



## Chair's Report

I have been on the exec committee since April 2020, initially as vice chair and from October 2020 as executive chair. This report is partially in my role as vice chair but mainly as chair.

When I was co-opted in April 20 by the chair Ben Hewlett, I was asked for my help to help build in succession planning and help modernise HarmonicaUK and to clarify how our charity works. So over the past year we have formed a structure to help us grow and flourish.

Ongoing projects are for a complete new IT system, an automated membership system, a rebranding project to help describe HarmonicaUK, youth outreach to encourage younger, diverse players, increased social media presence and finally finding better ways to communicate with our members from the UK and the 50 countries where we have a presence.

Our restructuring study is still ongoing, not only finding keen and capable people but finding deputies for succession planning.

Davina Brazier has been working hard with her team looking at compliance, safeguarding and ensuring that we have all the policies that we need are in place.

As a charity we are in a much stronger position now and all that we do in our daily work, our team works to best practice at all times.

Our members have enjoyed our increased availability with the weekly coffee mornings and lockdown sessions. It is our intention to continue with these.

The new editorial team has been a big news story for us. Our team of utterly professional and creative and motivated people are continually producing a high end magazine with not only hard copy magazines but also, an electronic - page turnable magazine but also an accessible magazine for visually impaired members.

We are seeing an encouraging trend with new members joining us. With our outreach initiatives we expect this trend to accelerate.

We were trailblazers with our first ever virtual chromatic weekend in June 20 and our first virtual October festival in October 20. These were both very popular and easy worthy of the world stage in which we broadcasted. Our next challenge will be to find ways of not excluding our members who cannot attend our physical festivals as the world recovers from the pandemic.

At the time of me joining the exec team, I expressed my desire not to be in a senior role for longer than 3 years. I think this is important to ensure fresh new ideas. I intend to stand down in October 2022 as by then I would have completed 30 months at a very senior level.

I am very proud of what my team has achieved and it has been a real pleasure to work with them all on a daily basis, whether they be committee members or the many volunteers that help prop up team HarmonicaUK.

Pete Hewitt, Chair

1/8/2021