

ALDEBURGH MUSIC CLUB

Registered charity number: 1000990

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 July 2024

President: Sir Humphrey Burton CBE

Vice-Presidents: Robin Leggate and Dame Ann Murray.

**Principal address: The Hon Treasurer,
Brick Kiln Farm
Westleton
Saxmundham
Suffolk
IP17 3EF**

Structure, governance and management

The charity trustees who served during the year were:

**Christopher Wheeler - Chair
Helen Mower - Vice Chair
Jane Thomson - Hon Treasurer
Wendy Marshall - Hon Secretary
David Edwards
Caroline Gill
Peter Howard-Dobson
Helen Tye (resigned 31 July 2024)**

The trustees listed above form the Committee of the Aldeburgh Music Club (the Club), but the following persons may be invited to attend meetings of the Committee, in an advisory capacity only and with no right to vote:

**Tom Appleton – Director of Music
Maria Chapman-Beer
Tina Morhall
Elizabeth Page - Orchestra Manager**

The trustees for the year are elected from the Club's members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). They hold office for one year or until the succeeding season's AGM and are eligible for re-election. The trustees constitute the Committee of the Club, which is responsible for the proper conduct of the Club's affairs in accordance with the Charity Commission's guidelines. The Club is an unincorporated charitable organisation governed by its Documents of Constitution, approved by the Charity Commission and dated 20 September 1990, the latest update being 22 November 2022.

Objectives, membership and activities

The main objective of the Club as defined in its Constitution is to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and recitals, by commissioning new choral works and by such other ways as the Club through its Committee decides. This is principally achieved through the activities of the choir which is open to any active singer in and around Aldeburgh, without audition. An annual subscription is charged for membership of the Club and to cover the costs of weekly rehearsals and to contribute towards the periodic losses incurred in performing public concerts.

The Club arranges and performs concerts each year in Aldeburgh and the surrounding district. The programmes include many of the great classical choral works and a wide variety of less well-known works together with concertos and other orchestral works. Wherever appropriate, the Club will employ local orchestras, young professional soloists and instrumentalists from East Anglia.

Public benefit statement

The trustees have complied with their statutory duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when exercising their powers or duties.

Review of the year

A full programme of activities was undertaken in the year. In November, at Snape Maltings Concert Hall, the Club along with the Suffolk Baroque Players put on a concert of baroque music which included Vivaldi's Gloria and Handel's Dixit Dominus. The soloists were all based in Suffolk and Norfolk in keeping with the Club's objectives.

For the first time in recent years, a Christmas concert was added to the programme and Britten's 'A Ceremony of Carols' was performed at St Bartholomew's Church, Orford on a Saturday afternoon in December. A further innovation in the choir's schedule was a joint concert with local school, Alde Valley Academy, held in the school hall in March. The programme included songs connected with Shakespeare interspersed with readings by the students. The trustees hope to continue to build on this relationship with the school in order to support music studies in the curriculum and to foster the students' interest in classical music. In June, back at Orford, the choir's final performance of the year was Brahms' German Requiem accompanied by two pianos.

In addition to the programme of concerts, the now traditional carol singing on Aldeburgh beach was rained off at the last minute, but the choir was pleased to move undercover to sing at the Aldeburgh Jubilee Hall's Christmas Craft Fair.

Financial review

The accounts of the club are prepared on a receipts and payments basis. The Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 July 2024 shows a deficit for the year of £732 (2023

– £8,925). While total receipts of £45,816 have only fallen slightly since the previous year (£47,055), total payments have reduced significantly reflecting the trustees' decision to control concert costs while concert audiences remain stubbornly slow to return to pre-pandemic levels.

Concert revenues were £20,210 (2023 - £20,888) compared with concert expenditure of £27,654 (2023 - £36,297) resulting in an overall loss on concerts of £7,444 (2022 – £15,409). The outcome for 2024 includes the results for four concerts compared with only three in the previous year. A major part of concert expenditure relates to the hire of musicians and soloists and the hire of venues, in particular Snape Maltings Concert Hall. For this reason, the choir performs only one concert annually at Snape instead of two, which was the custom prior to the pandemic.

Membership subscriptions totalled £14,880 (2023 - £13,235) reflecting a small increase in membership and an increase in the subscription of 7%. Patrons contributed £8,200 (2023 - £8,313). No gift aid was claimed during the year but gift aid in respect of subscriptions and donations received in the year claims are in progress. These subscriptions and gifts cover the cost of the choir's rehearsals and overheads and also help to underwrite any concert losses. Cash at the year end was £49,468 (2023 - £50,200).

All the expenses relate to charitable activities.

The Club has sufficient reserves to enable it to continue its activities although the trustees have planned to control the costs of future concerts and other activities while the fall in audience numbers and consequently ticket revenues continues.

Statement of policy on reserves

Concert revenues are subject to many factors outside the control of the trustees. The Club plans the concert schedule up to three years in advance and may enter into financial commitments in relation to those concerts. To enable the Club to do this with confidence, the trustees have a policy to maintain sufficient reserves to cover the anticipated costs of these activities after taking into account expected revenues from other sources. Reserves at the year end were £49,468 (2023 - £50,200). All the reserves were unrestricted.

Independent Examiner

The Club's financial affairs for the year have been examined for no fee by Paul Shore.

On behalf of the Trustees:



Christopher Wheeler (Chair)

Date:

28/11/24.

ALDEBURGH MUSIC CLUB (Registered charity number 1000990)
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31 July 2024

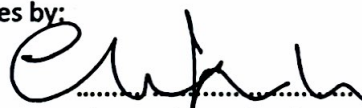
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Receipts				
Concert revenues	19,760	450	20,210	20,888
Members' subscriptions	14,880	-	14,880	13,235
Patrons' donations	8,200	-	8,200	8,313
Other donations & sponsorship	127	-	127	203
Interest	497	-	497	354
Other income	1,905	-	1,905	4,062
Total receipts	45,369	450	45,819	47,055
Payments				
Orchestra and soloist hire	9,025	450	9,475	18,080
Concert venue hire	6,689	-	6,689	5,524
Other concert expenses	11,490	-	11,490	12,693
Total concert expenditure	27,204	450	27,654	36,297
Music director's fees for rehearsals	10,499	-	10,499	10,015
Other rehearsal and educational	6,070	-	6,070	6,605
Administration	1,503	-	1,503	2,014
Other	825	-	825	1,049
Total Payments	46,101	450	46,551	55,980
Deficit for the year	(732)	-	(732)	(8,925)
Cash balances at previous year end	50,200	-	50,200	59,125
Cash balances as at 31 July 2024	49,468	-	49,468	50,200

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 July 2024


HSBC current account	17,326	-	17,326	9,008
CAF Bank current account	2,840	-	2,840	4,075
CAF Bank deposit account	3,156	-	3,156	11,199
Shawbrook Bank	25,869	-	25,869	25,688
Cash	277	-	277	230
Total assets (all unrestricted)	49,468	-	49,468	50,200

Signed on behalf of the trustees by:

Chair

 Date 28/11/24
Christopher Wheeler

Honorary Treasurer

 Date 28/11/24
Jane Thomson

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the trustees of Aldeburgh Music Club on the accounts for the year ended 31 July 2024 (Charity no. 1000990)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Aldeburgh Music Club (the Charity) for the year ending 31 July 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed.......... Date.....24 . 11 . 24.....

Paul Shore 3 Clematis Close, Westleton, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 3BN