THE PIECE HALL

EST. 1779

ANNUAL REVIEW 2024-2025

ABOUT THE PIECE HALL

The Piece Hall is a multi-award-winning heritage, retail, community and cultural events destination.

The stunning Grade 1 listed building originally opened in 1779 for the trading of ‘pieces’ of woollen cloth and is now the world’s only remaining intact Georgian cloth hall, making it a site of global significance.

Renovated and then reopened in 2017, it is run by The Piece Hall Charitable Trust, with the core aims of preserving the landmark for future generations, serving the community of Calderdale and acting as the key catalyst for the borough’s continuing regeneration.

The Trust proudly promotes The Piece Hall’s rich history and stewards the building as a living landmark, inspiring imagination and reflecting local identity.

It champions creativity through world class cultural events, presenting globally renowned artists and musicians and supporting thought-leading practice.

Its legacy as a place of trade continues, with a thriving tenant community who run boutique stores and creative businesses, It helps support SMEs both directly and indirectly, creating jobs, and driving regional growth.

The Piece Hall Trust is committed to increasing opportunity by facilitating learning, participation and development. Working with skilled partners via The Piece Hall Academy, it delivers projects, courses and experiences to educate, train, and develop the next generation of creative talent in the borough.

Importantly The Piece Hall is a place of community, an inclusive, welcoming space at the heart of Halifax, uniting people and fostering pride, connection, and belonging.



THE PIECE HALL TRUST'S VISION STATEMENT

The Piece Hall is a living landmark. Rooted in history, powered by people, it is a sanctuary where all are welcome, creativity thrives, and lives are transformed through culture, connection and realising collective possibilities. The Piece Hall connects Halifax and Calderdale to the world - today, tomorrow and beyond.

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

ORPHY ROBINSON MBE



This year at The Piece Hall has been truly special. As the newly appointed Chair, I have had the privilege of stepping into this role at a time of renewed energy, pride, and possibility, and I want to say how grateful I am for the welcome, the support, and the sheer passion that surrounds this extraordinary place.

We celebrated eight years since reopening and an incredible milestone of 19 million visitors, every one of them bringing their own story, their own excitement, and their own connection to The Piece Hall. This is what makes our courtyard feel so alive; it belongs to everyone. It has also been a year of genuine progress behind the scenes. Thanks to the skill and dedication of our CEO Nicky Chance-Thompson and her staff team, the Trustees, volunteers, and tenants, we achieved a successful financial turnaround. This stability has given us room to breathe, to plan with confidence, and to dream bigger again. It means we can keep The Piece Hall open, thriving, and ambitious for years to come - something I know matters deeply to our community.

A YEAR FULL OF CULTURAL MAGIC

The cultural life of The Piece Hall has never felt richer. Our programme this year has been an integral aspect of the legacy of The Piece Hall story, led by a strong team united in its endeavour to maintain and highlight top quality arts, to celebrate diversity, excellence and ambition, in all that we deliver. From Martyn Ware's extraordinary soundscapes to the beautiful Humari Aawaz exhibition celebrating the South Asian community in Calderdale, we've seen art spark conversations and memories. Live at The Piece Hall reached new heights this year, with our biggest season ever and audiences travelling from 53 countries to be part of it. Whether it was preshow dining, our new welfare space, after-show celebrations, or simply dancing together under the stars, these moments reminded us just how powerful shared experiences can be. And partnerships like our work with Mencap on Gig Buddies show how music truly brings people together.

A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE GROW

The Piece Hall Academy continues to be one of the most inspiring parts of our work. Seeing young people grow in confidence, perform on stage, get hands-on industry experience, and even secure their first deals has been extraordinary. These are the artists, producers, and creatives of tomorrow - and we are proud to be part of their journeys.

A HOME FOR INDEPENDENT BUSINESS

Our traders bring heart and character to every corner of The Piece Hall. This year we welcomed new tenants, launched new outlets, and hosted our most successful festive market season yet. From charity fashion shows to TV appearances, our businesses shone brightly, and we are committed to supporting their growth every step of the way.

A COMMUNITY SPACE IN THE TRUEST SENSE

What makes The Piece Hall so special is the way it brings people together. This year we hosted everything from heritage festivals, LGBTQ+ history sessions and family craft days to charity walks, emergency service celebrations and even our first two-day motor show. The Courtyard has once again proven itself to be one of the most welcoming, inclusive public spaces in the country.

HONOURING OUR PAST, CELEBRATING OUR FUTURE

Whether through heritage tours, VE Day celebrations, or the unexpected discovery of a time capsule, we have stayed connected to the extraordinary history of this building. National awards and recognition - including the Nordoff Robbins "Most Inspirational Venue" award and the Muddy Stilettoes Art and Culture Award plus a nomination in the Yorkshire Tourism Awards and two further nominations in the Live Awards are a reminder that what happens at The Piece Hall is felt, admired and acknowledged far beyond Calderdale.

LOOKING FORWARD WITH HEART AND HOPE

As we look to the future, we do so with a sense of warmth, optimism, and shared purpose. We want to keep building on the incredible momentum of this year, reaching more people, supporting more young talent, deepening our partnerships, and bringing even more unforgettable experiences to this iconic place.

Most importantly, we want The Piece Hall to continue being what it has always been - a place where everyone feels welcome, where creativity flourishes, and where community is truly at the heart of everything we do.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us this year - our staff, tenants, Trustees, volunteers, partners, artists, audiences, and of course, the people of Calderdale. Your passion, your pride, and your love for The Piece Hall make this beautiful place what it is. Here's to another year of inspiration, togetherness, and possibility.

A YEAR OF CULTURALLY RICH EVENTS, EXPERIENCES AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The year 2024 – 2025 saw The Piece Hall re focus on its core objectives with a comprehensive programme championing culture, community and commerce in this unique heritage site.

TK Maxx presents Live at The Piece Hall 2025 was our biggest concert series to date and saw the building transform into a world class music venue welcoming more than 185,000 people to experience the joy of seeing their favourite artists live.

The Piece Hall Gallery welcomed two exhibitions from Yorkshire creative legend Martyn Ware.

Firstly, fresh from its world premiere at The World Trade Center in New York, October 2024 saw the European premiere of ‘Adventures in the Electroverse’.

This month long, fully immersive, multi-sensory, art and 3D sound installation by the renowned electronic music pioneer was free to enter. Its launch included a free Q&A session with the Heaven 17 star hosted by BBC 6 Music’s Chris Hawkins.

Martyn returned in April 2025 with ‘It’s Always Ourselves We Find In The Sea’. This captivating and thought-provoking sound and art installation had just premiered in Venice. A free to enter 30-minute meditative sound journey, it explored the climate crisis and how the power of water binds all of humanity together.



We also hosted two community art exhibitions during this period and a pop up artist studio in a temporarily unoccupied unit.

‘Streetlights’ in conjunction with faith-based addiction recovery service The Light Group displayed watercolours of local landmarks produced by service users. It also featured CEO and Homeless Street Pastor, Dave Fawcett’s powerful photo series ‘Across the Pond’, exploring homelessness in the UK and America.

Launching in September 2025 ‘Humari Aawaz (Our Voices)’ was co-produced with members of the South Asian Community and the arts collective We Belong Here. Funded by CultureDale, this photography and sound installation explored and showcased the community’s cultural experiences working and living in Calderdale.

Family and community events flourished at The Piece Hall in this year.

May 2025 saw a full weekend of celebrations to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, with The Piece Hall featured on Good Morning Britain as one of the key locations for national commemorations. The Courtyard was decked out in red, white and blue for musical performances, markets, food and drink and memorabilia displays, all related to this momentous era. Families enjoyed a ration book themed trail with VE day related crafts in the Learning Studio.





Other seasonal trails took place at Halloween, Christmas and Easter with more than 2000 children enjoying both fun and educational treasure hunt style activities. These were all complimented by free drop in arts and crafts sessions making sure family activities were fully accessible to all.

For the first time, a spectacular two-day motor show was held in The Courtyard to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our tenant Replicar. The much-loved shop for model car enthusiasts has had a presence on the site since 1985. This free event offered a unique opportunity to get up close with an impressive array of vehicles helping to attract around 23,000 visitors over the weekend.

The second ‘Tractor Takeover’, held at February half term saw 20,000 people head to The Courtyard to see a collection of vintage tractors and farm vehicles, loved by children and enthusiasts alike. More than 200 children took part in the accompanying Tractor Trail and free farm themed arts and crafts.

The Piece Hall proudly celebrated LQBTQ+ History Month with its own social media campaign and Pride Flag Celebration Seminar. This illuminating free event was in collaboration with the Gilbert Baker Foundation, the organisation which works to sustain the legacy of flag creator Gilbert Baker, promoting its history, impact on the world and educating the next generation about the importance of the flag. The educational presentation was live streamed from New York to The Caygill Rooms.

April 2025 saw the local lesbian community joined by visitors from across the globe to mark the birthday of iconic diarist Anne Lister for the bi yearly flower laying. The Anne Lister Choir and dancers brought something extra special to the occasion. The Piece Hall also supported the Anne Lister Birthday Week team with its sessions and delivered bespoke heritage tours linked to Anne's story. In September a second flower laying took place to honour the trailblazing lesbian on the anniversary of her passing.

Other community events included celebrations for the nationwide Let's Dance Day spearheaded by Angela Rippon! Visitors learnt basic line dancing and belly dancing moves from friendly instructors from Cindy's Stompers.



In September 2025 The Courtyard hosted the annual West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Long Service Awards where 40 staff were formally recognised for a combined 890 years' service. To complement the event there was a public facing family fun day with vehicle and equipment displays where visitors could meet the crews and watch demonstrations alongside a performance from the West Yorkshire Fire Service Band. The Piece Hall created a fire safety themed trail and there were free crafts in the Learning Studio supported by volunteers.



Later that same day, a record-breaking amount of cash was raised when The Piece Hall hosted the start and finish line for Overgate Hospice's midnight walk. This annual event saw walkers complete a 10-mile route through the streets of Calderdale to raise money for the hospice's care services.

During this period The Piece Hall actively increased its market offer, benefiting both the town centre and our independent tenants.

November 2024 saw the biggest Christmas markets to date with six long weekends of festive shopping drawing in almost 275,000 visitors. The Courtyard hosted 50 stalls with local produce and gifts from the very best artisan makers, with a vintage carousel and helter-skelter plus regular musical entertainment on the bandstand.

During the markets we welcomed the iconic Hallmark brand to one of our units for a special Christmas pop-up celebrating the history of the greetings card alongside crafting, shopping and poetry experiences. It was the first time this kind of commercial opportunity had been explored.

The Piece Hall also partnered with Halifax BID to co-host the Christmas 'Starlight Parade'. After travelling through Halifax illuminating the town centre, a selection of the huge light up puppet creations visited The Piece Hall to wow the crowds.



We held a four-day Easter Market in April 2025. A curated selection of independent craft stalls, artisan makers, and food and drink traders, offered a diverse range of products and produce from homeware, jewellery, prints and ceramics to sweet treats, baked goods sauces and locally produced beers and spirits.

We also started a relationship with Real Markets Yorkshire who run pop- up markets as a package, allowing The Piece Hall to provide an increased offer without increasing the team's workload.



This period saw a number of new tenants head to The Piece Hall including two new food and drink outlets: La Piazza and The Hopyard plus new stores: Waterfall Games, Simply G Free (Di's Pies), Little Acorns and Society of Alchemists.

Two of those businesses (The Hopyard and Society of Alchemists) were opened by existing tenants, proving the value of The Piece Hall as a home for independent commercial enterprises.

The Piece Hall made some changes to its own outlets in this period. The Astronomer restaurant was closed, and later reopened as the Astronomer Diner to better serve the needs of local families. We also explored running events in The Trading Rooms, with legendary DJ and Piece Hall Patron Graeme Park closing his 40th anniversary tour on New Year's Eve when the restaurant was transformed into a boutique club for the night.

A YEAR IN PICTURES...

2024-25

OCTOBER 2024
EUROPEAN ART PREMIERE
Heaven 17 star Martyn Ware brings 'Adventures in the Electroverse' to The Piece Hall Gallery.





DECEMBER 2024
BIGGEST CHRISTMAS MARKETS YET
We felt the festive magic with 50 stalls over six long weekends showcasing the best of regional artisan makers, street food and seasonal entertainment.

FEBRUARY 2025
A MASTERCLASS IN RELEASING A SINGLE
The first single from The Piece Hall Academy's Erik 'Blu2th' Griggs masterclass is released on global streaming platforms.





APRIL 2025
HUNDREDS HOP ON DOWN FOR EGG HUNT
More than 700 children take part in the Easter Trail.

JUNE 2024
LIVE AND KICKING
Our biggest ever Live at The Piece Hall summer seasons gets underway.





AUGUST 2025
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US
We celebrate 8 years since the transformed Piece Hall reopened

NOVEMBER 2024
NEW DELICIOUS DINER OPENS
The Astronomer Diner opens serving a range of award-winning ice cream, pancakes and sundaes, as well as breakfasts, burgers, wraps, hotdogs and more.





JANUARY 2025
TRADING PLACES - RESTAURANT TO CLUB
We grooved into the New Year with Graeme Park as The Trading Rooms turned into a club for the evening.

MARCH 2025
A BIG WIN AT THE NORTHERN MUSIC AWARDS
The Piece Hall wins inspirational music venue of the year!





MAY 2025
VE DAY CELEBRATIONS
The Courtyard turns red, white and blue to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day.

JULY 2025
COURTYARD THEATRE
Anastacia, Roger Daltrey and Il Divo are among our first run of seated shows.





SEPTEMBER 2025
FIRE SERVICE FAMILY DAY
We welcome West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service for a long service celebration and a family fun day combined!

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S STATEMENT

NICKY CHANCE-THOMPSON MBE DL FRSA



The last 12 months has been a period of intense hard work which has yielded results. We have been decisive, focused and dug in and I'm incredibly proud to say we have turned the organisation from losses, caused by unprecedented economic conditions, to a surplus of over £350k in the space of a year.

We have also seen some incredibly encouraging long-range results with an independent report estimating The Piece Hall has contributed £680 million in economic impact over the last decade, and projections it will continue to bring an ongoing boost of around £90m per year into the region.

My sincere thanks to everyone who has helped make this happen: our new Chair Orphy Robinson MBE has been a tower of support and inspiration, bringing vision, passion and bold perspectives; our refreshed Board of Trustees have delivered first rate guidance and governance and the wider staff team have all gone above and beyond, diligently adapting and evolving to deliver our revised business model.

My thanks also to our partners Calderdale Council (CMBC) and The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) who recognise the immense value of not only this building, but the organisation and its ethos. Their vital funding allows us to keep this unique asset of global significance not only open and free to enter for all, but thriving, flourishing and providing sustenance for so many people in so many ways.

Despite the many recent challenges we have faced, commercial activity and funding secured by The Piece Hall Trust during this period made up 90% of our total income with just 10% from our existing CMBC funding agreements. The majority of cultural and heritage assets operate a funding model with around 60% private income versus 40% public funding which is why The Piece Hall's business model is considered "exemplar" by Historic England.

Recognising the business has changed forever since the pandemic, our much-improved position is down to a series of recalibrations made by myself and the Board making savings across the business on various contracts, including utilities and insurance, thanks to contract renegotiations and other efficiencies.

2025 saw our biggest Live at The Piece Hall series to date. The team delivered a record breaking 36 shows with 185k tickets sold generating improved profits. This was complemented by the introduction of a vital Restoration Levy on all tickets bought to help fund the maintenance and refurbishment of this historic building which brought in more than £143k in the financial year.

Welcoming yet more global superstars like The Corrs, Gary Barlow, Leon Bridges, Texas and Paul Heaton to The Courtyard created yet more pinch me moments for myself and the team. We also experimented with a series of seated shows. Our "Courtyard Theatre" saw us host UK rock royalty in the form of Squeeze and Roger Daltry, international singing sensation Anastacia plus classical icons Il Divo.

Our footfall since opening in 2017 hit a phenomenal 19 million at the end of this accounting period. Unsurprisingly, considering the expanded summer programme, the busiest month was July which saw 15 world class live music events, and a recorded footfall of 360,920.

Always looking for innovative ways to increase revenue, our flagship restaurant The Trading Rooms was transformed into a club space for New Year's Eve 2024 hosting our Patron Graeme Park. This proved so successful that we built on this in 2025 with a Northern Soul Night on the 28th December and Graeme Park returned on New Year's Eve 2025.

This year saw an upgrade to our market offer. Markets are in the DNA of the people of Calderdale and have always been hugely popular at The Piece Hall. Rather than being competition for our independent tenants, they tell us, in reality, they also feel the business benefit of increased footfall and more shoppers in The Courtyard.

Under the guidance of our highly skilled Chief Operating Officer Claire Bradshaw, a revitalised letting strategy has seen an increase in tenants. Her reinvigorated approach delivered improved occupancy rates which peaked at 95% in the summer, my sincerest thanks for her diligence, tenacity and sheer hard work.

The Trust has benefited significantly by the addition of new Financial Director Claire Waspe, who has provided increased financial oversight and governance as well as improved stability for the organisation.

The Piece Hall Academy has gone from strength to strength, with the past 12 months seeing some significant milestones for students. These have included the release of the first single produced as part of our Piece Hall Academy masterclasses, the first publishing deal for Academy band The Caymans and the introduction of work experience placements on every single LATPH show. My deepest gratitude to Events, Programming and Academy Director Aaron Casserly Stewart who, alongside his extensive knowledge, skill and experience has poured his heart and soul into training and supporting the next generation of creatives, with concrete and life changing opportunities delivered for so many local young people. And we are only just getting started.

We have taken time to reflect this year; we have refocused and refreshed our vision of what The Piece Hall is and aims to be. At the core of everything we do are three unwavering commitments: heart - a deep care for people, place, and purpose; advocacy - giving a voice to the under-represented, championing creativity, equity, and local ambition on a national and global stage and innovation - pushing boundaries and evolving how heritage, culture, and community connect.

While I am hugely proud of the entire team's support, output and commitment this year, and incredibly pleased that our recalibration has led to increased profits in this reporting period, we are far from complacent. While unprecedented economic conditions prevail The Piece Hall, like many other businesses and organisations, will continue to be subject to hits, losses and wins; we will bask in the sunshine, dance in the rain and weather the storms, but though all changeable conditions I am fully confident that we will remain consistent in our dedication and ability to keep on delivering for the people of Calderdale.



THE PIECE HALL BRINGS

A BOOST OF AROUND £90M PER YEAR INTO THE REGION



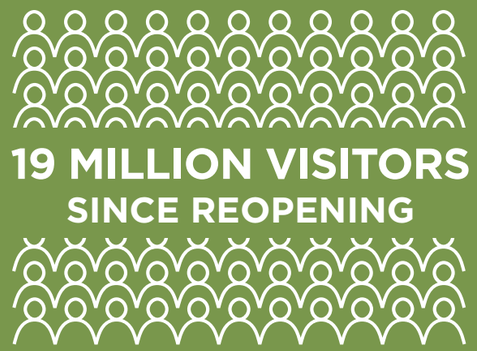
£680 MILLION GENERATED

IN ECONOMIC IMPACT OVER THE LAST DECADE



TICKETS SOLD IN MORE THAN 53 COUNTRIES

FOR LIVE AT THE PIECE HALL



19 MILLION VISITORS

SINCE REOPENING



MORE THAN 185,000 TICKETS SOLD

FOR LIVE AT THE PIECE HALL



700 PUPILS ATTENDED EDUCATIONAL VISITS

TK MAXX PRESENTS LIVE AT THE PIECE HALL

Working alongside co-promoters Cuffe and Taylor, 2025 saw The Piece Hall's biggest summer season to date with a total of 36 live shows from global artists. This was an increase from 34 shows in 2024 and more gigs than any other outdoor series in the UK.

As well as providing an income source for The Trust, Live at The Piece Hall (LATPH) brings a huge boost to the local economy. Hundreds of jobs were created with 400 people working on every single show. Many local businesses continued to report big increases to trade with taxi firms and pubs extra busy and restaurants and hotels fully booked on and around gig nights.

With a continuing sponsorship deal with retailer TK Maxx, around 185,000 tickets were sold, a new box office record, with gig goers travelling from as far afield as America, Brazil, India and Australia.

The diverse line-up included headline shows from Deftones, Nile Rodgers & CHIC, Simple Minds, Smashing Pumpkins, Texas, Roger Daltrey, Anastacia, Paul Heaton, Leon Bridges, Pendulum, Faithless and Gary Barlow. Support artists included The K's, Gotts Street Park, Sports Team and Ellur, highlighting the venue's commitment to celebrating emerging talent.

The VIP offering was revamped for 2025 with the creation of a dedicated 'Live at Lounge' bar and viewing area on the venue's stunning balcony. This included a 'Hall of Fame-themed' space celebrating the great artists who have already graced the stage at The Piece Hall.

LATPH is the proud recipient of the Attitude Is Everything Silver Award, which recognises commitment to providing the best possible experience for those with physical and mental health conditions.

The venue built on this achievement in 2025 by re-siting the access platform to give more space and a better customer experience, offering a new drink service on the platform and by having dedicated queues at merchandise and bars for accessible ticket holders. British Sign Language (BSL) signers were at every show.

This year also saw the implementation of increased welfare support with the engagement of Event Wellbeing, who provided a safe and calming space for those needing emotional rather than medical support, with a listening ear plus sensory equipment such as fidget toys and ear defenders.









WHAT THE ARTISTS SAID

What an incredible venue – please, please let us come back and play here again!
GARY BARLOW

We love it here. We've done five shows here now. It's like our second home – there's something about this venue; I just can't explain it.
NILE RODGERS

It's up there with the most impressive venues I've ever played. Looking at pictures it's like a Mediterranean piazza and now I'm here it's just incredible.
BILLY BRAGG

It's spectacular. When I walked off the tour bus it was like walking into an Italian piazza, but in Halifax it's grand.
PETE DOHERTY

I love it... I need to come back, like tomorrow!
ANASTACIA

What a special venue. Walking out with that backdrop. It's beautiful. It's a magical place to play.
JOSH TESKEY (THE TESKEY BROTHERS)

THE PIECE HALL ACADEMY

The Piece Hall Academy exists to support the development of the next generation of creatives and live events professionals with access to a variety of free training courses and mentorships. It's aim is to help young people achieve sustainable careers in music, performance, recording, production and live events.

The Academy continued to expand this year offering more young people in Calderdale unique opportunities.

October 2024 saw a free two-week events training course in conjunction with the Academy of Live Technology. Funded by WYCA the 'Live Events Skills Bootcamps' give young people introductions to sound engineering, lighting, rigging, stage design, safety and event management.

Graduates then had the opportunity for work experience or employment on The Piece Hall's live events. Live at The Piece Hall 2025 saw placements for this cohort on every one of the 36 gigs. These experiences show how the summer series is a springboard for opportunity, creating a lasting legacy with real impact.

Alongside the more formal courses The Piece Hall Academy offered music industry experience days on a number of shows for students in Years 10–13 through its partnership with Calderdale Music, Calderdale College, and Roland UK. Placements this year saw students experience the many roles involved in staging a major production shadowing staff at shows by Busted, Gary Barlow, Faithless, The Libertines, Nile Rodgers & CHIC, Simple Minds and Texas.



There were two significant firsts in this period for the Academy. November 2024 saw Academy band, The Caymans sign their first publishing deal after being discovered by multi-platinum-selling American musician and producer Erik 'Blu2th' Griggs during his masterclass for The Piece Hall Academy at Calderdale College.

Then February 2025 saw the release on all major streaming platforms of the very first single produced by Academy students during that masterclass. Erik gave the students aged 16-18 a remarkable insight into how today's music industry works. Through interactive and practical sessions, the class learned the process from creating a track to getting a mix ready to share with a record label or artist.

The resulting energetic rock-pop track called 'City Lights' was launched with a listening party in The Courtyard, alongside a performance from The Caymans.

The academy extended its roster of future visiting mentors and tutors to include some stellar music industry names; BBC 6 Music's early morning presenter, Chris Hawkins, Gary Powell (Drummer for The Libertines), Erik 'Blu2th' Griggs (Producer at Dr Dre's Aftermath), Jerry Barnes (Bass player for Nile Rodgers & CHIC), Martyn Ware (Heaven 17 and The Human League) and Carl James Hunter (director, film maker and bass player with The Farm) Morris Hayes (Music director and band lead of Prince's New Power Generation), Malcolm Joseph (Bass player for Grace Jones) and Mark Walker (Music Director for Beverley Knight) to help facilitate future training and experience.

JOSH
LIVE EVENTS SKILLS BOOTCAMP GRADUATE

It's brought me out of my comfort zone for definite. It's given me a lot of opportunities to seek employment. I've gained a lot of valuable skills from it as well. I can't believe I'm standing here (on the stage) I'm just fortunate enough The Piece Hall have given me the opportunity.



THE PIECE HALL TEEN ADVISORY BOARD

Conscious of a potential gap in its provision for and connection with local teenagers and young people, in February 2025 The Piece Hall launched its Teen Advisory Board.

Adults and younger children are well catered for with multiple activities and events throughout the year, but it was felt there was a disconnect with the teenage community. Recruitment started for around 15 young people aged between 14 and 19 with initial interviews and meetings held.

The Piece Hall aims to make sure there is representation from all communities in the area, giving this often-sidelined demographic a voice and a place at the table. The first introductory meeting was held in April for the 17 successful candidates. The project is continuing.



HERITAGE, COMMUNITY & THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Alongside the preservation and promotion of this unique heritage asset, a constituent component of The Piece Hall Trust's mission is to engage with the local community and support learning.

During this period it welcomed nearly 700 pupils from local educational settings to take part in various workshops, including the famous 'We're Going on a Cloth Hunt' where children learn all about the cloth making process in 1779, plus the newly adapted 'Medieval to Modern Merchant' programme, catering to all ages and supporting the national curriculum.

August saw The Piece Hall try something new with the creation of a summer school holiday club. Designed by the Visitor Experience team, the days featured activities, games and crafts centred around a different theme each day. This proved to be such a success there are plans to continue it in future years.

The Piece Hall's ever popular family trails were extended this year to include a tractor and fire safety trail and a bespoke trail for VE day to complement the event programme in The Courtyard. These were in addition to the established Christmas, Easter and Halloween trails and provided low-cost family entertainment as well as driving footfall into our resident retailers.

The Halloween Trail, designed by the Visitor Experience Team, saw more than 1,000 children search the building for letters to make a Harry Potter phrase alongside a trick or treat experience encouraging families to visit all retailers.

Hundreds of children took part in the Christmas Trail and free festive family activities all designed by the in-house team.

More than 700 children took part in The Piece Hall's Easter Trail, having fun exploring the building while driving footfall and increasing dwell time for families. More than 200 children took part in a trail accompanying the Tractor Takeover.

Free arts and crafts were also available in the Learning Studio after all trails, ably supported by our volunteers who donated hundreds of hours of their time facilitating free and subsidised activities like card and badge making.









OUR VOLUNTEERS

The Piece Hall has an amazing team of loyal and committed volunteers who are fantastic ambassadors for the organisation and support the Visitor Experience Team in many ways.

On a weekly basis they provide a warm and helpful welcome in The Courtyard and work in The Piece Hall Story in the Visitor Centre welcoming both national and international visitors. In this period the highly experienced volunteer heritage guides conducted more than 68 Heritage Tours and welcomed over 21 coach party tours, which included tourists from all over the world.

They deliver the compelling story of The Piece Hall's heritage from 1779 until the present day with skill, warmth and humour. The volunteer team also assist in the school workshops, family trails, free crafting sessions, live music events for three months over the summer and many other ad hoc events, exhibitions and activities.

In this financial year 16 volunteers gave 90 hours of their time to facilitate the 'Adventures in the Electroverse' exhibition. They attended a briefing session with Martyn Ware so they could fully engage with visitors and explain all about this innovative experience.

They provided extensive support during the Live at The Piece Hall series helping out with everything from queue busting and wrist banding to escorting and a whole lot more.

Volunteers also worked as courtyard ambassadors during the markets, enhancing the visitor experience with a warm welcome, guidance and heritage information.

Their support for the Calderdale Lighthouse Big Wrap was invaluable. This yearly event saw internal and external volunteers come together to support this Christmas appeal. A marathon wrap a-thon was held preparing donated presents for children who otherwise would not receive a gift.

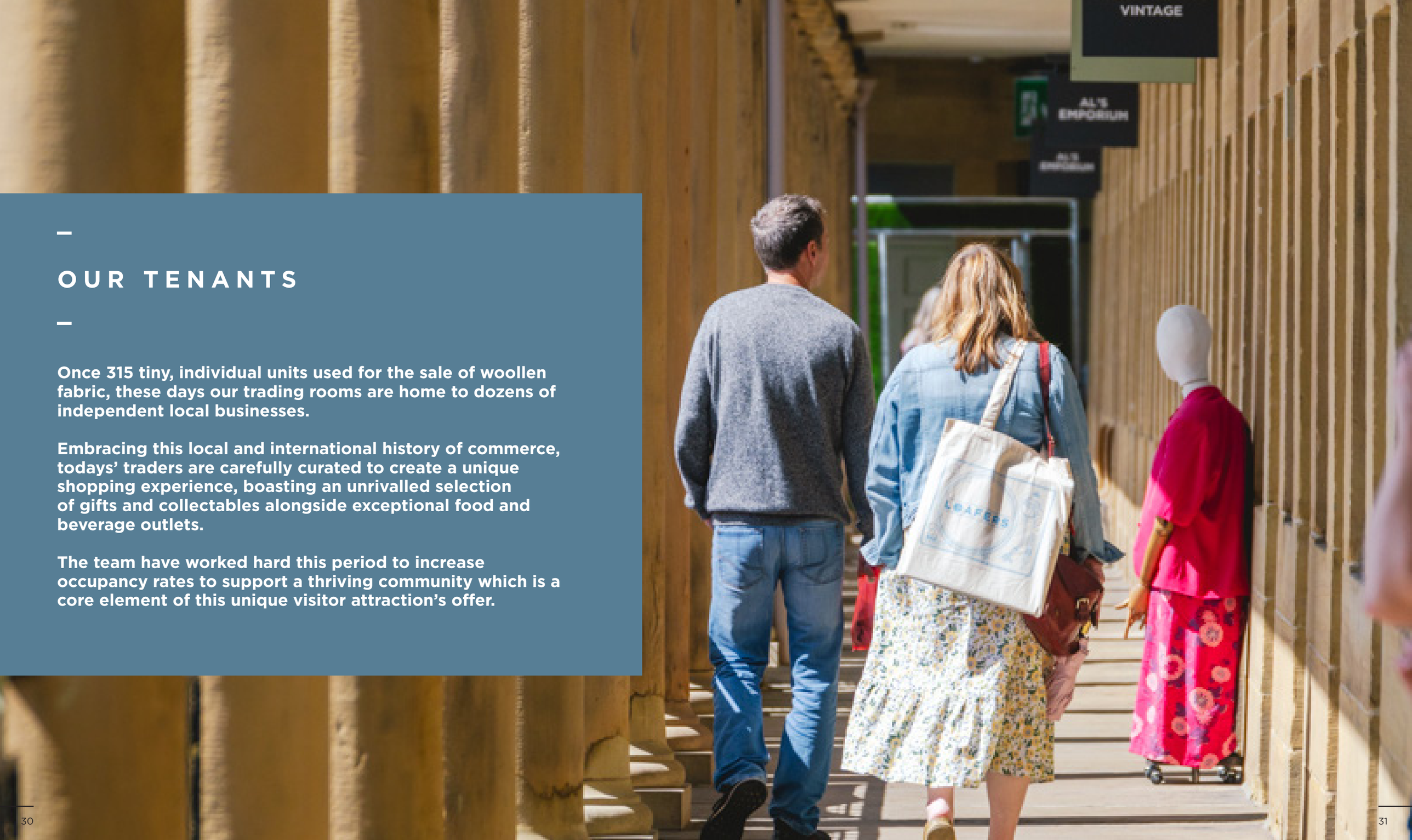
This year the volunteers also took part in knowledge exchanges, visiting other volunteer heavy and volunteer led organisations and in return welcoming them to The Piece Hall to share experiences and best practice. The Piece Hall also started a fresh round of volunteer recruitment, to add to the existing team.

OUR TENANTS

Once 315 tiny, individual units used for the sale of woollen fabric, these days our trading rooms are home to dozens of independent local businesses.

Embracing this local and international history of commerce, todays' traders are carefully curated to create a unique shopping experience, boasting an unrivalled selection of gifts and collectables alongside exceptional food and beverage outlets.

The team have worked hard this period to increase occupancy rates to support a thriving community which is a core element of this unique visitor attraction's offer.





JAMIE CARR
THE WINE BARREL & THE HOP YARD

Between us, we've spent the best part of thirty years running businesses, and when we visited the Piece Hall as a family one weekend we weren't really looking for a new venture, but we couldn't shake the feeling that a small, independent bar would work beautifully in that space. It was a straightforward idea: an all-day drinks venue where people meet for a morning coffee, linger over a glass of wine in the afternoon, or finish the night with a cocktail. No pretension, no corporate gloss, just good drinks and a view that still stops us in our tracks.

We opened the doors in December 2018. Just over a year in, Covid tested us hard, but we came through it thanks to an early customer base who stuck with us and a Piece Hall team who backed their tenants.

The last twelve months have been our busiest yet, we grew the team, and widened the offer with regular live music, Paint & Sip evenings, quiz nights and wine tastings. Regulars have become friends, Piece Hall visitors have become regulars, and tourists regularly tell us The Wine Barrel was the best part of their day in Halifax.

A second venue wasn't the plan - until it was. After watching The Wine Barrel find its feet, we noticed a gap: a proper craft beer bar celebrating independent British breweries, serving cold pints in a relaxed space.

The Hop Yard opened in April 2025. Craft beer fits the Piece Hall well - independent at its core, rooted in place, and built around people who care about what they're drinking. Saturday nights have quickly become something of their own, with regular live music bringing the space to life. Opening a second venue came with the usual challenges, but the Trust's support through fit-out and launch made the process far smoother than it might have been.

Family businesses matter to us, and The Piece Hall is the reason both of ours exist in the form they do. The Trust's work keeping this Grade I listed building thriving is what allows independents like ours to get on with what we do best. It's a community in the truest sense with all the independents rooting for each other. Six months into The Hop Yard, seven years into The Wine Barrel, and we're proud to be part of The Courtyard on both sides. There's plenty more to come.



PETER GREGORY
WATERFALL GAMES

After first discovering The Piece Hall, it became a family favourite. We would visit for an escape game, for the Christmas markets, or just to shop and enjoy the beautiful building. When I was looking to start my business, and I saw an opportunity at the Piece Hall, I jumped at the chance. Opening on the first week of the Christmas Markets in November 2024 was an exciting and daunting experience. Luckily for me, this Christmas period was a perfect springboard to launch Waterfall Games.

Running an independent toys and games store was a completely new path in my life, having previously worked in computing research and university teaching. After being widowed in 2022, and becoming a single parent, I needed more flexibility in my work. A completely new challenge, where I could share some of the things that my wife and I enjoyed together seemed the ideal opportunity.

Of the things we sell in Waterfall Games, board games especially have always been a big part of my life. As well as just being fun, games really are a magic way to socialise and bring people out of themselves. There are games for everyone, and I really love to share my knowledge of games of all sorts with our amazing customers.

Running a small business as a single parent to a child with additional needs is a big challenge. I rely on my amazing team of staff in the shop, who all share a love of our products, and can direct our customers to what they need. The Piece Hall is a magnet for young families, and people looking for gifts. We're lucky to be in such a fantastic location, and to have such fantastic staff and customers.

OUR IMPACT TOLD BY OTHERS

PETER TAYLOR
CO-FOUNDER OF CUFFE & TAYLOR

I am absolutely delighted ‘TK Maxx presents Live at The Piece Hall’ broke box office records for the fourth successive summer.

More than 185,000 people attended the 36 headline shows with customers coming from 53 countries – many travelling to West Yorkshire from as far afield as America and Brazil to India and Australia.

Last summer once again proved The Piece Hall is not just one of hottest gig venues in Europe but one of the most talked about in the music industry.

This special venue is now firmly on the radar of major artists, their managers, agents and record companies. They all understand what an incredible place this is and that is why so many are beating down our doors to play here!

2025 saw a number of award-winning improvements to the venue, for both gig goers inside and backstage for the artists. This has resulted in industry-wide acclaim which is not only wonderful to receive but further evidence our dedicated teams have got it right.

Of course, the challenge is always how do you top what you’ve done before but, together with our partners The Piece Hall Trust, we are on course to smash box office records again in 2026 with a ‘Live at’ series which will boast more than 40 shows for the first time ever.





HELEN FEATHERSTONE
DIRECTOR, ENGLAND, NORTH AT THE NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND

Standing proud in the West Yorkshire town of Halifax and the world’s only remaining Georgian cloth Hall, The Piece Hall is truly one of the UK’s heritage treasures. We are incredibly proud that The National Lottery Heritage Fund played a significant role in its transformation. Over £9m of investment has brought this striking building back into use, providing spaces for local businesses and communities and seeing it operate as a celebrated gig venue.

This cultural gem showcases how heritage-led regeneration can become a focal point for a town; bringing people together and making them feel really proud of where they live. We congratulate the Trust on its achievements this year and look forward to seeing what is next on the horizon for this wonderful site.



JASON GREGG
CENTRE DIRECTOR, WOOLSHOPS

It is fair to say that Piece Hall is a truly unique building, and it is sometimes easy to forget when it is right on your doorstep just what a fantastic property it is. However, as you walk into that courtyard, you will see people enjoying a very special place. Whether that be catching up with friends over lunch, children running around enjoying themselves or shoppers browsing the numerous independent stores, you will see a place that is very much alive and full of vitality, bringing a richness to Halifax town centre.

As a concert venue, it provides a truly memorable backdrop both for performers and concerts goers alike, creating an unforgettable experience. These events bring visitors to our town from both near and far and fill Halifax with an excitement and vibrancy benefiting the wider area.

But even aside from the concerts, the Piece Hall has made an amazing contribution to the regeneration of Halifax Town Centre. As an immediate neighbour the Woolshops shopping Centre is all too aware of that positive impact with increased footfall and shopper numbers. The impact of Piece Hall is a very significant factor in the continuing success of the shopping centre which saw its most successful year in 2025.



FREDERICK LLOYD
PIECE HALL AMBASSADOR & GENERAL MANAGER, VCEP LTD

The first time I walked into The Piece Hall, I was completely blown away by the beauty of The Courtyard. To have such an incredible historic building in my hometown, one that creates employment opportunities, supports young people in music, and attracts visitors from all over the world, is truly something special.

Live at The Piece Hall 2025 was an incredible experience. It was a privilege to work alongside The Piece Hall team, supporting on social media and helping promote the new Live at the Lounge area. There were so many unforgettable moments, from a surprise proposal on stage during The Script concert to thousands of people singing Drops of Jupiter together at the Train show.

Being an ambassador and contributing to the development of the UK's only remaining Georgian cloth hall is a real honour. Watching it evolve into a vibrant cultural and tourist destination, as well as a leading outdoor music venue, has been inspiring. It has been wonderful witnessing at first-hand how the presence of The Piece Hall has enhanced our town. The BBC has described it as one of the best outdoor music venues in the UK—and I truly believe it's reputation will continue to grow and grow.



ROBIN TUDDENHAM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CALDERDALE COUNCIL

Culture is core to who we are in Calderdale. The Piece Hall is a unique heritage asset with local, regional and national significance that we can all be proud of. Its famous events programme brings music, culture and footfall to our towns and brings our communities together.

The Piece Hall has become a widely recognised landmark, helping to keep Calderdale on the map and contributing to our economy. Its annual sell-out Live at The Piece Hall season, which attracts visits from all over the world, adds to Calderdale's growing reputation as the place to be for music. We're looking forward to another packed summer of performances.



LIZZIE GILTHERO-WEST FSA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE HERITAGE ALLIANCE

The Piece Hall continues to set the standard for how heritage can be a powerful catalyst for creativity and community - as featured in The Heritage Alliance's Heritage Creates report - demonstrating that world-class cultural programming and historic preservation are not just compatible but mutually reinforcing, and that heritage assets can thrive in the 21st century when vision meets careful stewardship.

The Piece Hall's remarkable year, featuring 36 shows and cementing its reputation as a world-class music venue, exemplifies everything we celebrate in our Heritage Creates report. I'm not sure I'll ever forget the experience of watching James perform in this spectacular open-air arena, singing about a storm as rain came down.

The band recently cited the Piece Hall as one of their favourite venues and rightly so - this extraordinary site doesn't just host culture, it amplifies it, transforming a Georgian cloth hall into a destination that attracts global artists while firing up the local economy. This is heritage working exactly as it should: treasured, thriving, and serving its community brilliantly.





KANAYA WALKER
EVENT MANAGER, THE PIECE HALL

My career started at The Piece Hall in December 2023 as an events co-ordinator, predominately looking after the front of house experience in our bookable spaces. Just a short time, but a lot of hard work later, I am now the Event Manager for a world class venue planning and overseeing our amazing lineup of concerts, welcoming thousands of gig goers to this unique venue on a regular basis.

Taking on the role in summer 2025, my work varies day to day, planning anything from seasonal markets, exhibitions, family and community days to planning a concert for 6,000 people!

From the infrastructure and logistics to the security and hospitality, it's a huge challenge transforming this stunning heritage site into a rock and roll venue. For me, watching concert goers have the time of their lives and hearing the amazing feedback we get from the artists and their teams afterwards makes it all worth it.

As a local myself, seeing the positive effect The Piece Hall's growing reputation is having on the town and the rest of Calderdale is the icing on the cake and knowing that I'm a part of it makes me incredibly proud.

SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE & PRESS COVERAGE

MEDIA PRESENCE

The total reach of articles about The Piece Hall was, for the first time into the billions with stories seen by an audience of 1.89 billion. The increase in the size of the Live at The Piece Hall series is the main rason for this uplift.

During the shows Live at The Piece Hall specific coverage included 1,076 editorial pieces and with an audience reach of 162.7 million.

The biggest media day of the period was 25 November when there were 116 articles. This was the day we announced Gary Barlow, Paul Heaton, Travis, Echo and The Bunnymen and Faithless.

Overall, the vast majority of coverage about The Piece Hall was positive, at 88% with 11% percent either balanced or neutral and just 1% of coverage showing a negative sentiment.

The Piece Hall's VE Day celebrations featured on national television in a number of live segments on Good Morning Britain as one of the key locations for community celebrations.

Our Christmas Markets also made it into the national press, in the Times as one of the top ten across the UK and The Piece Hall was featured in the Daily Express as a brilliant place to do all your shopping at a "UK shopping centre without chains".

SOCIAL MEDIA

Between October 2024 and September 2025, The Piece Hall's social media channels (Facebook, X and Instagram) continued to grow strongly, gaining 44,422 new followers over the period. This brought the total audience across platforms to 216,412.

Engagement remained strong across all content, with an average engagement rate of 3.85%. Industry benchmarks indicate that anything above 3.5% is considered high and above average, highlighting the strength of audience interaction and sustained interest in The Piece Hall's content.

Overall reach during this period was 45,423,679 demonstrating significant visibility and the continued success of The Piece Hall's digital channels in expanding audience awareness and engagement.



LOOKING FORWARD

In the months since the conclusion of the financial year in this review The Piece Hall has continued to make significant progress.

In December 2025 it released its first comprehensive Economic Impact Assessment since 2019. The key finding was that The Piece Hall has generated around £680 million pounds in both direct and indirect economic impact in the decade since the trust was established.

The report also projected that The Piece Hall will continue to benefit the regional economy by around £90 million per annum going forward.

A huge 42 shows have been confirmed for this year meaning Live at The Piece Hall 2026 will be the biggest yet.

The Piece Hall Academy is going from strength to strength, with the confirmation of two level-3 courses in Music Performance and Production, and Live Production Arts in conjunction with Calderdale College and accredited by the University of the Arts London.

The climate for heritage, retail and events continues to be challenging but the team is working hard to find creative solutions to keep on delivering on its key aims: breathing life into heritage, using history to inform imagination and frame new possibilities; cultivating a dynamic cultural space where diversity and dialogue can thrive; embracing its local and international history of commerce, nurturing an environment that enables trade in ideas as well as goods; and empowering people across Calderdale through shared experiences, fostering local pride while opening pathways to global collaboration and appreciation.

The Piece Hall continues to be exceptional value for money for the people of Calderdale and an invaluable resource in terms of the wider socioeconomic impact on the town, the borough and across the North.



OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES



ORPHY ROBINSON MBE
(CHAIR)

Orphy is a multi-award-winning musician, composer, leader and educator with a distinguished career spanning over four decades and extensive experience in events and large-scale education projects.

One of the few UK artists to record for the iconic Blue Note Records, Robinson is Deputy Chair of leading music industry organisation the Ivors Academy, where he chairs the prestigious Ivor Novello Awards Committee.

His composer work spans film, TV documentary and contemporary dance. He is a radio broadcaster, freelance journalist, has served as Artistic Director of the Gibraltar World Music Festival and is Chair of the Watford Jazz Junction Festival.



NICKY CHANCE-THOMPSON MBE DL FRSA
(CEO)

Nicky has been CEO since 2017 helping to establish The Piece Hall as an internationally-recognised destination and making a significant contribution to Calderdale's regeneration.

Prior to this she had a multi-award-winning career in marketing, advertising and media and delivered Government programmes, specialising in regeneration.

In recognition of her services to culture, heritage and regeneration in Calderdale and the wider region Nicky was honoured with an MBE in 2023, she is a Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire and has previously been crowned Yorkshire Businesswoman of the Year, and received an IOD Judges Special Prize.



JAXS PALMER (VICE CHAIR)

Jax is an HR Director and Leadership Coach with 30 years of experience shaping commercially focused people and organisational strategies across private, public and charitable sectors. She specialises in business transformation, capability building and people change. A champion of talent, succession and equality, she is especially passionate about empowering and advancing women in the workplace.



ILLY JAFFAR FCIM (VICE CHAIR)

Born and raised in Halifax, and now returned, Illy played in many bands before building an award-winning career as a senior global marketing and commercial leader across blue-chip and international brands including ASDA and Pernod Ricard SA. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing and part of its mentoring network, and understands the power of culture to enhance and empower communities.



NOOR ALI BEM

A senior buying manager at PB Foods, Noor is a passionate mentor and diversity champion helping develop culture and inclusivity at the venue. She's been named the Asian Women of Achievement Awards Businesswoman of the Year and has a British Empire Medal for Services to Diversity in Retail.



SYIMA ASLAM MBE

Syima is the founder and director of Bradford Literature Festival, which welcomes 70,000 visitors annually and is celebrated as the most socio-economically and ethnically diverse literary festival in the UK. She is supporting the Trust to shape a diverse and successful future for the venue.



JO THORNTON

INCOMING APRIL 2026

Jo is Director of Contemporary Music at The Glasshouse which delivers over 200 live shows a year, an artist development programme and events as part of the BBC Proms in the North-East. She is committed to strengthening the music industry infrastructure in the North and works with partners across the UK to create and connect artist pathways.



BRYONY BOND

INCOMING APRIL 2026

A director and curator across the UK for more than 20 years, including at The Whitworth in Manchester and The Tetley in Leeds where she presented Yorkshire's only Turner Prize winning exhibition, Bryony is currently director of the Harley Foundation, gallery, museum and studios on the historic Welbeck Estate.



DIANE LAWRENCE

INCOMING APRIL 2026

A dynamic music industry and placemaking professional. Diane has reignited the careers of multiple UK soul legends and worked with musicians in the Minneapolis music scene via her businesses, booking A-List talent for elite events and talent management. A Fellow of the Institute of Place Management, she has delivered tailored interventions for numerous town centres and is delivering the flagship 'Destination City' growth strategy for the City of London.

THE TRUST'S PARTNERS

Thank you to the partners of The Piece Hall, this year more than ever.

Without their support the Trust would not be able to realise the extraordinary benefits for the people of Calderdale and the wider Yorkshire region.

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

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Department for Culture Media & Sport

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The Piece Hall is independently managed by The Piece Hall Trust, a registered charity, number 1156948.

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NORTHERN MUSIC AWARDS 2025
Winner of Inspirational Venue of the Year over 2,000 capacity:
The Piece Hall, Halifax

Yorkshire Muddy Stilettos Awards Winner 2025

Business for Calderdale Awards 2022 Winner Promotion of Calderdale

Yorkshire Post Tourism Awards 2022 Winner

The Piece Hall 2022 Winner The Great Place
The Urbanism Awards

Centre for the Built Environment 1931 Celebrating 90 Years
The Piece Hall Best of the Built Environment