

Tatton Singers - Chairman's Annual Report 2023/24

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I was rather terrified when I became chairman last year. For two reasons, first following in the illustrious footsteps of Ian Philips, and before him Tony Wood, I had big shoes to fill, and I have small feet! Second, having agreed to take on the role a few choir folk then said: 'rather you than me', 'it's going to be a difficult year with the Monteverdi', 'not a year I'd want to be chairman'. I did wonder if I'd bitten off more than I could chew! But what a wonderful singing season we have had.

The musical aspects of the year I will leave John (Powell) to comment on, after all he knows our strengths and abilities.

The thing that most people wanted me to get to grips with was organising the way we get on and off the stage on concert day, the use of paper cups and staging. I think we have solved one of these and the others are on my to do list!

It's been pleasing in my first year to welcome several new members who have joined the Tatton Singers since we restarted in September 2023. An increase in our numbers has many benefits, including increased revenue, added quality to our performances and it allows John to choose a wider range of works for us to get to grips with while providing quality music to the wider community

We had large audiences for both our November concert, when we sang Vierne and Faure, and in December the Carol Concert with Bexton. Monteverdi in March pulled in a capacity audience. The size of the choir and the audience for the concert in June is always lower. I know folk are tired and are ready for holidays, but the numbers are always a concern from both a performance and financial point.

This first year has not been without its challenges most notably rising costs. Hiring the church, orchestra, piano, organ, organist, soloists, music, wine, juice, glasses, and not forgetting first aiders makes concerts an expensive affair. Singing Day is usually a good source of income, but numbers were down on previous years. One of the challenges for the coming year will be increasing our sources of revenue and we have a plan, which we will be discussing later on this evening!

Overall, I have enjoyed my first year, it's made me appreciate the tremendous amount of time and effort put in by everyone and I would particularly like to express my thanks to: -

Rosie, for keeping me on track with health and safety paperwork and myriad things I didn't know I needed to do.

Celia, for continuing to manage the finances and ensuring we don't get evicted, and we all sign up to gift aid!

Anne, for agreeing to tackle the job of librarian enabling me to take on this role and for hosting committee meetings.

Tania, for tickets, our social media presence on Facebook, and managing the QR code.

Paul, for managing the production of programmes complete with translations, the ongoing relationship with the Knutsford Guardian and the wonderful banner outside the police station.

Tom, for his role as a very able deputy and source of help and advice.

I'd also like to thank your section reps, Susan, Daphne, Mike, and Matt, who work each week to check numbers, listen to your feedback and generally make the seating plan work for concert - a monumental task in the case of Monteverdi.

Tim for being an amazing accompanist, vocalist, piano and organ performer and John's right hand man who manages to hear when the soprs sing the occasional dodgy note!

Finally, of course John, whose faith in us is undiminished as week by week he brings out the best in each of us and without whom we would not be stretched as we always are to reach a peak for 7.30 on concert evenings.

I'd also like to thank the people at St John's with whom we work; Giles Shorrocks, who arranges the chairs and puts up the curtain for the summer concert, so the soprs are not blinded by the setting sun! Steve Kitcher, treasurer, who is soon to retire to be replaced by Ruth Taylor and Penny Langham, and Ruth Foster in the office who take care of all our bookings. I'd also like to thank those in the choir who have accommodated soloists, dropped them back at train stations or airports and provided bed and board. You know who you are!

We can look forward to our 2024/25 season with a real sense of pride in what we have achieved this last year. We have great music to look forward to starting with Rossini in September.

The role of chairman comes with many responsibilities, and these were made quite clear to me last Christmas when an elderly audience member approached me, shook me by the sleeve and asked, 'Are you with this lot?' Yes, I said, 'Then turn on the Christmas tree lights.'

Last year I said I would be scary; I hope I haven't been too scary. I hope I've been approachable and receptive to your needs as a choir even if the request is just to turn on the Christmas Tree Lights!

Thank you.

Sue Elves
Chairman, Tatton Singers
22 July 2024

THE TATTON SINGERS					
Accounts for year 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024					
<u>Income</u>			<u>Expenses</u>		Surplus/(Deficit)
Concert 18th November			Concert 18th November		
Tickets and programmes	3,474.10		MD	455.50	
			Organist	250.00	
			Soloists	500.00	
			Church/Hall hire	351.50	
			Score hire	192.00	
			Publicity	90.00	
			Wine	186.78	
			Programme printing	150.00	
			First Aider	174.00	
Total	3,474.10		Total	2404.16	1,069.94
Concert 16th December			Concert 16th December		
Tickets and programmes	2,022.67		MD	455.50	
Bexton	825.00		Accompanist	250.00	
			Music Hire	245.00	
			Church/Hall hire	350.00	
			Programme printing	160.00	
			Photocopying	246.90	
			Publicity	90.00	
			First Aider	140.00	
			Wine	161.31	
Total	2,847.67		Total	2098.71	748.96
Concert 23rd March			Concert 23rd March		
Tickets and programmes	4,554.27		MD	455.50	
Heritage centre			Orchestra	5007.24	
			Soloists	1500.00	
Donation for Bass soloist	250.00		Organ Hire	540.00	
			Organist	250.00	
			Church hire	350.00	
			First Aider	140.00	
			Publicity	90.00	
			Wine	212.25	
			Programme Printing	237.00	
			Music hire	255.60	
	4,804.27			9037.59	-4,233.32
Concert 22nd June			Concert 22nd June		
Tickets and programmes	787.00		MD	455.50	
Online	796.42		Accompanist	250.00	
SumUp	309.68		Church/Hall hire	350.00	
			Piano hire	1255.20	
			First Aider	137.28	
			Publicity	90.00	
			Programme Printing	70.00	
			Wine	135.84	
			Music hire	371.20	
			Fruit Juice	9.00	
total	1,893.10		Total	2,986.74	-1093.64
Singing day 18th May 2024			Singing Day 18th May 2024		
Delegate income	1,225.00		MD	455.50	
			Accompanist	250.00	
Bring & Buy	60.00		Soloist	150.00	
Cake stall donations	131.00		Music hire	222.35	
			Church Hire	350.00	
			Refund to delegates	50.00	
Total	1,416.00		Total	1,477.85	-61.85
Total concert income	14,435.14		Total concert expenses	18,004.55	

THE TATTON SINGERS					
Accounts for year 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024					
Management Account Income			Management Account Expenses		
to 30.6.24			to 30.6.24		
Members subscriptions	13309.00		MD fees - contracted	7040.00	
HMRC Gift Aid	2756.25		TK when MD	220.00	
Friends subs	350.00		Accompanist fees - contracted	3904.56	
Bank Interest	226.60		Additional Accompanist fees	255.00	
Heritage cent June 23 tickets	45.00		Rehearsal Hall hire	2326.50	
Tea/coffee money	550.10		Fidentia Insurance	75.27	
Folders/scarves/hankies	55.00		Secreary Expense	22.00	
Apple sales B and B	157.86		Treasurer's expenses	61.41	
Easy fundraising	87.88		Librarian postage	46.91	
Annual Dinner	1282.21		Tea and Coffee costs	203.66	
Annual Dinner 2023	210.00		Annual Dinner	1,285.50	
Donations	40.00				
Total Management Account Income	19,069.90		Total Management Account Ex	15,440.81	3,629.09
Total Concert Account Income	14,435.14		Total Concert Account Expense	18,004.55	-3,569.41
Total Income 2023/2024	33,505.04		Total Expenses 2023/2-24	33,445.36	59.68
Surplus (Deficit) for year			Surplus (Deficit) for year	59.68	
THE TATTON SINGERS					
Accounts from 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024					
2022/2023		Balance Sheet		2023/2024	
51.86		Current Accoi at July 2023		6.37	
11,531.08		Deposit Accoi at July 2023		7,134.91	
2,731.08		Less provision for creditors		2,788.20	
324.81		Add provision for debtors		<u>273.12</u>	
9,176.03		Total		4,626.20	
2,461.72		Gift Aid 2024 (incl management a/c		2,756.25	
		Prior adjustment			
		Surplus/(deficit) for year			
11,637.75				7,382.45	
6.37		Current Accoi at June 2024		85.03	
7,134.91		Deposit Accoi at June 2024		5,765.35	
		Current year adjustment			
7,141.28		Total Assets at June 2024		5,850.38	

Independent Examiner Report

I have thoroughly checked the accounts of the Tatton Singers, 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024, and am very happy with them.

Tony Wood

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