

RAINBOW CHORUS

England & Wales · Charity number 1161330

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2015-04-20

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

Contact

Address 47 Ditchling Crescent
Brighton
BN1 8GD

Phone 07821898486

Email rctrusteechair@gmail.com

Website www.rainbowchorus.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 3. OBJECTS3.1 The Objects of the RAINBOW CHORUS are:(a) To advance public education in, and appreciation of, the art of choral singing, its study, practice and performance, and to contribute to the quality and range of community events and to assist other charitable causes.(b) To promote social inclusion for the public benefit of people who are socially excluded on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This will be achieved by relieving the isolation and needs of those people. (c) To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit by the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, in particular but not exclusively by raising public awareness of discrimination towards and issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Queer and other associated identities), and in such other ways as are exclusively charitable as the Trustees may from time to time determine.

Activities: 1. To advance public education in, and appreciation of, the art of choral singing.2. To promote social inclusion for people who are socially excluded on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity.3. To promote equality and diversity by raising public awareness of discrimination towards and issues affecting the LGBTQ Plus community

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Brighton And Hove
- East Sussex
- West Sussex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£61,794	£57,178	-	-
2024-03-31	£59,074	£65,372	-	-
2023-03-31	£72,627	£61,623	-	-
2022-03-31	£39,779	£36,622	-	-
2021-03-31	£35,532	£49,503	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Carolyn Ansell BEM	Chair	2020-02-11
Anthony Roy Bates		2024-07-30
Bev Morgan		2017-10-30
DAVID COOPER		2014-09-08
Joelle Leader		2025-05-13
Lesley Ellen Wood		2025-11-04

RAINBOW CHORUS

England & Wales - Charity number 1161330

Accounts

**Report of the Trustees
and Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025
for
RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330**

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Page
Report of the Trustees	2-10
Receipts and Payments Accounts	11-12
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	13
Notes to the Financial Statements	14
Report of the Accountants	15

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. The financial statements have been prepared under the receipts and payments basis.

Trustees

The trustees shown below have held office during the whole of the period covered by this report.

Ms Finola Brophy
Mr David Cooper
Ms Beverley Morgan
Ms Carolyn Ansell

The Trustee shown below resigned on 30 August 2024

Mr Edwin Borgars

The Trustee shown below was appointed on 30 August 2024

Mr Anthony Bates

The principal office of the RAINBOW CHORUS is:

St George's Church
St George's Rd, Kemptown
Brighton
England
BN2 1ED

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods	For governance purposes and to ensure efficient oversight and communication, at least one committee member must be appointed as a trustee. The committee may appoint up to a maximum of 5 trustees from within their number. Further external trustees (external to committee, so may or may not be RC members) up to a maximum number permitted by the constitution may be appointed. These external appointments require a majority vote of both the existing trustees and the committee members.

Additional governance issues

All Trustees are and will be provided with the latest 'The Essential Trustee' publication on appointment, together with copies of our Constitution and policies, our latest Annual Report and accounts information.

To ensure effective governance, the Chair of the Trustees is not on the operating Committee and the constitution states the Chair of the Committee may not be the same as the Chair of the Trustees.

Working together with other organisations has been and will continue to be an important part of how Rainbow Chorus operates. Our activities included our usual programme of performances, concerts and gigs, to mark some important dates in the LGBTQ+ calendar including working with Brighton Gay Mens Chorus, Actually Gay Mens Chorus and Marco Nardi our sign language interpreter to produce our joint concert for World Aids Day to raise awareness of issues around HIV and Aids. Working together makes us all stronger and sends clear messages of support and solidarity.

The Rainbow Chorus is part of Proud Voices, the UK and Eire choral network and Legato, the European Association of LGBTQ+ choirs. We also belong to Community Works, a local networking and support organisation.

Membership of all the above organisations helps our reputation and enables us to exchange good practice. It further promotes our activities and allows us to access advice and training which helps us to run the charity and meet our objectives.

Risks

Financially the risks for Rainbow Chorus are:

1. That we may not receive future funding for projects that are grant funded e.g. RC+ and our outreach to the Deaf & sign language user community;
2. That a concert may have to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances;
3. That a concert might make a loss;
4. That our membership numbers fall;
5. That the Trustees take decisions they believe to be in the best interests of the chorus, which are challenged, resulting in a loss to the chorus finances.

We therefore have some reserves in case these risks materialise - see reserves policy. Other risks for loss/damage/injury are covered by an insurance policy that includes public liability and cover for our members and volunteers.

There were no risks arising in the current year.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objectives are:

1. To advance public education in, and appreciation of, the art of choral singing, its study, practice and performance, and to contribute to the quality and range of community events and to assist other charitable causes.
2. To promote social inclusion for the public benefit of people who are socially excluded on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This will be achieved by relieving the isolation and needs of those people.
3. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit by the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, in particular but not exclusively by raising public awareness of discrimination towards and issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Queer and other associated identities), and in such other ways as are exclusively charitable as the Trustees may from time to time determine.

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 and 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

As the largest LGBTQ+ community choir in the South East outside London we actively reach out to the whole community and we welcome Trans members and supporters. Supporting Trans Pride and Trans Day of Remembrance, having a dedicated Trans rep, promoting RC+ (our outreach project) and ensuring that our social media is explicitly inclusive sends a positive message to the Trans community.

We continue to raise awareness of deaf issues and to develop our work with the Deaf and sign language user community. Marco Nardi and colleagues continue to support us using British Sign Language to interpret our main performances. A Rainbow Chorus member, also a BSL interpreter supports the choir in providing BSL training videos for signing in our performances.

In an uncertain world, we continue to hear of discrimination experienced by LGBTQ+ people in our communities and around the world. Rainbow Chorus raises awareness of LGBTQ+ issues through our activities and performances and ensures that we promote and support equality and diversity.

RC+: Thanks to the players of the Postcode Lottery and a grant from Postcode Society Trust, we have continued with RC+, our monthly choir, giving all members of the LGBTQ+ community the opportunity to sing for fun. It is a safe space particularly for less confident or isolated members of the LGBTQ+ community (some living outside Brighton & Hove). It is also a safe space for members of the Trans community who may wish to explore their vocal ability and changing voice. Many members of the weekly Rainbow Chorus choir also enjoy attending RC+.

We also signpost members to other LGBTQ+ services particularly those needing support with their mental health.

We were proud to be part of the Hand-in-Hand choral festival in Bristol in August 2024, attended by over 1400 other LGBTQ_ choir members from 45 choirs across UK & Ireland. Preparations are currently underway to attend the Various Voices choral festival in Brussels in June 2026 where we will be one of 120 LGBTQ+ choirs from 18 countries coming together to sing.

We retain our policy of ensuring no-one is excluded from any of our activities on the grounds of cost and this starts with subscriptions. Some members therefore pay reduced, minimal or no payment. This all helps us to meet our objective of promoting social inclusion. In addition to ensuring none of our members are excluded, we offer a concert ticket concession price at approximately two thirds of our full price tickets. This hopefully helps those members of the public on reduced or lower incomes to be able to attend our concerts. We also provide some free access to service users of a local HIV/AIDS charity to further ensure our performances are as inclusive as possible.

We perform at some community events without charge or with a reduced fee, to further raise our profile and ensure that those in the wider community are aware of discrimination towards and issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community. This year we supported these events with live performances :

- IDAHOBIT (international day against homophobia, biphobia and transphobia).
- Brighton Bear Weekend
- Trans Pride
- Zero HIV Stigma Rally
- The Coast is Queer
- Trans Day of Remembrance
- World Aids Day
- St George's Church Bicentennial concert

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Additional details of objectives and activities

The John Kernaghan Bursary Fund invites applications from any member who would otherwise be unable to take part in our activities, particularly tours away. There is a policy covering application and how decisions are made, with guidelines for applicants and the Trustees, including evidence needed. Applications are anonymised, so that decisions are made on the basis of evidence without favour. We currently have a healthy balance in this fund and are not actively fundraising for it.

Our volunteers are known as our **5th section**: We could not manage to run our concerts and other activities without our 5th section of volunteers, co-ordinated this year by Georgina Moonesinghe and Carolyn Ansell. The 5th section is made up of partners, allies, friends and family of RC members and members of RC+ who carry out a whole range of tasks from planning and preparation, serving food, running bars and stewarding to filming, driving and joining sub groups to work on our fundraising and other activities.

Our Committee members are all volunteers and run Rainbow Chorus with great enthusiasm for both our core activities and extra projects that add value for the wider community. There are also many members who give their own time to help with any number of projects or ongoing work to run the Chorus.

Our MD, accompanist and treasurer invoice us for their time but also contribute a number of hours pro bono. We are extremely grateful to our volunteers, music team, members, the LGBTQ+ and wider community and allies. Their support is always a source of inspiration and encouragement.

Achievements and performance

The following is a timeline of Rainbow Chorus activities and events in which we have taken part during the year to 31st March 2025. In some way each of the activities and events has helped us to further or achieve the aims laid out in the Objectives of our constitution.

May

17. Co-hosted IDAHOBIT in Jubilee Square, Brighton: RC/RC+ is always proud to support this event alongside other LGBTQ+ choirs in Brighton and Hove, to show our solidarity and support for LGBTQ+ people and communities everywhere who continue to experience discrimination, hatred and violence.

June

29. "Pergolesi & Pimms" annual summer concert of The Rainbow Chorus, featuring RC+

July

13. RC performed at Brighton Bear Weekend an LGBTQ+ fundraiser for local community projects.

20. Trans Pride Brighton. This year we were proud to perform at the outdoor event in New Steine Gardens, supporting and celebrating our TNBI family.

21. Zero HIV Stigma Rally, Jubilee Square, Brighton. RC are keen to have this in our annual calendar, in order to support this global initiative organised locally by Lunch Positive. The event raises awareness of those living with or affected by HIV and seeks to support the elimination of HIV stigma.

August

3. Rainbow Chorus takes part in the Brighton Pride parade with our float, celebrating with half a million visitors to the city.

16. Rainbow Chorus enjoyed a 3 day choir festival of LGBTQ+ choirs from across UK and Ireland as they came together to sing at indoor and outdoor venues across Bristol.

October

13. Rainbow chorus was invited to perform at The Coast is Queer, an annual LGBTQ+ literary festival in Brighton.

November

17. Trans Day of Remembrance vigil at Fabrica, Brighton, with a performance by Rainbow Chorus.

December

1. World Aids Day with the joint choirs' concert, co-arranged by Rainbow Chorus, with c. £4000 raised for Lunch Positive. In addition, RC members and trustees took part in the Reading of the Names vigil ahead of the performance, alongside members of the Brighton community.

14. "The Big Festive Rainbow Belter" annual winter concert of the Rainbow Chorus, featuring RC+.

In December 2024, we said farewell to Olly Parr, our Musical Accompanist (MA). Between Olly's departure and the recruitment and arrival of their permanent replacement later in 2025, we were ably supported by Anya Kolesnik as our temporary MA.

January

25. St George's Church, our main rehearsal and performance venue, held a celebratory Bicentennial concert, at which Rainbow Chorus was proud to perform.

In addition to the above we ran 12 RC+ Choir sessions throughout the year.

Financial review

**Brief statement of the
charity's policy on reserves**

Reserves policy

During the year our expenditure varies each month, partly due to some annual membership/website payments. We also purchase our music scores in advance and these costs are necessarily incurred in advance of terms rather than equally spread out over the year. This is the same for voice part file purchases online or their creation if completed by our music team. Our policy of ring fencing funds for specific projects and areas of expenditure ensures we are always aware of the true level of free reserves available for any unforeseen eventuality. However the fluctuating level of monthly expenditure can mean monthly income may not cover that month's expenditure. For these reasons, we need to hold a certain amount of reserves. We also consider it prudent to hold some level of reserves to cover a few months running expenses particularly as grants are often paid following payment of expenditure on receipt of a claim from us.

When adjusted to include credits received (£979) and payments made just after our year end (£2494), the year end reserve balance was £26,449.

Further financial review details

The charity's income is sourced from 5 main areas: Membership subscriptions, grants, fundraising, donations and income from concerts and performances. We continue to be mindful of those members who are on a fixed or suddenly reduced income, or who have had little or no salary increases for a number of years and treat each case individually. This helps us create a balance between maintaining our income level and ensuring anyone can be a member of the chorus irrespective of income.

**Details of any funds materially
in deficit**

None.

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

**Details of any debt owed by
the CIO**

None.

**Details of any guarantees
given by the CIO**

None.

Rainbow Chorus
Registered Charity 1161330

Receipts and Payments
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Last year
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Membership Subscriptions	23948	-	23948	23899
Gift Aid	5643	381	6024	4972
Grant Income	-	10304	10304	4809
Concert Income	12868	-	12868	15383
Bursary, Donations to Chorus & Sponsorship	1931	1525	3456	2389
Sundry income & refunds	588	-	588	360
Uniforms & Merchandise	22	499	521	565
Bucket Collections, Grand Draw & Raffles	2404	-	2404	2140
Special Projects (Tours)	-	1335	1335	4273
Bank Interest	237	109	346	284
Previous year reclassification of income	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	47641	14153	61794	59074
Asset and investment sales etc	-	-	-	-
<i>Total receipts</i>	47641	14153	61794	59074
Payments				
Music Director & Accompanist's fees	18851	4720	23571	23648
Other musician & professional fees	8570	-	8570	9135
Regular rehearsal costs	2695	678	3373	2445
Performance costs	2947	-	2947	2558
Marketing & publicity	-	-	-	-
Subscriptions & website fees	1052	257	1309	1759
Postage & stationery	399	-	399	1079
Travel	260	4	264	193
Music purchases	4266	699	4965	4081
Insurance	116	39	155	151
Storage	3737	-	3737	3225
Uniforms & Merchandise	-	595	595	-
Special projects	65	3252	3317	12094
Community events	1306	-	1306	1559
Props, equipment & costumes	465	-	465	757
Accountancy	1200	-	1200	990
Donations	-	-	-	-
Sundries	806	-	806	1447
Bank charges	199	-	199	251
<i>Sub total</i>	46934	10244	57178	65372
Asset and investment purchases	-	-	-	-
<i>Total payments</i>	46934	10244	57178	65372
Net of receipts/ (payments)	707	3909	4616	(6298)

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Receipts and Payments
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
Transfers between funds	-	-		
Cash funds last year end	20,571	2,777	23,348	29,646
Cash funds this year end	21,278	6,686	27,964	23,348

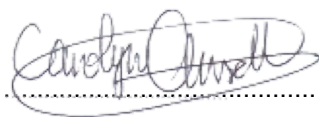
**RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330**

**Statement of Assets and
Liabilities For the Year Ended 31
March 2025**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Cash funds			
Bank balances	21,278	6,686	27,964
	21,278	6,686	27,964
Other Monetary Assets			
Prepayment	-	110	110
Debtors	125	854	979
	125	964	1089
Liabilities			
Creditors	2174	320	2494
	2174	320	2494

Name of Trustee: ...Carolyn Ansell.....

Signature:



Date of approval: 27-Jan-2026.....

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the receipts and payments basis.

Incoming resources

Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds represent membership subscriptions (including RC+), gift aid, fundraising unless targeted for a specific purpose, merchandise, website donations and concert income.

Restricted funds

The restricted funds represent grant funding (including RC+), Bursary fund, fundraising targeted for a specific purpose, gift aid, uniforms and monies received for special projects.

Other incoming resources

There are no restrictions on the use of other incoming resources towards achieving the organisations charitable objectives.

Resources expended

Resources expended are accounted for by way of nature and on a receipts and payments basis.

2. PAYMENTS MADE FOLLOWING THE FINANCIAL YEAR END:

Payments were made shortly after the financial year end amounting to £2494 which related to expenses that were incurred in the financial year to 31 March 2025. Amounts owing to Rainbow Chorus at the year end totalled £979; of these £125 was paid just after the year end, with £97 cleared by funds received later in the following year. The remaining £757 relates to amounts due from members to cover expenses already incurred for Various Voices 2026 (Tours). If these credits had been received and the expenses had been paid prior to 31 March 2025, these would have been included in the receipts and payments in this year's financial statements, resulting in a decrease in the net profit and a decrease in cash funds held. The amounts owing to Rainbow Chorus at the year end all relate to funds which are recorded as restricted in our accounts, except for £125. Last year's report advised of expenses to be paid by RC of £1986 and credits owing of £2050, relating to the financial year to 31 March 2024. These amounts are included in this year's figures as it had not been possible to process these before 31st March 2024.

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Report of the Accountants to the Trustees of
Rainbow Chorus

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the financial statements of Rainbow Chorus for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 2 to 14.

Respective responsibilities

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act, to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

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

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, I confirm no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect: accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records. I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed by the Independent Examiner



Lauren Newman MAAT
Thomas Christopher & Co
7A Church Street
Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 1US

Date.....27-Jan-2026

RAINBOW CHORUS

England & Wales - Charity number 1161330

Accounts

**Report of the Trustees
and Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024
for
RAINBOW CHORUS
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RAINBOW CHORUS
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for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Page
Report of the Trustees	2-10
Receipts and Payments Accounts	11-12
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RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared under the receipts and payments basis.

Trustees

The trustees shown below have held office during the whole of the period covered by this report.

Ms Finola Brophy
Mr David Cooper
Mr Edwin Borgars
Ms Beverley Morgan
Ms Carolyn Ansell

The principal office of the RAINBOW CHORUS is:

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Risks

Financially the risks for Rainbow Chorus are:

1. That we may not receive future funding for projects that are grant funded e.g. RC+ and our outreach to the Deaf & sign language user community;
2. That a concert may have to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances;
3. That a concert might make a loss;
4. That our membership numbers dwindle;
5. That the Trustees take decisions they believe to be in the best interests of the chorus, which are challenged, resulting in a loss to the chorus finances.

We therefore have some reserves in case these risks materialise - see reserves policy. Other risks for loss/damage/injury are covered by an insurance policy that includes public liability and cover for our members and volunteers.

There were no risks arising in the current year.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objectives are:

1. To advance public education in, and appreciation of, the art of choral singing, its study, practice and performance, and to contribute to the quality and range of community events and to assist other charitable causes.
2. To promote social inclusion for the public benefit of people who are socially excluded on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This will be achieved by relieving the isolation and needs of those people.
3. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit by the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, in particular but not exclusively by raising public awareness of discrimination towards and issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Queer and other associated identities), and in such other ways as are exclusively charitable as the Trustees may from time to time determine.

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 and 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

As the largest LGBTQ+ community choir in the South East outside London we actively reach out to the whole community and we welcome Trans members and supporters. Supporting Trans Pride and Trans Day of Remembrance, having a dedicated Trans rep, promoting RC+ (our outreach project) and ensuring that our social media is explicitly inclusive sends a positive message to the Trans community.

We continue to raise awareness of deaf issues and to develop our work with the Deaf and sign language user community. Marco Nardi continues to support us using British Sign Language to interpret our main performances. The previously awarded £1500 from Tesco Community Grants enabled us to provide BSL interpretation at 3 concerts in 2023.

In an uncertain world, we continue to hear of discrimination experienced by LGBTQ+ people in our communities and around the world. Rainbow Chorus raises awareness of LGBTQ+ issues through our activities and performances and ensures that we promote and support equality and diversity.

RC+: Thanks to grants from The Brighton Rainbow Fund we have continued with RC+, our monthly choir, giving all members of the LGBTQ+ community the opportunity to sing for fun. It is a safe space particularly for less confident or isolated members of the LGBTQ+ community (some living outside Brighton & Hove). It is also a safe space for members of the Trans community who may wish to explore their vocal ability and changing voice. Many members of the weekly Rainbow Chorus choir also enjoy attending RC+.

We also signpost members to other LGBTQ+ services particularly those needing support with their mental health.

We were proud to be part of the Various Voices choral festival in Bologna in June 2023, attended by over 4000 other LGBTQ+ choir members. We were also delighted to be singing at Choirfest, Brighton & Hove, organised by our MD in October, as a celebration of choirs, the people and their stories. Preparations were also made to attend the Hand-in-Hand choral festival in Bristol in August 2024.

We retain our policy of ensuring no-one is excluded from any of our activities on the grounds of cost and this starts with subscriptions. Some members therefore pay reduced, minimal or no payment. This all helps us to meet our objective of promoting social inclusion. In addition to ensuring none of our members are excluded, we offer a concert ticket concession price at approximately two thirds of our full price tickets. This hopefully helps those members of the public on reduced or lower incomes to be able to attend our concerts. We also provide some free access to service users of a local HIV/AIDS charity to further ensure our performances are as inclusive as possible.

We perform at some community events without charge or with a reduced fee, to further raise our profile and ensure that those in the wider community are aware of discrimination towards and issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community. This year we supported these events with live performances :

- IDAHOBIT (international day against homophobia, biphobia and transphobia).
- Trans Pride
- Zero HIV Stigma Rally
- ChoirFest
- Trans Day of Remembrance
- World Aids Day
- Lesbian Lives Conference

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Additional details of objectives and activities

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The 5th section is made up of partners, friends and family of RC members and members of RC+ who carry out a whole range of tasks from serving food, running bars and stewarding to filming, driving and joining sub groups to work on our fundraising and other activities. Our Committee members are all volunteers and run Rainbow Chorus with great enthusiasm for both our core activities and extra projects that add value for the wider community. There are also many members who give their own time to help with any number of projects or ongoing work to run the Chorus. Our MD, accompanist and treasurer invoice us for their time but also contribute a number of hours pro bono. We are extremely grateful to our volunteers, music team, members, the LGBTQ+ and wider community. Their support is always a source of inspiration and encouragement.

Achievements and performance

The following is a timeline of Rainbow Chorus activities and events in which we have taken part during the year to 31st March 2024. In some way each of the activities and events has helped us to further or achieve the aims laid out in the Objectives of our constitution.

May:

17th - IDAHOBIT: RC/RC+ performance always proud to support this event and show our solidarity and support for LGBTQ+ people and communities everywhere who continue to experience discrimination, hatred and violence.

June:

14th to 18th Various Voices Bologna choral festival.

July:

8th - 'Hot Harmonies' our summer concert.

15th - Trans Pride Brighton - despite some extreme weather, the organisers moved from an outdoor to an indoor event and RC was pleased to contribute to the days activities with our performance.

21st - Zero HIV Stigma Rally - A new event for RC to support. A global initiative, organised locally by our friends at Lunch Positive, to raise awareness of those living with or affected by HIV and to help eliminate HIV stigma.

August:

9th - Rainbow Chorus take part in the Pride parade with our float.

September:

12th - Eusarf Conference (The European Scientific Association On Residential And Family Care For Children And Adolescents) - a private booking for Rainbow chorus to perform at this event.

October:

RC+ was awarded a 6 month grant of up to £4000 from The Rainbow Fund.

15th - ChoirFest! Performances celebrating local choirs, the people & their stories.

November:

20th - Trans Day of Remembrance vigil at Jubilee Square and the Ledward Centre with a performance by the chorus.

December:

1st - World Aids Day with the joint choirs' concert, co-arranged by Rainbow Chorus, with £3427 raised for Lunch Positive.

9th - 'Snowing Me, Snowing You' - our Christmas concert with just a touch of Abba. A touch of sadness too, as we said Goodbye to our long standing accompanist, Mojca Monte Amali after 11 years.

January:

We welcome Olly Parr as the new accompanist for Rainbow Chorus & RC+.

March:

22nd - Lesbian Lives Conference with a performance by Rainbow Chorus.

In addition to the above we ran 12 **RC+ Workshop Choir** sessions.

Financial review

**Brief statement of the
charity's policy on reserves**

Reserves policy

During the year our expenditure varies each month, partly due to some annual membership/website payments. We also purchase our music scores in advance and these costs are necessarily incurred in advance of terms rather than equally spread out over the year. This is the same for voice part file purchases online or their creation if completed by our music team. Our policy of ring fencing funds for specific projects and areas of expenditure ensures we are always aware of the true level of free reserves available for any unforeseen eventuality. However the fluctuating level of monthly expenditure can mean monthly income may not cover that month's expenditure. For these reasons, we need to hold a certain amount of reserves. We also consider it prudent to hold some level of reserves to cover a few months running expenses particularly as grants are often paid following payment of expenditure on receipt of a claim from us. When adjusted to include credits received (£2050) and payments made just after our year end (£1986), the year end reserve balance was £23,412.

Further financial review details

The charity's income is sourced from 5 main areas: Membership subscriptions, grants, fundraising, donations and income from concerts and performances. We continue to be mindful of those members who are on a fixed or suddenly reduced income, or who have had little or no salary increases for a number of years and treat each case individually. This helps us create a balance between maintaining our income level and ensuring anyone can be a member of the chorus irrespective of income.

**Details of any funds materially
in deficit**

None.

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

**Details of any debt owed by
the CIO**

None.

**Details of any guarantees
given by the CIO**

None.

Rainbow Chorus
Registered Charity 1161330

Receipts and Payments
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
Receipts				
Membership Subscriptions	23899	-	23899	21152
Gift Aid	4925	47	4972	5238
Grant Income	-	4809	4809	5287
Concert Income	15383	-	15383	11656
Bursary, Donations to Chorus & Sponsorship	2188	201	2389	5811
Sundry income & refunds	360	-	360	183
Uniforms & Merchandise	436	129	565	1882
Bucket Collections, Grand Draw & Raffles	2140	-	2140	1838
Special Projects (Tours)	-	4273	4273	19480
Bank Interest	182	102	284	100
Previous year reclassification of income	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	49513	9561	59074	72627
Asset and investment sales etc	-	-	-	-
<i>Total receipts</i>	49513	9561	59074	72627
Payments				
Music Director & Accompanist's fees	19045	4603	23648	21598
Other musician & professional fees	7635	1500	9135	6535
Regular rehearsal costs	1967	478	2445	2105
Performance costs	2558	-	2558	1695
Marketing & publicity	-	-	-	55
Subscriptions & website fees	1525	234	1759	1276
Postage & stationery	1079	-	1079	680
Travel	193	-	193	120
Music purchases	4021	60	4081	2361
Insurance	113	38	151	143
Storage	3225	-	3225	2959
Uniforms & Merchandise	-	-	-	2615
Special projects	937	11157	12094	15540
Community events	1559	-	1559	1546
Props, equipment & costumes	757	-	757	509
Accountancy	990	-	990	1110
Donations	-	-	-	-
Sundries	1447	-	1447	566
Bank charges	251	-	251	210
<i>Sub total</i>	47302	18070	65372	61623
Asset and investment purchases	-	-	-	-
<i>Total payments</i>	47302	18070	65372	61623
Net of receipts/ (payments)	2211	(8509)	(6298)	11004

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Receipts and Payments
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
Transfers between funds	-	-		
Cash funds last year end	18,360	11,286	29,646	18,642
Cash funds this year end	20,571	2,777	23,348	29,646

**RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330**

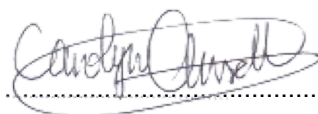
**Statement of Assets and
Liabilities For the Year Ended 31
March 2023**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Cash funds			
Bank balances	20,571	2,777	23,348
	20,571	2,777	23,348
Other Monetary Assets			
Outstanding Grant Funding	-	964	964
Debtors	150	936	1086
	150	1900	2050
Liabilities			
Creditors	1786	200	1986
	1786	200	1986

Name of Trustee:

...Carolyn Ansell.....

Signature:



Date of approval:

.... 25-Mar-2025.....

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the receipts and payments basis.

Incoming resources

Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds represent membership subscriptions (including RC+), gift aid, fundraising unless targeted for a specific purpose, website donations and concert income.

Restricted funds

The restricted funds represent grant funding (including RC+), Bursary fund, fundraising targeted for a specific purpose, uniforms and monies received for special projects.

Other incoming resources

There are no restrictions on the use of other incoming resources towards achieving the organisations charitable objectives.

Resources expended

Resources expended are accounted for by way of nature and on a receipts and payments basis.

2. PAYMENTS MADE FOLLOWING THE FINANCIAL YEAR END:

Payments were made shortly after the financial year end amounting to £1986 which related to expenses that were incurred in the financial year to 31 March 2024. Amounts owing to Rainbow Chorus at the year end totalled £2050; of these £150 was paid just after the year end, with £187.77 and £964 received later in the following year. The remaining £748 relates to amounts due from members to cover expenses already incurred for Hand in Hand 2024 (Tours). If these credits had been received and the expenses had been paid prior to 31 March 2024, these would have been included in the receipts and payments in this year's financial statements, resulting in a small decrease in the net deficit and a increase in cash funds held. The amounts owing to Rainbow Chorus at the year end all relate to funds which are recorded as restricted in our accounts, except for £150. Last year's report advised of expenses to be paid by RC of £3101 and a credit owing of £1325, relating to the financial year to 31 March 2023. These amounts are included in this year's figures as it had not been possible to process these before 31st March 2023.

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Report of the Accountants to the Trustees of
Rainbow Chorus

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the financial statements of Rainbow Chorus for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 2 to 14.

Respective responsibilities

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act, to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

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

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, I confirm no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect: accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records. I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed by the Independent Examiner



Lauren Newman MAAT
Thomas Christopher & Co
7A Church Street
Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 1US

Date.....25-MAR-2025

RAINBOW CHORUS

England & Wales - Charity number 1161330

Accounts

**Report of the Trustees
and Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023
for
RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330**

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Page
Report of the Trustees	2-10
Receipts and Payments Accounts	11-12
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	13
Notes to the Financial Statements	14
Report of the Accountants	15

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023. The financial statements have been prepared under the receipts and payments basis.

Trustees

The trustees shown below have held office during the whole of the period covered by this report.

Ms Finola Brophy
Mr David Cooper
Mr Edwin Borgars
Ms Beverley Morgan
Ms Carolyn Ansell

The principal office of the RAINBOW CHORUS is:

St George's Church
St George's Rd, Kemptown
Brighton
England
BN2 1ED

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods	The members voted to accept an updated constitution at the last AGM. For governance purposes and to ensure efficient oversight and communication, at least one committee member must be appointed as a trustee. The committee may appoint up to a maximum of 5 trustees from within their number. Further external trustees (external to committee, so may or may not be RC members) up to a maximum number permitted by the constitution may be appointed. These external appointments require a majority vote of both the existing trustees and the committee members.

Additional governance issues

All Trustees are and will be provided with the latest 'The Essential Trustee' publication on appointment, together with copies of our Constitution and policies, our latest Annual Report and accounts information.

To ensure effective governance, the Chair of the Trustees is not on the operating Committee and the constitution states the Chair of the Committee may not be the same as the Chair of the Trustees.

Working together with other organisations has been and will continue to be an important part of how Rainbow Chorus operates. Covid restrictions were lifted prior to the start of this year but member concerns continued to inform our activities at the start of this financial year. Our various activities have included outdoor performances to mark some important dates in the LGBTQ+ calendar and a return to more normal indoor concerts and gigs, including working with Brighton Gay Mens Chorus, The Actually Gay Mens Chorus and Marco Nardi our sign language interpreter to produce our joint concert for World Aids Day to raise awareness of issues around HIV and Aids.

Working together makes us all stronger and sends clear messages of support and solidarity.

The Rainbow Chorus is part of Proud Voices, the UK and Eire choral network and Legato, the European Association of LGBTQ+ choirs. We also belong to Community Works, a networking and support organisation and the local LGBTQ+ Groups Network.

Membership of all the above organisations helps our reputation

and enables us to exchange good practice. It further promotes our activities and allows us to access advice and training which helps us to run the charity and meet our objectives.

Risks

Financially the risks for Rainbow Chorus are:

1. That we may not receive future funding for projects that are grant funded e.g. RC+ and our outreach to the Deaf & sign language user community;
2. That a concert may have to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances;
3. That a concert might make a loss;
4. That our membership numbers dwindle;
5. That the Trustees take decisions they believe to be in the best interests of the chorus, which are challenged, resulting in a loss to the chorus finances.

We therefore have some reserves in case these risks materialise - see reserves policy. Other risks for loss/damage/injury are covered by an insurance policy that includes public liability and cover for our members and volunteers.

There were no risks arising in the current year, with our concerts being the most profitable of any year since we became a charity.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objectives are:

1. To advance public education in, and appreciation of, the art of choral singing, its study, practice and performance, and to contribute to the quality and range of community events and to assist other charitable causes.
2. To promote social inclusion for the public benefit of people who are socially excluded on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This will be achieved by relieving the isolation and needs of those people.
3. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit by the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, in particular but not exclusively by raising public awareness of discrimination towards and issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Queer and other associated identities), and in such other ways as are exclusively charitable as the Trustees may from time to time determine.

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 and 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

As the largest LGBTQ+ community choir in the South East outside London we actively reach out to the whole community and we welcome Trans members and supporters. Supporting Trans Pride and Trans Day of Remembrance, having a dedicated Trans rep, promoting RC+ (our outreach project) and ensuring that our social media is explicitly inclusive sends a positive message to the Trans community.

We continue to raise awareness of deaf issues and to develop our work with the Deaf and sign language user community. Disablism against LGBTQ+ Deaf people is a regular experience for those within this community. Marco Nardi continues to support us using British Sign Language to interpret our main performances. Rainbow Chorus was delighted to win the public vote in local Tesco stores to enable us to continue our work with Marco: Tesco Community Grants awarded us £1500 to provide BSL interpretation at 3 concerts in 2023

The level of discrimination and racism experienced by LGBTQ+ people in our communities and around the world continues and Rainbow Chorus ensures that our performances promote and support equality and diversity.

RC+: Thanks to grants from Brighton & Hove City Council in the period to July 2022 and from The Brighton Rainbow Fund from October 2022 we have continued with RC+, our workshop choir, giving all members of the LGBTQ+ community the opportunity to sing for fun. It is a safe space particularly for less confident or isolated members of the LGBTQ+ community (some living outside Brighton & Hove). It is also a safe space for members of the Trans community who may wish to explore their vocal ability and changing voice. Many members of the performing Rainbow Chorus continue to attend to improve their music skills.

We also signpost members to other LGBTQ+ services particularly those needing support with their mental health.

Choral festivals are once again being organised and members were looking forward to Various Voices Bologna in May 2023, shortly after the end of this financial year. Early preparations were also started for the next Hand-in-Hand event in Bristol in 2024.

We retain our policy of ensuring no-one is excluded from any of our activities on the grounds of cost and this starts with subscriptions. Some members therefore pay reduced, minimal or no payment. This all helps us to meet our objective of promoting social inclusion. In addition to ensuring none of our members are excluded, we retain the concert ticket concession price at two thirds of our full price tickets. This hopefully helps those members of the public on reduced or lower incomes to be able to attend our concerts. We also provide some free access to service users of a local HIV/AIDS charity to further ensure our performances are as inclusive as possible.

We perform at some community events without charge, to further raise our profile and ensure that those in the wider community are aware of discrimination towards and issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community. This year we supported these events with live performances :

- IDAHOBIT (international day against homophobia, biphobia and transphobia).
- Trans Pride
- Brighton Bear Weekend
- Trans Day of Remembrance
- World Aids Day

Additional details of objectives and activities

The John Kernaghan Bursary Fund invites applications from any member who would otherwise be unable to take part in our activities, particularly tours away. There is a policy covering application and how decisions are made, with guidelines for applicants and the Trustees, including evidence needed. Applications are anonymised, so that decisions are made on the basis of evidence without favour. We currently have a healthy balance in this fund and are not actively fundraising for it.

Our volunteers are known as our **5th section**: We could not manage to run our concerts and other activities without our 5th section of volunteers, co-ordinated this year by Jane MacDonald with the support of Chris Cunningham.

The 5th section is made up of partners, friends and family of RC members and members of RC+ who carry out a whole range of tasks from serving food, running bars and stewarding to filming, driving and joining sub groups to work on our fundraising and other activities. Our Committee members are all volunteers and run Rainbow Chorus with great enthusiasm for both our core activities and extra projects that add value for the wider community. There are also many members who give their own time to help with any number of projects or ongoing work to run the Chorus. Our MD, accompanist and treasurer invoice us for their time but also contribute a number of hours pro bono. We are extremely grateful to our volunteers, music team, members, the LGBTQ+ and wider community. Their support is always a source of inspiration and encouragement.

Achievements and performance

2022 was a landmark year for Rainbow Chorus, celebrating both our 25th birthday and the 10 year anniversary of our music team. Our logo was given a refresh thanks to Gareth Pugh and our concerts celebrated these important events.

The following is a timeline of Rainbow Chorus activities and events in which we have taken part during the year to 31st March 2023. In some way each of the activities and events has helped us to further or achieve the aims laid out in the Objectives of our constitution.

April:

5th - Our music team celebrate their 10 year anniversary with the chorus.

May:

17th - IDAHOBIT: RC/RC+ performance outside at Jubilee Square - great to be singing outside and supporting this event in person again. Always an important day to show our solidarity and support for LGBTQ+ people and communities everywhere who continue to experience discrimination, hatred and violence.

June:

Beginning a Rainbow - an article by current member and founder of Rainbow Chorus, Carl Boardman, is featured in Gscene, detailing the origins of the choir, now in its 25th year.

July:

Throughout July, August & September, members of the public are invited to vote in local Tesco stores, via the blue token scheme, to support our deaf outreach with a programme of 3 concerts including a BSL interpreter.

9th - '25' our summer concert.

16th - We were invited to perform at 2 community events on the same day: Trans Pride Brighton and Brighton Bear Weekend, with a great turnout at both events from the public.

August:

6th - Rainbow Chorus and RC+ decorated a bus shelter in preparation for the Brighton Pride parade route and further joint lamp post advertising with Brighton Pride was added, promoting 25 years of our diverse voices, with the theme "We Stand Together"

9th - Brighton Pride and the Rainbow Chorus float returns.

September: 12th - a return to our New Members' Night.

24th - A Rainbow wedding - our Chair, Katy, celebrated her wedding to Liza, also a long term member. The choir helped them both to celebrate with performances including outside the venue, which drew a large appreciative crowd.

October:

13th - Solidarity Vigil against Hate Crime, Rainbow Chorus did not perform but many members attended to support the event.

November:

1st - Rainbow Fund grant awards. We were awarded £7000 to support RC+ and £1800 to support our outreach to the Deaf and sign language user community. These grant awards cover the period October 2022 to September 2023 and are paid in arrears.

20th - Trans Day of Remembrance vigil at Jubilee Square and the Ledward Centre with a performance by the chorus.

23rd - Rainbow Chorus were advised they had won the public vote at Tesco and were awarded a £1500 grant from Tesco Community Grants to provide BSL interpreters at 3 concerts in 2023. 75% (£1125) was paid in advance with 25% (£375) due Jan 2024.

December:

1st - World Aids Day with the joint choirs' concert, co-arranged by Rainbow Chorus and featured joint performances by 3 MD's, including our own, Aneesa Chaudhry.

10th - 25 at Christmas, a final celebratory concert for our birthday year.

January:

16th – New Members' Night.

In addition to the above we ran 12 **RC+ Workshop Choir** sessions.

Financial review

**Brief statement of the
charity's policy on reserves**

Reserves policy

During the year our expenditure varies each month, partly due to some annual membership/website payments. We also purchase our music scores in advance and these costs are necessarily incurred in advance of terms rather than equally spread out over the year. This is the same for voice part file purchases online or their creation if completed by our music team. Our policy of ring fencing funds for specific projects and areas of expenditure ensures we are always aware of the true level of free reserves available for any unforeseen eventuality. However the fluctuating level of monthly expenditure can mean monthly income may not cover that month's expenditure. For these reasons, we need to hold a certain amount of reserves. We also consider it prudent to hold some level of reserves to cover a few months running expenses particularly as grants are paid following payment of expenditure on receipt of a claim from us.

When adjusted to include credits received (£1325) and payments made just after our year end (£3101), the year end reserve balance was £27870 (including £5108 bursary fund, £5167 held on behalf of members in payment for their trip to Bologna and £1125 as Tesco grant 75% paid up front but not yet spent).

Further financial review details

The charity's income is sourced from 5 main areas: Membership subscriptions, grants, fundraising, donations and income from concerts and performances. We continue to be mindful of those members who are on a fixed or suddenly reduced income, or who have had little or no salary increases for a number of years and treat each case individually. This helps us create a balance between maintaining our income level and ensuring anyone can be a member of the chorus irrespective of income.

This year has seen a return to income & expenditure levels similar to those last seen pre-covid in the year ended 31st March 2019 (when Tour income & expenditure is removed). When income & expenditure is adjusted so that only entries relating to this financial year are included, and tour income is removed, income was 21% higher than our budget forecast (mainly due to a return to more normal concert income), with expenditure only being 4% higher than our budget forecast.

**Details of any funds materially
in deficit**

None.

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

**Details of any debt owed by
the CIO**

None.

**Details of any guarantees
given by the CIO**

None.

Rainbow Chorus
Registered Charity 1161330

Receipts and Payments
For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
Receipts				
Membership Subscriptions	21152	-	21152	19233
Gift Aid	5215	23	5238	3412
Grant Income	-	5287	5287	5000
Concert Income	11656	-	11656	3590
Bursary, Donations to Chorus & Sponsorship	5721	90	5811	605
Sundry income & refunds	183	-	183	6687
Uniforms & Merchandise	448	1434	1882	440
Bucket Collections, Grand Draw & Raffles	1838	-	1838	785
Special Projects (Tours)	-	19480	19480	-
Bank Interest	74	26	100	27
Previous year reclassification of income	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	46287	26340	72627	39779
Asset and investment sales etc	-	-	-	-
<i>Total receipts</i>	46287	26340	72627	39779
Payments				
Music Director & Accompanist's fees	17868	3730	21598	20716
Other musician & professional fees	6535	-	6535	4695
Regular rehearsal costs	1942	163	2105	1356
Performance costs	1695	-	1695	716
Marketing & publicity	55	-	55	65
Subscriptions & website fees	1186	90	1276	1417
Postage & stationery	680	-	680	215
Travel	120	-	120	-
Music purchases	2229	132	2361	1168
Insurance	110	33	143	137
Storage	2959	-	2959	2923
Uniforms & Merchandise	1052	1563	2615	440
Special projects	1115	14425	15540	546
Community events	1546	-	1546	-
Props, equipment & costumes	509	-	509	693
Accountancy	1110	-	1110	990
Donations	-	-	-	-
Sundries	566	-	566	328
Bank charges	210	-	210	217
<i>Sub total</i>	41487	20136	61623	36622
Asset and investment purchases	-	-	-	-
<i>Total payments</i>	41487	20136	61623	36622
Net of receipts/ (payments)	4800	6204	11004	3157

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Receipts and Payments
For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
Transfers between funds	-	-		
Cash funds last year end	13,560	5,082	18,642	15,485
Cash funds this year end	18,360	11,286	29,646	18,642

**RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330**

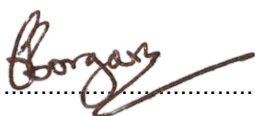
**Statement of Assets and
Liabilities For the Year Ended 31
March 2023**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Cash funds			
Bank balances	18,360	11,286	29,646
	18,360	11,286	29,646
Other Monetary Assets			
Outstanding Grant Funding	-	1325	1325
	-	1325	1325
Liabilities			
Creditors	3101	-	3101
	3101	-	3101

Name of Trustee:

...Edwin Borgars.....

Signature:

.....

Date of approval:

.... 29-Jan-2024.....

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the receipts and payments basis.

Incoming resources

Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds represent membership subscriptions (including RC+), gift aid, fundraising unless targeted for a specific purpose, website donations and concert income.

Restricted funds

The restricted funds represent grant funding (including RC+), Bursary fund, fundraising targeted for a specific purpose, uniforms and monies received for special projects.

Other incoming resources

There are no restrictions on the use of other incoming resources towards achieving the organisations charitable objectives.

Resources expended

Resources expended are accounted for by way of nature and on a receipts and payments basis.

2. PAYMENTS MADE FOLLOWING THE FINANCIAL YEAR END:

Payments were made shortly after the financial year end amounting to £3101 which related to expenses that were incurred in the financial year to 31 March 2023. There was also one debtor with a sum owing to rainbow Chorus of £1325. If this credit had been received and the expenses had been paid prior to 31 March 2023, these would have been included in the receipts and payments in this year's financial statements, resulting in a decrease in the net surplus and a reduction in cash funds held.

Last year's report advised of expenses to be paid by RC of £1460, relating to the financial year to 31 March 2022. These amounts are included in this year's figures as it had not been possible to process these before 31st March 2022.

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Report of the Accountants to the Trustees of
Rainbow Chorus

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the financial statements of Rainbow Chorus for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 2 to 14.

Respective responsibilities

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act, to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

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

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, I confirm no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect: accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records. I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed by the Independent Examiner



Lauren Newman MAAT
Thomas Christopher & Co
44 Orange Row
Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 1UQ

Date.....29-JAN-2024

RAINBOW CHORUS

England & Wales - Charity number 1161330

Accounts

**Report of the Trustees
and Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022
for
RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330**

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Page
Report of the Trustees	2-10
Receipts and Payments Accounts	11-12
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	13
Notes to the Financial Statements	14
Report of the Accountants	15

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022. The financial statements have been prepared under the receipts and payments basis.

Trustees

The trustees shown below have held office during the whole of the period covered by this report.

Ms Finola Brophy
Mr David Cooper
Mr Edwin Borgars
Ms Beverley Morgan
Ms Carolyn Ansell

The principal office of the RAINBOW CHORUS is:

St George's Church
St George's Rd, Kemptown
Brighton
England
BN2 1ED

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods	The members voted to accept an updated constitution at the last AGM. For governance purposes and to ensure efficient oversight and communication, at least one committee member must be appointed as a trustee. The committee may appoint up to a maximum of 5 trustees from within their number. Further external trustees (external to committee, so may or may not be RC members) up to a maximum number permitted by the constitution may be appointed. These external appointments require a majority vote of both the existing trustees and the committee members.

Additional governance issues

All Trustees are and will be provided with the latest 'The Essential Trustee' publication on appointment, together with copies of our Constitution and policies, our latest Annual Report and accounts information.

To ensure effective governance, the Chair of the Trustees is not on the operating Committee and the constitution states the Chair of the Committee may not be the same as the Chair of the Trustees.

Working together with other organisations has been and will continue to be an important part of how Rainbow Chorus operates. However covid restrictions and member concerns continued to affect and inform our activities for a majority of this financial year. Our various activities have included video performances to mark some important dates in the LGBTQ+ calendar and some in person performances in the last 4 months of the year, including working with Brighton Gay Mens Chorus, The Actually Gay Mens Chorus and Marco Nardi our sign language interpreter to produce our joint concert for World Aids Day to raise awareness of issues around HIV and Aids.

Working together makes us all stronger and sends clear messages of support and solidarity.

The Rainbow Chorus is part of Proud Voices, the UK and Eire choral network and Legato, the European Association of LGBTQ+ choirs. We also belong to Community Works, a networking and support organisation.

Membership of all the above organisations helps our reputation

and enables us to exchange good practice. It further promotes our activities and allows us to access advice and training which helps us to run the charity and meet our objectives.

Risks

Financially the risks for Rainbow Chorus are:

1. That we may not receive future funding for projects that are grant funded e.g. RC+ and our outreach to the Deaf & sign language user community;
2. That a concert may have to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances;
3. That a concert might make a loss;
4. That our membership numbers dwindle;
5. That the Trustees take decisions they believe to be in the best interests of the chorus, which are challenged, resulting in a loss to the chorus finances.

We therefore have some reserves in case these risks materialise - see reserves policy. Other risks for loss/damage/injury are covered by an insurance policy that includes public liability and cover for our members and volunteers.

Update on risks identified as having an impact in our 2020-2021 report:

1. The Trustees noted the loss of some grant funding last year but are pleased to report that subsequently we were successful in obtaining a grant for RC+ from Brighton & Hove City Council Communities Fund.
2. The Covid pandemic was and has continued to affect our ability to rehearse and perform but Xmas 2021 saw the return of our concert, which was profitable and provided a much needed boost to our finances.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objectives are:

1. To advance public education in, and appreciation of, the art of choral singing, its study, practice and performance, and to contribute to the quality and range of community events and to assist other charitable causes.
2. To promote social inclusion for the public benefit of people who are socially excluded on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This will be achieved by relieving the isolation and needs of those people.
3. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit by the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, in particular but not exclusively by raising public awareness of discrimination towards and issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Queer and other associated identities), and in such other ways as are exclusively charitable as the Trustees may from time to time determine.

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 and 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

As the largest LGBTQ+ community choir in the South East outside London we actively reach out to the whole community and we welcome Trans members and supporters. Supporting Trans Pride and Trans Day of Remembrance, having a dedicated Trans rep, promoting RC+ (our outreach project) and ensuring that our social media is explicitly inclusive sends a positive message to the Trans community.

We continue to raise awareness of deaf issues and to develop our work with the Deaf and sign language user community. Disablism against LGBTQ+ Deaf people is a regular experience for those within this community. Marco Nardi continues to support us using British Sign Language to interpret our main performances. In the early part of this financial year Marco supported our videos with his expressive interpretation, so that we could continue to reach out to the Deaf community.

The level of discrimination and racism experienced by LGBTQ+ people in our communities and around the world continues and the ongoing war in Europe has only served to highlight this more.

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

RC+: Thanks to Brighton & Hove City Council and an individual donation we have continued with RC+, our workshop choir, giving all members of the LGBTQ+ community the opportunity to sing for fun. It is a safe space particularly for less confident or isolated members of the LGBTQ+ community (some living outside Brighton & Hove). It is also a safe space for members of the Trans community who may wish to explore their vocal ability. Many members of the performing Rainbow Chorus continue to attend to improve their music skills.

We also signpost members to other LGBTQ+ services particularly those needing support with their mental health.

Choral festivals have been delayed or cancelled during the covid pandemic but we have now registered for Various Voices Bologna in 2023 and look forward to this and the next Hand-in-Hand event in Bristol in 2024. Legato, who organise the Various Voices festival, created an online 'Winter Medley' concert in December and Rainbow Chorus took part in this.

We retain our policy of ensuring no-one is excluded from any of our activities on the grounds of cost and this starts with subscriptions. Some members therefore pay reduced, minimal or no payment. This all helps us to meet our objective of promoting social inclusion. In addition to ensuring none of our members are excluded, we retain the concert ticket concession price at two thirds of our full price tickets. This hopefully helps those members of the public on reduced or lower incomes to be able to attend our concerts. We also provide some free access to service users of a local HIV/AIDS charity to further ensure our performances are as inclusive as possible.

We perform at some community events without charge, to further raise our profile and ensure that those in the wider community are aware of discrimination towards and issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community. This year we supported these events with our video or live performances :

- IDAHOBIT (international day against homophobia, biphobia and transphobia).
- Trans Pride
- Trans Day of Remembrance.
- World Aids Day

Additional details of objectives and activities

The John Kernaghan Bursary Fund invites applications from any member who would otherwise be unable to take part in our activities, particularly tours away. There is a policy covering application and how decisions are made, with guidelines for applicants and the Trustees, including evidence needed. Applications are anonymised, so that decisions are made on the basis of evidence without favour. We currently have a healthy balance in this fund and are not actively fundraising for it.

Our volunteers are known as our **5th section**: We could not manage to run our concerts and other activities without our 5th section of volunteers, co-ordinated this year by Jane MacDonald with the support of Chris Cunningham.

The 5th section is made up of partners, friends and family of RC members and members of RC+ who carry out a whole range of tasks from serving food, running bars and stewarding to filming, driving and joining sub groups to work on our fundraising and other activities. Our Committee members are all volunteers and run Rainbow Chorus with great enthusiasm for both our core activities and extra projects that add value for the wider community. There are also many members who give their own time to help with any number of projects or ongoing work to run the Chorus. Our MD, accompanist and treasurer invoice us for their time but also contribute a number of hours pro bono. We are extremely grateful to our volunteers, music team, members, the LGBTQ+ and wider community. Their support is always a source of inspiration and encouragement.

Achievements and performance

The following is a timeline of Rainbow Chorus activities and events in which we have taken part during the year to 31st March 2022. In some way each of the activities and events has helped us to further or achieve the aims laid out in the Objectives of our constitution.

May:

17th - RC video including messages of support for IDAHOBIT, with the theme 'You are Loved'. Always a hugely important day when we show our solidarity and support for LGBTQ+ people and communities everywhere who continue to experience discrimination, hatred and violence.

June:

With a lot of work behind the scenes and help from a local school, Rainbow Chorus was able to return to in-person rehearsals outside.

July:

Rainbow Chorus was proud to produce a performance video in support of Trans Pride, with the theme 'We See You'. We also included messages of support and thoughts from our members with their views on why Trans Pride is so important.

September:

10th - The Federation of Gay Games held its annual conference in Brighton and we were delighted to be invited to the awards ceremony, where RC+ received an award for our 'outstanding contribution to trans and non-binary culture participation'.

November:

21st - Trans Day of Remembrance. An emotional event for many in our community. Our first live performance for 20 months.

December:

1st - Our joint concert for World Aids Day in support of a local HIV and Aids charity

2nd - Christmas at St George's Church - Rainbow Chorus and RC+ sang at this event organised by the church where we rehearse & hold our concerts.

11th - Rainbows Return, our first main concert for 2 years

26th - Legato Winter Medley - an online concert featuring performances from many European LGBTQ+ choirs, including Rainbow Chorus

March:

Rainbow Chorus records Rise Up to create a video of support for and solidarity with the people of Ukraine, including messages from our members.

In addition to the above we ran 12 **RC+ Workshop Choir** sessions either in person or online.

Financial review

**Brief statement of the
charity's policy on reserves**

Reserves policy

During the year our expenditure varies each month, partly due to some annual membership/website payments. We also purchase our music scores in advance and these costs are necessarily incurred in advance of terms rather than equally spread out over the year. This is the same for voice part file purchases online or their creation if completed by our music team. Our policy of ring fencing funds for specific projects and areas of expenditure ensures we are always aware of the true level of free reserves available for any unforeseen eventuality. However the fluctuating level of monthly expenditure can mean monthly income may not cover that month's expenditure. For these reasons, we need to hold a certain amount of reserves.

We have previously stated we consider it prudent to hold some level of reserves to cover a few months running expenses and during this financial year our reserves were needed at various points. When adjusted to include payments made just after our year end (£1460) the year end reserve balance was £17182 (including £5082 bursary fund).

Further financial review details

The charity's income is sourced from 5 main areas: Membership subscriptions, grants, fundraising, donations and income from concerts and performances. We continue to be mindful of those members who are on a fixed or suddenly reduced income, or who have had little or no salary increases for a number of years and treat each case individually. This helps us create a balance between maintaining our income level and ensuring anyone can be a member of the chorus irrespective of income.

This has again been a difficult year in many ways:

- Total income was 6.2% lower than our budgeted figure
- Removing the one off insurance payout (£6553), year-on-year income was approximately 6.5% lower. Unsurprisingly with continuing restrictions on our activities, reduced concert income & donations were the major reason for this decrease.

Thanks to difficult decisions taken by the trustees and our operating committee, reduced expenditure compensated for the reduced income:

- Total Expenditure was 11% lower than our budgeted figure.
- Removing the one off legal costs (£7489) from the previous year's expenditure, year-on-year expenditure was approximately 12.8% lower.

**Details of any funds materially
in deficit**

None.

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

**Details of any debt owed by
the CIO**

None.

**Details of any guarantees
given by the CIO**

None.

Rainbow Chorus
Registered Charity 1161330

Receipts and Payments
For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
Receipts				
Membership Subscriptions	19233	-	19233	20098
Gift Aid	3412	-	3412	4768
Grant Income	-	5000	5000	4896
Concert Income	3590	-	3590	1300
Bursary, Donations to Chorus & Sponsorship	605	-	605	3337
Sundry income & refunds	6687	-	6687	5
Uniforms	-	440	440	-
Bucket Collections, Grand Draw & Raffles	785	-	785	1067
Special Projects (Tours)	-	-	-	-
Bank Interest	1	26	27	61
Previous year reclassification of income	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	34313	5466	39779	35532
Asset and investment sales etc	-	-	-	-
<i>Total receipts</i>	34313	5466	39779	35532
Payments				
Music Director & Accompanist's fees	16332	4384	20716	29765
Other musician & professional fees	4695	-	4695	10505
Regular rehearsal costs	1003	353	1356	198
Performance costs	716	-	716	-
Marketing & publicity	65	-	65	-
Subscriptions & website fees	1188	229	1417	1893
Postage & stationery	215	-	215	468
Travel	-	-	-	75
Music purchases	1168	-	1168	906
Insurance	103	34	137	132
Storage	2923	-	2923	2741
Uniforms	-	440	440	-
Special projects	-	546	546	-
Community events	-	-	-	-
Props, equipment & costumes	693	-	693	499
Accountancy	990	-	990	1110
Donations	-	-	-	-
Sundries	328	-	328	947
Bank charges	217	-	217	264
<i>Sub total</i>	30636	5986	36622	49503
Asset and investment purchases	-	-	-	-
<i>Total payments</i>	30636	5986	36622	49503
Net of receipts/ (payments)	3677	-520	3157	-13971

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Receipts and Payments
For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
Transfers between funds	-546	546		
Cash funds last year end	10,429	5,056	15,485	29,456
Cash funds this year end	13,560	5,082	18,642	15,485

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

**Statement of Assets and
 Liabilities For the Year Ended 31
 March 2022**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Cash funds			
Bank balances	13,560	5,082	18,642
	13,560	5,082	18,642

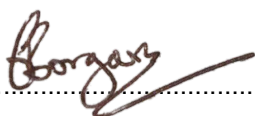
Liabilities

Creditors	1460	-	1460
	1460	-	1460

Name of Trustee:

...Edwin Borgars.....

Signature:



Date of approval:

.... 26-Jan-2023.....

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the receipts and payments basis.

Incoming resources

Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds represent membership subscriptions (including RC+), gift aid, fundraising unless targeted for a specific purpose, website donations and concert income.

Restricted funds

The restricted funds represent grant funding (including RC+), Bursary fund, fundraising targeted for a specific purpose, uniforms and monies received for special projects.

Other incoming resources

There are no restrictions on the use of other incoming resources towards achieving the organisations charitable objectives.

Resources expended

Resources expended are accounted for by way of nature and on a receipts and payments basis.

2. PAYMENTS MADE FOLLOWING THE FINANCIAL YEAR END:

Payments were made shortly after the financial year end amounting to £1460 which related to expenses that were incurred in the financial year to 31 March 2022. If these invoices had been paid prior to 31 March 2022, these would have been included in the payments in this year's financial statements, resulting in a decrease in the net surplus and a reduction in cash funds held.

Last year's report advised of invoices to be paid by RC of £998, relating to the financial year to 31 March 2021. These amounts are included in this year's figures as it had not been possible to process these before 31st March 2021.

Exceptional income of £6,553 was received in the financial year to 31 March 2022 (an insurance claim detailed in last year's report).

In the year to 31 March 2022, these accounts show a modest increase in our reserves and a more balanced level of income vs expenditure compared to the previous year.

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Report of the Accountants to the Trustees of
Rainbow Chorus

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the financial statements of Rainbow Chorus for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 2 to 14.

Respective responsibilities

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act, to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

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

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, I confirm no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect: accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records. I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed by the Independent Examiner



Lauren Newman MAAT
Thomas Christopher & Co
44 Orange Row
Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 1UQ

Date.....26-JAN-2023

RAINBOW CHORUS

England & Wales - Charity number 1161330

Accounts

**Report of the Trustees
and Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021
for
RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330**

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	Page
Report of the Trustees	2-12
Receipts and Payments Accounts	13-14
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	15
Notes to the Financial Statements	16
Report of the Accountants	17

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021. The financial statements have been prepared under the receipts and payments basis.

Trustees

The trustees shown below have held office during the whole of the period from 1 April 2020 to the date of this report.

Ms Finola Brophy
Mr David Cooper
Mr Edwin Borgars
Ms Beverley Morgan
Ms Carolyn Ansell

The principal office of the RAINBOW CHORUS is:

St George's Church
St George's Rd, Kemptown
Brighton
England
BN2 1ED

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods	The charity is presenting an updated constitution for members to vote on at this AGM. There will now be no Ex-Officio trustees but for governance purposes and to ensure efficient oversight at least one committee member must also be appointed as a trustee. The committee may appoint up to a maximum of 5 trustees from within their number. Further external trustees (external to committee, so may or may not be RC members) up to a maximum number permitted by the constitution may be appointed. These external appointments require a majority vote of both the existing trustees and the committee members.

Additional governance issues

All Trustees are and will be provided with the latest 'The Essential Trustee' publication on appointment, together with a copy of our policies, our latest Annual Report and accounts information.

To ensure effective governance, the Chair of the Trustees is not on the operating Committee and the constitution states the Chair of the Committee may not be the same as the Chair of the Trustees.

Working together with other organisations has been and will continue to be an important part of how Rainbow Chorus operates. However in a year of restrictions we've needed to find alternative ways of collaborating to achieve our aims. Our various activities have included video performances to mark important dates in the LGBTQ+ calendar; members highlighting the lack of scrubs in the NHS at the height of the pandemic with a 'More Scrubs' video posted on social media, sewing over 270 items to help and although we were unable to hold our usual joint concert for World Aids Day in 2020, RC worked with Brighton Gay Mens Chorus, The Actually Gay Mens Chorus and Marco Nardi our sign language interpreter to produce a short video to raise awareness of issues around HIV and Aids.

Working together makes us all stronger and sends clear messages of support and solidarity.

The Rainbow Chorus is part of Proud Voices, the UK and Eire choral network and Legato, the European network. We also belong to Working to Connect (LGBT Small Groups Network) and Community Works, both are networking and support organisations.

Membership of all the above organisations helps our reputation

and enables us to exchange good practice. It further promotes our activities and allows us to access advice and training which helps us to run the charity and meet our objectives.

Risks

Financially the risks for Rainbow Chorus are:

1. That we may not receive future funding for projects that are grant funded e.g RC+;
2. That a concert may have to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances;
3. That a concert might make a loss;
4. That our membership numbers dwindle;
5. That the Trustees take decisions they believe to be in the best interests of the chorus, which are challenged, resulting in a loss to the chorus finances.

We therefore have some reserves in case these risks materialise - see reserves policy. Other risks for loss/damage/injury are covered by an insurance policy that includes public liability and cover for our members and volunteers.

Update on known risks identified as having a financial impact in our 2019/2020 report:

1. Covid-19 prevented Pride in Brighton and Hove taking place in 2020. The Rainbow Fund gains most of its funding from this event and their grant funding for RC+ and our outreach and support for sign language users ended in October 2020. This is a potential loss of up to £8,320 in the next financial year. We are still applying to other organisations for grants but have so far been unsuccessful in a year when most charities are looking for extra funding. We have cut costs for these projects and have been able to continue with them during this financial year with funds already held or RC+ member subs.
2. Covid-19 has meant we have cancelled our summer concerts for 2020 and 2021 and our winter concert in 2020 was pre-recorded and promoted via social media. The effect of the summer concerts on our finances is roughly neutral. We noted that cancelling the winter concert would remove approx. £2,200 net from our fundraising but the success of our ticket sales for the online event and the associated raffle meant that we covered our music copyright costs for 2020 and the other costs associated with the concert and made a small profit.
3. We noted a loss of 20 members, largely due to Covid restrictions, and a number of members who for financial reasons had needed to reduce subs. Some members have since returned, a few members have been able to restart or increase subscriptions and we have seen a modest increase in RC+ membership. However there has been an overall increase in the need to support a number of members with reductions in subs due to personal financial difficulties. This

is part of our ethos and we absolutely believe we should continue with this. The combined effect of changes in membership since 01/01/2020 to 31/03/2021 is a net loss of £300 per month. The trustees and committee members have taken steps to reduce costs to ensure we remain viable and can hold a new members night when circumstances improve sufficiently.

4. The Trustees noted a net cost of £4,989 for specialist legal advice on a membership issue. There were significant donations that reduced our true costs to this figure. Throughout this financial year negotiation with our insurers has continued and we only reached agreement at a figure of £6,553 after the end of the financial year. The Trustees have confirmed with the donors that they are happy for the remainder of their funds to be allocated to general funds and they have agreed to this. The Trustees have spent the year rewriting our policies and drafting new policies to ensure that we learn from this issue and should a similar issue arise again, we would be better prepared to deal with it.

Known risks identified as having an impact in our 2021-2022 report:

1. At the date of writing this report, we now know that Brighton & Hove Pride 2021 is cancelled. This means there will be no grant from The Rainbow Fund for 2021-2022. The Trustees are still waiting on the outcome of further grant applications but following discussions with some individual members, it is likely that their donations will see this project continue for a further year, without impacting on Rainbow Chorus funds. At the present time we have not been able to find further funding for our outreach and support for sign language users.
2. The Covid pandemic has seen our ability to rehearse and perform severely impacted and it is likely that in some way restrictions will continue to affect us. It is difficult to quantify the effect financially when the future is so unknown. However we review the finances at every committee & trustee meeting and try to ensure we are balancing our income against our expenditure. We know that when circumstances improve in a sustained way, we will be able to hold a new members' night. This will positively affect our finances as will a return to holding concerts.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objectives are:

1. To advance public education in, and appreciation of, the art of choral singing, its study, practice and performance, and to contribute to the quality and range of community events and to assist other charitable causes.
2. To promote social inclusion for the public benefit of people who are socially excluded on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This will be achieved by relieving the isolation and needs of those people.
3. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit by the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, in particular but not exclusively by raising public awareness of discrimination towards and issues affecting the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) community, and in such other ways as are exclusively charitable as the Trustees may from time to time determine.

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 and 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

As the largest LGBT community choir in the South East outside London we actively reach out to the whole community and we welcome Trans members and supporters. Supporting Trans Pride and Trans Day of Remembrance, having a dedicated Trans rep, promoting RC+ (our outreach project) and ensuring that our social media is explicitly inclusive sends a positive message to the Trans community.

We continue to raise awareness of deaf issues and to develop our work with the Deaf and sign language user community. Disablism against LGBTQ+ Deaf people is a regular experience for those within this community. Marco Nardi continues to support us using British Sign Language to interpret our main performances. During this financial year we have been unable to hold a main concert in-person but Marco supported many of our videos so that we could reach out to the Deaf community, many of whom have felt even more isolated during Covid restrictions, partly due to most masks removing the ability to lip read. We have received excellent feedback from deaf people around the world who have appreciated our inclusive videos and enjoyed Marco's expressive interpretation.

The level of discrimination and racism experienced by LGBTQ+ people in our communities and around the world continues and the events of 2020/2021 have highlighted how much more is needed to address this. The videos we created have not only highlighted these issues but also included strong and positive messages of support for BME people and communities in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter campaign.

RC+: Despite the loss of funding from the Rainbow Fund we have continued with RC+, our workshop choir, giving all members of the LGBTQ+ community the opportunity to sign for fun. It is a safe space particularly for less confident or isolated members of the LGBTQ+ community (some living outside Brighton & Hove). It is also a safe space for members of the Trans community who may wish to explore their vocal ability. Many members of the performing Rainbow Chorus continue to attend to improve their music skills.

We also signpost members to other LGBTQ+ services particularly those needing support with their mental health.

There have been no in-person performances this year and many choral festivals have been delayed or cancelled including the biennial Hand-in-Hand choral festival, due to be held in Newcastle. Rainbow Chorus took part in an online Hand-in-Hand event in September.

We retain our policy of ensuring no-one is excluded from any of our activities on the grounds of cost and this starts with subscriptions. Some members therefore pay reduced, minimal or no payment. This all helps us to meet our objective of promoting social inclusion. In addition to ensuring none of our members are excluded, we set the ticket price for our online concert in December at £5. This hopefully helped those members of the public on reduced or lower incomes to be able to view the concert. We also provided free access to service users of a local HIV/AIDS charity to further ensure the performance was as inclusive as possible.

We perform at various community events without charge, to further raise our profile and ensure that those in the wider community are aware of discrimination towards and issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community. This year our performances and messages of support were provided as pre-recorded videos for these events:

- IDAHOBIT (international day against homophobia, biphobia and transphobia).
- Trans Pride
- Brighton & Hove Pride
- National Hate Crime Awareness week
- Trans Day of Remembrance.
- World Aids Day (joint video with other local choirs)

Additional details of objectives and activities

The John Kernaghan Bursary Fund invites applications from any member who would otherwise be unable to take part in our activities, particularly tours away. There is a policy covering application and how decisions are made, with guidelines for applicants and the Trustees, including evidence needed. Applications are anonymised, so that decisions are made on the basis of evidence without favour. We currently have a healthy balance in this fund and are not actively fundraising for it.

Our volunteers are known as our **5th section**: We could not manage to run our concerts and other activities without our 5th section of volunteers, co-ordinated this year by Jane MacDonald with the support of Chris Cunningham.

The 5th section is made up of partners, friends and family of RC members and members of RC+ who would in any other year carry out a whole range of tasks from serving food, running bars and stewarding to filming, driving and joining sub groups to work on our fundraising and other activities.

Our Committee members are all volunteers and run Rainbow Chorus with great enthusiasm for both our core activities and extra projects that add value for the wider community. There are also many members who give their own time to help with any number of projects or ongoing work to run the Chorus. Our MD and pianist invoice us for their time but also contribute a lot of their own time pro bono. We are extremely grateful to our volunteers, music team, members, the LGBTQ+ and wider community. Their support has been a source of inspiration and encouragement in a difficult year.

Achievements and performance

The following is a timeline of Rainbow Chorus activities and events in which we have taken part during the year to 31st March 2021. In some way each of the activities and events has helped us to further or achieve the aims laid out in the Objectives of our constitution.

April:

3rd - The **RC virtual pub night** had its inaugural session to keep us all connected, especially those isolating alone. The pub was aptly named **The Rainbows Return**. Over the coming months this became a regular feature with 'pub quizzes'; 'dress to impress'; karaoke and 'bring a pic of yourself that will surprise others'.

8th - **"More Scrubs"** video released on the RC YouTube channel, with Hannah Brackenbury singing main vocals and RC members singing harmonies. This highlighted the lack of scrubs available for the NHS staff and very quickly had more than 28,000 hits from all over the world. RC members formed a working group to organise individual members to cut out patterns and sew scrubs using any material available. They also made loads of masks finishing over 270 items.

May:

10th - RC released a video created as a **message of support for the LGBT+ Deaf and sign language user community during lockdown**. We have always included songs in our concerts where members can learn signs that help to interpret the song for our deaf audience members. Marco Nardi has interpreted our concerts in a unique and exciting way for a number of years. With Marco's help and previous support from the Brighton Rainbow Fund we have been able to expand our repertoire and promote our concerts in advance with videos to advertise our concerts as accessible to all including

those from the Deaf community whose first language is BSL (British Sign Language).

11th - **RC+/RC Stay home in lockdown video** - a bit of fun with our own lyrics set to the tune of Drunken Sailor.

17th - **RC video including messages of support for IDAHOBIT**, which is always a hugely important day - we've come a long way in the fight against discrimination and hatred although sadly there is still a long way to go. With the increased isolation and uncertainty so many people continue to face due to Covid-19, it was even more important we come together to highlight, remember and show our solidarity and support for LGBTQ+ people and communities everywhere who continue to experience discrimination, hatred and violence.

July:

11th - RC runs its first outdoor singing session for groups of 6 people in line with the Covid-19 restrictions then in place - the first time since March that members had been able to sing together and hear each other's voices. Three more dates were booked in during July and August with feedback being very positive from those that chose to attend.

18th - **Trans Pride** Rainbow Chorus was proud to produce a performance video in support of Virtual Trans Pride. We also included thoughts from our members with their views on why Trans Pride is so important particularly in light of the strange circumstances presented by the pandemic.

August:

1st - **Brighton & Hove Pride** went virtual and RC members produced a video for the virtual parade. The Rainbow Fund raised in excess of £13,000 during the online event but compared to the £100,000+ they could have expected from a live pride event, it was clear this would seriously affect the groups they support including RC+.

2nd - **Rainbow Chorus in lockdown and beyond** - video released in place of a summer concert and as a roundup of what we'd been up to while choirs were prevented from singing together in person.

September:

19th-20th - **Virtual Hand in Hand Choral Festival** RC joined with 30 other choirs who each created performance videos for this online event.

28th - RC rehearsals at St George's resumed with strict covid-secure limitations in place. We continued to run the online sessions concurrently for those not able to return to the rehearsals.

October:

17th - RC released a video for National Hate Crime Awareness Week, to show solidarity with those who have experienced hate crimes, to raise awareness of the issue and in hope that one day we will all be free to be ourselves without fear of recrimination or violence.

November:

5th - UK returned to Lockdown and RC rehearsals moved online again... although we briefly came out of lockdown, we were unable to hold in-person rehearsals for the remainder of our financial year due to restrictions preventing this.

20th - **Trans Day of Remembrance**. RC released a video with messages of support from our members to mark the day and as part of **Trans Awareness Week**.

December:

1st - We were unable to hold our usual joint concert for **World Aids Day** in 2020 but RC worked with Brighton Gay Men's Chorus, The Actually Gay Men's Chorus and Marco Nardi to produce a short video to raise awareness of issues around HIV and Aids. The video also encouraged donations to Lunch Positive, a charity that supports people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS.

12th - Rainbow Chorus held 2 pre-recorded online concerts:

"Come Brunch with Us" and "Stocking Up for Christmas.... (Just in Case)". We were pleasantly surprised by the enthusiasm of our audience to purchase concert and raffle tickets. Although a small group of people put in a huge amount of unpaid work to make these concert videos a success, these events helped us raise some much needed funds to continue our activities in a year when many members' personal finances were negatively affected.

January to March:

The country was in lockdown and we reduced online rehearsals to bi-weekly, which saw member engagement increase: Zoom is not a great medium for choral singing and after a year when Zoom and online working have become the norm, it has been pleasing to see many members continuing to attend these rehearsals, whilst all longing for the day when we can return to singing together in our usual venue.

In addition to the above we ran 14 **RC+ Workshop Choir** sessions either in person, online or as outdoor small group singing.

Financial review

**Brief statement of the
charity's policy on reserves**

Reserves policy

During the year our expenditure varies each month, partly due to some annual membership/website payments. We also purchase our music scores in advance and these costs are necessarily incurred in advance of terms rather than equally spread out over the year. This is the same for voice part file purchases online or their creation if completed by our music team. Our policy of ring fencing funds for specific projects and areas of expenditure ensures we are always aware of the true level of free reserves available for any unforeseen eventuality. However the fluctuating level of monthly expenditure can mean monthly income may not cover that month's expenditure. For these reasons, we need to hold a certain amount of reserves.

We have previously stated we consider it prudent to hold some level of reserves to cover a few months running expenses in case of a sudden fall in membership and this has been especially evident in the current financial year, when for various reasons around Covid-19, members have chosen to leave in higher numbers than usual.

As mentioned previously in this report, grant funding for RC+ and for our outreach to sign language users has stopped. We continue to apply for new grants to secure funds. We have cut costs for the projects but may need to take difficult decisions if we are not successful in the near future. Reserve funds are substantially lower than last year and we are unable to support these projects without external/additional funding as the nature of the projects means they will never be self-funding.

The amount of reserves held at the year end was £14,487.

Further financial review details

The charity's income is sourced from 5 main areas: Membership subscriptions, grants, fundraising, donations and income from concerts and performances. We continue to be mindful of those members who are on a fixed or suddenly reduced income, or who have had little or no salary increases for a number of years and treat each case individually. This helps us create a balance between maintaining our income level and ensuring anyone can be a member of the chorus irrespective of income.

Whilst this has been a difficult year in many ways, we have received some generous donations. Cash donations in place of goods for raffle prizes enabled us to claim Gift Aid on qualifying donations. The increase in donations maintained our Gift Aid income despite a drop in subscriptions of £3,394. There has also been a modest growth in donations via Amazon Smile & Easyfundraising (online shopping platforms).

When reviewing the 'Receipts and Payments accounts' on page 13, it is important to read note 2 on page 16.

**Details of any funds materially
in deficit**

None.

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

**Details of any debt owed by
the CIO**

None.

**Details of any guarantees
given by the CIO**

None.

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Receipts and Payments
For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
Receipts				
Membership subscriptions	20,098	-	20,098	23,492
Gift Aid	4,268	500	4,768	4,781
Grant Income	-	4,896	4,896	8,741
Concert Income	1,300	-	1,300	11,096
Bursary, Donations to Chorus & Sponsorship	1,337	2,000	3,337	1,269
Sundry income and refunds	5	-	5	64
Uniforms	-	-	-	30
Bucket Collections, Grand Draw & Raffles	1,067	-	1,067	1,377
Special projects (Tours)	-	-	-	2,199
Bank interest	5	56	61	5
<i>Sub total</i>	28,080	7,452	- 35,532	53,054
Asset and investment sales, etc	-	-	-	-
<i>Total receipts</i>	28,080	7,452	35,532	53,054
Payments				
Music director & Accompanist's fees	26,748	3,017	29,765	30,506
Other musician & professional fees	6,905	3,600	10,505	3,048
Regular rehearsal costs	165	33	198	2,839
Performance costs	-	-	-	1,656
Marketing & publicity	-	-	-	592
Subscriptions and website fees	1,593	300	1,893	1,496
Postage & stationery	468	-	468	1,060
Travel	75	-	75	1,008
Music purchases	906	-	906	2,315
Insurance	132	-	132	132
Storage	2,741	-	2,741	2,481
Special projects	-	-	-	4,390
Community events	-	-	-	1,349
Props, equipment & costumes	499	-	499	128
Accountancy	1,110	-	1,110	780
Donations	-	-	-	130
Sundries	501	446	947	489
Bank charges	264	-	264	257
<i>Sub total</i>	42,107	7,396	49,503	54,656
Asset and investment purchases	-	-	-	-
<i>Total payments</i>	42,107	7,396	49,503	54,656
Net of receipts / (payments)	- 14,027	56	(13,971)	(1,602)

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Receipts and Payments
For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
Transfers between funds	-	-		
Cash funds last year end	24,456	5,000	29,456	31,058
Cash funds this year end	10,429	5,056	15,485	29,456

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Statement of Assets and Liabilities
For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Cash funds			
Bank balances	10,429	5,056	15,485
	10,429	5,056	15,485

Liabilities

Creditors	998	-	998
	998	-	998

Name of Trustee:

...Edwin Borgars.....

Signature:



Date of approval:

....17th June 2021.....

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the receipts and payments basis.

Incoming resources

Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds represent membership subscriptions (including RC+), gift aid, fundraising unless targeted for a specific purpose, website donations and concert income.

Restricted funds

The restricted funds represent grant funding (including RC+), Bursary fund, fundraising targeted for a specific purpose, uniforms and monies received for special projects.

Other incoming resources

There are no restrictions on the use of other incoming resources towards achieving the organisations charitable objectives.

Resources expended

Resources expended are accounted for by way of nature and on a receipts and payments basis.

2. PAYMENTS MADE FOLLOWING THE FINANCIAL YEAR END:

Payments were made shortly after the financial year end amounting to £998 which related to expenses that were incurred in the financial year to 31 March 2021. If these invoices had been paid prior to 31 March 2021, these would have been included in the payments in this year's financial statements, resulting in an increase in the net deficit and a reduction in cash funds held.

Last year's report advised of £1,290 owing to, and invoices to be paid by RC of £11,331, relating to the financial year to 31 March 2020. These amounts are included in this year's figures as it had not been possible to process these before 31st March 2020.

Exceptional costs for legal advice of £7,489 were incurred in the financial year to 31 March 2021 (see page 5 for details of the insurance payment). We received exceptional donations of £2,000 (specifically to help with these costs), which qualified for Gift Aid increasing the value to £2,500.

In the year to 31 March 2021, these accounts show a reduction in our reserves and the net deficit figure of £13,971 of expenditure over income, is important. However, this makes it difficult to see a true figure for the day-to-day income and running costs for the year. If adjustments are made to only include income and expenditure that relate to this financial year and remove both the exceptional costs for legal advice and the associated donations, the total figures in the current financial year would be: Income £31,742 and Expenditure £31,681. These figures therefore balance. We will continue to monitor the spending to ensure that our reserves are maintained.

RAINBOW CHORUS
REGISTERED CHARITY 1161330

Report of the Accountants to the Trustees of
Rainbow Chorus

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the financial statements of Rainbow Chorus for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 2 to 16.

Respective responsibilities

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act, to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

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

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, I confirm no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect: accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records. I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed by the Independent Examiner



Lauren Newman MAAT
Thomas Christopher & Co
44 Orange Row
Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 1UQ

Date: . 15-Jun-21