

# BICESTER CHORAL AND OPERATIC SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1109779

## Details

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**Other names** BCOS

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2005-05-31

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

## Contact

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**Address** The Mole Hole  
Station Road  
Launton  
Bicester  
Oxfordshire  
OX26 5DS

**Phone** 01869357969

**Email** [finance@bcoswesing.org.uk](mailto:finance@bcoswesing.org.uk)

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

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN THE CHORAL, ORCHESTRAL, DRAMATIC AND OPERATIC ARTS, AND TO FURTHER THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC APPRECIATION AND TASTE IN THE SAID ARTS.

**Activities:** HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE RECENT YEARS2014: VERDI REQUIEM / HANDEL MESSIAH2015: IOLANTHE / ROSSINI PETITE MESSE SOLENELLE2016: CARMEN THE MUSICAL 2017: HMS PINAFORE2018: CHESS2019: EVITA

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Human Resources
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED. IN PRACTICE. BICESTER
- Oxfordshire

## Finances

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| Period end | Income  | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2024-12-31 | £31,317 | £27,732     | -      | -         |
| 2023-12-31 | £28,600 | £28,763     | -      | -         |
| 2022-12-31 | £28,644 | £28,950     | -      | -         |
| 2021-12-31 | £14,493 | £15,198     | -      | -         |
| 2020-12-31 | £6,452  | £8,930      | -      | -         |

## Trustees

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| Name               | Role  | Appointed  |
|--------------------|-------|------------|
| Ian Muddle         | Chair | 2016-01-27 |
| Emily Brown        |       | 2023-01-25 |
| Nicole Lauren Fine |       | 2023-01-25 |

**BICESTER CHORAL AND OPERATIC SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1109779

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# Accounts

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**BICESTER CHORAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY  
(BCOS)**

**Income & Expenditure Account  
Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

**BICESTER CHORAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY  
(BCOS)**

**Income & Expenditure Account  
Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

|   | £      | £             |
|---|--------|---------------|
| <b>Income</b>   |        |               |
| Subscriptions   | 7,486  |               |
| Ticket Sales  | 12,069 |               |
| Sponsorship/Grants/Donations                                      | 3,690  |               |
| Advertising   | 520    |               |
| Front of House  | 4,614  |               |
| Fundraising   | 499    |               |
| Gift Aid  | 2,050  |               |
| Interest from savings   | 167    |               |
| Other (Venue hire rebate)   | 222    |               |
|   | <hr/>  |               |
| <b>Total Income</b>   |        | <b>31,317</b> |
| <b>Expenditure</b>  |        |               |
| Music Director  | 7,723  |               |
| Accompanist   | 1,473  |               |
| Professionals Fees (includes soloists, orchestra, sound engineer) | 3,058  |               |
| Music Hire & Purchase   | 45     |               |
| Venue Hire  | 4,434  |               |
| Equipment & Repairs   | 1,536  |               |
| Properties & Sets   | 1,866  |               |
| Front of House  | 1,566  |               |
| Promotional   | 937    |               |
| Costume, Hair, Makeup   | 578    |               |
| Insurance & Fees (includes deposit/rights for 2025 & 2026 shows)  | 3,830  |               |
| Gifts, Subsistence & Sundry items                                 | 686    |               |
|   | <hr/>  |               |
|   |        | <b>27,732</b> |
|   |        | <hr/>         |
| <b>Net Surplus</b>  |        | <b>£3,585</b> |
|   |        | =====         |

## **Trustees**

Trustees are elected each year at the AGM. The elected trustees for 2024 were:

Ian Muddle, *Chairman*

Elizabeth Stiff, *Vice-Chairman*

Nikki Fine, *Treasurer*

Emily Brown, *Secretary*

## **Executive Committee**

Additional Executive Committee members for 2024 were:

Laura Hudson

Matthew Lawrance

Sarah Messer

Meg Tapp

Alan Twigg

## **Address**

Bicester Choral & Operatic Society

c/o Nikki Fine

The Mole Hole

Station Road

Launton Oxon OX26 5DS

## **Bankers**

RBS

Edinburgh St Andrew Square Branch

36 St Andrew Square

Edinburgh EH2 2AD

## **Policy on Reserves**

The Trustees have adopted a policy of maintaining a financial Reserve to ensure the Society does not become insolvent as a consequence of income in any year falling significantly below expenditure. In years when the Reserve exceeds the target figure the Society will be able to consider staging more adventurous works or using more expensive techniques and equipment which might be more likely to result in a loss, but which might be more artistically justified. In years when the Reserve falls below the target figure greater consideration will be given to conserving funds in order to increase the Reserve.

The target figure for the Reserve has been set at £9,000 for 2025.

The Society has no investments other than bank account balances and does not award grants.

Nikki Fine (BCOS Treasurer)

**BICESTER CHORAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY  
(BCOS)**

**Registered No.1109779**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**for the year to**

**31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

The Charity is governed by a constitution adopted by an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 16 March 2005.

The objects of the Society are to educate the public in the choral, orchestral, dramatic and operatic arts, and to further the development of public appreciation and taste in the said arts.

### **Activities and Achievements**

**General:** The Society had membership subscriptions from 65 individuals across the year, including several new members.

**Productions:** The Trustees are mindful of their duty to ensure that the charity's activities exist for the public benefit. They have considered Charity Commission guidance and are satisfied that the performance aims and achievements of the charity during the year, as outlined below, are consistent with this duty.

The society presented five public performances in 2024. *Avenue Q* was performed over three nights in May to 80% capacity. Analysing this year's accounts will indicate a profit more than £1800. The true figure is a nominal loss of £20 as funds were paid out during 2023 re rights, set hire, props, and promo materials. Effectively breaking even over 3 days, on a production with costs of over £14K is a fantastic achievement, and thanks once again go to all who put in the effort to achieve this. In October the society presented a concert of the music of *21<sup>st</sup> Century Musicals*. This event made a profit of £1085. The third event, *Under the Mistletoe*, made a profit of £1346. Both concerts were events requiring no professional players or soloists, planned deliberately to generate surplus funds to cover 2025's autumn concert, where costs are expected to be ~£3000 higher.

**Fund-Raising:** *Give As You Live* continued to generate income, generating £273 income this year. The society's continued participation in the Cherwell Lottery generated £225 of additional income. The society once again benefited from a grant from Bicester Town Council of £750 towards the stage show, and £600 sponsorship from Bicester Village. In addition, for the first time, the society benefitted from a grant of £1000 from Cherwell District council towards the stage show. Finally, the society received a kind donation of £1000 from Andy Beaumont from his late father's estate. Andy's father was an active member of the society when the group was first formed back in the 1960s.

**Bank Account:** Overall, the year's activities resulted in an increase in the Society's cash reserves of **£3585.02** at year-end, the cash balance at year-end being **£15,185.65**. This year the society took advantage of high interest rates and held funds on deposit over the year, generating £151 in interest income.

The Trustees are conscious that the society is not a profit/loss-making organisation. The society made planned-for purchases of assets/equipment totalling approx. £1200, which included additional lighting-kit, cables, mic-stands, glasses and storage. In addition, expenditure of approx. £1500 was made towards the 2025 stage show (£500 in relation to rights/hire, £200 in respect of the set hire, and £300 relating to promotional materials), and £500 towards the 2026 show (rights fees).

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE TRUSTEES OF BICESTER CHORAL AND OPERATIC SOCIETY**

I report on the profit and loss account of the society for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are attached hereto.

**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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- ✓ examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- ✓ to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- ✓ to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 records and seeking explanations from you as 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 next statement.

**Independent examiners' 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 2011 Act and
  - ✓ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.



A P Jeffrey (ACA), 6 New Road, Shotteswell, Banbury, OX17 1HT

Date: 29/01/2025



**BICESTER CHORAL AND OPERATIC SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1109779

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# Accounts

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**BICESTER CHORAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY  
(BCOS)**

**Income & Expenditure Account  
Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**BICESTER CHORAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY  
(BCOS)  
Income & Expenditure Account  
Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

|  | £      | £                      |
|--|--------|------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>  |        |                        |
| Subscriptions  | 7,643  |                        |
| Ticket Sales   | 13,067 |                        |
| Sponsorship/Grants   | 1,350  |                        |
| Advertising  | 459    |                        |
| Sale of Merchandise  | 134    |                        |
| Front of House   | 3,530  |                        |
| Fundraising  | 683    |                        |
| Gift Aid   | 1,734  |                        |
|  | 28,600 | <b>28,600</b>          |
| <b>Expenditure</b>   |        |                        |
| Music Director   | 7,200  |                        |
| Accompanist  | 1,724  |                        |
| Professionals Fees (includes soloists, orchestral players, sound engineer) | 2,350  |                        |
| Music Hire & Purchase  | 1,802  |                        |
| Venue Hire   | 3,912  |                        |
| Equipment & Repairs  | 2,613  |                        |
| Properties & Sets (includes part costs of 2024 show)                       | 2,898  |                        |
| Front of House   | 1,598  |                        |
| Promotional  | 1,463  |                        |
| Costume, Hair, Makeup  | 745    |                        |
| Insurance & Fees (includes deposit/rights for 2024 show)                   | 1,580  |                        |
| Gifts, Subsistence & Sundry items  | 878    |                        |
|  | 28,763 | <b>28,763</b>          |
| <b>Net Loss</b>  |        | <b>£(163)</b><br>===== |

**BICESTER CHORAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY**  
**(BCOS)**  
**Registered No.1109779**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**for the year to**  
**31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

The Charity is governed by a constitution adopted by an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 16 March 2005.

The objects of the Society are to educate the public in the choral, orchestral, dramatic and operatic arts, and to further the development of public appreciation and taste in the said arts.

### **Activities and Achievements**

**General:** The Society had membership subscriptions from 70 individuals across the year, including several new members. 2023 was the first year for a couple of years when events were not impacted by Covid.

**Productions:** The Trustees are mindful of their duty to ensure that the charity's activities exist for the public benefit. They have considered Charity Commission guidance and are satisfied that the performance aims and achievements of the charity during the year, as outlined below, are consistent with this duty.

The society presented five public performances in 2023. *The Addams Family* was performed over three nights in May to sell out houses. Analysing this year's accounts will indicate a profit in excess of £2500. The true figure is £243 as some £2500 was paid out during 2022. Making a profit over 3 days, however small, on a production with costs of over £14K is an amazing achievement and thanks go to all who put in the effort to achieve this. In July the society presented a concert of the music of *Lennon & McCartney*. This event made a profit of £760. The third event, and fifth performance, *Choral Jazz* accompanied by a jazz trio, effectively broke even with a nominal loss of £4.

**Fund-Raising:** *Give As You Live* continued to generate income, generating £338 income this year. The society's continued participation in the Cherwell Lottery generated £278 of additional income. The society benefited from a grant from Bicester Town Council of £750 towards the staged production, and £600 sponsorship from Bicester Village.

**Bank Account:** Overall, the year's activities resulted in a reduction in the Society's cash reserves of just **£163** at year-end, the cash reserve at year-end being **£11,763**. Following the introduction of monthly service charges by HSBC in 2022 the society transferred its bank accounts to RBS partway through the year.

The Trustees are conscious that the society is not a profit/loss-making organisation. The society made planned-for purchases of assets/equipment totalling approx. £2500, which included additional lighting-kit (moving heads), cables, new mic packs/receivers, mic stands, glasses and storage. In addition, expenditure of approx. £1800 was made towards the 2024 stage show (£500 in relation to rights/hire, £714 in respect of the set hire, £380 in respect of props and £250 relating to promotional materials).

## **Trustees**

Trustees are elected each year at the AGM. The elected trustees for 2023 were:

Ian Muddle, *Chairman*

Elizabeth Stiff, *Vice-Chairman*

Nikki Fine, *Treasurer*

Emily Brown, *Secretary*

## **Executive Committee**

Additional Executive Committee members for 2023 were:

Caroline Graham

Laura Hudson

Alan Twigg

Meg Tapp

## **Address**

Bicester Choral & Operatic Society

c/o Nikki Fine

The Mole Hole

Station Road

Launton Oxon OX26 5DS

## **Bankers**

(until 9<sup>th</sup> June)

HSBC

1 Sheep Street

Bicester

Oxon OX6 7JA

(w.e.f 1<sup>st</sup> May)

RBS

Edinburgh St Andrew Square Branch

36 St Andrew Square

Edinburgh EH2 2AD

## **Policy on Reserves**

The Trustees have adopted a policy of maintaining a financial Reserve to ensure the Society does not become insolvent as a consequence of income in any year falling significantly below expenditure. In years when the Reserve exceeds the target figure the Society will be able to consider staging more adventurous works or using more expensive techniques and equipment which might be more likely to result in a loss, but which might be more artistically justified. In years when the Reserve falls below the target figure greater consideration will be given to conserving funds in order to increase the Reserve.

The target figure for the Reserve has been set at £8,500 for 2024.

The Society has no investments other than bank account balances and currently does not award grants.

Nikki Fine (BCOS Treasurer)

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BICESTER CHORAL AND OPERATIC SOCIETY**

I report on the profit and loss account of the society for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are attached hereto.

### **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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- ∇ examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- ∇ to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- ∇ to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 records and seeking explanations from you as 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 next statement.

### **Independent examiners' 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 2011 Act and
  - ∇ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

A P Jeffrey (ACA), 6 New Road, Shotteswell, Banbury, OX17 1HT

Date: 29/01/2024

**BICESTER CHORAL AND OPERATIC SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1109779

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# Accounts

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**BICESTER CHORAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY  
(BCOS)**

**Income & Expenditure Account  
Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

**BICESTER CHORAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY  
(BCOS)  
Income & Expenditure Account  
Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

|   | £      | £                      |
|---|--------|------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>   |        |                        |
| Subscriptions   | 8,437  |                        |
| Ticket Sales  | 10,811 |                        |
| Sponsorship/Grants  | 2,121  |                        |
| Advertising   | 670    |                        |
| Sale of Merchandise   | 787    |                        |
| Front of House  | 3,125  |                        |
| Fundraising inc Hire  | 646    |                        |
| Gift Aid  | 2,044  |                        |
|   | 28,644 | <b>28,644</b>          |
| <b>Expenditure</b>  |        |                        |
| Music Director  | 7,185  |                        |
| Accompanist   | 1,600  |                        |
| Professionals Fees (includes soloists, orchestral players, show director) | 6,724  |                        |
| Music Hire & Purchase   | 1,453  |                        |
| Venue Hire  | 3,253  |                        |
| Equipment & Repairs   | 509    |                        |
| Properties & Sets (includes part costs of 2023 show)                      | 2,605  |                        |
| Front of House  | 1,238  |                        |
| Promotions  | 2,003  |                        |
| Merchandise   | 549    |                        |
| Costume, Hair, Makeup   | 652    |                        |
| Insurance & Fees  | 687    |                        |
| Gifts, Subsistence & Sundry items   | 489    |                        |
|   | 28,950 | <b>28,950</b>          |
| <b>Net Loss</b>   |        | <b>£(306)</b><br>===== |

**BICESTER CHORAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY**  
**(BCOS)**  
**Registered No.1109779**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**for the year to**  
**31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

The Charity is governed by a constitution adopted by an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 16 March 2005.

The objects of the Society are to educate the public in the choral, orchestral, dramatic and operatic arts, and to further the development of public appreciation and taste in the said arts.

### **Activities and Achievements**

**General:** The Society had 68 membership subscriptions across the year, including several new members. Despite the ongoing challenges of Covid at the start of the year, the society managed to meet to rehearse and present public performances.

**Productions:** The Trustees are mindful of their duty to ensure that the charity's activities exist for the public benefit. They have considered Charity Commission guidance and are satisfied that the performance aims and achievements of the charity during the year, as outlined below, are consistent with this duty.

The society presented five public performances in 2022. Originally scheduled for 2021, pushed out by a year due to the pandemic, *Little Shop of Horrors* was performed over three nights in June. This year's accounts show a small loss on the production of just £98. The true loss figure is £1021 as some £923 was paid out during 2021. Given the costs of the production of over £13K, the ongoing audience uncertainty about Covid, the clash with the Royal Jubilee bank holiday weekend, and the additional cost of £1500 for professional director, this loss was deemed less than anticipated. In October the society presented a concert of the music of *Vivaldi*, supported by full orchestra. This event made a small loss of £182. Concerts of this nature have significant costs to cover in one performance (orchestra costs of ~£1000), and historically losses on orchestral events have been significantly higher. The third event, and fifth performance, was *Sleigh Bells Ring*, delayed from last year due to Covid, making a profit of £996, after selling out in just five hours.

**Fund-Raising:** *Give As You Live* continued to generate income generating £279 income this year. Amazon Smile generated £81. The society's continued participation in the Cherwell Lottery generated £281 of additional income. The society benefited from a grant from Bicester Town Council of £750 towards the staged production.

Overall, the year's activities resulted in a reduction in the Society's cash reserves of just **£306** at year-end, the cash reserve at year-end being **£11,763**.

The Trustees are conscious that the society is not a profit/loss-making organisation. The society made planned for purchases of additional lighting kit, cables and new mics totalling approx. £500, as well as almost £2600 towards *next year's* show (£1335 in relation to rights/hire, £861 in respect of the set hire, and £400 relating to promotional materials).

**Trustees**

Trustees are elected each year at the AGM. The elected trustees for 2022 were:

Ian Muddle, *Chairman*

Elizabeth Stiff, *Vice-Chairman*

Caroline Graham, *Treasurer*

Nikki Fine, *Secretary*

**Executive Committee**

Additional Executive Committee members for 2022 were:

Emily Brown

Jan Hartley (stepped down mid-year)

Laura Hudson

Alan Twigg

Meg Tapp (co-opted mid-year)

**Address**

Bicester Choral & Operatic Society

c/o Caroline Graham

8 Violet Close

Ambrosden

Bicester Oxon OX25 2DJ

**Bankers**

HSBC

1 Sheep Street

Bicester Oxon OX6 7JA

**Policy on Reserves**

The Trustees have adopted a policy of maintaining a financial Reserve to ensure the Society does not become insolvent as a consequence of income in any year falling significantly below expenditure. In years when the Reserve exceeds the target figure the Society will be able to consider staging more adventurous works or using more expensive techniques and equipment which might be more likely to result in a loss, but which might be more artistically justified. In years when the Reserve falls below the target figure greater consideration will be given to conserving funds in order to increase the Reserve.

The target figure for the Reserve has been set at £8,500 for 2023

The Society has no investments other than bank account balances and currently does not award grants.

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Caroline Graham (BCOS Treasurer)

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE TRUSTEES OF BICESTER CHORAL AND OPERATIC SOCIETY**

I report on the profit and loss account of the society for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are attached hereto.

**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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- ∇ examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- ∇ to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- ∇ to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 records and seeking explanations from you as 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 next statement.

**Independent examiners' 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 2011 Act and
  - ∇ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

A P Jeffrey (ACA), 6 New Road, Shotteswell, Banbury, OX17 1HT

Date: