

WALTHAM SINGERS – Charity number 1153650

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Administrative details

Waltham Singers is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with charity registration number 1153650. The principal address of the charity is currently 69 Maltese Rd. Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 2PB.

During the year to 31 March 2025, and up to the date that this report was approved, the trustees of Waltham Singers were Christine Eason, Geoff Jenkinson, Jane Jenkinson, Kate Hanson, Martin Holmes, Sarah Moran, Sabine Nussey, Jemma Parker, Jill Readings, Stephen Readings, Emma Russell and Mike Wall.

We pay for the professional services of our Musical Director, Andrew Fardell, and our Deputy Director and Rehearsal Accompanist, Jonathan Lilley.

Waltham Singers is affiliated to Making Music.

Governance

Waltham Singers is governed by a constitution last amended on 24 October 2013.

Trustees are elected from the membership at each Annual General Meeting. Trustees serve until the following Annual General Meeting when they retire and are eligible for re-election. The current trustees were elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 29th June 2023.

The trustees have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission when exercising their powers or duties.

Objectives

To promote, improve, develop and maintain high standards of music, particularly singing, through the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by such other means as the trustees determine from time to time.

Activities

We maintained our normal cycle of three full concerts per year. We have recruited a number of new singers during the year, but inevitably we have lost some others, so overall numbers are still down compared to the pre Covid period.

In June 2024 we presented our 'Palgrave's Poets' Concert in Great Waltham Church, Chelmsford. This concert featured works related to poets whose work can be found in Palgrave's 'Golden Treasury of Verse', to mark the 200th anniversary of Palgrave's birth. We were joined by the well-known actor, Robert Bathurst, to read some of the poems to accompany the music.

The works were presented as an 'innocent ear' so the programme was not distributed prior to the performance, but included world premieres of settings by New Hall students and works by Flanders and Swann.

The accompaniment was by Jonathan Lilley on piano. Solo Soprano was Maryam Wocial accompanied by Alfred Fardell.

In November 2024 we performed Beethoven's Mass in C Major and Mozart's Litaniae Lauretanae in Chelmsford Cathedral with The Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra and soloists Maryam Wocial (Soprano), Jennifer Statham (Mezzo), Tom Robson (Tenor) and Colin Campbell (Bass).

Jonathan Lilley played the organ.

The orchestra also performed the Mozart Symphony No. 39 in E flat major K543.

In March 2025 we presented 'Chilcott and Rutter – A Birthday Celebration' in Great Waltham Church, Chelmsford, which was a programme to mark significant birthdays in 2025 of the two important composers. The programme included Bob Chilcott's 'St John Passion and 'Creation Song' and 'Psalmfest' by John Rutter.

The City of London Consort and Jonathan Lilley accompanied the choir and the soloists Sian Sulke (Mezzo), Archie Inns (Tenor) and Tom Butler (Bass).

In March 2025 we also took part in a 'Surround Sound' event at Chelmsford Cathedral produced by the Britten Sinfonia and featuring a wide range of musical styles. The two choir items, Handel's "Zadok the Priest" and Parry's "I was Glad" were conducted by Nigel Short and included Tenebrae. We were very pleased to be invited to take part in the event, enjoyed the experience, and it has been very effective in improving the interest in Waltham Singers on our Social Media Platform.

Financial summary

- This has been another difficult year financially as the number of members remains around 70 compared with 90 before Covid.
- A Quiz Night, was well supported and raised
- A lottery, whereby members and Friends can take part each month has been set up in replacement for the 50:50 club which has now been discontinued.

This latter raised over £10,000 in 33 years but numbers participating never recovered after Covid.

- Total choir funds at 1st April 2024 £9,135.78
- Total choir funds at 31st March 2025 £6,701.11
- We have received Gift Aid repayments from HMRC for 2023/2024 of £2,293.32.

Future activities

- We will be performing 'Welcome to the Dance' in June 2025. This concert will feature works related loosely to Dance including works by Franc, Britten, Brahms, Salieri and Cole Porter.
- We will be performing Mendelsohn's St Paul in Chelmsford Cathedral in November 2025
- We are continuing a recruitment campaign, largely by social media and word of mouth, to encourage new members to join us in September.

Steve Readings (Chair, Waltham Singers)
22 April 2025

	WALTHAM SINGERS			
	Charity No. 1153650			
	RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT			
	FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2024 TO 31ST MARCH 2025			
last year				
	Receipts			
11,253	Concerts	10,040.93	note 1	
3,960	Other Events & Fundraising	1,910.59	note 2	
11,150	Subscriptions	11,005.00		
700	Member Donations	545.00		
2,466	Gift Aid	2,293.32		
240	50:50 Club	207.00		
1,275	Friends	1,376.00		
110	Music Lending	161.03		
75	Programme advertising	75.00		
430	Other Receipts	422.66	note 3	
31,658	Total - General account	28,036.53		
	Payments			
13,845	Concerts	16,356.36	note 1	
653	Other Events	585.63	note 2	
7,760	Musical Director	8,025.00		
2,392	Accompanists	2,994.00		
880	Rehearsal Facility	750.00		
2,599	Music Library	49.48		
584	Making Music (NFMS)	748.73		
0	Publicity	0.00		
0	Administration	94.80		
545	Other Payments	184.25	note 4	
1,634	Payments for last year	480.03	note 5	
0	Payments for next year	204.00	note 6	
30,892	Total - General account	30,472.28		
767	Surplus/ deficit for this period	-2,435.75		
8,369	Opening bank balances	9,135.78		
9,136	Closing bank balances	6,700.03		
	CASH FUNDS BREAKDOWN			
	Deposit Accounts	0.00		
	Current Account	6,700.03		
	Total	6,700.03		

WALTHAM SINGERS				
NOTES TO THE RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT				
FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2024 TO 31ST MARCH 2025				
Note 1 - Concerts		June	December	March
		Gt Waltham	Cathedral	Gt Waltham
	Total			
Ticket Sales	9,542.55	2,523.00	4,769.55	2,250.00
Programme Sales	457.88	172.08	125.80	160.00
Music Sold to Members	40.50		30.00	10.50
Sponsorship	0.00			
Total Receipts	10,040.93	2,695.08	4,925.35	2,420.50
Orchestra	6222.48	57.48	4015.00	2150.00
Workshop fees	0.00			
Soloists	3490.00	740.00	1800.00	950.00
Venue Fees/staging/chair hire	3029.00	415.50	2438.00	175.50
Ticket/Prog/Posters Printing	92.90		92.90	
Instrument Hire	1577.00	522.00	425.00	630.00
Music Bought	280.18		95.63	184.55
Music Hire	1614.80	90.00	338.97	1185.83
Flowers/Food/Sundries/PRS	50.00	10.00	40.00	
	0.00			
Total Payments	16,356.36	1,834.98	9,245.50	5,275.88
Surplus / Deficit	-6315.43	860.10	-4320.15	-2855.38
Note 2 - Other events& fund raising				
	Receipts	Payments	Surplus	
Quiz night	1,115.46	268.87	846.59	
Essex Lottery	76.50		76.50	
Rehearsl coffees	558.68		558.68	
Summer Concert Social	159.95	316.76	-156.81	
Total	1,910.59	585.63	1,324.96	

WALTHAM SINGERS			
NOTES TO THE RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT			
FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2024 TO 31ST MARCH 2025			
Note 3 - Other Receipts			
789 cheque £76 not cleared			76.00
PayPal donation			10.00
interest			7.76
scarves 1 folders 3			25.00
Funeral donation			250.00
Surround Sound Teas			53.90
Total			422.66
Note 4 - Other Payments			
Create website fee			84.84
Open regearsal drinks			35.51
Flowers for Jemma (organised quiz)			10.00
Reimbursed Jill Surround Sound teas			53.90
Total			184.25
Note 5 - Payments for last year			
C Eason ticket refund			44.00
M Holmes music return post			33.53
New Hall School - printing music/posters/tickets			42.50
S Nussey concert expenses			30.00
GW church hire March concert			330.00
Total			480.03
Note 6 - Payments for next year			
Hall hire for summer concert social			204.00

WALTHAM SINGERS

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of "Waltham Singers" Trust

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st March 2025
which are set out on pages 1, 2 and 3.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The CIO's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The CIO's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) 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 Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the CIO and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from 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 statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and 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.

Signed



Name: Roger Bearman

Address: ~~WOODSTOCK~~ CHURCH LANE FORD END CHESTERFORD
CM3 1LN

Date: 13/05/2025

* PLEASE NOTE ATTACHED LETTER
I HAVE A SIGNED COPY IN MY FILE.



Roger Bearman

Woodstock Church Lane

Ford End

Chelmsford

CM3 1LH

13TH. May 2025

For the Attention of the Waltham Singers Committee

I have examined the financial accounts of the WS for the year ending 31st. March 2025 and there is a qualification to the accounts that I need to draw to your attention to which is as follows:

The WS pays substantial cash payments to artists and other persons whom they employ with very little written evidence in respect of whether the payments are exempt from Income Tax and National Insurance Contributions.

HMRC are becoming more active in tracing and tracking payments which are effectively for casual employment. In my opinion WS are leaving themselves open to be challenged that they should have made statutory deductions especially if the artists and others claim retrospectively that they thought the fees were net after deductions.

I therefore recommend that you prepare a template which is completed for each individual which shows: -

Name

Address (if possible)

Date of Employment (i.e. Date of Concert)

Amount Paid

Wording that makes it clear that the payment is paid as a gross fee and WS is not responsible for Income Tax & NIC deductions.

As far as Andrew Fardell and Johnathon Lilley are concerned, they only need to sign one letter each year upon fixing their annual rate. All others need to sign the document on each occasion they perform. They should also be given a copy of the document countersigned by a member of the WS.

I regret that this will cause more administration but it is very important that this recommendation is implemented.



Roger Bearman

Independent Examiner