



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From Period start date Day 01 Month 04 Year 2018 **To** Period end date Day 31 Month 03 Year 2019

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Barefoot Opera

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1167730

Charity's principal address

6 The Uplands

St. Leonards on Sea

East Sussex

Postcode

TN38 0HL

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Diana Bickley	Chairperson		Trustees of the Charity
2	Barbara Browning	Secretary		Trustees of the Charity
3	Antony Mair			Trustees of the Charity
4	Fenella McVey			Trustees of the Charity
5	Virginia Gilbert	Treasurer		Trustees of the Charity
6	Roger Blackburn		Appointed 11 May 2018	Trustees of the Charity
7				
8				
9				
10				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent Examiner	Keith Miller	Hastings Voluntary Action, Jackson Hall, Portland Place,
		Hastings TN34 1QN

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Jenny Miller, Director

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

Constitution dated 15 June 2015

How the charity is constituted

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Trustee selection methods

Appointed by existing trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Trustees have assessed potential risks arising from the expansion of our activities involving community groups and schools in the creation and performance of Bloom Britannia, a new opera we have commissioned. We have identified the need for a safeguarding policy which is being drafted for adoption in early 2020.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

- (a) to promote opera, music recitals and concerts by (i) using a new approach to classic works and commissioning new works, making both accessible to as wide an audience as possible; (ii) engaging with schools and community groups and involving them in workshops, productions and performances; and (iii) taking such further measures and initiatives as the Trustees may consider desirable;
- (b) to support the development of outstanding young singers and emerging professional singers not yet fully launched in an operatic career, by involving them in operatic productions, recitals, and concerts at a level appropriate to their stage of development and encouraging them to find new approaches to rehearsal and performance.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Trustees have read the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. The guidance has been considered at trustee meetings when planning the activities for the year.

The Charity's activities are focused on assisting the development of operatic talent and exposing the general public to affordable and accessible operatic performances. The singers benefit from experience and exposure at an early stage of their careers. The public has an opportunity to experience opera in places that are local and familiar to them and at prices that are affordable, developing the audiences of the future.

The public benefit is enhanced by opportunities for local students, musicians and other performers to participate in the development of events and in the final productions. This provides an introduction to opera for sections of the community previously unfamiliar with the genre, with the deliberate intention of demystifying the process and achieving a cohesion of purpose through involvement of schools, choirs or non-musical minority groups. Our advanced student productions experiment with new ways of staging so that audiences experience the music and singing in a different and more engaging way. We involve young local budding costume designers in our work, mentored by experienced professionals. Our ambitious "people's opera", Bloom Britannia, reaches out to community groups who have never previously encountered opera, let alone performed in an operatic work. Audiences have included friends and family members of participants in the project, and we invite their feedback. This has the dual effect of introducing them to the way in which opera is conceived and involving them in the process.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The charity provides small grants to performers who require financial assistance with accommodation, travel expenses or other costs associated with participation in our productions. Students submit their applications for grant funding in the form of short essays to the Trustees which are evaluated with input from the Director. Decisions are recorded at Trustee meetings.

Volunteers provide invaluable help as front of house staff at events, serving at receptions, providing accommodation for singers on intensive courses and distributing flyers and other publicity.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The major events undertaken by the charity in the 2018-19 year were:

Training

Short courses for training singers were held in London from January to March.

Young Artists' Tour – Carmen

The Young Artists' Tour has been a major feature of Barefoot's activities for several years. Performances and ticket sales have increased steadily. The tour now visits London, Oxford and Cheltenham as well as the performances in our home base of Hastings.

In Autumn 2018, the residential course for young training singers culminated in local performances and the tour of Bizet's Carmen.

Bloom Britannia

Barefoot Opera's new 'people's opera' started life in 2018 with a huge research and development project, involving over 240 people in talking and singing workshops in the towns of Hastings, St. Leonards and Bexhill.

The creative team met choirs, social groups, people at day centres, refugees, schools, dog walkers, and many other people, gaining a rich perspective on what it means to live in a town on the South Coast today. People learned how to write songs, improvise, and sing together. Songs were inspired by stories in the local newspaper, by objects and photographs that told their own story, and by sharing experiences. People sat in café's talking about life on the South Coast and sharing personal histories.

What began life as 'A TOWN' has now become something truly epic: 'BLOOM BRITANNIA'. Taking a satirical look at what Britain might feel like in the future, Bloom Britannia centres on a fictional regeneration competition on the South Coast, on the day the winning town is to be decided. Combining Hen parties, dodgy dealings on the seafront, and scandalous secret affairs, mayhem is guaranteed. In April 2019, with a successful Arts Council funding bid to help us, we staged a 30-minute experimental segment of the opera at the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill. Over one hundred performers played to a live audience of nearly 400 as well as a live-streamed audience of over 3,000. The feedback was terrific. The latest development, in December 2019, is success in our final grant application to the Arts Council for funding of a complete opera to be unveiled in Autumn 2020.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity's trustees adopted a reserves policy during the 2017-18 financial year. The target level for the reserve was set at £5,000, to be built up from any profits generated from events. The reserve is fully funded from 1st April 2019.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

- The charity's principal sources of funds are derived from ticket sales, student fees, grants, and fundraising.
- Expenditure supports the charity's objectives by funding performances and outreach workshops and by offering financial assistance to students.
- The charity does not have an investment policy as its funds are entirely devoted to the support of students, performances, and outreach events.

Section F

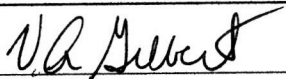
Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Virginia Gilbert	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	

Date 31 December 2019

Barefoot Opera

Registered Charity No. 1167730

Annual Accounts

for the period

1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019

Contents:

Organisational information
Receipts & Payments account
Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Independent Examiner's report

Hastings Voluntary Action
Jackson Hall
Portland Place
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1QN

**Organisational information for
Barefoot Opera
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

Name of charity: Barefoot Opera

Charity No: 1167730

Legal form: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Governing document: Constitution dated 15th June 2015

Address: 6 The Uplands
St. Leonards-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN38 0HL

Trustees: Diana Bickley (Chair)
Barbara Browning (Secretary)
Virginia Gilbert (Treasurer)
Fenella McVey
Antony Mair
Roger Blackburn

Director: Jenny Miller

Bankers: CAF Bank (online), 25 Kings Hill Ave, West Malling, ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner: Keith Miller, Independent Examiner
HVA, Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings, TN34 1QN

Objects:

- a) To support the development and appreciation of singing at all levels from amateur to professional standard
- b) To encourage emerging professional opera singers to find new approaches to the rehearsal and performance of opera
- c) To promote opera, music recitals, and concerts to all audiences, new ones in particular, by using a new approach to classic works which encourages accessible productions.
- d) To provide outreach workshops in schools and community groups.

Barefoot Opera

Receipts & Payments accounts

for the period

1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

Previous Year			Current Year		
		Notes	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total funds
	<u>Receipts</u>				
22,244.00	Grants		36,488.53	0.00	36,488.53
2,250.00	Sponsorship/Fund raising		0.00	7,414.20	7,414.20
22,081.80	Ticket sales		0.00	22,771.71	22,771.71
7,700.00	Student fees		0.00	8,655.00	8,655.00
0.00	Programme sales		0.00	454.83	454.83
0.00	Bar/Raffle		0.00	0.00	0.00
50.00	Donations		0.00	4,109.40	4,109.40
4,100.00	Festival Fees		0.00	320.00	320.00
121.03	Miscellaneous Income		0.00	949.50	949.50
0.00	Friends Membership		0.00	438.30	438.30
58,546.83			36,488.53	45,112.94	81,601.47
	<u>Expenditure</u>				
7,215.00	Direction/Management		14,636.34	4,460.00	19,096.34
1,725.00	Coaching		299.00	1,815.50	2,114.50
5,710.00	Musicians		7,120.00	7,610.00	14,730.00
317.20	Travel expenses		872.39	1,539.41	2,411.80
5,043.75	Venue hire		1,560.00	5,223.22	6,783.22
3,237.65	Costume & set		0.00	1,450.00	1,450.00
266.40	Technical expenses		108.75	0.00	108.75
812.44	Transport costs		0.00	0.00	0.00
3,105.18	Food costs and preparation		194.90	1,917.55	2,112.45
4,779.00	Publicity		4,634.51	1,788.60	6,423.11
360.00	Website		100.00	900.00	1,000.00
356.81	Stripe commission		0.00	0.00	0.00
641.38	Admin/Office expenses		2,534.27	634.33	3,168.60
3,150.00	Fundraising costs		8,006.25	0.00	8,006.25
2,398.85	Other/Misc		1,039.09	1,222.68	2,261.77
39,118.66			41,105.50	28,561.29	69,666.79
19,428.17	Net surplus (deficit)		(4,616.97)	16,551.65	11,934.68
7,095.62	Fund balances b/f	1/4/18	16,436.42	10,087.37	26,523.79
26,523.79	Fund balances c/f	31/3/19	11,819.45	26,639.02	38,458.47

Barefoot Opera
Statement of Assets & Liabilities
as at
31 March 2019

						Previous year
						Total
			Restricted Income	Unrestricted Income	Total	
Current assets						
Current Account	@	31/03/19	11,819.45	26,357.81	38,177.26	26,476.89
Cash in hand	@	31/03/19		46.90	46.90	46.90
Receipts awaiting banking				234.31	234.31	0.00
			<u>11,819.45</u>	<u>26,639.02</u>	<u>38,458.47</u>	<u>26,523.79</u>
Current liabilities						
Uncashed cheques				0.00	0.00	0.00
			<u>11,819.45</u>	<u>26,639.02</u>	<u>38,458.47</u>	<u>26,523.79</u>

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 1993. The trustees have elected to take advantage of the provisions that apply to small charities and have prepared a Receipts and Payments account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Approved by the Trustees on 12th Sept 2019 and signed on their behalf by

D Bickley

Diana Bickley (Chair)

V Gilbert

Virginia Gilbert (Treasurer)

Barefoot Opera
Notes to the Accounts
for the period
01 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

Restricted Funds

	Income	Spent	Left
	Income	Spent	Left
<u>Bloom Britannia</u> b/fwd	16,436.42		
<u>(formerly known as "A Town")</u>			
Grants received			
Arts Council	23,490.00		
Magdalen & Lasher	2,950.00		
SCF	5,000.00		
Kickstarter	5,048.53		
Bloom Britannia Expenses		41,105.50	
Amount carried forward			11,819.45
 Total Restricted Funds Held			 11,819.45

Independent Examiner's Report to the Committee of Barefoot Opera

I report on the accounts of Barefoot Opera
for the twelve month period ended 31 March 2019 which are set out on the previous pages.

Respective responsibilities of committee & 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 year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to 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 supporting documentation presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the 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 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 Charities Act
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 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.


.....
Keith Miller
Accounts Support Worker
Hastings Voluntary Action
Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings, TN34 1QN

Dated: 30/9/19