

# GRANGE CHORAL SOCIETY - CHRISTCHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1045490

## Details

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Other names	GRANGE CHORAL SOCIETY
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1995-04-06
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	14 Roslin Road Bournemouth BH3 7JB
Phone	07792 441884
Email	<a href="mailto:elisabethsenior@yahoo.co.uk">elisabethsenior@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.grangechoralsociety.co.uk">www.grangechoralsociety.co.uk</a>

## Activities

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**Objects:** 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 BY SUCH OTHER WAYS AS THE SOCIETY THROUGH ITS COMMITTEE SHALL DETERMINE FROM TIME TO TIME.

**Activities:** Upholding the English Choral Tradition by the preparation for and performance of, sacred and secular music for the general public.

## Classification

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- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** IN PRACTICE DORSET AND HANTS
- Bournemouth
- Dorset
- Hampshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-05-31	£37,357	£36,897	-	-
2024-05-31	£39,114	£31,746	-	-
2023-05-31	£28,388	£29,588	-	-
2022-05-31	£26,734	£26,856	-	-
2021-05-31	£3,635	£7,049	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ELISABETH K SENIOR		2012-08-27
JANET BEEBY		2011-09-06
SHEILA BIRD		
Sheila Walker		2025-07-14

**GRANGE CHORAL SOCIETY - CHRISTCHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1045490

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# Accounts

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## Chairman's AGM Report – Grange Choral Society 14 July 2025

Good evening, everyone.

It's been another busy, rewarding and occasionally breathless year for the Grange Choral Society. Our three concerts this season were Messiah in December, A Sea Symphony in April and a French Music programme in July. Each brought its own musical challenges, logistical juggles and the usual low-key panic... but also immense satisfaction.

The timing of Messiah this year worked in our favour as it gave us more rehearsal time to tackle A Sea Symphony in the spring. As you all know, this piece is not for the faint-hearted – for choir, soloists or orchestra! It required a large ensemble of players, many of whom had never performed it before. Despite the scale, they all threw themselves into it and, dare I say, seemed to enjoy it almost as much as we did (or at least pretended convincingly).

Financially, the Messiah concert showed a very small loss but more importantly not a huge loss, which helped cover the significant costs of Sea Symphony. Thankfully, the performance drew a good audience and we even earned an excellent review in the Bournemouth Echo. That kind of feedback always helps justify the hours spent in rehearsals.

Our summer concert had a distinctly French flavour, featuring music that Simon was very familiar with. True to the original cathedral settings of many of these pieces, he suggested we make use of not one but two organs (with the help of some extremely clever software). There were moments in rehearsal when we weren't quite sure whether it was all going to come together but the final result was spectacular. Audience numbers were

strong, and Simon was genuinely delighted with the performance – a high note on which to end the season, if you'll pardon the pun.

Now, on to committee matters. Two of our valued committee members are stepping down this year. Hazel Bayliss, our dedicated Secretary, is currently away, presumably somewhere far more relaxing than a choral AGM. She'll be succeeded by Sheila Walker, who is currently taking the Minutes – and doing a fabulous job of pretending this is all completely normal (thank you, Sheila). Also stepping down is Michael Norton, our Bass Rep. Many thanks to him for all his support – and congratulations to Ed Musial who will be taking over. All other committee members are bravely staying on – either out of dedication or because we didn't let them leave. We couldn't put on such excellent concerts without them and all that goes on behind the scenes. So please thank Jan, Elisabeth, Linda, Pauline, Donna and Brenda. Voice reps Anne, Val, Michael, Gareth and volunteers Isabel and Marion on publicity and Chris Main and Hilary Martin on programmes and flyers.

Thanks as always to our Sponsors and Friends whose support is greatly appreciated.

I must now record our appreciation of the work done by Chris Dowie both in rehearsals and concerts. His knowledge and good humour lift our rehearsals. His playing on Saturday was amazing and it was lovely to know that it was in Christchurch Priory as a young boy he was inspired by the then organist, Geoffrey Tristram, who allowed Chris to sit next to him on the organ seat. He was spellbound and never forgot the experience. I'm sure that Chris himself has been the inspiration of many young musicians. Thank you Chris.

Of course, no review of our year would be complete without a heartfelt tribute to Simon, our Musical Director. His musical brilliance, calm leadership and quietly persuasive style continue to bring out the best in us.

Simon has a rare gift for making even the most complex pieces feel within reach – or at least not terrifying. His rapport with players and soloists is clear, and the respect he commands from all corners is well deserved. He's also a constant presence behind the scenes, offering thoughtful input to the committee and invaluable support to me personally. We genuinely couldn't ask for a better guide on this musical journey.

BUT as Simon would say – I am now going to have a little gripe. Your committee work hard to try and run things with minimum disruption. We do, from time to time, have to impart information to you all – important information about such things as rehearsal locations, timings, dates and concert information. We send this out via email which is convenient. We do not send out unnecessary emails and we only ask that you please READ THEM. If you do not have access to an email then please, please let us know and we will get things to you in another format.

Looking ahead to our 2025–26 season, we're excited to begin rehearsals again on Monday 15th September. Our first concert will feature Britten's St. Nicolas and Rutter's Magnificat on 10th January 2026 – a pairing that promises drama, sparkle and perhaps just enough Latin to keep us on our toes. The programme for our 18th April 2026 concert is still to be confirmed, and likewise the 11th July summer concert.

As ever, thank you to everyone – singers, committee, Simon, and our loyal audience – for keeping the music alive and the spirits high. Here's to another year of singing, laughter, and occasional moments of wondering what on earth we signed up for.

Sheila Bird

14 July 2025

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 May 2025

<u>Income</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
<u>Charitable income</u>			<u>Charitable expenses</u>		
Concert income	13,026	<u>12,024</u>	Concert expenses	22,474	<u>17,039</u>
General subscriptions	17,075	17,055	MD fees	5,530	5,233
Friends subscriptions	595	630	Accompanist fees	3,615	4,070
Income tax refunds	2,363	5,664	Rehearsal hall	1,512	2,406
Donations	2,500	2,105			
Fund-raising	<u>317</u>	<u>588</u>			
	<b>35,876</b>	<u>38,066</u>		<b>33,131</b>	<u>28,748</u>
<u>Charitable trading</u>			<u>Charitable trading</u>		
Sale Music/Folders	1,263	<u>1,263</u>	Purchase music/fldrs	1,909	<u>1,909</u>
<u>Other income</u>			<u>Other expenses</u>		
Bank interest	<u>218</u>	<u>236</u>	Subscriptions	700	675
			Accountancy fees	125	100
	<b>218</b>	<u>236</u>	Print, post, stationery	547	920
			Website	109	130
			Donation		550
			Sundry expenses	376	247
			Bank charges		<u>71</u>
				<b>1,857</b>	<u>2622</u>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>37,357</b>	<u>39,114</u>	<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>36,897</b>	<u>31,746</u>
Surplus expenditure over income			Surplus income over expenditure	<b>460</b>	<u>7368</u>
	<b>37,357</b>	<u>39,114</u>		<b>37,357</b>	<u>39,114</u>

### RECONCILIATION OF RESERVES

<u>Balances 31/05/24</u>			<u>Balances 31/05/25</u>		
Lloyds Current a/c	6,364		Lloyds Current a/c	7,106	
Lloyds Hi-Interest	<u>19,755</u>	<b>26,119</b>	Lloyds Hi-Interest	<u>19,473</u>	<b>26,579</b>
Plus surplus income over expenditure		<b>460</b>			
		<b>26,579</b>			<b>26,579</b>

Accounts prepared on an Income and Expenditure basis in accordance with Charity Commission SORP (Revised 2005) Appendix 5.1.2.

Elisabeth Senior, Treasurer



# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Grange Choral Society

31<sup>st</sup> May 2025

Charity no  
(if any)

1045490

Set out on pages

1 (one)

Respective  
responsibilities of  
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent  
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent  
examiner's statement

- In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention
1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
    - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
    - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
  2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

27 June 2025

Name:

David Cannings

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

ACIB

Address:

6 Preston Way, Highcliffe, BH23 4QT

**GRANGE CHORAL SOCIETY - CHRISTCHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1045490

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# Accounts

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## Chairman's Report

AGM 13 July 2024

Here we are – our second season with Simon at the helm – and another three very memorable concerts behind us. Our January concert of Puccini and Mozart was sold out which was amazing and such an exciting concert to sing. Our Creation concert in April which I was unfortunately unable to sing due to illness went extremely well. Our summer concert just two days ago was one that I shall never forget. In fact the Coleridge Requiem left many of our audience teary eyed. I must thank Simon for suggesting that we sing these two Requiems together and for the fact that this was only possible because of his connection with both local composers. What a privilege to work so closely with them. I have thanked them both on your behalf and thanked Chris Wood for his most generous sponsorship – without which we would not have been able to put on a concert like that.

Thank you to all of you Grange members for turning up each Monday and putting the work in. I hope you will agree that for those 2 hours on three Saturdays of the year when everything comes together it makes it all worthwhile. However these concerts don't just happen without a lot of behind the scenes work as I am sure you will appreciate. My grateful thanks go to Jan, Elisabeth, Hazel, Jane, Glynis and the voice reps – Anne, Val, Mike and Alison.

Special thanks go to Linda Norton for her fantastic work on our publicity – now aided by Marion. Thanks also to Brenda for helping out with music scores and to Isabel for taking on our Facebook page which I encourage people to engage with by liking and sharing posts.

I would like to thank Chris Dowie for his unending support both during rehearsals and concerts.

I must also thank Jane Staples, our Librarian, who is standing down at this AGM having carried out this role for many years. I am very grateful for all her hard work and would like to present her with this gift.

Thanks to our regular sponsors – Stephen Feltham of Choral Fiscus and Geoffrey Owen and John Craddock. I am very grateful for their financial support.

My thanks go to Chris Main who puts our programme together so patiently. And also to Hilary Martin who designs our super Flyers.

Last but not least my very sincere thanks to Simon for his unending patience and good humour and exceptional musicality. He has the knack of making us want to do our best for him. He is pretty much unflappable and has the respect of all the players and soloists. He is actively involved with the committee and is a great support to me. We are extremely lucky to have him.

So on to next Season 24-25. We have Messiah on 7<sup>th</sup> December this year and the very exciting Sea Symphony on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025 to look forward to. Our concert on 12<sup>th</sup> July is not yet decided so watch this space.

Please check your emails regularly for updates that are put out about music scores and other important details.

We will meet again here on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and I wish you all a lovely summer.

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 May 2024

<u>Income</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
Charitable income			Charitable expenses		
Concert income	12,024	<u>10,297</u>	Concert expenses	17,039	<u>14,806</u>
General subscriptions	17,055	14,360	MD fees	5,233	5,017
Friends subscriptions	630	625	Accompanist fees	4,070	4,010
Income tax refunds	5,664		Rehearsal hall	2,406	3,110
Donations	2,105	2,050			
Fund-raising	<u>588</u>	<u>144</u>			
	<b>38,066</b>	<b>27,476</b>		<b>28,748</b>	<b>26,943</b>
Charitable trading			Charitable trading		
Sale Music/Folders	812	<u>812</u>	Purchase music/fldrs	376	<u>376</u>
					<u>725</u>
Other income			Other expenses		
Bank interest	<u>236</u>	<u>75</u>	Subscriptions	675	834
	<b>236</b>	<b>75</b>	Accountancy fees	100	100
			Print, post, stationery	920	605
			Website	130	60
			Donations	550	
			Sundry expenses	247	250
			Bank charges		71
				<b>2,622</b>	<b>1920</b>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>39,114</b>	<b>28,388</b>	<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>31,746</b>	<b>29,588</b>
Surplus expenditure over income		<u>1,200</u>	Surplus income over expenditure	<b>7,368</b>	
	<b>39,114</b>	<b>29,588</b>		<b>39,114</b>	<b>29,588</b>

### RECONCILIATION OF RESERVES

<u>Balances 31/05/23</u>			<u>Balances 31/05/24</u>		
Lloyds Current a/c	3,732		Lloyds Current a/c	6,364	
Lloyds Hi-Interest	<u>15,019</u>	<b>18,751</b>	Lloyds Hi-Interest	<u>19,755</u>	<b>26,119</b>
Plus surplus income over expenditure		<b>7,368</b>			
	<b>26,119</b>			<b>26,119</b>	

Accounts prepared on an Income and Expenditure basis in accordance with Charity Commission SORP (Revised 2005) Appendix 5.1.2.

Note: Due to the change of our bank details the gift aid tax refund is delayed

Elisabeth Senior, Treasurer



# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

## Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Grange Choral Society

31<sup>st</sup> May 2024

Charity no  
(if any)

1045490

Set out on pages

1 (one)

Respective  
responsibilities of  
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent  
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent  
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

20 June 2024

Name:

David Cannings

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

ACIB

Address:

6 Preston Way, Highcliffe, BH23 4QT

**GRANGE CHORAL SOCIETY - CHRISTCHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1045490

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# Accounts

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## 10 July 2023 AGM Chairman's Report

Here we are at the end of another concert season – our first with Simon as MD. You have already heard his thoughts about our concerts and I echo them here. He has thanked us and I would like to thank him for his commitment and enthusiasm at our rehearsals. I have had many positive comments about them. He has brought a different energy and humour to us but behind that is a quiet persistence until he gets what he wants. I only wish that he were here tonight to accept our appreciative applause.

Talking of humour brings me naturally to Chris Dowie – what would we do without him? The support he gives to Simon is invaluable and when we are struggling with entries he can pick up on this and try to help us out with the odd note or two. He is here tonight and so please show your appreciation.

I must also give a belated thanks to our two lovely ladies who organised and brought tea and coffee items for many years every Monday evening. They asked to stand down when we returned after the covid lockdown - income from this provided a steady revenue to our funds. Alison White and Jan Gardner – thank you very much indeed.

Someone else who has had to withdraw from the choir is Jo Britton. She had the role of Orchestra Convenor assisting the MD with the orchestral music by ordering it, distributing it and collecting it in at the end of the concert. We miss her but ask Brenda to give her this orchid as a token of our thanks.

Sadly, our Friends Secretary is also stepping down at this AGM. Although this is her current role she has in fact done many jobs for us. She was Concert Steward for some time and she also controlled the sale of tickets for all our concerts before the Priory took this over. I am sure you remember turning up to choir on the Monday evening the tickets were due to go on sale only to find a long queue stretching down the corridor. This was a huge task and she took it all in her stride. She will be cross with me for making a fuss of her but she deserves it. Hilary Scott – a small token of our thanks.

Our thanks are also due to our super sponsors. Stephen Feltham of Choralis Fiscus who gives us an annual grant and Geoffrey Owen and John Craddock who sponsor us for each concert. We also had a sponsor for the Lux Aeterna in April – thank you Mike.

There are so many people that are due thanks – please forgive me if I don't name you all. Chris Main puts our programme together and I am so grateful to him for his time and expertise.

Your Committee – Liz, Hazel, Jan, Hilary, Jane, Linda, Val, Mike, Anne and Iris have worked tirelessly this season – you are very lucky to have such a dedicated team. If you can offer any assistance to us it would be gratefully received. Thank you to all of you who already do so – Isabel who is in charge of our facebook page and Marion who is helping with publicity.

Next season 23-24 will see us performing Mozart Requiem and Puccini Messa di Gloria in January; and Haydn's Creation in April. We are working on ideas for the summer and will keep you informed. Simon tells me he already has soloists lined up for January and April.

I would ask you all to please do some learning and practising at home between rehearsals. It helps so much if people know their parts more quickly. It also helps to listen to a recording as much as possible – especially one as tricky as the Poulenc Gloria.

Lastly thanks to you all for your commitment and enthusiasm for this choir. Thank you for turning up each Monday. Thank you to our new members for joining us.

We will meet again at our first rehearsal of the new Season on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED D 31 MAY 2023

<u>Income</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2021-22</u>
Charitable income			Charitable expenses		
Concert income	10,297	<u>8,164</u>	Concert expenses	14,806	<u>15,905</u>
General subscriptions	14,360	12,755	MD fees	5,017	4,431
Friends subscriptions	625	810	Accompanist fees	4,010	3,500
Income tax refunds		2,558	Rehearsal hall	3,110	700
Donations	2,050	1,200			
Fund-raising	<u>144</u>	<u>70</u>			
	<b>27,476</b>	<b>25,557</b>		<b>26,943</b>	<b>24,536</b>
Charitable trading			Charitable trading		
Sale Music/Folders	837	<u>411</u>	Purchase music/fldrs	725	<u>340</u>
Other income			Other expenses		
Bank interest	<u>75</u>	763	Subscriptions/gifts	834	703
		<u>3</u>	Accountancy fees	100	
		<b>75</b>	Print, post, stationery	605	256
			Website	60	763
			Sundry expenses	250	220
			Bank charges	<u>71</u>	<u>38</u>
				<b>1,920</b>	<b>1980</b>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>28,388</b>	<b>26,734</b>	<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>29,588</b>	<b>26,856</b>
Surplus expenditure over income	<b>1,200</b>		Surplus income over expenditure		
	<b>29,588</b>	<b>26,856</b>		<b>29,588</b>	<b>26,856</b>

### RECONCILIATION OF RESERVES

<u>Balances 31/05/22</u>			<u>Balances 31/05/23</u>		
HSBC Current a/c	8,140		Lloyds Current a/c	3,732	
HSBC Hi-Interest	<u>11,811</u>	<b>19,951</b>	Lloyds Hi-Interest	<u>15,019</u>	<b>18,751</b>
Less surplus expenditure over income		<u>-1,200</u>			
		<b>18,751</b>		<b>18,751</b>	

Accounts prepared on an Income and Expenditure basis in accordance with Charity Commission SORP (Revised 2005) Appendix 5.1.2.

Elisabeth Senior, Treasurer



# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Grange Choral Society

31<sup>st</sup> May 2023

Charity no  
(if any)

1045490

Set out on pages

1 (one)

Respective  
responsibilities of  
trustees and examiner

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It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent  
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent  
examiner's statement

- In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention
1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
    - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
    - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
  2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

12 June 2023

Name:

David Cannings

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

ACIB

Address:

6 Preston Way, Highcliffe, BH23 4QT

**GRANGE CHORAL SOCIETY - CHRISTCHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1045490

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# Accounts

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO AGM 11 JULY 2022

Good Evening Everyone

Thanks to you all for attending this evening during this very warm weather.

Firstly, I am 'exceeding glad' that we have managed to put on three concerts this season in very trying circumstances. We were very lucky that we didn't have to cancel or postpone any of our performances due to covid and that we managed to transfer our rehearsals to the Priory which offered a larger, safer place for us all.

Thank you for following our guidelines of testing before each rehearsal when requested and for wearing masks when asked to give others peace of mind and allow them to attend rehearsals.

Our Messiah concert in December was well attended, despite the covid seating layout, and enjoyed by our audience, many of whom took the time to contact us to say how much they had enjoyed it and were so pleased that we had managed to perform it given the uncertainty of further covid restrictions.

We had always planned to follow Messiah with the Verdi Requiem (which was supposed to be in our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year) but it ended up in our 61<sup>st</sup> year and it also ended Marcio's 10 years with us. So, it was a very fitting programme for those two reasons. It was a stunning concert which I know we all enjoyed as did our audience. We had some wonderful soloists and a very enthusiastic orchestra.

We were able to present Marcio, during our last rehearsal, with some records and a generous gift card for him to use towards the purchase of an Ipad which was on his wish list. I think we could all see that he was very appreciative of your generosity and kindness.

As time was short the Committee decided to seek a guest conductor for the summer concert and so I approached Simon, who, although is always very busy, kindly agreed to take this on.

We then advertised for a new MD and when the applications had been received it was clear that Simon's was head and shoulders above the rest and so we decided to offer the position to him. I was delighted that he accepted as were we all and I think he was pleased too.

From then on I perceived a slight mood change in rehearsals – a more positive feel – we were now set going forward. The weekly rehearsal schedule was most welcome!

Our Jubilee concert on Saturday was with organ, brass and timps which involved a lot of singing (and standing) for us. The Coronation Anthems are challenging but the more confident we became the more I enjoyed them. It was a very warm evening but a lovely concert nonetheless. Chris gave his all on the organ – I envy his energy! Although we did let him have a break for the Walton Crown Imperial which Simon played stirringly.

Next season will see us perform Elijah in January, The Armed Man in April and a summer concert yet to be decided. I have heard a rumour that the orchestral music for the Elijah concert is already in hand.

We shall be holding rehearsals at the school from September, barring any unforeseen circumstances. We will let you know the start date when that has been decided but it won't be before 12<sup>th</sup> September.

I would like to record my thanks to our main sponsor – Stephen Feltham and to Geoffrey Owen and John Craddock for their sponsorship of our individual concerts. We also had an anonymous sponsor of the soprano soloist in the Verdi Requiem – thank you to you.

Thanks to Chris Main for putting our programmes together and patiently waiting for me to provide the information he needs and to Hilary Martin for designing our flyers.

My thanks too to Chris and Simon for covering Marcio's absences due to disruptions with rail travel. These were usually very last minute requests and I am grateful that we didn't have to cancel many rehearsals.

My thanks also to your committee who work so hard behind the scenes to ensure that the choir runs smoothly and we put on our best performances. I would be lost without them.

Finally, thanks to all of you for turning up each week to sing so beautifully. I hope that you will enjoy some cake and prosecco later. I am especially pleased to welcome June Fleming, our longest serving member of 53 years, who will be cutting the cake for us.