featured. The Church's singing group made its debut public performance and the audience were delighted with the array of talent, not to mention the delicious selection of homemade cakes!

The second event was hosted at Eldwick Church on 22nd October and this was equally as impressive. This event was headlined by the local folk-flamenco duo, Skinner & T'Witch and also featured Windstruments Clarinet Choir, Team Sax, Matt Broadbent & Ella J, the BABeS (Bradford Accordion Band Singers), Chris Mullen (Singer Songwriter), Lexi Whiteley (pianist) and Cullingworth & Bingley Ukes.

Both Churches benefited from generous audience donations and we are looking forward to a Spring Sounds in Town (5) in Cottingley with remaining proceeds.



Steph

I have loved the additional brass bands and extra music on the Bandstand throughout summer. Chatting to people and hearing how much they enjoy the regular events and seeing them about the town through winter and being able to tell them we're doing it all again in Summer 2026.

Our 2nd Birthday Bash at the Ryshworth Club. Seeing a variety of people, some we had worked with, others who came along to support, some to hear the brilliant music of Reuben and the Bridge. What a good night that brought people together.

Make Music Day at Bingley Arts Centre in June. Hearing the musical journey of the local primary school children with the help of Wilko Wilkes and watching the music video. What a great community project.



David

So many things. One of our founding rules was "Ensure that music in Bingley will be a key cultural contribution to the Bradford 2025 City of Culture programme." and while we played a small part in the events of the year, I can't thank enough, all those other community groups that came together to make sure Bingley was ready, and made it easy for Bradford 2025 to host some of its flagship events here. Councilor Susan Fricker deserves a special mention, but so do many others!

That we had 30 live music events on the Bandstand this year still blows my mind. Such a good team pulling that together. Also great to see the first Bingley Pride this year. Every single music event at Beckfoot School is unbelievably good. Our sounds in town events are heartwarming, and showcase amazing talent.

But if I had to pick one I think the Bingley Library Acoustic Session Time (BLAST) players deserve a special mention. Catch them on a Wednesday in the library, and hopefully on the bandstand again in 2026. Great musicians, lovely people, simply keeping live music happy and healthy, and sharing the joy of music. Low key, but vital.



Patrick

Highlight of the year - playing with Bingley Ukulele Group on the BBC's One Show in centenary square in Bradford as part of the Bradford Progress event, and also playing on the new LNER train from Bradford to Doncaster. I also enjoyed the extra Bandstand concerts we had this year.

Helen

My highlight of the year was taking part in one of Bradford 2025's big community events, Bloom. This was a large-scale, public performance that celebrated the past, present and future of Shipley.

The rehearsals for the choir led by Tayo were great. I remember how the dress rehearsal really brought the whole thing to life. Joining with other community choirs was also very special and enjoyed by all.

It really was a spectacle, with an opera singer on the clock tower and aerial performers performing stunts above as we sang.





Steve

There have been a few highlights for the Bingley Ukulele Group this year. We took part in the Bradford Progress event which was a great experience for us. We also played at the launch of the new train service from Forster Square to London, and had Lesley Garrett join us in a song in the Midland Hotel.

We also got a £400 award from Creative lives that enabled us to buy 10 ukuleles and run our first beginner's course. They are going to be used in the New year by East Morton primary school to start an after-school group that will run for three months initially and then we will run another beginner group next year. Hopefully the group will continue to thrive in 2026.

Liz

My thoughts return to the wonderful days of the brass bands playing on the bandstand in Myrtle Park. A lovely couple (seniors too !) dancing at almost every chance.

Children enjoying the sunshine and riding their trikes and scooters around the bandstand safely.

Again on the Myrtle Park bandstand; A first!! Blast (Bingley Library Acoustic Sessions) giving their best - a vast variety of music from our local musicians.

Again many thanks to all.

Jim

2025 has been packed with incredible music moments that brought our community together. Here's what made it unforgettable for me.

Rumble Up The Ryshworth – Hard to believe this only launched in January 2025. Already a sensation! Amazing acts + amazing crowds = pure magic.

Music on the Bandstand (Myrtle Park) – Back and better than ever! Sunshine, tunes, and smiles all around.

Sounds In Town – Live music right in the heart of Bingley. The vibe? Absolutely electric!

First Monday Folk – Intimate evenings of beautiful folk music that warmed our hearts.

Chip n Ern Upstairs Sessions – Cozy vibes, incredible artists, and unforgettable nights.

A HUGE thank you to every performer, volunteer, and music lover who made this year so special. Here's to an even bigger, louder, and more exciting 2026!

Receipts & payments account

for the year ended 30th November 2025

Our only real income this year came from cash donations at our events.

We 'banked' money for other organisations, notably the Bingley Ukulele Group, and we paid some expenses for musicians for which we were later reimbursed.

We started the year with just over £600 in unrestricted funds, and some restricted funds that were earmarked for printing, so we did not feel the need to raise much extra this year. Therefore we did not apply for or receive any grant funding in the year 2024-2025.

Sounds In Town events continue to be a way to raise cash donations, but we have also started to increase the amounts we share with the venue, recognising that we are able to go beyond the minimum hire rates, and that this is a useful way to support those venues.

While we have 'only' paid £180 this year in artists fees, (£100 less than last year), we have been able to connect musicians to paid opportunities with other organisations, notably via the programme of events in the Badstand this year, and other public events (The Bingley Celebration, VE day, Summer Markets etc)

We continue to be grateful to Community Action Bradford And District for their very reasonable rates for room hire at Cardigan House for our steering group meetings.

We still don't raise funds directly from our members. Many membership organisations have a subscription mechanism, where membership is linked to an annual subscription which then provides the group with some money to operate.

Going into 2026, although we start the year with less money than we started the previous year, we have enough funds to cover our running expenses for the year. At a minimum we need roughly £300 to cover meeting room hire, public liability and our website domain. This estimate is £100 more than last year, partly because of an increased level of insurance cover, and an under estimate reported last year.



Income Expenditure 2024-2025

Receipts	Amount
Grants	£1,000.00
Cash Donations	£435.91
Bandstand Events	£178.89
Membership	£0.00
Bank Interest	£0.46
Total Receipts	£1,615.26

Payments	Amount
Bingley Ukulele Group	£290.00
Event Expenses	£300.00
Insurance	£121.99
Musician Fees	£180.00
Publicity	£98.40
Room Hire	£162.50
Training	£40.00
Total Payments	£1,192.89

Net receipts/(payments)	£422.37
Bank and cash at the start of the period	£866.41
Bank and cash at the end of the period	£1,288.78

Statement of assets and liabilities

at 30th November 2025

Cash assets	Amount
Cash	£142.00
Current account	£1,146.78
Total cash assets	£1,288.78
Other assets	
None	
Liabilities	
IT costs (Domain Renewal)	£8.15
Total Liabilities	£8.15
Restricted Funds	
Money held for other groups	£710.00
Remaining balance of the Shipley Community Chest grant that must be spent on printing	£121.00
Total Restricted Funds	£831.00
Available Funds at the end of 24-25	£449.63
Available Funds at the end of 23-24	£633.60
We start 2025-26 with £183.97 less than we started	-£183.97

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the organisation by:

David Carpenter, Treasurer

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 30th November 2025

1. Grants & Donations

Grants and donations (restricted funds)	Amount
None	0
Grants and donations (unrestricted funds)	
Cash donations (events)	£435.91
Total grants and donations	£435.91

Notes:

Cash donations came from 3 events (two Sounds In Town events, and our Birthday Celebration Event).

2. Committee members' remuneration

From our rules:

(d) Members, (including committee members) cannot receive any money or property from the group, except to refund reasonable out of pocket expenses. or unless the member is directly involved in running a music activity which has been fully or partially financially supported by funds raised by or awarded to the group, and where the Management Committee has agreed to this financial support.

During this period,

£98.40 was reimbursed to David Carpenter against the receipt for printing of leaflets.

£290 was paid to Stephen Spencer to reimburse against the purchase of 10 ukuleles against funds raised by the Bingley Ukulele group and held by us.

£24.74 was reimbursed to Helen Richmond against expenses incurred in organising the Sounds In Town event at Eldwick.