



TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

for the period
from 1st Sept 2022
to 31st August 2023

TRUSTEES SERVING DURING THE PERIOD: all committee members are trustees

Chair: Michael Head

Secretary: Angela Finn

Treasurer: Jennifer Bolt

Other trustees:

Robin Spencer

Anne McQuade

Christine Ollis (to 16.10.22)

Yvonne Seetayah

Kathryn Wakeling

Structure, governance, and management:

The Phoenix Choir of Crawley (hereinafter referred to as the Society) is a registered charity (registration number 1169875), formed in 2016 by the merger of two existing choirs.

The Society is governed by its Constitution and Rules. The seventh annual general meeting was held 1st December 2022.

The trustees are appointed by the members in accordance with the Constitution and Rules of the Society. All committee members are also trustees. The business of the Society is managed by the committee, with committee meetings held at least six times each year. The committee is responsible for the overall financial running of the Society.

Objectives and activities:

The objects of the Society are to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals.

Achievements:

A year when events were mostly back to normal.

Our November concert, *Songs of the Fleet*, was somewhat complicated, with fewer than our usual number of singers and some tricky pieces to learn. We found it difficult rehearsing pieces without the soloist as the solo part was so integral. With George's encouragement, we coped, as we usually do. By concert day our confidence had grown, and we can be justifiably proud of our performance, alongside Richard Bannan our brilliant soloist. Huge thanks again to George, our musical director, and Gina, our accompanist.

In December we again held a short free carol concert at St Andrew's for friends and families and we also performed at St Mary's Southgate, County Mall and at St Catherine's Hospice. The concert in December 2022 at St Andrews raised a wonderful total of £523 for Crawley Open House.

Trial by Jury in March was a remarkable evening, with a packed Church treated to our joyous performance, and wonderful music from our guests the brilliant Ensemble Reza. Setting ourselves the challenge of doing a staged performance, with the solo parts performed by members of the choir, was ambitious. Our openness and warm welcome to guest singers again resulted in several singers who joined us for this concert now in full membership with us. Our ever-strengthening relationship with St

Andrew's Church was also apparent, with much appreciated help from several of the congregation with rearranging the seating afterwards, ready for their Sunday morning service.

That term epitomised so much of what Phoenix Choir of Crawley is about; our warm welcome to guest singers, our willingness to try different things, our positivity in working together, and resolving problems as necessary in order to produce memorable, high-quality performances.

After the joyous mayhem of Gilbert and Sullivan, the July concert *Sounds of Italy* was a glorious concert of Italian music, performing the music originally planned for July 2020. George, our professional soloists the orchestra and the Choir were all excellent. The Puccini *Messa di Gloria* was a glorious and exhilarating singing experience, with audience feedback full of praise for all involved.

Financial Review:

Phoenix Choir of Crawley started and ended the season in a strong financial position, with good reserves.

The attached accounts show an unrestricted surplus over the year of £9,661, with our restricted reserves increasing to £53,373 at 31 August 2023. Fundraising income was up significantly in the year, with the vast majority being received from the Crawley Community Shop, our share of the shop profits based on the many hours worked at the shop by our volunteers. Concert expenditure was reduced, as we did not perform at The Hawth during the year.

The trustees intend to keep our subscriptions and ticket prices affordable, and to continue to invest in high quality concerts, and other musical activities such as workshops and tours, for the benefit of our members and the public. We will continue to sustain the choir by seeking to attract new singers and audience, and by being active in the local community.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature: 

Name: Michael Head, Chairman

Date: 3/10/23

Signature: 

Name: Angela Finn, Secretary

Date: 3.10.23.