

# EASTBOURNE CHORAL SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1063701

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 1997-07-31

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 3 Benenden Close  
Seaford  
BN25 3PG

**Phone** 01323890066

**Email** [collispaul@btinternet.com](mailto:collispaul@btinternet.com)

**Website** [eastbournechoralsociety.org.uk](http://eastbournechoralsociety.org.uk)

## 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 RECITALS; AND FOR THE GENERAL PURPOSES OF SUCH CHARITABLE BODIES OR FOR SUCH OTHER PURPOSES AS SHALL BE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DECIDE.

**Activities:** To promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in (and appreciation of) the art of music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts, workshops and recitals. Members employ the services of professional musicians as Musical Director and accompanists at rehearsals. At concerts professional orchestral players, accompanists and soloists are employed.

## Classification

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

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** EAST SUSSEX
- East Sussex

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£33,151	£27,382	-	-
2024-06-30	£28,381	£27,870	-	-
2023-06-30	£25,716	£27,413	-	-
2022-06-30	£16,612	£23,154	-	-
2021-06-30	£4,072	£3,746	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>MRS LIZ BARKER</b>	Chair	
Claire Georgette Dubar		2021-10-19
PAUL ANTHONY COLLIS		2014-09-23

**EASTBOURNE CHORAL SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1063701

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# Accounts

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25 Macmillan Drive,  
Eastbourne,  
East Sussex.  
BN21 1SU

[www.eastbournechoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.eastbournechoralsociety.org.uk)

Tel: 07759 484855

### **Chair's Report Sept 2024 - 2025**

Another year of lovely music making has passed by so quickly with so many very enjoyable moments. We were pleased to welcome some new members to the choir, and sorry to see some leave, the latter usually due to work commitments or family needs. However, although member numbers fluctuate, we have gradually built up the choir again after the devastating effect the Covid pandemic had on so many individuals and organisations. For the first time in six years, last Spring term we were singing with 80 members.

Our first concert of the season was given in November and had the title of Advent. We sang several pieces, some of which were new to the choir – Bob Chilcott - On Christmas Night, and Cecilia McDowall - Christus Natus Est, along with more well known music including Bach Sleepers Wake, and Advent carols for the audience to join in singing. The accompaniment by a small group of young brass players was a new departure for ECS and one which singers and audience appreciated very much. This concert was followed by our usual carol singing events - Palm Court care home for their Christmas party, carol singing in the Beacon Centre which raised well over £500 for the Eastbourne branch of the Samaritans, All Souls' church lunch time carol service, and finally, singing carols whilst the newly arrived guests at the Star Hotel in Alfriston drank champagne on Christmas Eve. At all events we were warmly received, indeed some residents at The Star said we had made their Christmas!!

The Spring term was rather different for us. Elizabeth Muir Lewis who founded the choir in 1993 and who conducted it for ten years before she handed over to John, asked if she might conduct the choir one last time with a performance of Mozart Requiem. John paired this with Haydn Nelson Mass and we had a wonderful term rehearsing and then performing these two beautiful works with Elizabeth and John respectively. The concert was a memorable evening in many ways! The soloists and orchestra were brilliant and we sang to a packed church. Mozart Requiem can always be sure to attract a large audience!

The summer term found us singing something very different with Purcell's semi opera - King Arthur. Although we started off rather hesitantly with what was totally a new genre for us, we gradually got to enjoy the piece more and more, and the concert at the end of term was a huge success, The soloists and the small group of instrumentalists were wonderful, our narrator, Charlie, was amazing, and so we were inspired to give of our best. Sadly, an unknown piece does not bring such a large audience as something like the Mozart, but judging from the the very positive and incredibly appreciative comments I have received

since the performance, choir members and audience all seemed to have had a wonderful evening!

I am aware that we did not have many social/ fundraising events this last year, and we would be grateful for any suggestions for these in the future. We did have a very enjoyable choir meal at Pomodorros in January, and Barbara organised a wonderful cake sale in the Spring term which raised well over £200 one choir evening. Thank you to Barbara and her assistant, Alec!! We held a lovely bring and share food evening in the summer break when we watched a video that Alec had made of our Mozart Concert. Everyone agreed it was a most enjoyable event.

I believe that Eastbourne Choral Society is a great community, but steering the good ship ECS is no mean task. I am so grateful to my fellow Trustees, Claire our choir secretary, who is such a constant support, especially on concert days, and to Paul, our choir treasurer who handles all things financial so expertly. Thanks also to my committee members - Eleanor our brilliant librarian, and Caroline who joined the committee last year and has been finding out how things happen! I would also like to thank several people who are not committee members - Alison for all her work as our press officer and who helps in so many other ways at rehearsals and concerts, to Lesley who helps at rehearsals each week and on concert days, to Tracy and Hugh who help Eleanor with the music scores, to Ann who sets up the refreshments at rehearsals each week, and to Tina who always steps in to help when I am in need! I am so grateful to all of them. More help is always needed though so please consider coming to work with us on the committee, or offering to do a particular task.

My heartfelt thanks to John and Nick for their inspirational leadership, encouraging us to sing such a variety of beautiful music to the best of our ability. We are so fortunate to have two such experienced, professional musicians to lead us through rehearsals, and to coax the best possible performance from us at concerts.

Finally my thanks to you, our members, for the friendship, the singing, and the loyalty you show to ECS. Long may it continue.

Liz Barker  
Chair Eastbourne Choral Society



Receipts and Payments 2024-2025

<u>Payments</u>		<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>Receipts</u>		<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	
		£	£			£	£	
Rehearsal expenses	Music Director	5,060	5,343	Members' subscriptions		12,544	12,670	
	Accompanists	2,030	2,420	Gift Aid		0	4,479	
	Rent of hall	1,980	3,390	Bank interest		197	414	
	Piano tuning	150		Rehearsal tea monies		690	888	
Administration	Stationery (incl postage)			Concert refreshments		621	408	
	Website	158	0	Ticket sales		7,615	6,085	
	Insurance	339	347	Donations		4,475	5,790	
	Other	35	25	Music hire (members)		1,041	1,274	
Concert expenses	Artistes & orchestra	11,955	10,223	Workshop fees		60	90	
	Commission on ticket sales	130	12	Socials		421		
	Flowers/gifts	85	108	Fund raising		701	457	
	Venue hire	1,895	1,400	Other income			500	
	Press adverts	0	0					
	Staging	1,400	940					
	Printing - posters/flyers/tickets	1,131	1,124					
	Concert refreshments	264	186					
	Music hire	906	1,397					
	Other	Socials, etc.	268	0				
		Refreshments		61				
Miscellaneous		83	0					
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>27,870</b>	<b>26,976</b>	<b>Total Income</b>		<b>28,364</b>	<b>33,055</b>	
Asset purchases	Choir folders	0	188	Folder sales		17	96	
	Bow ties, scarves		140					
	Other		78					
		<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>27,870</b>	<b>27,382</b>	<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>28,381</b>	<b>33,151</b>
	Shortfall			Surplus		511	5,769	

Accounts 2024-2025

Assets at year-end	2024	2025
Cash funds	£	£
Barclays Bank	7,986	3,241
Virgin Money deposit	20,699	31,212
Total	28,684	34,453

P A Collis      ###

Concert Accounts    November 2024 - Concert for Advent

		<u>Costs</u>	
Performers	Orchestra	Meantime Brass	1,000
	Soloists	Andrew Robinson	200
		Katie Brown	200
Accompanists		Nick Houghton	400
Music Director			650
Hall hire			690
Staging			480
Music hire			137
Ticket printing			26
Programme print			135
Press advertising			
Posters, etc. print			332
Bouquets/Gifts			14
Ticket sale commission			56
TOTAL			4,320

		<u>Receipts</u>	
Ticket sales	Choir		420
	Agency		555
	On Line		300
	Door		1,140
Donation			250
TOTAL			2,665
	DEFICIT		1,655

April 2025 - Mozart requiem/Nelson mass

		<u>Costs</u>	
Performers	Orchestra		5,205
	Soloists		
		Replacement cost	200
		Danni O'neill (for Clara Orif)	)
		Anna Helena Maclachlan	) Sponsored
		Owen Lucas	)
		Christopher Dixon	)
Accompanists		Nick Houghton	400
Music Director			663
Hall hire			690
Staging			460
Music hire			50
Ticket printing			26
Programme print			220
Press advertising			
Posters, etc. print			355
Bouquets/Gifts			94
Ticket sale commission			95
TOTAL			8,458

		<u>Receipts</u>	
Ticket sales	Choir		1,480
	Agency		860
	WeGotTickets		760
	Door		1,620
Donation			5,400
TOTAL			10,120
	SURPLUS		1,662

**DAVID PAUL BARKER**

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26<sup>h</sup> August 2025

Mr P A Collis  
Eastbourne Choral Society  
3 Benenden Close  
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BN25 3PG

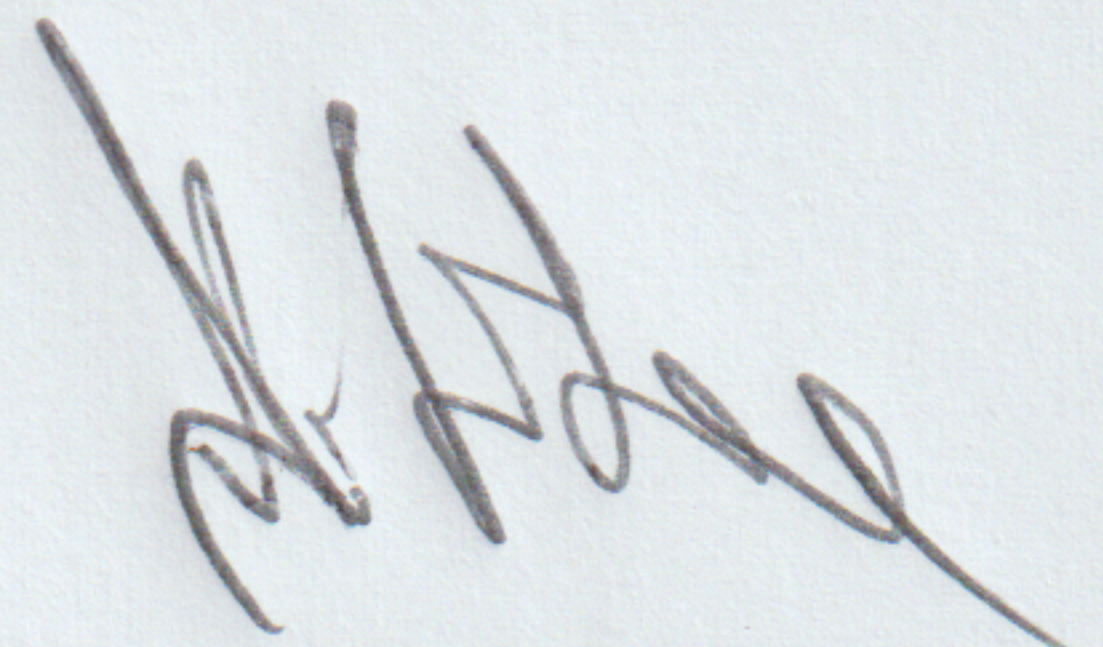
Dear Paul

**Eastbourne Choral Society  
Review of Accounts 2024/2025**

In accordance with instructions I have reviewed the accounts of the Eastbourne Choral Society for the period 2024/2025.

These unaudited accounts have been reviewed from the information and records given to me together with explanations and clarifications provided.

I am comfortable that they reflect the financial positions of the charity and can be submitted to those bodies and institutions as may be required.



**David P Barker**

**EASTBOURNE CHORAL SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1063701

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Tel: 07759 484855

### **Chair's Report Sept 2023 - Sept 2024**

I cannot believe that another choir year has flown by and its time to write my annual report. The year has seen us welcome some new members, and sadly lose a few others who gave up singing for health, or other personal, reasons. It is always lovely to see some of our former members attending our concerts though.

The first concert of the season, "The Glory of Music" was held in November. It was given to celebrate St Cecilia's Day. We sang Handel - Part one of Alexander's Feast, and Puccini - Meses de Gloria, at the unusual time of 4pm. This was an experiment to see if more people would prefer to come out to listen to us in the daylight rather than a dark winter's evening. The audience was, however, much the same size as always, some people commented that they came because of the earlier time, but we had no way of knowing who didn't come because of it! As with all our concerts it was well received.

This was followed by our usual round of carol events - singing at Palm Court Care Home's Christmas Party, The Hawthorn's Retirement Village, All Souls Lunch time carol service, singing carols in the Beacon Centre where we raised over £500 for the local Samaritans, and finally, on Christmas eve at The Star Hotel, Alfriston to start off their Christmas celebrations. All events were very enjoyable, some raising funds for choir, others for charity, but I have to say singing carols on Christmas eve in a beautifully decorated hotel which was once called The Star of Bethlehem and was used by pilgrims on their way to either Chichester or Canterbury, was a delightful experience and seemed very appropriate! All these organisations have asked us to come again this year!

January 2024 found us rehearsing Handel Messiah, always a favourite with singers and audience alike. We had a wonderful term with our MD, John, who always brings something new to a piece which is well known to some of us, but was new to others. The subsequent concert, where we were accompanied by a professional orchestra and soloists, was uplifting, and enthusiastically received by a large audience.

The summer term had a very different feel with us rehearsing Rutter Magnificat, Haydn Little Organ Mass, Chilcott A Little Jazz Mass and the Spirituals from Tippett's A Child of our Time. An eclectic mix which many found challenging, but refreshingly different. Rather than a concert, we finished the term with an "open to all singers" event of an afternoon rehearsal followed by an informal concert in St Nicolas Church Pevensey, a pretty venue on a lovely summer's day. We were joined for this by Katie Brown, a lovely student soprano soloist from Chichester University Conservatoire, and accompanied by our ever reliable and brilliant

accompanist, Nick. I am delighted to say that Katie will be joining us to sing solos for our Advent Concert in November.

During the year we held several social/fundraising events: A wine tasting and quiz evening – grateful thanks to Rebecca and Fenella for sharing their wine expertise, and to Pauline for devising and running the quiz, a Bottle Tombola, thank you to Tracy and Hugh, a Fish and Chip supper followed by a talk given by Dr Suzie Wilkins, who is an expert in her field and a former member of ECS, a cake sale kindly organised by Barbara and Alec – huge thank you to them, and finally, on a beautiful summer's evening, a guided walk along Eastbourne seafront courtesy of Kim, followed by drinks in the Lansdowne Hotel – a very enjoyable, interesting and sociable evening. Grateful thanks to Kim.

Managing a large, very active choir is certainly a demanding task. I am very grateful to Claire, our secretary for all her help and support over the year, especially on concert days, to Paul, our treasurer who does a tremendous amount of work quietly in the background to keep our finances in order. I would also like to thank Eleanor, our choir librarian, who works extremely hard to ensure that we have all the vocal scores we need, and the music the instrumentalists need for concerts. We are indeed very fortunate to have a professional librarian working for us! Grateful thanks to Alison who writes so expertly as our Press Officer, helps on the Welcome desk at rehearsals, and who is responsible for making sure the tea break each week at rehearsal actually happens with all the necessary provisions and personnel. Thanks to Lesley who comes early each week to help set up for rehearsals and stays behind to help lock up. Also thank you to Lorraine and Michelle for their work with social media on our behalf.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to John and Nick for their continued interest in and work for ECS. We are indeed fortunate to have two such experienced and talented musicians to teach us the music, and inspire us to give of our best at concerts.

Perhaps most importantly of all, thank you to you, the members of ECS who make our choir such a lovely community with your loyalty, your singing and your friendship.

Liz Barker  
Chair Eastbourne Choral Society



Eastbourne Choral Society  
Accounts year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

	Payments	2023	2024	Receipts	2023	2024
Rehearsal expenses	Music Director	4620	5060	Members' subscriptions	12650	12544
	Accompanists	2310	2030	Gift Aid	1642	0
	Rent of Hall	1945	1980	Bank interest	52	197
	Piano Tuning	150	150	Tea monies	717	690
Administration	Stationery (incl postage)	29		Refreshments	482	621
	Website	158	158	Ticket sales	6393	7615
	Insurance	304	339	Donations	1374	4475
	Other	15	35	Music hire (members)	1561	1041
Concert expenses	Artistes & Orchestra	11155	11955	Workshop fees	0	60
	Commission on ticket sales	111	130	Socials	0	421
	Flowers/gifts	107	85	Fundraising	752	701
	Venue hire	1140	1895	Other income	0	
	Press adverts	0	0			
	Staging	1340	1400			
	Printing - posters/flyers/tickets	1594	1131			
	Concert refreshments	207	264			
	Music hire	1563	906			
Other	Socials, etc	0	268			
	Miscellaneous	500				
	Refreshments	0	83			
	Total Expenses	27248	27870	Total Income	25625	28364
Asset Purchases	Choir folders		0	Folder sales	91	17
	Bow ties, scarves					
	Other	165				
	Total Payments	27413	27870	Total Receipts	25716	28381
	Shortfall	1697		Surplus		511
	Accounts 2023-2024					
	Assets at Year End	2023	2024			
	Cash Funds					
	Barclays Bank	4,172	7,986			
	Virgin Money deposit	24,001	20,699			
	Total	28,174	28,684	Paul Collis	###	



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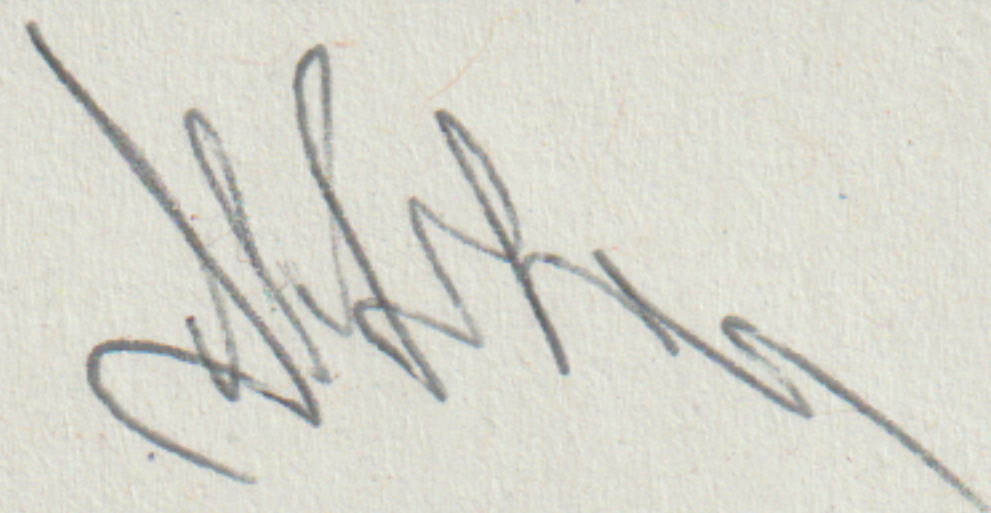
2nd<sup>h</sup> September, 2024  
Paul Collis (Hon Treasurer)  
Eastbourne Choral Society  
3 Benenden Close  
Seaford  
BN25 3PG

**Eastbourne Choral Society  
Review of Accounts 2023-2024**

In accordance with instructions I have reviewed the accounts of the Eastbourne Choral Society for the period 2023/2024.

These unaudited accounts have been reviewed from the information and records given to me together with explanations and clarifications provided.

I am comfortable that they reflect the financial positions of the charity and can be submitted to those bodies and institutions as may be required.



**David P Barker**

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Tel: 01323 733928

## **Chair's Report Sept 2022 - Sept 2023**

It's that time of year again for me to reflect on the previous ECS season. We were pleased to welcome some new members to the choir and sorry to lose a few who had decided that it was time to "hang up their singing hats" or leave for pastures new. Whatever their reason for not being with us anymore, I wish them well.

Last autumn we gave a concert for Advent. We were delighted to welcome some students from the University of Chichester Conservatoire who joined us in singing extracts from Bach Christmas Oratorio, Handel Messiah and the dramatic Britten St Nicolas, the latter being greatly enhanced by our wonderful tenor soloist, Paul Austin Kelly. After this concert it was the usual round of our very enjoyable and worthwhile carol events: - The lunch time carol service in at Souls' Church, Carol singing in the Beacon Centre in aid of the local branch of the Samaritans, leading the singing at the Angels of Eastbourne Service, entertaining at Palm Court care home Christmas party, singing round the tree at The Hawthorns Retirement Village, and, a new venue for us, singing at The Star Inn in Alfriston on Christmas Eve for the Polizzi family and their guests. The latter was a wonderful occasion, we were well looked after and very much appreciated by everyone there. As well as giving pleasure to many people, our carol singing raises much needed funds for charity and for the choir.

After the Christmas break we began rehearsing for our March Mozart concert (with a little Haydn for good measure) for which we sang the ever popular Mozart Requiem, Haydn Insanae et Vanae Curae and Mozart Laudate Dominum. The concert included a wonderful performance of the much loved Mozart Clarinet Concerto by Alison Hughes. A wonderful evening of music! During this term we also enjoyed a social evening - of fish and chips followed by an interesting and entertaining talk about Mozart given by Dr Suzie Wilkins.

The summer term had rather a different repertoire - Mozart and Lariidsen Nocturns and Brahms Waltzes being the main pieces. After some initial trepidation, I think we all enjoyed singing these at the summer concert. Audience numbers were disappointing for this event though. It is the

usual problem we, particularly John, have with choosing repertoire - what will be popular with an audience and what will keep the choir interested!

We finished the season with a very enjoyable social evening to mark ECS's thirtieth anniversary. Much delicious food was shared, with a fair amount of wine and lively conversation. As of this September ECS has enjoyed singing for thirty years. It was in September 1993 that Elizabeth Muir Lewis formed our choir, rehearsing, amongst other things, Vivaldi Gloria, which they performed later that autumn for their inaugural concert. We also celebrated the fact that John has been our MD for twenty years! Over the thirty years, thanks to the leadership of these two inspiring people ECS has grown from strength to strength. Supported by some excellent accompanists, none more so than Nick, we are indeed very fortunate to work with such patient and inspirational, professional musicians.

A choir the size of ECS with a great reputation in the town to uphold, requires a good deal of organisation. I am so grateful to Claire, our secretary, for all the work she undertakes for choir, to Paul our treasurer for quietly managing all the finances so expertly, and to committee members Tina and Pauline for their help over this last year. Huge thanks to Alison, who, as our press officer writes so expertly to advertise our concerts, helps at the welcome desk and has now taken over the running of rehearsal break refreshments. Grateful thanks to Eleanor, our librarian, who, as well as giving out the scores and keeping track of them, spends a good deal of time accessing the music for us. Many thanks also to Tracy and Hugh Anderson for the help they give to Eleanor, and to Hugh Graham and Clare Chetwood who have taken on putting up our advertising boards.

Here's to another happy and successful year for ECS!

Thank you for your singing, your friendship and your loyalty to our choir.

Liz Barker

Chair Eastbourne Choral Society



Eastbourne Choral Society  
Accounts year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Receipts and Payments 2022-2023

Payments		2022	2023	Receipts		2022	2023
		£	£			£	£
Rehearsal expenses	Music Director	4770	4620	Members' subscriptions	9205	12650	
	Accompanists	2520	2310	Gift Aid	418	1642	
	Rent of Hall	1775	1945	Bank interest	38	52	
	Piano Tuning		150	Tea monies	523	717	
Administration	Stationery (incl postage)		29	Refreshments	128	482	
	Website	151	158	Ticket sales	4229	6393	
	Insurance	252	304	Donations	1070	1374	
	Other	15	15	Music hire (members)	711	1561	
Concert expenses	Artistes & Orchestra	9599	11155	Workshop fees	200	0	
	Commission on ticket sales	68	111	Socials	0	0	
	Flowers/gifts	106	107	Fundraising	0	752	
	Venue hire	740	1140	Other income	0	0	
	Press adverts	0	0				
	Staging	960	1340				
	Printing - posters/flyers/tickets	914	1594				
	Concert refreshments	141	207				
	Music hire	880	1563				
	Other	Socials, etc	0	0			
		Miscellaneous	25	500			
Refreshments		51	0				
	Total Expenses	22967	27248	Total Income	16522	25625	
Asset Purchases	Choir folders	187		Folder sales	90	91	
	Bow ties, scarves						
	Other		165				
	Total Payments	23154	27413	Total Receipts	16612	25716	
	Surplus			Shortfall	6542	1697	

Accounts 2022-2023

Assets at Year End	2022	2023
Cash Funds	£	£
Barclays Bank	2,922	4,172
Virgin Money deposit	26,949	24,001
Total	29,871	28,174

P A Collis

04/09/2023

**DAVID PAUL BARKER**

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Phone (01323) 748820  
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16<sup>th</sup> September, 2023

Paul Collis (Hon Treasurer)  
Eastbourne Choral Society  
3 Benenden Close  
Seaford  
BN25 3PG

**Eastbourne Choral Society  
Review of Accounts 2022-2023**

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**David P Barker**