

THE CHARLES PARKER ARCHIVE TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021



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Registered Charity Number:

326082

www.cpatrust.org.uk

The Charles Parker Trust was founded in 1982. We exist to preserve and promote the wonderful legacy left by the legendary radio producer, Charles Parker – producer of the original, ground-breaking BBC Radio Ballads.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Phil Maguire OBE

Despite a difficult year for most, I am pleased that the Charles Parker Trust has been able to achieve so much since my last Chair's report.

In my last report I confirmed the postponement of the 2020 Charles Parker Day. It was due to be held in April 2020 in Birmingham – the city where the Charles lived and worked for most of his life. The event was re-imagined due to COVID restrictions. A special online event was held on Tuesday 8 December to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Charles Parker's death.

The online event focussed on the launch of the 2021 Charles Parker Prize for the Best Student Radio Feature, and celebrated Charles' legacy through interviews with previous prizewinners and others whose lives he changed. You can watch a video of the event [here](#).

Many thanks to Charles Parker trustee – Andy Cartwright (Soundscape Productions / University of Sunderland) for organising this event, and for organising the Charles Parker Day for the last 11 years! Thanks also to fellow-trustee Jimmy Ewing, for supporting Andy with the event.

We very much hope to be back in 2022 with a face to face event – in Birmingham. Along with the return of an in-person event, will be the return of *Actuality*, the magazine of the trust which is usually produced annually as a companion publication to the Charles Parker Day itself.

In April 2021 we held another online event. This time, trustee and Charles' daughter, Sara Parker interviewed the 10 Charles Parker Prize nominees before the five winners were announced by Richard Knight, BBC Radio 4's Commissioning Editor for Factual Programmes. He was impressed with all the finalists' features which he described enthusiastically as "compelling stories, well told".

We are delighted that this year, the five winning programmes have again been commissioned by BBC Radio 4, for broadcast this summer, as part of their *New Storytellers* strand.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank this year's judges – Mair Bosworth, Mukti Jane Campion, Charlotte Runcie, Philip Sellars and Simon Elmes (chair and Charles Parker trustee). And to congratulate all the nominees and winners, particularly to the winner of our Gold Award, Magdalena Moursy (Goldsmiths) for her powerful piece *40 Years On: Remembering the New Cross Fire*. The judges said, "The judges praised "an extremely moving and well-crafted feature that is true to the spirit of Charles Parker while doing something fresh and entirely its own."

Another noteworthy recent achievement is a complete overhaul of our website – <https://cpatrust.org.uk>. The site now contains invaluable insights into Charles' life and work, details about the Charles Parker Archive, which is housed at the Library of Birmingham. It also contains information about the Charles Parker Day and the Charles Parker Prize. And all issues of Actuality Magazine can be downloaded from our new website for free. Many thanks to trustees Pam Bishop and Becky Andrew for managing this work. And to Juniper Creative Studio for their generous help with this project.

A significant piece of work going on in the background is focused on making the Charles Parker Archive more accessible and suitable for the digital age. A working group, led by trustee Tony Macaluso, has been making plans and investigating sources of funding. Watch this space.

For a small, volunteer-run charity, the Charles Parker Trust clearly punches above its weight. And it plays an increasingly important role in bringing new storytellers into the audio industry. Charles believed passionately in giving a voice to ordinary working people. It is an absolute joy to hear echoes of Charles' work in the productions of these new storytellers.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the trustees, to thank all those who support our work. Thanks to all who have attended / contributed to our online events. And huge congratulations to all who entered the Prize. We couldn't do this without your help and involvement.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Becky Andrew

This is my first report since joining the Trust in October 2019, and subsequently taking on the role of Honorary Secretary in May 2020.

We currently have a total of 14 Trustees, since our last AGM Pam Bishop has very kindly agreed to take on the role of Vice Chair, there are no other reported changes.

In light of the current restrictions, we have moved our meetings online which took place in August, October (2020), January and March (2021).

In addition to these formal meetings, we have also set up a number of smaller working groups over the course of the year, with trustees looking at both how we adapt our activities to online in this challenging year, and to the future, with a group focusing on funding for the dissemination of the Archive. This has allowed us to explore areas in more depth with progress reported at meetings for wider discussion.

Whilst virtual meetings have worked well to some extent, we are keen to meet in person when safe to do so.

We continue to work to our governing document and adhere to Charity Commission regulations, in addition to the General Data Protection Regulation, you can find our privacy policy on our new website here: <https://cpatrust.org.uk/privacy-policy>

And finally, I'd like to thank all the trustees for making me feel so welcome. It has been such a privilege to listen and learn from you all and I look forward to an exciting year ahead.

TREASURER'S REPORT 2020/2021

Mark Newman

There was very little financial activity this year due to the Charles Parker Day not taking place.

As a consequence, both income and expenses were lower than usual. Friends' subscriptions and donations were down year-on-year.

We are again grateful to the BBC for financial support in the form of Charles Parker sponsorship.

We currently have a total of just over £5,000 (current and savings accounts) mainly arising from the generosity of Friends over the years. This balance is available for new initiatives when opportunity arises.

Financial Statement for the year 29/4/20 to 28/4/21

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Friends' subscriptions and donations	70	144
Grant from BBC for Charles Parker Day (note 1)	n/a	500
Bank interest	1	5
Donations and ticket sales for CP Day 2020	n/a	146
Merchandise sales	0	0
Surplus carried over from 2018/19	n/a	113
TOTAL	71	908
PAYMENTS		
Printing, postage etc	0	604
Website (note 2)	0	102
Paypal fees (note 3)	1	n/a
Charles Parker Day expenses (note 4)	n/a	1081
Trustee expenses (note 4)	n/a	34
TOTAL	1	1821
Excess payments over receipts	70	-913
Opening balance (current + savings + Paypal)	5165	6078
Profit/loss for year	70	-913
Discounting 2018/19 surplus	-113	n/a
CLOSING BALANCE	5123	5165

NOTES

1. BBC grant for 2021 is confirmed and pending (£500.00)
2. Website fees are pending (£172.80)
3. Paypal fees for 2019/20 were already deducted from donations total
4. No CP Day 2020 expenses were incurred due to event not taking place

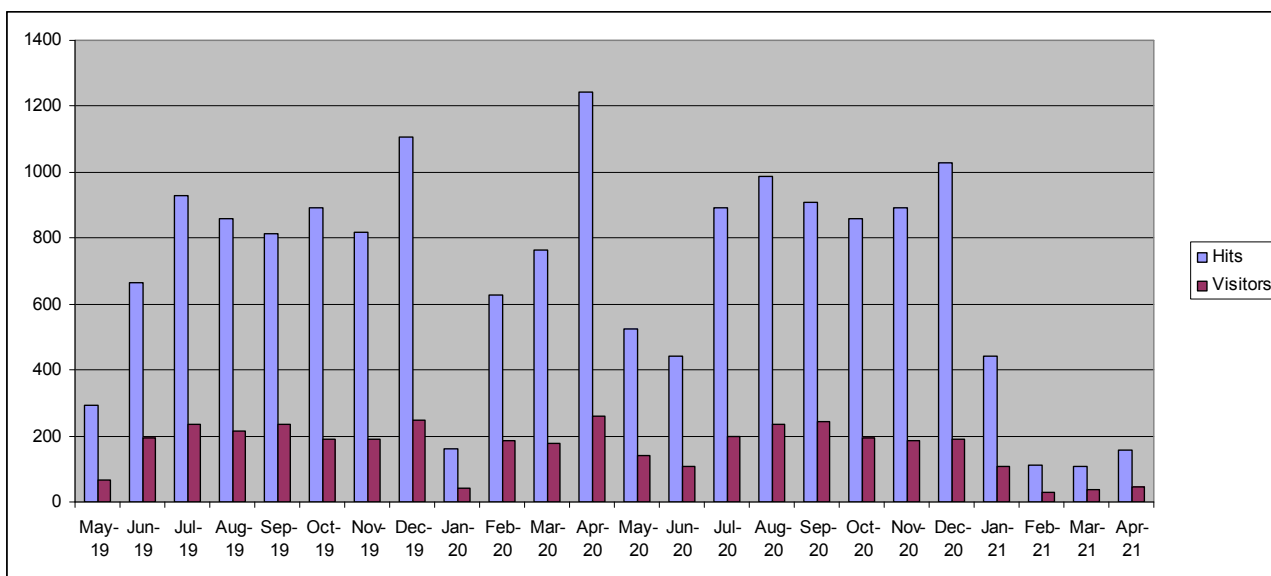
WEBSITE EDITOR'S REPORT

Pam Bishop

1. Website

A new website has been created, courtesy of Juniper Creative Studio, and most of the content from the previous Wordpress site has now been recreated in Squarespace. It can still be found at cpatrust.org.uk

This graph of web activity over the last two years shows the daily average figures for visits and hits (a "visit" is a session of continuous activity, so will include a number of "hits"). Maximum hits occurred in April 2020, when we announced the nominees and then the winners of the 2020 Charles Parker Prize. Hits held up till December, the month of the online Charles Parker Day, when the 2021 Prize was launched. Since then there has been little activity, reflecting the loss of this year's Charles Parker Day, but we believe that the new website will start to attract viewers once we announce it on our social media and Mailchimp accounts.



2. New Youtube channel

A Youtube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCO-VwnMnBIrtNE3WO-URogQ> features videos of the online Charles Parker Day 2020, the announcement of the winners of the 2021 Charles Parker Prize and interviews with past prizewinners.

3. Social Media

- The twitter feed @cpatrust is used to announce the latest news about the Trust and related activities. Currently there are 376 followers, up from 343 last year.
- A facebook group @FriendsCPA or "Friends of the Charles Parker Archive" carries the latest news about the Trust and events including Charles Parker Days and AGMs – 82 followers (up from 66)
- A facebook page @charlesparkerprize for keeping students up-to-date with the rules for entry, submission deadlines etc for the Charles Parker Prize. 218 people "like" this page, and 232 "follow" it (up from 201).
- We have now launched an Instagram Account which we will look to promote further with the new website

4. Webmail

A Mailchimp account is used to store our extensive email contacts and disseminate news about Trust activities, particularly the Charles Parker Prize and Days.