

FARNHAM YOUTH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1145358

Details

Other names FYC

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2012-01-10

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

Contact

Address 18 Abbot Road
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 3TA

Phone 01252629234

Email info@fyc.org.uk

Website www.fyc.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF FYC SHALL BE TO PROMOTE, IMPROVE AND DEVELOP THE MUSICAL EDUCATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE FARNHAM AREA. THESE OBJECTS SHALL BE PURSUED THROUGH THE PROVISION OF CHORAL TRAINING TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN A YOUTH CHOIR OF THE HIGHEST MUSICAL STANDARDS WHICH MAY INCLUDE THE PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC CONCERTS, TOURS BOTH IN THE UK AND ABROAD, THE PRODUCTION OF RECORDINGS AND PARTICIPATION IN CHORAL COMPETITIONS.

Activities: Choral singing

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Bracknell Forest
- Hampshire
- Surrey

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£110,401	£100,359	-	-
2023-08-31	£48,660	£66,122	-	-
2022-08-31	£66,349	£59,763	-	-
2021-08-31	£51,403	£33,126	-	-
2020-08-31	£62,846	£61,497	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Eglen		2026-03-11
Donna Michelle Coxon		2026-03-11
Gill Backhouse		2023-01-31
Janet Ruthven		2024-01-11
Melanie Liv Hancox MA		2021-05-11
Oz Austwick		2024-11-20
Paula Redway		2025-04-30

FARNHAM YOUTH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1145358

Accounts

Farnham Youth Choir
Annual Report and Accounts
Financial Year ended 31st August 2024

Registered charity no. 1145358

1. Aims and Objectives

Farnham Youth Choir (FYC) is committed to promoting, improving and developing the musical education of young people in the Farnham area. This is pursued through the creation and maintenance of a youth choir of the highest standards. FYC's activities include the presentation of public concerts, tours both in the UK and abroad, the production of recordings and participation in choral competitions.

The public benefits of the organisation are threefold:

- i. Young people in the Farnham area can participate in choral activities to a musical standard which may not be available to them within mainstream education. The ethos of FYC throughout its existence has been to ensure that no child is barred from accessing this opportunity purely on the grounds of affordability.
- ii. As a community based choir, a significant proportion of FYC's public concerts are centred on the Farnham area, thus ensuring that the local population can benefit from attending youth choral concerts of the highest international standard.
- iii. Both FYC members and the local community benefit from the fact that FYC makes Farnham a destination of choice for other leading youth choirs from around the world.

2. Financial Position

The FYC annual accounts for the year ending 31st August 2024 are presented on pages 5 to 6 of this report. In summary FYC achieved a modest surplus for the year. It should, however, be noted that the accounts were prepared prior to a planned refund of some costs to participants in the New Zealand Tour (reflecting successful fundraising which part-funded the tour costs). The true position after this refund is approximately break-even. FYC's financial reserves are healthy, with cash reserves of approximately one year of normal operating costs. Trustees are confident of the financial viability of FYC for the immediate future.

The 2023-2024 year presented many challenges, not least the significant fundraising effort required to help fund the choir's participation in the World Choir Games in Auckland in July 2024. In addition, there were cost increases in many areas and we were obliged to increase subscriptions. As a small charity, we rely mainly on subscriptions, our generous patrons, grant funding and other donors to fund our activities.

FYC currently has various separate funds, details of which are shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities below :

- i. A general fund for the day to day operation of the choir;
- ii. A fundraising and marketing fund to develop FYC's marketing proposition;
- iii. A tour support fund, aimed at supporting individuals to participate in tours;
- iv. A vocal coach fund;
- v. A Bursary Fund which funds singers across all three choirs who are facing financial disadvantage;
- vi. A schools' workshop fund.

3. Activities report from Artistic Director, Patrick Barrett

I am delighted to report that the past year has been one of tremendous success and growth for Farnham Youth Choir. Our young voices have continued to develop, and their hard work has led to outstanding achievements.

Training and Junior Choirs:

Our Training Choir has continued to thrive, with numbers steadily increasing, thanks to the success of our outreach workshops in local schools and the dedication of our staff team. The Training Choir is also fortunate to work with our volunteer Mary, their talented pianist, whose contributions have been invaluable. The Junior Choir's numbers are growing again, and their sound is richer than ever. The annual Singing Spree was a resounding success, attracting our largest turnout yet, and showcasing our ongoing commitment to building a love for music in the local community.

Senior Choir:

The Senior Choir had an exceptional year, with notable highlights throughout the season.

Our commitment to community engagement continued with performances at the Saint Andrew's civic carol service, where we had the honour of performing in front of local dignitaries. While the Farnham Maltings remains a challenging venue, we managed to make our Christmas concert there a beautiful and memorable occasion. Looking ahead to next year, we are excited that our Christmas concert will take place at Weydon School, providing us with a fresh venue for this festive celebration.

The 40th Anniversary March concert was a particularly special event for us this year. It was a truly memorable celebration of the choir's history, with all of our choirs performing at the very

top of their game. The energy and spirit of the evening were elevated by the presence of so many alumni, both singing alongside us and in the audience, reconnecting with their musical roots. It was especially heartwarming to have David and Gillian Victor-Smith with us, whose support and dedication to the choir over the years have been invaluable. Their presence added an extra layer of significance to this milestone concert. It was an incredibly moving experience to see the choir's community come full circle, with so much talent and support from past members.

The summer concert at St. Andrew's Garrison Church was another highlight. The beautiful acoustics of the venue provided a perfect backdrop for a lovely evening of music, and it was a truly special experience for both the choir and the audience. It provided an invaluable dress rehearsal experience before heading to New Zealand.

In terms of performance achievements, the Senior Choir excelled in competitions, with notable success on the international stage. Our trip to New Zealand saw the choir win two gold medals—a testament to their dedication and talent. This was such a special and unforgettable thing to do. Memories to last a lifetime. Thanks to everyone for organising this.

In conclusion, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our dedicated members, staff team, supportive parents, volunteers, and trustees for their continued support and commitment. Particular personal thanks to Melanie Hancox. Farnham Youth Choir is growing stronger with each passing year, and we remain passionate about nurturing young talent and fostering a love for music within our community.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

4. Future Plans

After a very successful and extremely busy season, 2024-2025 will be no less busy, but has the virtue of activities closer to home.

The Senior Choir had the privilege of performing alongside Marliya, Gondwana Voices and the RSNO Youth Chorus at the Barbican in October 2024. This remarkable opportunity (which has already happened as I write in November) gave our young singers a rich musical and cultural experience and the opportunity to perform on one of London's great concert stages.

The Christmas season will be busy with the Senior Choir's usual appearance at the Farnham Town Council Civic Service. All of our choirs will perform at our gala Christmas concert, but for the first time this will be at the Medici Theatre at Weydon School. Our Senior Choir makes a welcome return to the Farnham Castle at the invitation of the Castle's trustees for a second civic festive celebration. It is hoped that this might become an annual event.

Our Junior Choir will be entering the Barnardo's National Choir Competition, the final of which is in Birmingham in March. Please join us in wishing them every success.

For the first time, our Senior Choir will perform in a Mother's Day concert in March, with solo guest appearances from talented members of the choir.

As well as our choirs' performing and competition activities, we will be continuing our programme of schools' workshops during this coming academic year. Funding permitting, our music team will visit local primary schools to work across different year groups offering workshops. We are also planning our fourth FYC Singing Spree at the Farnham Maltings and hope, grant application depending, to add an additional event to this schedule. Watch this space!

The season will culminate in a gala concert featuring all three choirs at The Menuhin Hall in Cobham. The choirs will perform alongside viola soloist Stephen Upshaw and the Senior Choir will première the commission written for them in 2024 by Errollyn Wallen, 'The Lilies of the Field'.

In the summer of 2025, we hope to take the Senior Choir to a UK location in order to make a professional recording. Trustees have applied for grant funding and are currently in discussions with a music producer and record company.

5. Structure, Governance and Management

FYC is a registered charity and all activities are planned and implemented under the control of a Management Committee. This includes all arrangements for rehearsals, tours, concerts, recordings and control of finance and expenditure. The committee usually meets at least termly. It comprises a Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer and other trustees, supported by our employed Operations Manager and Community Engagement Officer. The Trustees are joined by management officers who are appointed to specific roles and who provide support and feedback to the Trustees. The Trustees are currently looking for two new members of the board to join them.

Independent examiners report to the trustees of FYC

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of FYC charity for the year ended 31st of August 2024

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the charities Act 2011 (the ACT)

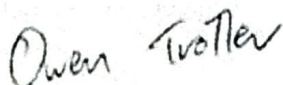
I report in respect of my examination at the trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the ACT.

Independent examiners statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the trust as required by section 130 of the act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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



Signed:

Name: Owen Trotter

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies if any:

Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales

Address: 8 South Parade, York

Date: 24th June 2025

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Statement of receipts and payments - year ended 31 August 2024

DRAFT

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
Receipts				
Subscriptions	42,343		42,343	32,877
Gift Aid Receipts	2,140		2,140	0
Fundraising	1,270	38,241	39,512	4,398
Donations	746	15,485	16,231	8,525
Patrons	2,850		2,850	2,860
Concerts (net)	7,325		7,325	(1,897)
Total Receipts	56,674	53,726	110,401	46,763
Payments				
Fees	20,781	2,608	23,389	25,892
Singing Spree	601	1,000	1,601	2,918
Schools & summer workshops		2,454	2,454	
Rent	3,823		3,823	3,397
Uniforms	(536)		(536)	(222)
Bank charges	1,463		1,463	790
Administration	33,230		33,230	21,296
Music & commissions	1,922	3,000	4,922	1,126
Marketing	0	19	19	859
Tours		29,564	29,564	7,860
Misc	431		431	309
Total Payments	61,714	38,644	100,359	64,225
Net receipts / (payments)	(5,040)	15,082	10,042	(17,462)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Statement of assets and liabilities - year ended 31 August 2024

Current assets	31 Aug 2024	31 Aug 2023
Equipment	1,900	1,900
Music library	2,000	2,000
Cash at bank	67,719	57,677
	71,619	61,577
Unrestricted funds		
General fund	19,102	19,450
Restricted funds		
Marketing fund	4,783	9,677
Tour bursary fund (previously FFYC)	10,513	8,875
Vocal coach fund	2,468	4,076
Bursary fund	11,405	10,445
Alumni fund	13	266
Tour fund	11,890	7,855
NZ refunds	9,807	
Singing Spree fund		933
Schools workshops fund	1,369	
Summer activities fund	269	
	71,619	61,577

On behalf of FYC board of Trustees


Melanie Hancox

Chair of Trustees

24th June 2025

FARNHAM YOUTH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1145358

Accounts

Farnham Youth Choir

Annual Report and Accounts (Financial Year ended 31st August 2023)

Registered charity no. 1145358

1. Aims and Objectives

Farnham Youth Choir (FYC) is committed to promoting, improving and developing the musical education of young people in the Farnham area. This is pursued through the creation and maintenance of a youth choir of the highest musical standards. FYC's activities include the presentation of public concerts, tours both in the UK and abroad, the production of recordings and participation in choral competitions.

The public benefits of the organisation are three-fold:

- i. Young people in the Farnham area can participate in choral activities to a musical standard which may not be available to them within mainstream education. The ethos of FYC throughout its existence has been to ensure that no child is barred from accessing this opportunity purely on the grounds of affordability.
- ii. As a community-based choir, a significant proportion of FYC's public concerts are centred on the Farnham area, thus ensuring that the local population can benefit from attending youth choral concerts of the highest international standard.
- iii. Both FYC members and the local community benefit from the fact that FYC makes Farnham a destination of choice for other leading youth choirs from around the world.

2. Financial Position

The FYC annual accounts for the year ending 31st August 2023 are presented on pages 5 to 6 of this report. A deficit of receipts over payments of £17,462 is reported compared to an excess of £6,586 in the previous year. The balance sheet shows total assets less current liabilities of £61,577 (down from £79,039) with £57,677 (down from £51,139) in the bank account as at 31st August 2023.

The 2022-23 financial year has been challenging with a reduction in subscriptions, donations and fundraising set against increasing operating costs. In September 2023 we implemented an increase in subscription levels across all three choirs to reflect these higher operating costs and we are continuing to work hard to boost recruitment across all three choirs. Despite this, we continue to rely on the generosity of our patrons and other donors to fund our regular activities.

We continued our tradition of community engagement by performing at the Christmas tree lights ceremony under demanding staging circumstances and singing at the Saint Andrews

for Carmina Burns was an early highlight, and it marked an excellent start to our year side with guest choral director Shivani Rattan. Collaborating with Guildford Choral Society Our Senior Choir had an eventful year, including a successful residential weekend in Brae-

hearing to see all three choirs come together for this project, strengthening our bonds and The launch of our History Express songs on Spotify was a significant achievement, and it was

tion, showcasing our commitment to fostering a love for music in our community. reached new heights this year, with a larger turnout than ever before. It is a cause for celeb- numbers are lower but their singing is even more beautiful. Our annual singing spree valuable addition to the team, contributing to the Training Choir's success. Junior Choir Training Choir are also lucky to work with our volunteer Mary, their pianist, who has been a success of our outreach workshops in local schools and the staff team leading on all this. Our Training Choir continues to thrive with steadily increasing numbers, a testament to the

tion has yielded wonderful results. achievement for Farham Youth Choir. Our young voices have flourished, and their dedica- I am delighted to report that the past year has been a remarkable journey of growth and

3. Activities Report from Patrick Barrett

8. A schools workshop fund, to enable members of the FYC music team to offer work- shops to local Farham schools; current value £933.

7. A tour fund which allows us to manage cash flow issues associated with large budget tours and also to provide an overall subsidy for tours where required; current value £7,825; and

6. An alumni fund to fund potential future alumni activities; current value £266;

5. The bursary fund which funds singers across all three choirs who are facing financial disadvantages; current value £10,445;

4. A vocal coach fund; current value £4,076;

3. The Friends of FYC fund to support FYC tours; current value £8,875;

2. a fundraising and marketing fund to develop FYC's fundraising and marketing proposition; current value £9,677;

1. a general fund for the day-to-day operation of the choir; current value £19,450;

FYC currently has eight separate funds:

made it work and our Xmas concert there was lovely. Although the Maltings remains a challenging venue, we civic carol service with dignitaries.

The Senior Choir's growing achievement this year was our triumphant competition performance in both Hull and Provence. Our choir truly shone, performing exceptionally well and this was recognised by the panels with us achieving first place and gold medals at both events.

The annual Yehudi Menuhin Hall concert was a breathtaking experience, allowing us to perform in such a magnificent space and witness our young talents thrive.

As we look ahead, the coming year promises to be even more exciting, with our focus on celebrating our 40th anniversary in London and embarking on an epic trip to New Zealand.

In conclusion, I want to express my gratitude to our dedicated members, staff team, supportive parents, volunteers and committed trustees for making this year so special. Farham Youth Choirs continue to grow, nurturing young talent and fostering a love for music within our community.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

4. Future Plans

2022-23 saw FYC's calendar of performances and events fill up again post pandemic and the upcoming 2023-24 season continues this trend as we look forward to celebrating our 40th anniversary.

As well as our usual programme of Christmas concerts our choir will be out in the community this festive season and appearing at a number of local events as we strive to raise awareness of FYC and work more closely with local charitable organisations.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are excited to be taking all three choirs plus our alumni voices to Holy Trinity Square to celebrate 40 years of FYC. This is a remarkable achievement and testament to the dedicated musicians who have been ambitious for our young people over the past four decades and also to the many volunteers who have worked to turn those ambitions into reality for our singers. Next March's celebration concert will showcase our choirs and celebrate everyone involved with FYC.

Our 2023-24 season will culminate in a concert at St Andrew's Garrison Church in Aldershot and will be a wonderful way to bring all our singers and their families together to celebrate the year and wish our seniors 'good luck' for their exciting summer tour.

Our Senior Choir is heading to Auckland, New Zealand in July 2024 to compete in the World Choir Games ('WCG'). Finding an opportunity to take our singers to this competition has been a key objective of our team ever since the pandemic forced our withdrawal from the 2020 WCG. Taking a choir to New Zealand is a costly operation and fundraising to ensure that as many singers as possible are able to travel has begun in earnest. We are hugely grateful to our choir families for rising to this challenge. We are hoping and the singers are working-

ing hard, to build on the successes of last year's competitions. The experiences and memories our singers will bring home from this tour will stay with them forever.

As well as our choirs, activities, we will be continuing our programme of schools workshops during this coming academic year. Funding permitting, our music team will visit local primary schools to work across different year groups offering workshops. We have also successfully trialled a CPD session for local primary school music leads as part of our ambition to support music education in our local schools. We are also planning our third singing spree, now a regular fixture in the summer for Farinham's primary schools; a joyous and music-filled morning of singing and movement for year 2 school children.

FYC is a family of choirs, and our singers, musicians, staff, volunteers and their families remain part of that family for the rest of their lives. We look forward to a year where we celebrate those bonds and the joy of the music that brought us together and keeps us together.

2. Structure, Governance and Management

FYC is a registered charity and all activities are planned and implemented under the control of a Management Committee. This includes all arrangements for rehearsals, concerts, tours, recordings and control of finance and expenditure. The Committee usually meets twice every term. It comprises a Chair, Treasurer and other trustees, supported by a paid Operations Manager. The trustees are joined by Management Officers who are appointed to specific roles and provide support and feedback to the trustees.

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Statement of receipts and payments - year ended 31 August 2023

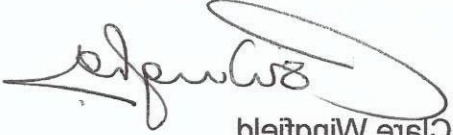
	2023\22	2022\23	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	
Receipts					
Subscriptions	32,185	32,877	3,462	29,415	
Gift Aid Receipts	1,327	-	-	-	
Fundraising	7,883	4,398	4,269	129	
Donations	12,493	8,252	8,291	534	
Sponsorship	1,200	-	-	-	
Patrons	5,122	2,860	-	2,860	
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	
	63,260	48,660	16,052	32,632	
Payments					
Fees (Directors and Accompanists)	22,828	22,892	2,320	23,252	
Concerts (net)	(5,289)	1,897	-	1,897	
Singing prep & workshops	1,926	2,918	2,918	-	
Rent	2,289	3,397	-	3,397	
Uniforms, net of receipts	822	(222)	-	(222)	
Bank charges	1,221	290	-	290	
Administration	12,242	21,299	4,114	12,182	
Music & Commissions	3,306	1,126	-	1,126	
Marketing	2,429	829	829	-	
Tours (net)	3,823	2,860	2,222	2,632	
Equipment	13	-	-	-	
Miscellaneous	268	309	-	309	
	26,974	66,122	12,486	20,636	
Net receipts \ (payments)	6,286	(17,462)	3,566	(18,001)	
Transfers to \ (from) funds	-	-	-	-	
Surplus \ (deficit) for the year	6,286	(17,462)	3,566	(18,001)	

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Statement of assets & liabilities - year ended 31 August 2023

	2022/23	2021/22	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Funds reconciliation					
Cash at bank 31.8.22	40,628	12,049	27,627	12,739	28,629
Surplus \ (deficit) for the year	(18,001)	239	(17,462)	68,223	16,210
Cash at bank 1.9.22	28,629	16,210	27,627	12,739	12,739
Current assets					
Schools workshops fund	1,404	933	1,404	1,404	1,404
Tour fund	7,822	4,084	7,822	4,084	7,822
Alumni fund	266	-	266	-	266
CFS bursary fund	-	5,762	-	5,762	-
Bursary fund (Big Give & others)	10,442	10,398	10,442	10,398	10,442
Vocal coach fund	4,076	5,446	4,076	5,446	4,076
Friends of FYC fund	8,872	14,100	8,872	14,100	8,872
Marketing fund	9,677	8,298	9,677	8,298	9,677
Restricted funds	19,420	32,247	19,420	32,247	19,420
General fund	27,627	27,627	27,627	27,627	27,627
Music library	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Equipment	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900
Total	61,227	61,227	27,627	12,739	28,629

On behalf of FYC Committee


 Clare Wingfield
 Co-Chair of Trustees

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Farham Youth Choir

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Farham Youth Choir ('the Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(d) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or

2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed: 

Name: IAN CRAIG

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies: CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF TAXATION ATTIC

Address: 28 GORDON ROAD, CHARGATE, SUMNER, L10 0RQ

Date: 24 NOVEMBER 2023

FARNHAM YOUTH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1145358

Accounts

Farnham Youth Choir

Annual Report and Accounts (Financial Year ended 31st August 2022)

Registered charity no. 1145358

1. Aims and Objectives

Farnham Youth Choir (FYC) is committed to promoting, improving and developing the musical education of young people in the Farnham area. This is pursued through the creation and maintenance of a youth choir of the highest musical standards. FYC's activities include the presentation of public concerts, tours both in the UK and abroad, the production of recordings and participation in choral competitions.

The public benefits of the organisation are three-fold:

- i. Young people in the Farnham area can participate in choral activities to a musical standard which may not be available to them within mainstream education. The ethos of FYC throughout its existence has been to ensure that no child is barred from accessing this opportunity purely on the grounds of affordability.
- ii. As a community-based choir, a significant proportion of FYC's public concerts are centred on the Farnham area, thus ensuring that the local population can benefit from attending youth choral concerts of the highest international standard.
- iii. Both FYC members and the local community benefit from the fact that FYC makes Farnham a destination of choice for other leading youth choirs from around the world.

2. Financial Position

The FYC annual accounts for the year ending 31st August 2022 are presented on pages 6 to 7 of this report. A excess of receipts over payments of £6,586 is reported compared to an excess of £18,277 in the previous year. The balance sheet shows total assets less current liabilities of £79,039 (up from £72,453) with £75,139 (up from £68,553) in the bank account as at 31st August 2021.

The 2021-22 financial year has seen the choir return to a normal level of rehearsals and performances with a consequential increase in both income and expenditure. In September 2021 we implemented an increase in subscription levels across all three choirs to reflect operating cost increases faced by the choir in recent years although we continue to rely on the generosity of our patrons and other donors to fund these activities.

FYC currently has eight separate funds:

1. a general fund for the day-to-day operation of the choir; current value £35,247;

2. a fundraising and marketing fund to develop FYC's fundraising and marketing proposition; current value £8,598;
3. The Friends of FYC fund to support FYC tours; current value £14,100;
4. A vocal coach fund, gifted by The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, to provide vocal coaching for the choir for the 2022/23 season; current value £2,446;
5. The Big Give bursary fund which funds singers across all three choirs who are facing financial disadvantage; current value £10,398;
6. In 2021/22 the Community Foundation for Surrey (CFS) awarded FYC £3,737 to create a bursary fund to support singers who are facing financial disadvantage, £975 was used during 2021/22; current value £2,762;
7. A tour fund which allows us to manage cash flow issues associated with large budget tours and also to provide an overall subsidy for tours where required; current value £4,804; and
8. A schools workshop fund, gifted by The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust and a private donor, to enable members of the FYC music team to offer workshops to local Farnham schools; current value £1,404.

3. Activities Report from Patrick Barrett

The past year has thankfully seen a return to more normal conditions for the choir with weekly rehearsals and in-person concerts. After the disruption of the past two years, it has been so refreshing to get back to what we do best and to hear the choirs bounce back both artistically and socially.

March saw two fantastic concerts from our choirs with the Junior and Training Choirs performing on the 19th and the Senior Choir performing on the 26th. Both were well received and gave us a good platform from which to work from for the rest of the year.

In June, we held a day of auditions on the 12th through which we were able to welcome a number of new faces to the choir. This was followed by our Summer Concert on the 18th in the fantastic acoustic of the Menuhin Hall. It was a very special day which brought all three choirs together and saw the première of three specially commissioned songs from our Composer in Residence Russell Hepplewhite and writer Helen Eastman. Financing of these new pieces of music came from the Mansell fund.

We've since gone on to record these commissions alongside the rest of Russell and Helen's *The History Express* which will be released in 2023. These sessions were made possible with the support of Alton School who allowed us to use their spaces for the recordings.

Throughout the year, our Training Choir conductor Claire Robins, has been running singing workshops in local schools to introduce our work to new audiences and hopefully bring in new singers to the choirs. These sessions culminated in the inaugural FYC Singing Spree event on 28th June at Farnham Maltings which saw the schools join together to perform the music Claire had taught them alongside a performance from our Senior Choir. This was the first time we've done this and it was a real success.

Leading on from the schools' workshops, we are delighted to welcome Leigh Barnett to the team as our first Community Engagement Officer. She'll be working to boost our profile within local schools and community groups and help drive recruitment for the choirs and the Training Choir in particular.

Over the Summer, the Senior Choir headed off to Cornwall on their first tour since the pandemic. Staying at the University of Falmouth, we had a fantastic week exploring the region and performing in some of its most iconic locations including the Minack Theatre, Land's End and St Michael's Mount. The tour also saw a joint concert with Cornwall Youth Choir – an event that highlighted the impact of the social aspects of choral music just as much as the musical ones.

I'd like to acknowledge Helen Cole who has worked tirelessly for our organisation as our Chair of Trustees. We were so lucky to have had her as our Chair and I know I speak for everyone in saying a huge thank you. Please do not be a stranger to us all at FYC.

It has been so heartening seeing the choirs thrive again after the impact of the pandemic and to see us embark on new recording and recruitment projects to help expand our work in future. Thanks so much to all those who make this happen – it's a real team effort and I feel very lucky to be working alongside you on this!

4. Future Plans from Helen Cole

It's a pleasure at last to be able to reflect on a year that wasn't dominated throughout by Covid-19! The virus still makes its presence felt in daily life but has at least loosened its grip on the UK during 2022. Thinking back to October 2021 and the first FYC concert of the new academic year, it's almost an effort to remember that all windows and doors at St Peter's Church in Woking had to be kept wide open for ventilation and the audience wrapped up against the cold. This time last year, the 2022 World Choir Games were still in theory scheduled to go ahead in South Korea, but a postponement was almost inevitable and FYC instead started to plan a Senior Choir summer tour to Vienna. In the event, both were casualties of the Covid pandemic. I do want to take a moment to reflect on the hardships that FYC's singers have faced owing to Covid, and to pay tribute to all at FYC who have coped with everything from inconvenience and disappointment to personal loss.

I'd like to start by celebrating a return to one of the key things that really gives FYC its fizz and its sense of purpose: going on tour. August's Senior Choir tour really summed up that sense of gingerly getting back to life as it used to be pre-Covid. We were lucky to have picked dates that fell between two spells of extreme heat, but even so, Cornwall was sizzling! As with every FYC tour, the valiant team of adult volunteers watched proudly as FYC's young people surged in confidence during those few days away. I was lucky enough to be at a memorable concert at St Mylor near Falmouth, where FYC joined forces with the young singers of Cornwall County Choirs. In front of a full house, the choirs showcased their different styles and then came together to sing 'Cornwall my Home' which they'd been rehearsing together that afternoon: the characteristic discipline of FYC's performance flexed to let in some raw emotion at that point! Working with or alongside other choirs is a transformative experience and that's why the prospect of the Hull International Choir Competition in April is so exciting for the Senior Choir. We all cross our fingers, too, for the Junior Choir as they work towards entering the Barnardo's National Choral Competition 2023: if they are lucky enough to be selected for the Final, an extraordinary experience at Birmingham Symphony Hall beckons for these younger singers.

As well as getting back to some traditions, 2021-22 has been memorable for a number of 'firsts': here are a just few of them.

At the beginning of each year the race is on to knit the new choirs together, and it's a joy to watch it happen. For the Senior Choir we set aside an autumn weekend to facilitate this, and in 2021 we trialled taking the Seniors away to Braeside, an education centre set in a rambling Edwardian house in Wiltshire. FYC took over the whole house and garden, and for two days the emphasis was on learning together and making friends. It was a great success and one that we've repeated this October; with spiralling hire and travel costs we just have to hope that it will be possible in 2023.

The Big Give Christmas Challenge has been on FYC's radar for some time, but we've never given it a try before. Its great attraction is that if you're lucky enough to find a supporter among the Big Give's stable of donors, that supporter will match the money you raise, once you've got past a certain target. We decided to go for it in 2021. With help from an extremely generous individual supporter, we qualified for match-funding, secured a Big Give donor (the Lake House Charitable Foundation) and used the platform to raise a remarkable £11,700 (including Gift Aid) from the public, friends and patrons. Thanks to a substantial donation from a very kind and engaged private donor via the Community Foundation for Surrey, FYC was able to launch a formal bursary scheme for 2021-22 that our Big Give proceeds will then fund for 2022-23 and beyond, supporting individual children whose circumstances make it difficult to pay membership fees and other costs. Existing choir members are being supported by bursaries right now and our task is to get the word out so that no-one assumes they can't join FYC because they can't afford it. It's timely to be able to offer this financial help as the cost of living crisis unfolds.

In a year still tinged with the pandemic, it's been really beneficial to structure much of the choirs' activity around another positive and purposeful initiative: our work with Russell Hepplewhite, FYC's first composer-in-residence. Russell teamed up with lyricist Helen Eastman to produce a set of songs for FYC, one for each of our choirs. Inspired by great female figures in the history of science, the set is called The Herstory Songs. Children far and wide got the chance to learn one of these, Comet Crazy, thanks to a primary-school education pack available online and created with generous support from Farnham Town Council. Choir members were able to grill Russell and Helen about the songs and about their work generally, as they both visited our rehearsals during the year. The Herstory Songs were premiered at FYC's summer concert at the beautiful Menuhin Hall, and a related group of songs by Russell and Helen called The History Express has also been recorded by our choirs. FYC's History Express recordings will be accessible via a QR code printed on the score, so it's great to think of all the musicians, schools and choirs worldwide who will encounter FYC's voices thisway. We haven't heard the recordings yet, but Russell has – and he reports that our singers and fantastic music team have created something to be truly proud of.

Perhaps the biggest change there has been for FYC in 2021-22 is an emphasis on engaging directly with the Farnham community via regular primary-school workshops and the Singing Spree that we trialled in the summer. The first workshops were part of the 2021 re-launch of our Training Choir that was so generously funded by the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, but they have since taken on a life of their own. Thanks to the energy and skill of our Training Choir conductor Claire Robins and further funding support from the D'Oyly Carte, we continue to use these workshops to encourage recruitment into our Training Choir and to further the music education of local children – one of FYC's charitable objects. In contrast, the

Singing Spree happens just once a year! It's a joyous, spirited occasion that brings together primary-school children and FYC's own singers for a morning of music-making at the Farnham Maltings. Our 2022 Spree guests were the whole of year 2 from two Farnham primary schools we've got to know through our workshops, but in 2023 we plan to expand the number of invitees. The aim is to encourage as many children as possible to join our youngest choir, as the number of 'Trainers' hasn't yet stabilised after the post-pandemic re-launch and remains a concern. So on 23rd June 2023, if you live anywhere in or near the town, as you go about your business you might well catch the sound of Farnham's school-children raising the Maltings' roof!

Other roofs we have raised in 2021-22 are the Music School and Chapel at More House School in Frensham and the Drama Studio at Alton School, both made available to FYC without charge, for which we are profoundly grateful. We continue to rehearse weekly at the Spire Church in Farnham but we watch with interest as renovation works look set to begin soon. The outcome of the renovations will be a fantastic set of spaces for the use of organisations like FYC, but there will be some unavoidable inconvenience in the short term: prepare to be patient and flexible!

Every week in termtime, I have had the privilege of not only talking with FYC parents/carers and volunteers, but also eavesdropping on FYC's rehearsals. It's one of life's best pleasures to listen to FYC's singers hard at work under the direction of Patrick Barrett, Margaret O'Shea, Claire Robins and Sally Hollyer – magicians all – and to enjoy the musicianship of Susan Holmes and Matthew Rickard, FYC's quiet heroes! The background beat to all this is the volunteer activity that makes everything tick. From the choir singer-and-parent team organising carol singing in aid of FYC to the singers and adults who ran a charity tea-tent on a summer afternoon, not forgetting the ranks of parents and carers who qualify as chaperones each year and others who take on the responsibilities of trusteeship: FYC couldn't do any of this without you. But all of us would be in a pickle without the organisational skill and endless resourcefulness of Liz Chapman, now joined for 2022-23 by FYC's first Community Engagement Officer, Leigh Barnett. Thank you is hardly enough, but thank you all.

5. Structure, Governance and Management

FYC is a registered charity and all activities are planned and implemented under the control of a Management Committee. This includes all arrangements for rehearsals, concerts, tours, recordings and control of finance and expenditure. The Committee usually meets twice every term. It comprises a Chair, Treasurer and other trustees, supported by a paid Operations Manager. The trustees are joined by Management Officers who are appointed to specific roles and provide support and feedback to the trustees.

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Statement of receipts and payments - year ended 31 August 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021/22 Total £	2020/21 Total £
Receipts				
Subscriptions	36,157	(975)	35,182	25,010
Gift Aid Receipts	1,327	-	1,327	-
Concerts (net)	3,401	(612)	2,789	1,178
Fundraising	646	7,237	7,883	14,550
Donations	4,685	10,808	15,493	8,035
Sponsorship	1,500	-	1,500	500
Patrons	2,175	-	2,175	2,130
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
	49,891	16,458	66,349	51,403
Payments				
Fees (Directors and Accompanists)	24,081	1,747	25,828	15,797
Singing Spree & workshops	1,476	480	1,956	-
Rent	2,289	-	2,289	1,135
Uniforms, net of receipts	455	400	855	(7)
Bank charges	1,251	-	1,251	745
Administration	17,745	-	17,745	17,430
Music & Commissions	1,156	2,150	3,306	488
Marketing	-	2,429	2,429	979
Tours (net)	1,723	2,100	3,823	-3,997
Equipment	13	-	13	202
Miscellaneous	268	-	268	354
	50,457	9,306	59,763	33,126
Net receipts / (payments)	(566)	7,152	6,586	18,277
Transfers to/(from) funds	(4,084)	4,084	-	-
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	(4,650)	11,236	6,586	18,277

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Statement of assets & liabilities - year ended 31 August 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021/22 Total £	2020/21 Total £
Funds reconciliation				
Cash at bank 1.9.21	35,997	32,556	68,553	50,276
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	(4,650)	11,236	6,586	18,277
Cash at bank 31.8.22	31,347	43,792	75,139	68,553
Current assets				
Equipment			1,900	1,900
Music library			2,000	2,000
Cash at bank			75,139	68,553
			79,039	72,453
Unrestricted funds				
General fund			35,247	39,897
Restricted funds				
Development fund			-	586
Marketing fund			8,598	9,021
Mansell fund			-	2,150
Friends of FFYC fund			14,100	16,140
Vocal coach fund			2,446	1,700
D'Oyly Carte			-	2,959
Big Give bursary fund			10,398	-
CFS bursary fund			2,762	-
Tour fund			4,084	-
Schools workshops fund			1,404	-
			79,039	72,453

On behalf of FYC Committee
Clare Wingfield BSc ACA MBA
Hon. Treasurer



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Farnham Youth Choir

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Farnham Youth Choir ('the Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

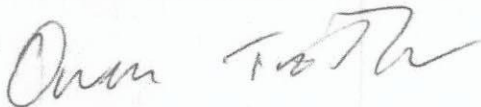
Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed:



Name: OWEN TROTTER

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies:

member of
the Institute
of Chartered
Accountants
of England
and Wales

Address: 8 South Parade, York

Date: 3/7/2023

FARNHAM YOUTH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1145358

Accounts

Farnham Youth Choir

Annual Report and Accounts (Financial Year ended 31st August 2021)

Registered charity no. 1145358

1. Aims and Objectives

Farnham Youth Choir (FYC) is committed to promoting, improving and developing the musical education of young people in the Farnham area. This is pursued through the creation and maintenance of a youth choir of the highest musical standards. FYC's activities include the presentation of public concerts, tours both in the UK and abroad, the production of recordings and participation in choral competitions.

The public benefits of the organisation are three-fold:

- i. Young people in the Farnham area can participate in choral activities to a musical standard which may not be available to them within mainstream education. The ethos of FYC throughout its existence has been to ensure that no child is barred from accessing this opportunity purely on the grounds of affordability.
- ii. As a community-based choir, a significant proportion of FYC's public concerts are centred on the Farnham area, thus ensuring that the local population can benefit from attending youth choral concerts of the highest international standard.
- iii. Both FYC members and the local community benefit from the fact that FYC makes Farnham a destination of choice for other leading youth choirs from around the world.

2. Financial Position

The FYC annual accounts for the year ending 31st August 2021 are presented on pages 6 to 7 of this report. An excess of receipts over payments of £18,277 is reported compared to an excess of £6,191 in the previous year. The balance sheet shows total assets less current liabilities of £72,453 (up from £54,176) with £68,553 (up from £50,276) in the bank account as at 31st August 2020.

Despite a reduction in subscription income and cancelled concerts, we have been able to generate an income surplus due to fundraising activities, donations, patronage & sponsorship. Costs have also been tightly controlled with a reduction in music team fees, reflecting the reduced level of choir activities, music costs and venue hire.

FYC has seven separate funds:

1. a general fund for the day-to-day operation of the choir; current value £39,897;

2. a development fund to secure the future of FYC through the creation of development opportunities to encourage recruitment and to ensure effective succession planning by widening the team of music professionals who work with the choirs; current value £586;
3. a fundraising and marketing fund to develop FYC's fundraising and marketing proposition; current value £9,021; and
4. The Mansell fund for new commissions; current value £2,150
5. Friends of FYC fund to support FYC tours; current value £16,140
6. Vocal coach fund to provide vocal coaching for the choir for the 2021/22 season; current value £1,700
7. D'Oyly Carte fund to support the re-launch of the Training Choir during the 2021/22 season; current value £2,959.

3. Activities Report from Patrick Barrett

This is my first AGM activities report as Artistic Director following on from Joanna Tomlinson. Whilst it has been an incredibly challenging time to take over the reins - I believe our team at FYC have done a fantastic job throughout the pandemic and have been at the fore of the choral scene in endeavouring to get young people singing again. So as such, we have a lot to celebrate and be proud of.

The 2020-2021 season was looking particularly gloomy, with online muted singing, new members (consequently) leaving the choir and no clear idea as to when normality would recommence. The choirs struggled online and we even paused the Training Choir as Zoom wasn't working for them, so we focused our energy on a September relaunch for this choir. With this said, many singers showed up week after week and highlighted an incredible commitment to FYC. The Junior Choir even recorded a virtual performance of 'The Angels' Song' by Roy Rashbrook. My thanks to Roy for including us in this project.

During lockdowns, we worked hard behind the scenes to find a suitable outdoor venue and were fortunate to be welcomed by Blacknest Golf Club who let us use their tipi. Blacknest and its beautiful surroundings provided the perfect backdrop for recovery. Singers were impressed by our rehearsal venue which allowed us to not only sing together but also socialise and play together in the natural surroundings. At Blacknest we hosted outdoor concerts in the sunshine and began to see 'the light'! This time was invaluable as it allowed us to reconnect before the new academic year. For the Senior Choir, it led to an outdoor performance at the Farnham Maltings. All things considered, the choir sang well.

In July, we hosted a Senior Choir weekend of singing at More House School, as part of the Barnsley International Youth Choir Festival. This was to be an in-person event but got cancelled and digitalised last minute. Barnsley Youth Choir kindly paid for our choir to be recorded in the beautiful setting of St. Catherine's, Bramley and we performed on Facebook Live. This festival gave us the chance to sing new music as well as attend digital choral workshops from leading experts on Zoom. Our singers worked with our new vocal coach, FYC

alumnus, Hannah Poulson. July also saw us run a successful recruitment campaign for a new conductor of the Training Choir, Claire Robins. We felt this was a worthwhile process as it introduced us to excellent local practitioners and people outside our usual network.

August saw Senior Choir head to Braeside Education Centre for a trip away. Here we enjoyed singing around campfires, outdoor pursuits, rehearsals and lovely food. Thank you to our parent volunteers for a magical time away. This trip was topped off by excellent recordings, videos and photos by Ben Tomlin. This footage will help our public profile and inspire new singers to join FYC.

The new academic year saw a change of rehearsal venue and all three choirs resume normality (give or take absences due to the COVID-19). Rehearsals are taking place in the Spire (Methodist and URC) church. Junior Choir is now thriving under the direction of Margaret O'Shea, while the Training Choir has had a successful relaunch (although we are still keen to increase its numbers and we have taken steps to help with this). We have invited Russell Hepplewhite to be our 2022 Composer in Residence. He will compose a song for each of our choirs and the Training Choir's song will be taught in schools recruitment workshops run by Claire Robins. We hope these recruitment workshops will encourage more singers to join FYC.

I'd like to finish this report by thanking everyone in our brilliant community - Liz, the music team, the committee and of course, our singers. You are all amazing.

4. Future Plans

Last year's Annual Report was written at a time of uncertainty, when we had all endured one long Covid-19 lockdown and could see that another was on the horizon. In November 2021, despite a successful Covid vaccination programme, things are still far from straightforward. The World Choir Games in South Korea presents an uncertain prospect and we have instead turned our thoughts to a Senior Choir tour less far afield. Depending on their age, most children in England are either wholly or partly unprotected from Covid-19 by vaccination, and infection rates are high among this age-group. Rehearsals and performances will be prone to disruption for a while to come.

My predecessor Andy Blair developed a 3-year strategic plan for FYC that expired in August 2021. The pandemic has of course meant that for at least half of the plan's life, the objectives and actions it recommended could not be pursued in the manner envisaged. The trustees are working on a new 3-year plan that will plot a way forward through phases of recovery, consolidation and finally growth and celebration as we reach 2024, the 40th anniversary of the founding of FYC by David Victor-Smith. We will definitely want to make a lot of noise on such an occasion!

In the meantime, FYC's trustees have concentrated upon raising funds from grant-making bodies – something that this charity hasn't done on such a significant scale before. In April we were delighted to secure a grant of £1,700 to cover the cost of one year's specialist vocal coaching for our Junior and Senior singers as they re-awaken their voices after the interruption of the lockdowns. Our donor is a charitable trust that prefers to remain anonymous. Professional mezzo-soprano and FYC alumnus Hannah Poulson has recently begun to work with the Senior and Junior Choirs.

To balance the decision taken this year to raise subscription rates from September 2021, the trustees are planning a bursary scheme to make sure that children don't miss out on becoming or remaining a member of FYC for financial reasons. We have made this the focus of our applications to funding bodies this year. FYC will be taking part for the first time in an initiative called the Big Give Christmas Campaign, building a bursary fund for 2022 and beyond so that we can support FYC members who otherwise would be unable to afford subscriptions, travel, uniform etc. With a target of £10,000, donations to the Campaign will be matched pound for pound, first by money generously pledged to FYC by a key supporter (who wishes to remain anonymous) and the by Lake House Charitable Foundation. We are delighted to have attracted the interest of the Foundation, with its active programme of support for smaller charities. Running a campaign of this nature is a new departure for FYC and will be a steep learning curve for us! If we can master how it is done, we will be able to repeat the process in future years for future fundraising needs.

We have had another important fundraising success and morale boost in the form of a grant of £2,959 awarded to FYC in August by the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust. The purpose of the grant is to support the post-pandemic re-launch of our Training Choir, with a focus on implementing a programme of singing workshops with local primary schools (especially those with which FYC has had little contact in the past). The intention is to encourage many more year 3 and year 4 children to join FYC, and the Trust's funding means that we can offer up to 25% of places in the Training Choir free of charge to children whose families or carers would have difficulty paying a subscription. Our new Training Choir Conductor, Claire Robins, is working with the Artistic Director and trustees to roll out this programme of workshops beginning this autumn. If you notice the Training Choir sporting smart new T-shirts and proudly giving their own concert each term (free of charge to their audience), this too is thanks to the support of the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, which is deeply appreciated.

In reporting these fundraising developments, I'd like to mention that the trustees continue to draw inspiration from the FYC members who themselves raised an extraordinary £7,800 with their Music Marathon in December 2020. We also pay tribute to parents who have masterminded one-off fundraising events such as the tombola in the summer and the doughnut sale this October: to Lucy Reidy and Kuniko Fukushima, thank you so much for your energy and creativity. Speaking of creativity, FYC's merchandising is looking particularly on-trend and I would like to thank Melanie Hancox for (among many other things) setting up FYC's Redbubble account for purchases sporting the FYC logo.

And finally on the subject of funds, Patrick has mentioned that acclaimed composer Russell Hepplewhite is to be Composer in Residence at FYC for 2021-22. The three songs that Russell will write for FYC's choirs have been commissioned using the residue of a bequest made to FYC by Christopher Mansell. I would like to express our thanks to the Mansell family for everything that has been made possible by this generous support.

As Patrick has reported, our three choirs are now rehearsing each week at the Spire Church in Farnham. Even though it can be painful contending with rush-hour traffic, it feels good to be based in the centre of town, not least because a long-held goal is to make FYC unmissable in Farnham itself. Auditions and training afternoons this year have been hosted by Walsh C of E Junior School in Ash, and we are very grateful to headteacher Gillian West for her continuing support: in blazing summer weather, we loved having the school's shady open spaces to spread out in. For one-off events like the Barnsley International Youth Choir Festival in the summer of 2021 and for recent training afternoons, we have been welcomed at More

House School in Frensham, whose music school is also surrounded by green spaces. More House School has not charged FYC a hire fee, telling us that they like to see their facilities being used by a children's music education charity like ours. I am deeply grateful to headteacher Jonathan Hetherington.

One secret of FYC's success has always been that every year, knowledge is passed on from experienced choir-member to newcomer. Lockdowns punched a hole through this, and I could not be grateful for everything that our inspirational and utterly committed musicians are doing to counteract the pandemic's effects. Thank you to Patrick Barrett, Sarah Burston, Sally Hollyer, Susan Norman, Margaret O'Shea, Hannah Poulson, Matthew Rickard and Claire Robins, truly a dream team. Former trustees and past Chairs (especially Graham Noakes and Andy Blair) continue to look out for us, as does our President David Whelton whose advice and wisdom are invaluable. We go into 2021-22 without the trusteeship of John Nicholls, who has stepped down after many years. We give John our thanks and will miss his counsel hugely, but luckily for us he will still be part of FYC - as will John's wife Alison - as a staunch supporter and indeed patron.

Meanwhile, musicians and trustees alike are indebted to Operations Manager Liz Chapman for running everything so smoothly and tirelessly, even though it must certainly be harder than herding cats sometimes.

At the time of writing, the Senior Choir has just given FYC's first indoor concert to a 'live' audience since the start of the pandemic 18 months ago. Parents/carers chaperoned the singers, distributed programmes (designed by Andy Blair), assembled and dismantled staging, marshalled uniforms, checked tickets and proffered hand-sanitiser. It put us back in touch with what it's all for. The small matter of a pandemic hasn't changed the fact that FYC's members, aged 7 to 18, have a talent that can move an audience to tears.

5. Structure, Governance and Management

FYC is a registered charity and all activities are planned and implemented under the control of a Management Committee. This includes all arrangements for rehearsals, concerts, tours, recordings and control of finance and expenditure. The Committee usually meets twice every term but has been meeting more frequently than this since the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020. It comprises a Chair, Treasurer and other trustees, supported by a paid Operations Manager. The trustees are joined by Management Officers who are appointed to specific roles and provide support and feedback to the trustees.

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Receipts and Payments Account

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Receipts		
Subscriptions	25,010	29,840
Gift Aid Receipts	-	13,216
Concerts (net)	1,178	(1,973)
Fundraising	14,550	688
Donations	8,035	19,325
Sponsorship	500	-
Patrons	2,130	1,750
Miscellaneous	-	-
	51,403	62,846
Payments		
Fees (Directors and Accompanists)	15,797	25,934
Rent	1,135	1,860
Uniforms, net of receipts	(7)	163
Bank charges	745	605
Administration	17,430	18,412
Music & Commissions	488	1,571
Marketing	979	180
Tours (net)	(3,997)	11,282
Equipment	202	689
Miscellaneous	354	801
	33,126	61,497
Excess of receipts over payments	18,277	6,191

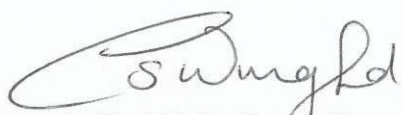
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Balance Sheet

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Current assets		
Equipment	1,900	1,900
Music library	2,000	2,000
Cash at bank	68,553	50,276
Total assets less current liabilities	72,453	54,176

Funds

General fund	39,897	25,380
Development fund	586	586
Marketing fund	9,021	10,000
Mansell fund	2,150	2,150
Friends of FYC fund	16,140	16,060
Vocal coach fund	1,700	-
D'Oyly Carte	2,959	-
	72,453	54,176



On behalf of FYC Committee
Clare Wingfield BSc ACA MBA
Hon. Treasurer

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Farnham Youth Choir

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Farnham Youth Choir ('the Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

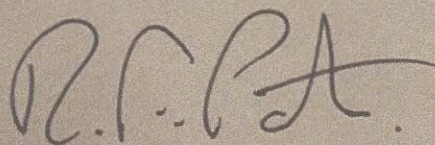
Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed:



Name:

Russell Pabmore

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies:

Address:

60 George Road, Guildford, GU1 4NR.

Date

4th November 2021

FARNHAM YOUTH CHOIR

England & Wales - Charity number 1145358

Accounts

Farnham Youth Choir

Annual Report and Accounts (Financial Year ended 31st August 2020)

Registered charity no. 1145358

1. Aims and Objectives

Farnham Youth Choir (FYC) is committed to promoting, improving and developing the musical education of young people in the Farnham area. This is pursued through the creation and maintenance of a youth choir of the highest musical standards. FYC's activities include the presentation of public concerts, tours both in the UK and abroad, the production of recordings and participation in choral competitions.

The public benefits of the organisation are three-fold:

- i. Young people in the Farnham area can participate in choral activities to a musical standard which may not be available to them within mainstream education. The ethos of FYC throughout its existence has been to ensure that no child is barred from accessing this opportunity purely on the grounds of affordability.
- ii. As a community-based choir, a significant proportion of FYC's public concerts are centred on the Farnham area, thus ensuring that the local population can benefit from attending youth choral concerts of the highest international standard.
- iii. Both FYC members and the local community benefit from the fact that FYC makes Farnham a destination of choice for other leading youth choirs from around the world.

2. Financial Position

The FYC annual accounts for the year ending 31st August 2020 are presented on pages 7 to 8 of this report. An excess of receipts over payments of £1,349 is reported compared to an excess of £6,191 in the previous year. The balance sheet shows total assets less current liabilities of £54,176 (up from £52,827) with £50,276 (up from £48,927) in the bank account as at 31st August 2020.

Costs from the 2019 tours to Switzerland and Sweden of £8,786 are included in these accounts. The balance of the tour fund of £6,825 has been attributed to these costs.

During the year, the Friends of Farnham Youth Choir was dissolved and the balance of their funds, £16,460, was transferred to FYC to be ring-fenced for specific purposes as detailed below.

The cancellation of the World Choir Games plus the choirs' Easter and Summer concerts has had a material impact on the 2019/20 accounts with lost ticket revenues as well as cancellation costs of c.£2k.

FYC has five separate funds:

1. a general fund for the day-to-day operation of the choir; current value £25,380;
2. a development fund to secure the future of FYC through the creation of development opportunities to encourage recruitment and to ensure effective succession planning by widening the team of music professionals who work with the choirs; current value £586;
3. a fundraising and marketing fund to develop FYC's fundraising and marketing proposition; current value £10,000; and
4. The Mansell fund for new commissions; current value £2,150
5. Friends of FYC fund to support FYC tours; current value £16,060.

3. Activities Report from Jo Tomlinson

This is my fifth AGM report and very sadly my final one as I step down as Artistic Director at the end of this term. I've always been able to write extremely positive reports but as you might expect, this year's is rather more difficult to write.

The 2019-20 season was looking particularly positive for FYC, with a top-notch new intake, a fantastic energy following successes in Sweden and Switzerland and a great year ahead preparing for the World Choir Games. The Youth Choir gave an utterly superb performance at Cadogan Hall last November, where we joined Wimbledon Choral Society and top-drawer soloists for a performance of Carmina Burana, and also performed our own first-half set, which went extremely well despite some members having only been in the choir for two months. The usual Christmas concerts followed, with the Civic Carol service and a joyful Farnham Maltings performance. It was also the 35th year of FYC so I invited David Victor-Smith and Alumni of FYC to join us for that concert and it was a very full and buzzing event.

During the Autumn term in 2019 our Training Choir saw a transition of music team from Lucy Joy Morris who had done a wonderful job of growing the choir so that it was full to bursting and needed a second member of staff to assist. Sally Hollyer joined us as Assistant Conductor from the start of term. Sally is a local class and music teacher based in Haslemere and was ideally placed to help run the rehearsals with this age group. Later in the term, Lucy was succeeded by Merel van der Knoop, a piano and singing teacher who trained at Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

In the Spring term, the highlight was the Junior Choir gaining a place in the final of the Barnardos Singing Competition, which meant an exciting trip to London to perform at the Royal Festival Hall and to enjoy a fun day out and a meal at Pizza Express too! The Junior Choir Director Patrick Barrett was due to be only partly with us in the Spring term, and com-

pletely on sabbatical in the summer as he was working in Scotland with the RSNO Chorus, so Margaret O'Shea joined us to cover that time, sharing part of it with Patrick. Margaret is Director of Music for Ark Schools (a network of 38 schools) and is a top music educator in the UK. The Barnardos competition was a thrilling opportunity for our young singers, who were singing at such a high standard for this competition, certainly sounding the best that I had heard our Junior Choir and again everything was looking extremely positive on the musical front for that choir. Just a few days after the competition, lockdown loomed and we made the difficult decision to cancel both our Junior and Senior Spring Concerts, which all three choirs had been preparing for. Things got worse very quickly and it soon became apparent that we would have to make some huge changes to our rehearsals and to our future plans. The move to online teaching for all choirs, via Zoom, presented a very fast learning curve for all the music staff. It was particularly challenging given that Margaret barely knew the Junior Choir at that stage and Merel and Sally were also still very new in their roles. Given the circumstances, it's amazing what was achieved, and a testament to our singers in the way they coped with this incredibly difficult time. I felt that it was very important that we kept contact with our young people and that they could connect with each other, especially given that those in state schools were generally not getting any visual contact with schools, just being set work to get on with themselves. It was hard to put together a programme for the singers, given the limitations of singing online due to the time lag, so the singing could only be done muted. As concerts and competitions got cancelled we no longer had a focus or aim to rehearse towards so for the Youth Choir I put together a music education programme including musicianship, vocal technique, a visit from a composer, games and quizzes, a vocal masterclass and a virtual choir project for the members to record their parts individually. The Junior Choir had a lovely folk-song project with Margaret and the Training Choir learnt fun songs and kept the energy going for these very young singers. The main thing though was to keep the choir connected and feeling part of something that they could eventually return to. Over the summer the committee, Liz, Patrick and I worked very hard following the government guidelines to try to put something in place to be able to rehearse in the flesh in the Autumn. This was quite stressful and hard work for all involved as things seemed to change week by week but eventually we had a risk assessment, a system of volunteers in place and two new venues as Frensham Heights was no longer available to us (huge thanks to Gillian West for making things work so brilliantly at Walsh C of E Junior School in Ash). Covid-safety rules mean that the choirs can only rehearse in groups of up to 15 which means the music team have ended up working much longer hours, so particular thanks to them for being so generous and doing this without extra cost to the choir. Of course the live rehearsals lasted only a few weeks before we have gone into a second lockdown but the system is now in place for when we can get back again, hopefully very soon.

I now pass on the baton to Patrick, who I know will come to this difficult time for the organisation with a fantastic energy and positivity and come up with creative ideas as to how we can move forward. Like all arts organisations, FYC will struggle but I know that with the care and dedication of a fantastic team and the passion the singers feel for this choir, it will survive and thrive again. It's a very sad situation to be leaving in, and frustrating after building up the choir to exactly how I wanted them: a lot of that work will have been lost by the large gap they will have had in their singing. Things are looking more positive for next year though and I hope very much to come back for a "live" goodbye at some point next year. A huge thanks to everyone for making this the most rewarding time for me: to all the current committee, to Helen Cole who has dealt with becoming chair in this situation in such an amazing and calm way, to past chairs Graham and Andy who I have so loved working with, to won-

derful Liz who is such a joy to work with, to all of the music team, especially Matthew who has supported my rehearsals in the kindest and most positive way, to the parents past and present, with whom it's so lovely to form bonds, and not least to our incredible young singers, who I have had the privilege of working with and will never forget.

4. Future Plans

At the time of writing, it is unusually difficult to provide a picture of FYC's future plans: almost anything we might organise at this stage will necessarily remain provisional until the spread of Covid-19 is largely under control. Emerging vaccines are just beginning to show significant promise, but it is well understood that no matter how effective these vaccines might prove to be and how quickly they can be rolled out across the UK, there will be a time lag before the Covid-19 infection rate is reduced to negligible levels.

Meanwhile for most arts organisations including FYC, concerts cannot go ahead. At any given time this may be either because Government guidelines prevent indoor gatherings of people from more than one household or because social distancing rules make the cost of putting on a concert prohibitive. There are slightly different rules in place for church services and for this reason, there is a possibility that the Civic Service at St Andrew's Church in Farnham may yet go ahead in December this year, although its date is not currently definite. It would not be possible for the Service to be celebrated with a congregation in the usual way and the current thinking is that it would instead be live-streamed for watching at home.

Performance is vital to our singers' sense of achievement, and concert revenue is crucially important to FYC's finances. We wait with concern to see how long it will be before this means of funding our activities can return. At the moment, the Youth Choir has a Spring concert booked at St Andrew's Church in Alton on 27th March 2021, whilst it is hoped that FYC's choirs will come together for a Summer Gala Concert on 19th June at the magnificent Menuhin Hall where we were able to put on a memorable concert in the summer of 2019. Both concerts are in doubt depending on the way in which the Covid pandemic unfolds over the coming months. Looking further ahead, the Youth Choir has been working on Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols and a London performance of this, with harpist, has been booked for December 2021. Everyone very much hopes that by this date, performance will be possible once again.

The financial effect of Covid-19 has shown itself not only in lost concert revenue but also in reduced subscription income. Here, the greatest impact has been on the Training Choir. Since the pandemic began, this has been the trickiest of the choirs to operate successfully. The youngest children have found Zoom rehearsals particularly difficult, and even 'live' rehearsals are awkward in small, widely-spaced cohorts: older children have adjusted to this but it is much harder for the younger ones. We know, too, that the youngest singers haven't necessarily developed the passionate attachment to FYC that older singers do. Consequently, numbers have fallen away sharply in this age-group. As a result the trustees have very reluctantly taken the decision to suspend weekly Training Choir rehearsals in the Spring term, and we anticipate that this is likely to remain the situation in the Summer term, depending very much on how the pandemic plays out over that period. However, we plan to keep our youngest singers singing by providing workshops approximately once a month whenever in-person teaching is allowed, led by either Patrick Barrett or Margaret O'Shea.

This will mean that when conditions allow FYC to open up the Training Choir on a weekly basis again, we will be in good shape to get back up to speed quickly.

Fundraising will now become a priority for FYC, requiring us to come up with innovative approaches given that 'traditional' events-based fundraising is ruled out for the moment by the Covid pandemic and social distancing requirements. The £10,000 fundraising and marketing fund referred to in section 2 above expressly permits FYC for the first time to take professional advice on the approaches we can and need to make to philanthropic trusts and similar sources of potential support, and the trustees (guided by Jason Harris and Kevin Sylvester) are actively moving forward on this. Meanwhile, crucially important smaller-scale ways to raise funds are either up and running or in the pipeline. In this respect, sincere thanks go to Melanie Hancox, Lucy Reidy, Clare Wain and Clare Wingfield for their ideas, time and expertise as well as to former Chairs Andy Blair and Graham Noakes for so kindly continuing to lend us their skills in publicity and networking.

A further decision taken by FYC's trustees in recent days is to return to the principle of holding rehearsals for the different choirs on the same night of the week as each other, and at the same venue. When the pandemic brought to an end our long association with Frensham Heights School, we were extremely fortunate to find a home with Walsh C of E Junior School in Ash. Socially-distanced rehearsals demand a large, well-ventilated space and Walsh's school hall more than met this need, but could not accommodate the Junior and Youth choirs concurrently. From January 2021 we will therefore begin rehearsals at the Spire Church in Farnham, comprising what used to be the United Reformed Church and the Methodist Church. This will make life easier for families who have children in more than one of FYC's choirs, and we hope too that rehearsing together will bolster the sense of a family of choirs that Jo Tomlinson in particular has worked so hard to develop. The link we have made with Walsh Junior School is now a very strong one and we hope to continue rehearsing there for training afternoons/days and for Training Choir workshops.

Given the limitations of rehearsing online, conditions in 2020 have created a problem for FYC that will take time and commitment to put right. This concerns the way in which new Youth Choir singers pick up repertoire in large part from listening to (and drawing vocal support from) the more experienced FYC members alongside them. If finances allow, one way of tackling this would be to hold a workshop over a series of days, probably in August, that would enable 'old' members to transmit their knowledge to singers who have more recently joined or moved up to the Youth Choir. This would also be a welcome chance to round off a challenging year in a celebratory way. We are thinking of making this a residential summer camp, in the UK, which would also help to compensate the current Youth Choir for all that they will have missed in the way of the cancelled performances, tours and competitions they were so looking forward to. Whether this plan will be possible or not depends of course on things unknowable at present.

5. Structure, Governance and Management

FYC is a registered charity and all activities are planned and implemented under the control of a Management Committee. This includes all arrangements for rehearsals, concerts, tours, recordings and control of finance and expenditure. The Committee usually meets twice every term but has been meeting more frequently than this since the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020. It comprises a Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and other trustees,

supported by a paid Operations Manager. The trustees are joined by a number of Management Officers who are appointed to specific roles and provide support and feedback to the trustees.

Another charity, the Friends of Farnham Youth Choir (FFYC), previously provided support in a number of areas, including commissions, musical equipment and financial support for subscriptions or tours for families where needed. FFYC was formally dissolved in July 2020, and its remaining funds were transferred to FYC. The sum concerned was ring-fenced as follows:

1. £2,150 remaining in the Mansell fund bequest for new commissions; and
2. £14,310.05 for the support of FYC tours.

FYC is most grateful to FFYC for all the work that they have done over the course of many years, and has received the above funds with gratitude.

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

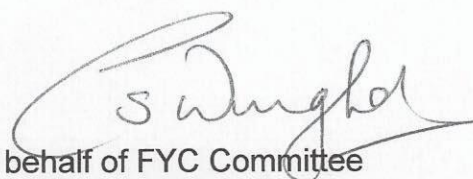
Receipts and Payments Account

	2019/20	2018/19
	£	£
Receipts		
Subscriptions	29,840	23,855
Gift Aid Receipts	13,216	-
Concerts (net)	(1,973)	9,214
Fundraising	688	8,969
Donations	19,325	10,300
Patrons	1,750	1,639
Miscellaneous	-	608
	62,846	54,585
Payments		
Fees (Directors and Accompanists)	25,934	25,183
Rent	1,860	2,800
Uniforms, net of receipts	163	734
Bank charges	605	141
Administration	18,412	12,345
Music & Commissions	1,571	840
Publicity and PR	180	727
Tours (net)	11,282	4,594
Equipment	689	602
Miscellaneous	801	427
	61,497	48,394
Excess/(Deficit) of receipts over payments	1,349	6,191

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Balance Sheet

	2019/20	2018/19
	£	£
Current assets		
Equipment	1,900	1,900
Music library	2,000	2,000
Cash at bank	50,276	48,927
Total assets less current liabilities	54,176	52,827
Funds		
General fund	25,380	34,992
Tour fund	-	6,825
Development fund	586	1,010
Marketing fund	10,000	10,000
Mansell fund	2,150	
Friends of FYC fund	16,060	-
	54,176	52,827



On behalf of FYC Committee
Clare Wingfield BSc ACA MBA
Hon. Treasurer

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Farnham Youth Choir

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Farnham Youth Choir ('the Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

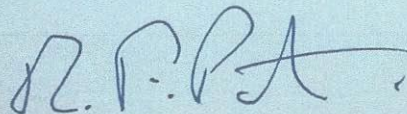
Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed:



Name:

Russell Patmore

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies:

Address:

7 Foxenden Road, Guildford, GU1 4DL

Date

16/11/2020