

LEIGHTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SINGERS

England & Wales · Charity number 1178649

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2018-06-05

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

Contact

Address 28 Knaves Hill
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire
LU7 2UD

Phone 01525 379342

Email treasurer@lbfs.org.uk

Website <http://www.lbfs.org.uk/>

Activities

Objects: 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.

Activities: PERFORM CHORAL MUSIC FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-05-31	£13,908	£16,518	-	-
2024-05-31	£17,943	£16,349	-	-
2023-06-30	£15,342	£14,416	-	-
2022-06-30	£10,588	£11,114	-	-
2021-06-30	£1,651	£1,795	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Paul Dickens	Chair	2020-11-16
Leanne Enid Elizabeth Morgan		2023-03-27
Miriam Juviler		2023-09-18
Richard Edward Watts		2018-05-14
Rosalind Mennie		2024-04-10
Valerie Agnes Fielder		2023-03-27

LEIGHTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1178649

Accounts



Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers Season Report 2024-2025



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President

Mr Philip Stopford

Vice-presidents

We are grateful to the following for their continued support
as Vice-presidents during the 2023-2024 season

Mr P Dickens

Mr N Woolford

Mr R Watts

Annual General Meeting

To be held on Monday 29th September 2025

at 7.30pm at Barnabas Church

Agenda

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To approve the minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting held on 23rd September 2024
3. To consider any matters arising from the above meeting
4. To note the appointment of Stephanie Mann as Secretary
5. To receive the Annual Report of the Trustees
6. To approve the accounts for the year ending 31st May, 2025
7. To consider subscriptions for the season 2025-2026
8. To note the resignation of the following trustees
 - i. Kathryn Emerson
 - ii. Valerie Fielder
9. To confirm as continuing Trustees:
 - i. Miriam Juviler
 - ii. Leanne Morga
 - iii. Ros Mennie
10. To consider identifying and electing further Trustees
11. To note the following, in addition to the Trustees, as members of the Management Committee:

i. Angela Fensom

ii. Kathy Guess

12. To encourage additional members to the choir to volunteer for service on the Management Committee.

Please consider whether you may wish to put your name forward.

13. To confirm the re-election of the current President and the Vice-president

14. To appoint a responsible person to examine the accounts for 2024-2025

15. Any other business

16. Date, time and place of next AGM

Minutes of the annual general meeting held at St Barnabas Church

23rd September 2024

The meeting, the AGM for the year 2022-23 was held during the weekly rehearsal in St Barnabas Church, Linslade, attended by 36 members of the Festival Singers with Paul Dickens, the Chairman, in the Chair.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Anneke Amsden, Anne Chapman, Jacki Hillier, Graeme Lockhart, Margaret Oliver, Judith Watts, and Richard Watts, Janet Wearmouth.

2. To approve the minutes of the 2022-2023 Annual General Meeting held on 4th September, 2023

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th September, 2023 were approved unanimously.

3. To consider any matters arising

There were no matters arising that were not included in the Agenda

4. To receive the Annual Reports of the Trustees

The Annual Report of Trustees was received and no questions were raised.

5. To approve, subject to receipt of a satisfactory report from the independent examiner, the accounts for the year ending May 31st 2023

It was reported that Mary Hardy, as independent examiner, had provided a satisfactory report and it was:

Proposed by: Kathy Guess

Seconded by: Janet Miller

And passed unanimously that the accounts be approved

The meeting also noted their thanks to Ros for her work on the accounts and as treasurer through the year.

6. To propose that Roger Chapman, Paul Dickens, Kathryn Emerson, Valerie Fielder, Jean Lawson, Leanne Morgan and Richard Watts, all of whom have indicated their willingness to continue in post, be re-elected as Trustees

Proposed by: David Bannister

Seconded by: Bridget Watson

And passed unanimously

7. To consider electing further Trustees

Kathy Guess offered to be a Trustee and the meeting voted in favour unanimously

8. To confirm the re-election of the current President and the Vice-presidents

Proposed by: Kathy Guess

Seconded by: Jean Lawson

And passed unanimously

9. To appoint a responsible person to examine the accounts for 2023-2024

It was reported that Mary Hardy was willing again to act as the independent person responsible for examining the accounts.

The offer was accepted unanimously

10. To make members aware of the draft safeguarding policy

Members were made aware that LBFS now has a safeguarding policy, which will be available on the website

11. Any other business

Valerie Fielder reported that Margaret Oliver is very ill in hospital.

Ros Mennie (Treasurer) reminded members that subs are now due - £150 for the year or £75 per term. She noted that bank transfers are now preferred, especially after 18th October as there will no longer be a bank branch in Leighton Buzzard. The secretary will send the bank details around in an email.

Leanne (Social Coordinator) asked if anyone would be prepared to bring some biscuits or cookies to have with the welcome tea and coffee on 23rd September at Come and Sing – please let her know if so.

Leanne also noted that some members would be going to the pub after the rehearsal, and that all were invited as a chance to socialise.

Bridget Watson asked if everyone could sign up to do the refreshments at one rehearsal – if everyone does, we should each only need to do one per term.

Roger Chapman (Membership Secretary) requested that members bring their name badges to wear to rehearsals, or ask for new one.

Paul Dickens (Chairman) welcomed the new singers who were trying the choir this evening.

The meeting was closed by the chairman at 7.50pm.

LBFS Members 2025

Anneke Amsden	Janet Miller
Neve Atkinson	Tom Moore
Jo Ayres	Leanne Morgan
Brian Bainbridge	Peter Mundy
Dan-Adrian Baluta	Christine Oliver
David Bannister	Margaret Oliver
Jill Brace	Simon Pagden
Roger Chapman	Linda Plowright-Pepper
Anne Chapman	Saffron Pughe
Rhoda Crickmay	John Ralph
Paul Dickens	Emma Rouse
Madeline Dyson-Jest	Martin Shrubsole
Barbara Ellis	Anne Smart
Helen Elves	Faye Smithson
Kathryn Emerson	Philip Stopford
Helen Ewles	Gillian Tarbox
Angela Fensom	Clare Thompson
Valerie Fielder	Philip Titcombe
Edmund Flach	Peter Wade
Dorothy Fletcher	Bridget Watson
Kathy Guess	Judith Watts
Jaqueline (Jacki) Hillier	Richard Watts
Sam Huston	Janice Wearmouth
Liz Inglis	
Veronica Jackson	
Sally Johnston	
Miriam Juviler	
Jean Lawson	
Stuart Lay	
Irene Leach	
Anna Lloyd	
Gracie Longworth	
Pauline Lyon	
Stephanie Mann	
Sarah Marsh	

Rosalind Mennie

Trustees' Annual Report

2024-2025

Trustees holding office during the year

Paul Dickens
Kathryn Emerson
Valerie Fielder
Miriam Juviler
Ros Mennie
Leanne Morgan
Richard Watts

Members of the Management Committee

Angela Fensom
Kathy Guess
Jean Lawson

Musical Director's report

This year, we have largely kept the same format as the 2023-24 Season: two large-scale concerts, a lighter summer concert and a performance at the Leighton Linlade May Fayre.

Our Christmas Concert at St. Barnabas was based around Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* and two works by our President, Philip Stopford. It also featured shorter pieces by Cecilia McDowall, Lucy Walker and others. The excellent MK Brass joined us again for this concert, and our guest harpist, Anneke Hodnett, was exceptional.

I understand from the choir survey that the Britten was somewhat polarising; it was quite tricky, but I'm glad that we managed to perform it to a good standard. I still believe that the choir's repertoire should balance old favourites with more demanding works.

In the Spring, we performed Bach's *Christ lag in Todesbanden* and Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* alongside the Alina Orchestra. In this concert, I thought that the choir sang as well as it has during my time as MD, and the performance seemed to be well-received.

On a wider note, I was a little disappointed with the audience size – I misjudged how popular these pieces would be. If anyone has friends or family who came to the concert, then I would be interested to know what they made of it. I was also a little frustrated with the Alina Orchestra, who were expensive to hire in, and only one or two of them had looked at their music or the schedule ahead of the rehearsal, which made for very slow going at times.

Our performance at the Leighton Lincolne May Fayre was good fun again, but I'm not convinced that we should continue to do it going forward. We only had about 20 singers at the rehearsal and performance, and I'm not sure that it does much to showcase the choir at its best. If anyone feels strongly about this either way, then please let me know!

In contrast, I was very pleased with the format of the summer concert again this year. It was a little tight learning the music in time (some of which was tricky), but I think it was a good exercise for the choir to sing some different repertoire. I also very much enjoyed the concert day itself, with many members of the choir, friends and family hanging around afterwards.

My preference would be not to do the May Fayre in 2026, and then to have another summer concert with a cathedral visit later on in the summer, perhaps in collaboration with another choir. Again, if you have strong feelings about this, then please let me know.

I'm also very pleased that we've had Tom playing for us since January: he's been doing a great job at the keyboard, and I'm thrilled that he's agreed to stay on with the choir for the foreseeable future.

Looking ahead to the 2025/26 Season, in response to feedback from the choir, I've put together a programme based around two sizeable works: Rossini's *Petite messe solennelle* in the Autumn and then Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man* in the Spring.

We're in a reasonable position, but more singers would always help: we need to try to get to around 60 members in the medium term. Please keep spreading the word and encouraging friends to join. And if you'd like a greater say in how we run things, do consider joining the committee: I know that members come from a wide variety of backgrounds, so it's always good to get a range of opinions and experience in the room when we make key decisions.

Samuel Huston

Chairman's report

We started our 2024/25 season in late November 2024 with lovely performances, in the first half, of Cecelia McDowall's "A Fancy of Folksongs" and Britten's well-known "A Ceremony of Carols". The second half featured two works by our president, Philip Stopford, "Festival Benedicite" and "The Star of Kings", both arranged for choir, harp, brass, organ. We also sang a number of carols, some with audience participation. A particular favourite of mine was a setting of "In the bleak mid-winter" by Lucy Walker, a friend of our Musical Director, Sam Huston. The church was full to overflowing and there were, deservedly, many complimentary comments from a knowledgeable audience.

Our Spring 2025 concert, at St Barnabas Linslade, featured a Bach Cantata ("Christ lag in Todes Banden") and Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas". As our Musical Director, Sam Huston, said in pre-concert publicity it's almost impossible to believe that these two very different works could have been composed only a few decades apart. Again, the choir sang superbly well under Sam's excellent leadership, accompanied sensitively by members of our local Alina Orchestra.

We sang again in the High Street for May Day and our Summer concert on July 13 featured a selection of folksongs which went down well with a good-sized audience.

Our new accompanist, Becky Holt, worked with us until Christmas when she announced that she was leaving us, for perfectly understandable reasons. She was replaced by Tom Moore at the beginning of 2025 who has proved to be a great find. We thank Becky and Tom for their hard work.

Our membership has continued to increase (slightly) over the year, and we look forward to our next season with confidence that the choir continues to go from strength to strength.

With my eternal thanks to our Musical Director, Sam, and to the many who take on volunteer roles for the choir.

Paul Dickens

Chairman

Membership secretary's report

The singing membership of the Choir at the end of June 2025 was 55 (soprano 17, alto 25, tenor 7, bass 6), an increase of 3 over the previous 12 months. There has been a very welcome number of expressions of interest in the choir, most of which have translated into membership. However, recruitment is central to the future success, both musical and financial, of the choir, especially if we are to perform much of the standard choral repertoire and the Management Committee will continue to look for opportunities of promoting the choir and all members are encouraged to look out for potential recruits. During the Spring and Summer term, the choir noticed a reduced number of Tenor and Bass members.

Leanne Morgan

Treasurer's report for year 2024-2025

Unfortunately this year the choir's financial situation has taken a turn for the worse with a loss of £2610. We had sufficient money in the bank to cope with this, and could do so for another two years, but this money will not last indefinitely.

Although the summer 2024 concert was run at a loss (as there was no income) and the April concert had a loss of £1800, overall the concert deficits were almost covered by the grants we received. We are therefore very grateful for these grants (500 from Leighton Linlade Arts Forum, £1000 from Osborne, Morris and Morgan and £1000 from the Wixamtree Trust)

The financial loss, in my opinion comes from the rehearsals. In the past it has been a rule of thumb that subscriptions cover the cost of rehearsals. However the subscription has remained at £150 for at least the last ten years whereas the cost of running a single rehearsal has gone up from £170 to £230 (£250 with extra winter heating) since 2020. Whilst we had a steady increase in membership numbers this was not too much of a problem but now numbers have stagnated it is.

We do get a substantial amount of income from gift aid – this year it was £733. Most of the choir have filled in gift aid declarations. If any tax-payer has not done so, the form is available on the members page of the web site and should be filled in and handed to me.

This year shows how easy it is to go from a successful year with a good excess of income over expenditure to a bad one. The choir now needs to make an effort to turn this around again or the future of the choir will once again be in doubt.

Ros Mennie

**LEIGHTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SINGERS
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025**

	Note	2024-25			2023-24		
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources							
Subscriptions and donations							
Subscriptions from Members		5,875	-	5,875	5,975	-	5,975
Donations		75	-	75	1,040	-	1,040
Fundraising Events		0	-	0	22	-	22
Grants and Gift Aid	2	3,234	-	3,234	3,048	-	3,048
Concert tickets, programmes & other receipts		4,684	-	4,684	7,357	-	7,357
Music Hire		40	0	40	0	0	0
Total Incoming Resources		13908	0	13908	17943	0	17943
Resources Expended							
Hire of halls & rehearsal facilities		2,395	-	2,395	2,416	-	2,416
Prior Year Hall Hire written back		0	-	0	0	-	0
Music Hire and Purchase		334	-	334	554	-	554
Orchestra & Soloists		4,299	-	4,299	4,009	-	4,009
Musical Director		5,100	-	5,100	4,875	-	4,875
Rehearsal Accompanist		2,725	-	2,725	2,150	-	2,150
Insurance & Subscriptions		560	-	560	488	-	488
Sundry Concert Expenses	4	398	-	398	357	-	357
Postage & Printing		438	-	438	369	-	369
Fundraising Events		0	-	0	0	-	0
Other	3	269	-	269	1,141	-	1,141
Total Resources Expended		16518	0	16518	16359	0	16359
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		-2610	0	-2610	1584	0	1584

Note 1

Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the society's financial statements

Basis of accounts: The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention

Note 2

Grants were received from Wixamtree Foundation, Leighton-Linslade Arts Forum and OMM Solicitors

Note 3

Other expenditure includes depreciation; choir refreshments

**WIXAR BUZZARD FESTIVAL SOCIETY
 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024**

<p>Incoming Resources</p> <p>Subscriptions and donations Subscriptions from Members Donations Fundraising Events</p> <p>Grants and Gift Aid Concert tickets, programmes & other Music Hire</p> <p>Total Incoming Resources</p> <p>Resources Expended</p> <p>Hire of halls & rehearsal facilities Prior Year Hall Hire written back Music Hire and Purchase Orchestra & Soloists Musical Director Rehearsal Accompanist Insurance & Subscriptions Sundry Concert Expenses Postage & Printing Fundraising Events Other</p> <p>Total Resources Expended</p> <p>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</p>		
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Note 1
 Accounting Policies
 The following accounting policies
 the society's financial statements
 Basis of accounts: The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis.

Note 2
 Grants were received from Wixar

Note 3
 Other expenditure includes depreciation

**WIXAR BUZZARD FESTIVAL SOCIETY
 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022**

Incoming Resources			
Subscriptions and donations			
Subscriptions from Members			
Donations			
Fundraising Events			
Grants and Gift Aid			
Concert tickets, programmes & other			
Music Hire			
Total Incoming Resources			
Resources Expended			
Hire of halls & rehearsal facilities			
Prior Year Hall Hire written back			
Music Hire and Purchase			
Orchestra & Soloists			
Musical Director			
Rehearsal Accompanist			
Insurance & Subscriptions			
Sundry Concert Expenses			
Postage & Printing			
Fundraising Events			
Other			
Total Resources Expended			
NET INCOMING RESOURCES			

Note 1
 Accounting Policies
 The following accounting policies
 the society's financial statements
 Basis of accounts: The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis.

Note 2
 Grants were received from Wixar.

Note 3
 Other expenditure includes depreciation.

**WILTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SOCIETY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024**

Incoming Resources

Subscriptions and donations
 Subscriptions from Members
 Donations
 Fundraising Events
Grants and Gift Aid
Concert tickets, programmes & other
Music Hire

Total Incoming Resources

Resources Expended

Hire of halls & rehearsal facilities
Prior Year Hall Hire written back
Music Hire and Purchase
Orchestra & Soloists
Musical Director
Rehearsal Accompanist
Insurance & Subscriptions
Sundry Concert Expenses
Postage & Printing
Fundraising Events
Other

Total Resources Expended

NET INCOMING RESOURCES

Note 1

Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies are used in the society's financial statements:
Basis of accounts: The accounts are prepared on an accrual basis.

Note 2

Grants were received from Wixar.

Note 3

Other expenditure includes depreciation on equipment.

**LEIGHTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SINGERS
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MAY 2025**

	Note	2025		2024				
CURRENT ASSETS								
Music Stocks valued by officers		523		581				
Debtors & Prepayments		38		0				
Cash in hand and at bank		<u>6,038</u>	6,699	<u>8,524</u>	9,105			
CURRENT LIABILITIES								
Creditors & Accrued Income		420	-420	420	-420			
ASSETS								
			<u>6,279</u>		<u>8,685</u>			
GENERAL FUND								
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total		
	£	£		£	£			
Balance 1 June 2023	8,790		8,790	7,195		7,195		
Balance of Income over Expenditure	<u>-2,611</u>	<u>0</u>	-2,611	<u>1,594</u>	<u>0</u>	1,594		
Balance 31st May 2024	<u>6,179</u>	<u>0</u>	6,179	<u>8,790</u>	<u>0</u>	8,790		

**GHTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SINGE
LANCE SHEET
AT 31 MAY 2025**

CURRENT ASSETS				
Music Stocks valued by officers				
Debtors & Prepayments				
Cash in hand and at bank				
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors & Accrued Income				
ASSETS				
GENERAL FUND				
Balance 1 June 2023				
Balance of Income over Expenditure				
Balance 31st May 2024				

LEIGHTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1178649

Accounts



Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers Season Report 2023-2024



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President

Mr Philip Stopford

Vice-presidents

We are grateful to the following for their continued support

as Vice-presidents during the 2023-2024 season

Mr P Dickens

Mr N Woolford

Mr R Watts

Annual General Meeting

To be held on Monday 23 September 2024
at 7.30pm at Barnabas Church

Agenda

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To approve the minutes of the:
 - i. 2023 Annual General Meeting held on 4 September 2023
3. To consider any matters arising from the above meetings
4. To note the appointments of:
 - i. Paul Dickens as Chairman
 - ii. Kathryn Emerson as Secretary
 - iii. Ros Mennie as Treasurer
5. To receive a report from the Trustees
6. To approve the accounts for the year ending May 31st 2024
7. To consider subscriptions for the season 2023-2024
8. To confirm the election of the President and the Vice-presidents
9. To confirm as continuing Trustees:
 - i. Richard Watts
 - ii. Miriam Juviler
 - iii. Leanne Morgan
 - iv. Valerie Fielder
 - v. Paul Dickens
 - vi. Kathryn Emerson
 - vii. Ros Mennie
10. To confirm the resignation of the following trustees:
 - i. Roger Chapman
 - ii. Kathy Guess

11. To confirm the continuation of the following as members of the Management Committee:
 - i. Angela Felsom
 - ii. Kathy Guess
 - iii Jean Lawson
 - iv. Pauline Lyons

12. To confirm the Trustee officers
 - i. The Chairman
 - ii. The deputy Chairman
 - iii. The Secretary
 - iv. The Treasurer

13. To consider electing additional Members of the Management Committee. Please consider whether you may wish to put your name forward.

14. To appoint a responsible person to examine the accounts for 2023-2024

15. Any other business

Minutes of the annual general meeting held at St Barnabas Church
4th September 2023

The meeting, the AGM for the year 2022-23 was held during the weekly rehearsal in St Barnabas Church, Linslade, attended by 36 members of the Festival Singers with Paul Dickens, the Chairman, in the Chair.

1. To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Anneke Amsden, Anne Chapman, Jacki Hillier, Graeme Lockhart, Margaret Oliver, Judith Watts, and Richard Watts, Janet Wearmouth.
2. To approve the minutes of the 2021-2022 Annual General Meeting held on March 27th 2023
The Minutes of the Meeting held on March 27th 2023 were approved unanimously.
3. To consider any matters arising
There were no matters arising that were not included in the Agenda
4. To receive the Annual Reports of the Trustees
The Annual Report of Trustees was received and no questions were raised.
5. To approve, subject to receipt of a satisfactory report from the independent examiner, the accounts for the year ending May 31st 2023
It was reported that Mary Hardy, as independent examiner, had provided a satisfactory report and it was:

Proposed by: Kathy Guess

Seconded by: Janet Miller

And passed unanimously that the accounts be approved

The meeting also noted their thanks to Ros for her work on the accounts and as treasurer through the year.

6. To propose that Roger Chapman, Paul Dickens, Kathryn Emerson, Valerie Fielder, Jean Lawson, Leanne Morgan and Richard Watts, all of whom have indicated their willingness to continue in post, be re-elected as Trustees

Proposed by: David Bannister

Seconded by: Bridget Watson

And passed unanimously

7. To consider electing further Trustees

Kathy Guess offered to be a Trustee and the meeting voted in favour unanimously

8. To confirm the re-election of the current President and the Vice-presidents

Proposed by: Kathy Guess

Seconded by: Jean Lawson

And passed unanimously

9. To appoint a responsible person to examine the accounts for 2023-2024

It was reported that Mary Hardy was willing again to act as the independent person responsible for examining the accounts.

The offer was accepted unanimously

10. To make members aware of the draft safeguarding policy

Members were made aware that LBFS now has a safeguarding policy, which will be available on the website.

11. Any other business

Valerie Fielder reported that Margaret Oliver is very ill in hospital.

Ros Mennie (Treasurer) reminded members that subs are now due - £150 for the year or £75 per term. She noted that bank transfers are now preferred, especially after 18th October as there will no longer be a bank branch in Leighton Buzzard. The secretary will send the bank details around in an email.

Leanne (Social Coordinator) asked if anyone would be prepared to bring some biscuits or cookies to have with the welcome tea and coffee on 23rd September at Come and Sing – please let her know if so.

Leanne also noted that some members would be going to the pub after the rehearsal, and that all were invited as a chance to socialise.

Bridget Watson asked if everyone could sign up to do the refreshments at one rehearsal – if everyone does, we should each only need to do one per term.

Roger Chapman (Membership Secretary) requested that members bring their name badges to wear to rehearsals, or ask for new one.

Paul Dickens (Chairman) welcomed the new singers who were trying the choir this evening.

The meeting was closed by the chairman at 7.50pm.

LBFS Members 2024

Anneke Amsden
Brian Bainbridge
Adrian Baluta
Nigel Bibbings
Jill Brace
Anne Chapman
Roger Chapman
Maurice Crowe
Paul Dickens
Louise Dove
Barbara Ellis
Helen Elves
Kathryn Emerson
Helen Ewles
Angela Fensom
Valerie Fielder
Edmund Flach
Dorothy Fletcher
Kathy Guess
Tim Hatton
Jacki Hillier
Mary Hirst
Liz Inglis
Sally Johnston
Miriam Juviler

Jean Lawson
Pauline Lyon
Stephanie Mann
Sarah Marsh
Ros Mennie
Janet Miller
Leanne Morgan
Peter Mundy
Christine Oliver
Margaret Oliver
Alan Perrott
Vincent Pirillo
Linda Plowright-Pepper
Elysia Pughe
Saffron Pughe
Martin Shrubsole
Anne Smart
Fay Smithson
Gill Tarbox
Clare Thompson
Philip Titcombe
Bridget Watson
Judith Watts
Richard Watts
Janice Wearmouth
Jo Ayres
David Bannister

Trustees' Annual Report

2023-2024

Trustees holding office during the year

Paul Dickens
Kathryn Emerson
Valerie Fielder
Miriam Juviler
Ros Mennie
Leanne Morgan
Richard Watts

Members of the Management Committee

Angela Fensom
Kathy Guess
Jean Lawson

Musical Director's report

Over the past year, my first full season with the choir, we have successfully put on a wide range of events: two large-scale concerts, a lighter summer concert, a 'Come and Sing' day, and a performance at the Leighton Linlode May Fayre.

The season began with our 'Come and Sing' day, which focused on opera and musical theatre choruses. While the day itself went well, attendance was lower than we had hoped: we'll need to plan similar future events carefully to ensure that we know exactly whom we're aiming to attract.

Our Christmas Concert at St Barnabas was based on JS Bach's Christmas Oratorio. The choir performed cantatas one and three from the Oratorio alongside smaller works and congregational carols. The Aurelian Ensemble provided accompaniment, and we were joined by four professional soloists. A special highlight was the encore, a new version of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' in all twelve keys, composed by our President, Philip Stopford, which was an instant audience favourite.

In the Spring, we performed a concert featuring Fauré's famous Requiem. I was especially pleased that we were able to showcase talented local musicians in this concert: organist John Wearmouth and soloists Olivia Olleson, Richard Ball, and Saffron Pughe. We attracted a full house of around 200 people at St Barnabas, and I was impressed with how the choir handled some of the more obscure pieces in the first half of the concert.

Our performance at the Leighton Linlade May Fayre was also a success. Given the limited rehearsal time for this, we combined a selection of pieces from last year with a few new works, including my arrangement of Stanford's *The Flight of the Earls* and *Strange Adventure* from *The Yeomen of the Guard*.

The final event of the season was an hour-long light concert, accompanied by John Wearmouth on piano. The concert featured selections from G&S operettas, popular opera choruses, and Purcell's semi-opera *King Arthur*. I'm keen to programme a balance of sacred and secular music where possible, and the opera choruses provided a change from our usual repertoire. The concert was unticketed, and afterwards we celebrated the end of the season with a fantastic spread put on by the choir's members. In the future, we may consider ticketing similar concerts for logistical reasons, but I was very pleased with the event's basic format. Henceforth, we plan to alternate between cathedral visits and light concerts in the summer, with a cathedral visit once every three years.

This year also brought change as our accompanist, John Wearmouth, retired at the end of the season. I want to extend my thanks again to John for his dedication and support over the past 18 months since I joined LBFS. Becky Holt has been appointed as his replacement from a strong field of candidates, and I'm looking forward to seeing what she will bring to the choir in the coming years.

We have an exciting few months ahead as we round off 2024. Our Autumn/Christmas Concert on 30 November will feature music by British composers from the past 100 years. We will be accompanied by a quintet from Milton Keynes Brass, as well as harp, organ, and outstanding soloists Emily Rooke and Richard Decker.

Samuel Huston

Chairman's report

We started our 2023/24 season with magnificent performances of Parts 1 and 3 of Bach's Christmas Oratorio and Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on Christmas Carols. Also included in the programme were a couple of carols by Hector Berlioz (including his well-known Shepherd's farewell) and a superb arrangement (in 12 different keys) of the 12 days of Christmas by our own President, Philip Stopford. The church was full to overflowing and there were, deservedly, many complimentary comments from a knowledgeable audience. The concert was accompanied by the Aurelian Ensemble and John Wearmouth on the organ.

Our Spring 2024 concert, at St Barnabas Linslade, featured Faure's Requiem and Mendelssohn's Hear my Prayer with its famous "O for the wings of a dove" treble solo at the end, beautifully sung by Olivia Olleson, the Deputy Head Chorister at All Saints'. Again, the choir sang well under our Musical Director's excellent leadership, accompanied sensitively by John Wearmouth on the organ. The Mendelssohn is available to listen to on our website.

We sang again in the High Street for May Day and our Summer concert on July 13 featured a selection of opera choruses which went down well with a good-sized audience. Our accompanist, John Wearmouth, retired at the end of the year. We thank him for everything he has done for the choir over the years he has been in post and wish him well for the future.

Our membership has continued to increase over the year, and we look forward to our next season with confidence that the choir continues to go from strength to strength.

With my eternal thanks to our Musical Director, Sam, and to the many who take on volunteer roles for the choir.

Paul Dickens
Chairman

Membership secretary's report

The singing membership of the Choir at the end of June 2024 was 52 (soprano 14, alto 23, tenor 7, bass 7), an increase from 6 over the previous 12 months. There has been a very welcome number of expressions of interest in the choir, most of which have translated into membership. However, recruitment is central to the future success, both musical and financial, of the choir, especially if we are to perform much of the standard choral repertoire

and the Management Committee will continue to look for opportunities of promoting the choir and all members are encouraged to look out for potential recruits. During the Spring and Summer term, the choir noticed a reduced number of Tenor and Bass members but we welcomed friends from other local choirs to boost these sections in the April concert.

Leanne Morgan

Treasurer's report for year 2023-2024

The choir had another successful year financially with income exceeding expenditure by over £1500. One reason for this was the large size of the audience for our two concerts. The concert in December 2023 did make a loss of £1827 (without taking concert specific grants into account) but this was well within expectations given the cost of the orchestra (£3159). I see no reason why the choir cannot continue to have one such 'expensive' concert every season. This loss was more than balanced by the Faure Requiem concert in April this year which produced a profit of £2630.

The second reason for the financial success was various grants we received, namely £500 from Leighton Linlade Arts Forum, £1000 from Osborne, Morris and Morgan and £1000 from the Wixamtree Trust. We are very grateful for these as they are an essential part of our income.

My thanks goes to the many members of the choir who have recently signed gift aid declarations (and thanks to Roger Chapman for organising this). As a result of these, I was able to claim over £500 back from HMRC for the tax year 2022-23 and will hopefully get a similar amount when I put in a claim for 2023-24. We have also made a saving of over £400 a year by removing our music stock from commercial storage – after some pruning the music is now being looked after by Richard Watts.

I am now more than happy with the financial situation that the choir finds itself in and hope that things will continue in this way to ensure a secure future.

Ros Mennie

**LEIGHTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SINGERS
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024**

	Note	2023-24			2022-23		
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources							
Subscriptions and donations							
Subscriptions from Members		5,975	-	5,975	5,590	-	5,590
Donations		1,040	-	1,040	856	-	856
Fundraising Events	2	22	-	22	23	-	23
Grants and Gift Aid		3,048	-	3,048	1,770	-	1,770
Coach Tickets		501	-	501	463	-	463
Concert tickets, programmes & other receipts		7,357	-	7,357	6,570	-	6,570
Other		0	0	0	70	0	70
Total Incoming Resources		17943	0	17943	15342	0	15342
Resources Expended							
Hire of halls & rehearsal facilities		2,416	-	2,416	2,501	-	2,501
Music Hire and Purchase		544	-	544	82	-	82
Music Storage		0	-	0	415	-	415
Orchestra & Soloists		4,009	-	4,009	3,066	-	3,066
Musical Director		4,875	-	4,875	4,320	-	4,320
Rehearsal Accompanist		2,150	-	2,150	1,950	-	1,950
Insurance & Subscriptions		488	-	488	326	-	326
Sundry Concert Expenses	4	357	-	357	208	-	208
Postage & Printing		369	-	369	452	-	452
Other	3	1,141	-	1,141	1,090	-	1,090
Total Resources Expended		16349	0	16349	14416	0	14416
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		1594	0	1594	926	0	926

Note 1

Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the society's financial statements

Basis of accounts: The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention

Note 2

Fundraising receipts are payments from Easyfundraising

Note 3

Other expenditure includes depreciation; choir refreshments and coach hire

**SHANTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SOCIETY
 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022**

<p>Incoming Resources</p> <p>Subscriptions and donations Subscriptions from Members Donations Fundraising Events</p> <p>Grants and Gift Aid Coach Tickets Concert tickets, programmes & other Other</p> <p>Total Incoming Resources</p> <p>Resources Expended</p> <p>Hire of halls & rehearsal facilities Music Hire and Purchase Music Storage Orchestra & Soloists Musical Director Rehearsal Accompanist Insurance & Subscriptions Sundry Concert Expenses Postage & Printing Other</p> <p>Total Resources Expended</p> <p>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</p>		
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Note 1
 Accounting Policies
 The following accounting policies
 the society's financial statements
 Basis of accounts: The accounts

Note 2
 Fundraising receipts are payment

Note 3
 Other expenditure includes depre

**3HTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SII
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! THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 202**

Incoming Resources

Subscriptions and donations
 Subscriptions from Members
 Donations
 Fundraising Events
Grants and Gift Aid
Coach Tickets
Concert tickets, programmes & o
Other

Total Incoming Resources

Resources Expended

Hire of halls & rehearsal facilities
Music Hire and Purchase
Music Storage
Orchestra & Soloists
Musical Director
Rehearsal Accompanist
Insurance & Subscriptions
Sundry Concert Expenses
Postage & Printing
Other

Total Resources Expended

NET INCOMING RESOURCES

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Note 1

Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies
the society's financial statements
Basis of accounts: The account:

Note 2

Fundraising receipts are payment

Note 3

Other expenditure includes depre

**LEIGHTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SINGERS
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MAY 2024**

Note	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total
CURRENT ASSETS						
Music Stocks valued by officers		581			645	
Debtors & Prepayments		0			955	
Cash in hand and at bank		8,524			7,042	
			9,105			8,642
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors & Accrued Income		315			1,447	
			-315			-1,447
ASSETS			8,790			7,195
GENERAL FUND						
Balance 1 June 2023	7,195		7,195	6,270		6,270
Balance of Income over Expenditure	1,594	0	1,594	926	0	926
Balance 31st May 2024	8,790	0	8,790	7,195	0	7,195

**GHTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SINGE
LANCE SHEET
AT 31 MAY 2024**

CURRENT ASSETS									
Music Stocks valued by officers									
Debtors & Prepayments									
Cash in hand and at bank	_____		_____		_____		_____		
CURRENT LIABILITIES									
Creditors & Accrued Income	_____		_____		_____		_____		
	_____		_____		_____		_____		
ASSETS	=====		=====		=====		=====		
GENERAL FUND									
Balance 1 June 2023									
Balance of Income over Expenditure	_____		_____		_____		_____		_____
Balance 31st May 2024	_____		_____		_____		_____		_____
	=====		=====		=====		=====		

LEIGHTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1178649

Accounts



Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers Season Report 2022-2023



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Trustees' reports	9
Treasurer's report	12

President

Mr Philip Stopford

Vice-presidents

We are grateful to the following for their continued support
as Vice-presidents during the 2022-2023 season

Mr P Dickens

Mr and Mrs J Oxley

Mr N Woolford

Dr and Mrs D Wray

Mr R Watts

Annual General Meeting 4th September 2023

Agenda

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To approve the minutes of the 2021-2022 Annual General Meeting held on March 27th 2023
3. To consider any matters arising
4. To receive the Annual Reports of the Trustees
5. To approve, subject to receipt of a satisfactory report from the independent examiner, the accounts for the year ending May 31st 2023
6. To propose that Roger Chapman, Paul Dickens, Kathryn Emerson, Valerie Fielder, Jean Lawson, Leanne Morgan and Richard Watts, all of whom have indicated their willingness to continue in post, be re-elected as Trustees
7. To consider electing further Trustees
8. To confirm the re-election of the current President and the Vice-presidents
9. To appoint a responsible person to examine the accounts for 2023-2024
10. To make members aware of the draft safeguarding policy
11. Any other business

Minutes of the annual general meeting held at St Barnabas Church
27th March 2023

The meeting, the AGM for the year 2021-22 was held during the weekly rehearsal in St Barnabas Church, Linslade, attended by 35 members of the Festival Singers with Paul Dickens, the Chairman, in the Chair.

1. To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Barbara Ellis, Valerie Fielder, Graeme Lockhart and John Tournay
2. To approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting
The Minutes of the Meeting held on January 17th 2022 were approved
3. To consider any matters arising
There were no matters arising that were not included in the Agenda
4. To confirm the appointment of Sam Huston as Musical Director, with effect from January 1st 2023, with a review scheduled at 6 months
The Meeting welcomed the appointment of Sam Huston and was informed by the Chairman of the more formal 6 month review which would be held at the appropriate time.
Sam Huston confirmed he was enjoying his role, had had some helpful feedback from choir members and encouraged continuing feedback, whether positive or negative.
5. To receive the Annual Report of the Trustees
The Annual Report of Trustees was received and no questions were raised.
6. To approve, subject to receipt of a satisfactory report from the independent examiner, the accounts for the year ending May 31st 2022
It was reported that Mary Hardy, as independent examiner, had provided a satisfactory report and it was:

Proposed by: Jean Lawson

Seconded by: Kathryn Emerson

And passed Nem Con that the accounts be approved

7. To consider a recommendation from the Management Committee on subscriptions for the season 2023-2024

It was reported that the Management Committee had decided to maintain subscriptions at their current level i.e. £150 per annum.

In response to a question about subscription levels for younger members Roger Chapman reported that the Management Committee had already decided to undertake a review of subscription policy in the coming year.

8. To propose that Roger Chapman, Paul Dickens, Kathryn Emerson and Richard Watts, all of whom have indicated their willingness to continue in post, be re-elected as Trustees

Proposed by: Janet Miller

Seconded by: Peter Mundy

And passed Nem Con

9. To consider electing further trustees
It was:

Proposed by: Roger Chapman

Seconded by: Janet Miller

That Valerie Fielder, Leanne Morgan and John Tournay be elected as Trustees

And passed Nem Con

The Chairman indicated that further volunteers would always be more than welcome.

10. To confirm the re-election of the current President and Vice-presidents

Proposed by: Dorothy Fletcher

Seconded by: Janet Miller

And passed Nem Con

11. To consider the election of Mr Noel Woolford as a Vice-president
Proposed by: The Management Committee

And passed Nem Con

12. To appoint a responsible person to examine the accounts for 2022-2023

It was reported that Mary Hardy was willing again to act as the independent person responsible for examining the accounts

The offer was accepted Nem Con.

13. Any other business

There was no other business

14. Date and time of next AGM

To be confirmed but it was intended to hold the next AGM closer to the choir's year end and probably at the beginning of September.

LBFS Members

Helen Elves

Kathryn Emerson

Kathy Guess

Jacki Hillier

Sally Johnston

Jean Lawson

Christine Oliver

Elysia Pughe

Saffron Pughe

Fay Smithson

Judith Watts

Anneke Amsden

Jo Ayres

Jill Brace

Anne Chapman

Barbara Ellis

Valerie Fielder

Dorothy Fletcher

Miriam Juviler

Pauline Lyon

Rosalind Mennie

Janet Miller

Leanne Morgan

Margaret Oliver

Linda Plowright-Pepper

Gill Tarbox

Clare Thompson

Bridget Watson

Janice Wearmouth

Brian Bainbridge

Simon Beirne

Nigel Bibbings

Maurice Crowe

Edmund Flach

Graeme Lockhart

Peter Mundy

David Bannister

Roger Chapman

Fred Dorn

Alan Perrott

John Ralphs

Philip Titcombe

Richard Watts

Trustees' Annual Report

2022-2023

Trustees holding office during the year

Paul Dickens
Roger Chapman
Kathryn Emerson
Valerie Fielder
Jean Lawson
Leanne Morgan
Richard Watts

President and Interim Musical Director's report

Handel's Messiah was the choice of music for the autumn concert held at All Saints Church on 26th November 2022, and it was my great pleasure to direct this performance. The choir was joined by soloists Helly Summerly, Anna Boucher, Benjamin Durrant and Edward Price all accompanied by the Aurelian Ensemble. There was a full house at All Saints Church and a joyful atmosphere as the choir completed a strong performance of this most famous choral work, with traditional audience participation in the Hallelujah Chorus.

Following interviews and auditions, Mr Samuel Huston was appointed Music Director beginning in January 2023.

Philip Stopford

Musical Director's report

It has been a great pleasure for me to conduct the Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers since taking up the position of Musical Director in January.

Since then, we have had three major events: our Spring Concert at St Barnabas' Church on 29 April, a performance in the town centre for the Leighton Linslade May Fayre on 1 May and a visit to St Edmundsbury Cathedral to sing at their Sunday Choral Eucharist Service on 25 June.

The Spring Concert was titled 'A Choral Coronation Celebration' and featured music by composers from the British Isles, including our very own Philip Stopford, alongside other choral favourites. We

perform to a large and receptive audience, and the choir and organist John Wearmouth very much rose to the occasion, filling St Barnabas with an excellent sound.

Despite a sprinkling of rain, the performance at the Leighton Linlade May Fayre was similarly productive, providing some lighter relief amongst the more serious programmes for the Spring Concert and Cathedral visit. We performed a selection of folksongs from England, Scotland and Ireland; a Queen medley; and some well-known hymns.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is a beautiful building set in the pretty town of Bury St Edmunds, and we were very fortunate to be invited to be a visiting choir there for a Sunday Choral Eucharist Service. We sang music by Elgar and Ireland, with John Wearmouth providing an excellent organ voluntary. The Choir sang very well, and we have subsequently been invited to return by the Cathedral, should a suitable occasion to do so arise. While Cathedral visits are not necessarily in the usual remit of the LBFS, it was an excellent day out, and we may look to organise a similar trip in two or three years' time.

We have a similarly busy and exciting schedule for the rest of 2023, with a Come and Sing Day organised for 23 September and a Christmas Concert planned for 16 December. Both of these events promise to provide members with opportunities to sing a wide variety of music, with the former based around a range of operatic choruses and the latter featuring JS Bach's Christmas Oratorio (cantatas one and three). Programming popular but challenging projects continues to be at the forefront of my mind as we seek to create an engaging and enjoyable environment for current members while also trying to expand the LBFS' membership in the future.

Samuel Huston

Chairman's report

The 2022/23 season got off to a great start with a magnificent performance of Messiah at All Saints, Leighton Buzzard, conducted by our very own President, Philip Stopford. The church was full to overflowing and there were, deservedly, many complimentary comments from a knowledgeable audience. The choir sounded superb, with excellent intonation and beautifully articulated vocal lines at just the right tempo, thanks to Philip. This was an exceptional performance by LBFS. Well done everyone, but particularly to Philip who held everything together so well.

In 2023 we welcomed our new Musical Director, Samuel Huston. His first concert, at St Barnabas Linslade, was coronation-themed to celebrate King Charles's accession. Amongst many well-known coronation pieces, we discovered a little-known Coronation Gloria by Stanford to open the concert. The choir sang a wonderful arrangement of The Lord is my Shepherd by Philip Stopford. There was a good audience, and the concert went well, thanks to Sam's careful rehearsing of the choir. Thanks too to John Wearmouth on the organ – it was a big play.

We sang again in the High Street for May Day and some choir members sang for the Sunday morning Eucharist in St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, in late June.

Our membership has increased over the year, and we look forward to our next season with confidence that the choir is now pretty stable (touch wood!).

With my eternal thanks to the many who take on volunteer roles for the choir

Paul Dickens

Membership secretary's report

The singing membership of the Choir at the end of May 2023 was 46 (soprano 11, alto 20, tenor 7, bass 8), an increase from 31 over the previous 12 months. There has been a very welcome number of expressions of interest in the choir, most of which have translated into membership. However, recruitment is central to the future success, both musical and financial, of the choir, especially if we are to perform much of the standard choral repertoire and the Management Committee will continue to look for opportunities of promoting the choir and all members are encouraged to look out for potential recruits.

Feedback has indicated that the re-introduction of coffee breaks in rehearsals has succeeded in fostering a more welcoming and friendly atmosphere and the Committee is very sensitive to the need to continue to encourage the social development of the choir. Success will be dependent on the willingness of members to support any such initiatives.

Roger Chapman

Treasurer's report for year 2022-2023

This year started off in a bad way financially. The problem was that we held rehearsals throughout the summer. Although this cost slightly less than the current £205 per rehearsal, without any income our bank balance was drained significantly – so much so that I was warning the committee that the choir may not see the end of the season out due to lack of funds.

The reason that this did not happen was due to the success financially of our two concerts I predicted that the Messiah concert in November 2022 would make a loss of over £1500 due to the cost of having an orchestra (£2200). However the very large numbers of tickets sold countered this resulting in us only having a £600 loss. Similarly the 'Choral Celebration for the Coronation' in April 2023 made a profit of £1500 instead of breaking even or a slight loss which I expected.

We were grateful for the various grants we received, namely £500 from Leighton Linslade Arts Forum and £1000 from Osborne, Morris and Morgan. We also have a grant of £1000 from the Wixamtree Trust to be used for our December 2023 concert.

There are two ways of making money for the choir that are not utilized as much as they should be. The first is gift aid – I have had no new registrations for this so the only claims I can make are for 11 pre-2020 members for which I get just over £200. I would urge any tax payer who has not filled in a gift aid form to do so. There is a form that can be used in the member's area of the web site or come and see me. Secondly we are now registered with [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk). If you sign up for this with Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers as your nominated charity the choir should receive money for purchases you make on-line from a number of retailers.

We are now in a slightly better financial state going forward especially if ticket sales continue at the same level. However things could just easily take a bad turn again and cause another financial worry.

Ros Mennie

**LEIGHTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SINGERS
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023**

Note	2022-23			2021-22			201
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Incoming Resources							
Subscriptions and donations							
Members	5,590	-	5,590	3,681	-	3,681	
President, Vice Presidents, Friends	856	-	856	100	-	100	
Fundraising Events	23	-	23	28	-	28	2
Grants and Gift Aid	1,770	-	1,770	1,500	-	1,500	
Coach Tickets	463	-	463	0	-	0	
Sale of DVDs to Members	0	-	0	0	-	0	
Concert tickets, programmes & other receipts	6,570	-	6,570	5,186	-	5,186	
Bank Interest	0	-	0	0	-	0	
Overseas Tour	0	-	0	0	-	0	
Workshop	0	-	0	0	-	0	
Anniversary Meal	0	-	0	0	-	0	
Other	70	0	70	93	0	93	3
Total Incoming Resources	15342	0	15342	10588	0	10588	
Resources Expended							
Hire of halls & rehearsal facilities	2,501	-	2,501	1,522	-	1,522	
Prior Year Hall Hire written back	0	-	0	0	-	0	
Music Hire and Purchase	82	-	82	147	-	147	
Music Commission	0	-	0	0	-	0	
Member's Hire and Purchase of Music	0	-	0	0	-	0	
Music Storage	415	-	415	441	-	441	
Advertising & Publicity	0	-	0	0	-	0	
Orchestra & Soloists	3,066	-	3,066	3,643	-	3,643	
Musical Director	4,320	-	4,320	2,430	-	2,430	
Rehearsal Accompanist	1,950	-	1,950	1,850	-	1,850	
Insurance & Subscriptions	326	-	326	250	-	250	
Sundry Concert Expenses	208	-	208	478	-	478	
Postage & Printing	452	-	452	273	-	273	
Fundraising Events	0	-	0	0	-	0	
Overseas Tour - payments to tour operator	0	-	0	0	-	0	
Overseas Tour - other expenses	0	-	0	0	-	0	
Workshop	0	-	0	0	-	0	
Anniversary Meal	0	-	0	0	-	0	
Other	1,097	-	1,097	62	18	80	3
Total Resources Expended	14416	0	14416	11095	18	11113	
NET INCOMING RESOURCES	926	0	926	-507	-18	-525	

Note 1

Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the society's financial statements

Basis of accounts: The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention

Note 2

Fundraising receipts are payments from Amazon Smile

Note 3

Other receipts: music hire to third parties

Other expenditure includes depreciation; choir refreshments ; purchase of scarves and coach hire (Southwark)

**LEIGHTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SINGERS
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MAY 2023**

	Note	2022-23		2121-22	
CURRENT ASSETS					
Music Stocks valued by officers			645		717
Sweatshirts/Uniforms			0		0
Debtors & Prepayments			955		0
Cash in hand and at bank			<u>7,042</u>		<u>7,033</u>
			8,642		7,750
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors & Accrued Income			1,447		1,480
			<u>-1,447</u>		<u>-1,480</u>
ASSETS			<u>7,195</u>		<u>6,270</u>
GENERAL FUND					
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
		£	£		
Balance 1 June 2022		6,270		6,270	6,795
Balance of Income over Expenditure		926	0	926	-525
Balance 31st May 2023		<u>7,195</u>	<u>0</u>	7,195	<u>6,270</u>

LEIGHTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1178649

Accounts



Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers Season Report 2021-2022



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President

Mr Philip Stopford

Vice-presidents

We are grateful to the following for their continued support
as Vice-presidents during the 2021-2022 season

Mr P Dickens

Mr and Mrs J Oxley

Dr and Mrs D Wray

Mr R Watts

Annual General Meeting 27th March 2023

Agenda

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting held on January 17th 2022
3. To consider any matters arising
4. To confirm the appointment of Sam Huston as Musical Director, with effect from January 1st 2023, a review at 6 months
5. To receive the Annual Reports of the Trustees
6. To approve, subject to receipt of a satisfactory report from the independent examiner, the accounts for the year ending May 31st 2022
7. To consider a recommendation from the Management Committee on subscriptions for the season 2023-2024
8. To propose that Roger Chapman, Paul Dickens, Kathryn Emerson and Richard Watts, all of whom have indicated their willingness to continue in post, be re-elected as Trustees
9. To consider electing further trustees
10. To confirm the re-election of the current President and the Vice-presidents
11. To consider the election of Mr Noel Woolford as a Vice-president
12. To appoint a responsible person to examine the accounts for 2022-2023
13. Any other business

Minutes of the annual general meeting held at St Barnabas Church
17th January 2022

The meeting started at 19.30 at St Barnabas Church, Linslade.

The chairman called the meeting to order and welcomed those attending the meeting. There were 21 members in attendance plus 6 members of the committee.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Anne Chapman, and Richard and Judith Watts sent their apologies.

2. To approve the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting held on November 16th 2020

The meeting approved the minutes from the last meeting.

3. To consider any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. To receive the Annual Reports of the Trustees

The reports had been sent to members in advance.

Roger Chapman let the members know that he has asked all the local schools to advertise the LBFS in all their staffrooms as part of our recruitment drive.

Richard Watts sent a statement to be read out by the chairman congratulating the Festival Singers on the successful recent 70th Anniversary concert. He also thanked Roger Chapman for his role in the EGM and ensuring the choir's continuation; Paul Dickens, David and Kathryn Emerson for taking on management roles; and Philip Stopford for his support as President and involvement in the November concert.

Pauline Lyon endorsed Richard's message particularly with regards to Roger's contribution at the EGM.

5. To approve, subject to receipt of a satisfactory report from the independent examiner, the accounts for the year ending May 31st 2021

The accounts had been sent to members in advance.

The accounts have been approved by Independent Examiner Mary Hardy.

Proposed: Sally Johnston

Seconded: Valerie Fielder

All members agreed to approve the accounts.

6. To re-elect Richard Watts and Pauline Lyon as Trustees

Proposed: Jean Lawson

Seconded: Margaret Oliver

All members agreed to re-elect Richard and Pauline as Trustees

7. To consider electing further trustees

No members put themselves forward to be a trustee. The chairman encouraged members who would be interested in helping with the organisation of LBFS to speak to a member of the committee.

8. To confirm the re-election of the President and the Vice-presidents who have expressed a wish of continuing

It was noted that since the choir year 2020-21, Mr Smith has passed away and Mrs Smith has expressed a wish to step down as Vice-President.

Proposed: Valerie Fielder

Seconded: Sally Johnston

All approved the re-election and thanks was recorded to the President and Vice-Presidents for their support.

9. To appoint a responsible person to examine the accounts for 2021-2022

Mary Hardy has agreed to examine the accounts next year and the members gave their thanks to Mary for continuing in that role.

10. Any other business

David Emerson discussed a proposed plan for the summer term with regards to singing on Sunday 7th August at Southwark Cathedral in August, and asked for interest from members.

The chairman closed the meeting at 19:45 and thanked the members for attending.

LBFS Members – April 2022

Kathryn Emerson

Kathy Guess

Sally Johnston

Jean Lawson

Christine Oliver

Fay Smithson

Gill Tarbox

Judith Watts

Jo Ayres

Anne Chapman

Valerie Fielder

Dorothy Fletcher

Pauline Lyon

Rosalind Mennie

Janet Miller

Leanne Morgan

Margaret Oliver

Janice Wearmouth

Brian Bainbridge

Simon Beirne

Maurice Crowe

Graeme Lockhart

Peter Mundy

Alan Gomersall

Roger Chapman

Carl Moulding

Alan Perrott

Philip Titcombe

John Tournay

Richard Watts

Noel Woolford

Trustees' Annual Report

2021-2022

Trustees holding office during the year

Paul Dickens
Roger Chapman
Kathryn Emerson
Pauline Lyon
Richard Watts

President and Interim Musical Director's report

It was my great pleasure to return to the UK after six years living in Bronxville, New York, USA and sharing the conducting podium with David Emerson for the 70th Anniversary Concert of the LBFS. David conducted a wonderful performance of Vivaldi's Gloria, and it was a great joy for me to conduct the English premiere of my own Missa Deus Nobiscum. The concert with orchestra, held in St Barnabas on 27th November 2021 was extremely well attended and the first time an audience could be invited back after the global pandemic.

On 2 April 2022, the LBFS presented the Platinum Jubilee Concert in celebration of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. David Emerson conducted a Royal feast of music including Handel's Zadok The Priest, Parry's I Was Glad, Vaughan Williams' Lord Thou Hast Been Our Refuge and John Rutter's effervescent Gloria accompanied by Milton Keynes Brass and organist John Wearmouth. The choir rose to the challenging programme and particularly the rhythmic complexities of the Rutter Gloria.

Handel's Messiah was the choice of music for the autumn concert held at All Saints Church on 26th November 2022, and it was my great pleasure to direct this performance. The choir was joined by soloists Helly Summerly, Anna Boucher, Benjamin Durrant and Edward Price all accompanied by the Aurelian Ensemble. There was a full house at All Saints Church and a joyful atmosphere as the choir completed a strong performance of this most famous choral work, with traditional audience participation in the Hallelujah Chorus.

Following interviews and auditions, Mr Samuel Hudson was appointed Music Director beginning in January 2023. A concert of music celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III will take place on 29th April 2023 at St Barnabas Church.

Philip Stopford

Chairman's report

Well, what a start we had to the Festival Singers' post-COVID era. The 70th anniversary concert in November 2021 was one to be truly proud of. David Emerson led the choir in some wonderful music (Vivaldi, Britten, Stainer and Mendelssohn) whilst our President, Philip Stopford, conducted his own Missa Deus Nobiscum, which was a joy to sing. On top of that, we had a very large audience and lots of kind words spoken about the concert afterwards.

This concert followed a garden party in August 2021 organised by Pauline Lyon as a first tentative step by the choir towards meeting socially post-COVID. Our thanks to Pauline and Jim for that initiative. In September we held a successful "Come and Sing" event featuring songs from the shows and a bit of Gilbert & Sullivan.

A second wonderful concert was given in April 2022, with another good audience and to further critical acclaim. This was a concert to celebrate Her late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and included lots of jubilee related music (accompanied by John Wearmouth), together with John Rutter's Gloria (accompanied by Milton Keynes Brass), all of which was much enjoyed by the singers. Reproduced below are an exchange of letters relating to this concert which will be of some interest to you, I am sure.

Rounding off a busy year, we sang to the revellers in the High Street on May Day. Unfortunately, we were given an early slot when many of the revellers were still in bed, but it all seemed to go well and those that heard us seemed very appreciative.

Numbers are on the increase and, altogether, the 2021/22 year witnessed the Festival Singers' triumphant return to the music scene in Leighton Buzzard. Hurrah for that! Many thanks to all those who contribute to our success.

Paul Dickens

Membership secretary's report

The membership of the Choir at the end of May 2022 was 31 (soprano 8, alto 10, tenor 6, bass 7) and has continued to increase since that date. Further recruitment is central to the future success, both musical and financial, of the choir, especially if we are to perform much of the standard choral repertoire. Efforts to boost numbers have included sending recruitment posters to every school within the choir's logical catchment area and to every parish office in addition to publicity at concerts of the Leighton Buzzard Music Club and in the Festival Singers own concert programmes, in local press and broadcast media. The Trustees will continue to work to attract new members.

Roger Chapman



Mr Paul Dickens
Hockliffe Grange
Hockliffe
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire LU7 9NL

April 15th 2022

Her Majesty The Queen
Buckingham Palace
London
SW1A 1AA

Your Majesty,

I am writing as Chairman of the Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers on behalf of the entire Choir to offer our sincerest congratulations on Your Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and in the hope and expectation that it will be a happy, successful and memorable anniversary year.

The Festival Singers staged a concert on April 2nd in celebration of this remarkable Jubilee and the programme included a number of pieces which were performed at Your Majesty's Coronation in 1953. I include a copy of that programme.

At the Festival Singers we celebrated our own 70th Anniversary last year, having been established as part of the wider impact of the Festival of Britain. We are delighted to include among our current members Mr Richard Watts who was one of the Westminster Abbey choristers at Your Majesty's Coronation and to report that he remains in very good voice.

Again, please accept the congratulations and warmest good wishes of the Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers in this Your Majesty's Platinum Jubilee year.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Paul Dickens', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Paul Dickens
Chairman

Registered CIO No 1178649

Chairman	Paul Dickens
Secretary	Kathryn Emerson
Membership Secretary	Roger Chapman
Treasurer	Ros Mennie



WINDSOR CASTLE

To: The Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers

The Queen wishes me to thank you very much for your letter, and for the kind message you sent on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of Her Majesty's Accession to the Throne.

The Queen was interested to see the programme Mr Dickens enclosed, and to know something of your Platinum Jubilee Celebration, a special concert held on April 2nd at St Barnabas Church, Linslade.

Her Majesty was touched to learn that your group is a continuing legacy of the Festival of Britain, and hopes you too enjoyed your seventieth anniversary celebrations last year. The Queen was delighted to hear that one of your number, Mr Richard Watts, a Westminster Abbey chorister on duty at Her Majesty's Coronation, remains in good voice to this day.

The Queen is most grateful to Mr Paul Dickens for writing on behalf of you all, and I am to thank you again for your thoughtful words of support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Annabel Whithead".

Lady-in-Waiting

16th May 2022

Treasurer's report for year 2020-2021

This was our first year back under normal conditions with two major concerts. It was therefore the first chance to show if the choir was financially viable since new management took over in 2020. This looked as if it was successfully achieved as we finished the year with a loss of only £500 which was acceptable given that we had over £7000 in the bank.

During this year we held two concerts. The 70th Anniversary concert used an orchestra and therefore made a loss of £977. However, this was offset by a grant of £500 from the Leighton-Linslade Arts Forum and a generous grant of £1000 from Osborne, Morris and Morgan. The second concert, the April one celebration the Platinum Jubilee used MK Brass instead of an orchestra. The expenses were therefore much lower and we made a profit of £380.

Hopefully the accounts are self-explanatory. The small amount of reserved funds appear because we failed to pay Alan Childs all the money that was raised for him – this was rectified in this financial year.

There are two ways of making money for the choir that are not utilized as much as they should be. The first is gift aid – I have had no new registrations for this so the only claims I can make are for a few of pre-2020 members. I would urge any tax payer who has not filled in a gift aid form to do so. There is a form that can be used in the member's area of the web site. Secondly we are now registered with easyfundraising.org.uk. If you sign up for this with Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers as your nominated charity the choir will receive money for purchases you make on-line from a number of retailers.

Please note that a lot has happened since the period this report covers including running a long summer season with no income but that will have to wait until the next AGM.

Ros Mennie

**LEIGHTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SINGERS
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	2021-22 Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds
		£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
Subscriptions and donations					
Members		3,681	-	3,681	500
President, Vice Presidents, Friends		100	-	100	25
Fundraising Events	2	28	-	28	0
Grants and Gift Aid		1,500	-	1,500	626
Concert tickets, programmes & other receipts		5,186	-	5,186	0
Bank Interest		0	-	0	0
Other	3	93	0	93	0
Total Incoming Resources		10588	0	10588	1151
Resources Expended					
Hire of halls & rehearsal facilities		1,522	-	1,522	120
Music Hire and Purchase		147	-	147	53
Music Storage		441	-	441	0
Advertising & Publicity		0	-	0	0
Orchestra & Soloists		3,643	-	3,643	0
Musical Director		2,430	-	2,430	420
Rehearsal Accompanist		1,850	-	1,850	300
Insurance & Subscriptions		250	-	250	275
Sundry Concert Expenses		478	-	478	0
Postage & Printing		273	-	273	0
Fundraising Events		0	-	0	0
Other	3	62	18	80	146

Total Resources Expended	11096	18	11114	1313
NET INCOMING RESOURCES	-508	-18	-526	-162

Note 1

Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material i the society's financial statements

Basis of accounts: The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention

Note 2

Fundraising receipts include payments from Amazon Smile

Note 3

Other receipts: music hire to third parties

Other expenditure includes depreciation; choir refreshmenst ; remainder of gift to Alan Childs

2020-21 Restricted Funds	Total Funds
£	£
-	500
-	25
-	0
-	626
-	0
-	0
500	500
500	1651
-	120
-	53
-	0
-	0
-	0
-	420
-	300
-	275
-	0
-	0
-	0
-	-
482	628

482

1795

18

-144

n relation to

**LEIGHTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SINGERS
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MAY 2022**

	2122			2121		
Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total
CURRENT ASSETS						
Music Stocks valued by officers			717			797
Sweatshirts/Uniforms			0			0
Debtors & Prepayments			0			0
Cash in hand and at bank			<u>7,033</u>			<u>6,016</u>
			7,750			
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors & Accrued Income			1,480			18
			-1,480			
			<u>6,270</u>			
ASSETS						
GENERAL FUND						
Balance 1 June 2021	6,795		6,795	6,939		
Balance of Income over Expenditure	<u>-507</u>	<u>-18</u>	-525	<u>-126</u>	<u>-18</u>	
Balance 31st May 2022	<u>6,288</u>	<u>-18</u>	6,270	<u>6,813</u>	<u>-18</u>	

6,813

-18

6,795

Total

6,939

-144

6,795

LEIGHTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1178649

Accounts



Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers Season Report 2020-2021



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President

Mr Philip Stopford

Vice-presidents

We are grateful to the following for their continued support
as Vice-presidents during the 2020-2021 season

Mr P Dickens

Mr and Mrs J Oxley

Mr and Mrs G Smith

Dr and Mrs D Wray

Mr R Watts

Annual General Meeting 17th January 2022

Agenda

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To approve the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting held on November 16th 2020
3. To consider any matters arising
4. To receive the Annual Reports of the Trustees
5. To approve, subject to receipt of a satisfactory report from the independent examiner, the accounts for the year ending May 31st 2021
6. To re-elect Richard Watts and Pauline Lyon as Trustees
7. To consider electing further trustees
8. To confirm the re-election of the President and the Vice-presidents
9. To appoint a responsible person to examine the accounts for 2021-2022
10. Any other business

Minutes of the annual general meeting held on Zoom
16th November 2020

The meeting started at 8.40pm.

The Chairman called the meeting to order and welcomed those attending the meeting. Philip Stopford (President of LBFS) expressed his pleasure at being able to attend remotely from America and at being still involved with Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers.

1. To receive apologies for absence

No apologies had been received.

2. To approve the minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting held on September 9th 2019

The minutes were approved as being accurate.

3. To approve the minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on January 20th 2020

The minutes were approved as being accurate.

4. To consider any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. To confirm the appointment of David Emerson as Musical Director, with effect from June 1st 2019 subject to a review at 12 months

Mary Hardy pointed out that this should be from June 1st 2020 (not 2019).

With that clarification, there were no objections and this was agreed by all members.

6. To receive the Annual Reports of the Trustees

The season report provides the details of the trustee's annual report.

Roger Chapman updated the members regarding marking Alan Childs' time with the choir. The celebratory dinner party was postponed and eventually cancelled, but a collection was taken instead, and 18 bottles of fine wine and a gift token given to Alan. Pauline Lyon reported that he was overwhelmed by the generosity of members.

It was confirmed that the planned concert on Saturday 12th December 2020 would be cancelled due to the second lockdown limiting rehearsal time.

The report was accepted by members.

7. To receive a Report on Musical Activities

Richard Watts summarised the report.

The report was accepted by members.

8. To approve, subject to receipt of a satisfactory report from the independent examiner, the accounts for the year ending May 31st 2020

David Emerson (Treasurer) gave thanks to Mary Hardy as independent examiner for the 2019-20 accounts. It was reported that they were complete apart from a couple of minor changes to the concert accounts (in the order of about £6) in 2019.

Richard Watts commented on the good position that the choir was currently in. Paul Dickens thanked David Emerson (Treasurer), Ros Mennie (previous Treasurer) and Mary Hardy (independent examiner).

Proposed – Pauline Lyon

Seconded: Margaret Oliver

All members agreed to pass the accounts as accurate.

9. To consider a recommendation from the Management Committee on subscriptions for the season 2020-2021

David Emerson laid out the recommendation for subscriptions for 2020-21: £50 in January, and an additional £50 subject to there being a concert in May.

David showed the meeting two budgeting scenarios for the 2021 Anniversary concert – one with socially distanced choir and audience, but no orchestra, and one with no concert. Rough estimations were given of the number of rehearsals available in each scenario (based on the financial year June-May) – a later start to rehearsals would mean not enough time to prepare for a concert in May.

David Emerson confirmed that the rehearsal venue is planned to be St Barnabas Church.

Paul Dickens suggested that the first payment of £50 will be due on or before 1st February, and the second payment of £50 as and when we know about the concert.

Proposed: Richard Watts

Seconded: Janet Miller

Members agreed unanimously to the proposed subscriptions.

10. To confirm Roger Chapman and Richard Watts and re-elect Pauline Lyon as Trustees (Ros Mennie and Dave Coulstock have given notice of their resignation)

This was combined with item 11.

11. To elect as Paul Dickens and Kathryn Emerson as trustees:

It was noted that now LBFS is an incorporated association, the articles state that officers (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer) are appointed by the Trustees, and the members appoint the Trustees in the AGM. These articles have applied since LBFS became a limited company by guarantee. This is the second AGM under CIO status.

Proposed: David Emerson

Seconded: Anne Chapman

The Trustee positions (Roger Chapman, Richard Watts, Pauline Lyon, Paul Dickens, Kathryn Emerson) were approved by the members.

The meeting gave their thanks to Ros Mennie and Dave Coulstock for all they have done for LBFS as trustees.

12. To consider electing further trustees

No members put themselves forward to be a trustee.

13. To confirm the re-election of the President and the Vice-presidents

Proposed: Paul Dickens

Seconded: Roger Chapman

Members agreed unanimously the re-election of the President and Vice-presidents.

14. To appoint a responsible person to examine the accounts for 2020-2021

Mary Hardy indicated that she is happy to continue to examine the accounts.

Proposed: Richard Watts

Seconded: Ros Mennie

Members agreed unanimously that Mary Hardy would be asked to examine the accounts for 2020-21, and gave their thanks to Mary for continuing in that role.

15. Any other business

David Emerson put forward the plan for the rest of term. He proposed that on either Monday 7th December (after lockdown ends) or Saturday 12th December (the original concert date), the choir should sing through the music we have been practising in rehearsals as a run-through private performance. We cannot hold a public concert, but it is important to recognise what has been achieved in the rehearsals so far. This is subject to restrictions and will be confirmed nearer the time.

Paul Dickens suggested that it would be nice for LBFS to record something at the rehearsal on Monday 7th December as a contribution to the Mayor's Carol Concert on Saturday 12th December.

Peter Mundy asked whether the run-through could be an open rehearsal, as a taster session for new members.

Maurice Crowe passed on the news that his wife Wendy is currently very ill.

Pauline Lyon thanked Paul Dickens, Roger Chapman, and Richard Watts for resurrecting the LBFS at the beginning of the year, David Emerson for taking on Musical Directorship, and Ros Mennie and Kathryn Emerson for their treasurer and secretary roles.

Richard Watts asked David Emerson and Philip Stopford about the plans for the Anniversary concert. It is suggested that we could perform Philip's Missa Deus Nobiscum. This has previously been performed in Belfast and New York, so this would be an English premiere (although we may not be able to have an orchestra). Philip is also writing a new, shorter piece for us, and David is suggesting Vivaldi's Gloria as well.

Philip Stopford (President) expressed his expectation that it will be a good year for LBFS, and Paul Dickens (Chairman) hoped that the choir will go from strength to strength, and acknowledged that we were looking forward to meeting again socially and singing together again soon.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm and thanked the members for attending.

Trustees' Annual Report

2020-2021

Trustees holding office during the year

Paul Dickens
Roger Chapman
Kathryn Emerson
Pauline Lyon
Richard Watts

Chairman's report

Activities during the year June 2020 to May 2021 were heavily curtailed by Covid-19. The committee continued to meet regularly to keep things ticking over and to plan for events in case it was possible for them to take place. Social meetings on Zoom continued fortnightly. Although rehearsals recommenced in September 2020, the concert planned for December 2020 had to be cancelled in view of the dramatic rise in cases and new locking-down rules in November. But the choir was recorded at rehearsal singing a movement from Britten's Ceremony of Carols which was then used in the Mayor's Carol concert in December 2020. That concert was broadcast live from All Saints using pre-recorded music and it was good that the Festival Singers were able to take part.

Although detailed plans were prepared by the committee for concerts in Spring and Summer 2021, it was not possible for these to take place, because of Covid restrictions. Rehearsals finally resumed in September 2021 for a December concert at St Barnabas. More about that in the next AGM reports; suffice it to say for present purposes that the December concert, the first under our new Musical Director David Emerson, was undoubtedly a resounding success with some excellent singing, popular music and well over 150 people in the audience.

Based on that experience, our 2021 to 2022 year holds much promise for the choir.

Membership secretary's report

The membership of the Choir is currently around 30. At the time of writing there is some uncertainty around precise numbers related to a number of very welcome guest singers, usually also members of other local choirs, who joined the Festival Singers for the 70th Anniversary Concert. Whilst some have confirmed that they intend to continue membership of the choir, the intentions of others are not yet clear.

What is certain is that recruitment of further members is crucial to the future success, both musical and financial of the choir, especially if we are to perform much of the standard choral repertoire. Notices inviting potential new members have been placed in a number of local churches and in Bee Local, delivered to 19,000 addresses in and around Leighton Buzzard, at concerts of the Leighton Buzzard Music Club and in concert programmes. It has to be said that results have not been outstanding but the Trustees will continue to work to attract new members.

Treasurer's report for year 2020-2021

Financially this was a peculiar year as there were no concerts. This means that we have still not had a genuine financial year since the choir was saved from potential closure and I cannot make any predictions as to its long-term financial viability. However, we have over £6000 in the bank so are not in any imminent danger.

Apart from a few rehearsals in the autumn and a few subscriptions paid, there were very few transactions. There was not even a payment for music storage as this had gone into the previous year's accounts. The collection for Alan Childs was put through the accounts as restricted funds (the discrepancy between money received and that given to Alan has since been rectified by giving him a further cheque).

There was a claim of £626 for gift aid for the previous financial year but I will only be able to claim a very small amount for this year. I would like to emphasize the benefit to the choir from gift aid claims and would urge any tax payer who has not filled in a gift aid form to do so. There is a form that can be used in the member's area of the web site. Also, if you are a user of Amazon and have not registered a charity with Amazon Smile, I would be good if you could nominate the Festival Singers. If you make any purchase linking to Amazon via Smile, it is exactly the same from your point of view as if you made the purchase in the normal way but the choir gets a few pence from Amazon.

Although in past years, the AGM has agreed the subscription, this was not possible this year because of timings. It was therefore set by the management committee as £150 payable in two installments. Please note that the second installment of £75 is now due.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SINGERS
 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

Note	2020-21			2019-20		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources						
Subscriptions and donations						
Members	500 -		500	5422 -		5422
President	25 -		25	-		
Fundraising Events	-		0	445 -		445
Grants and Gift Aid	626 -		626	889 -		889
Member's Hire of Music	0 -		0	23 -		23
Sale of DVDs to Members	0 -		0	0 -		0
Concert tickets, programmes & other	0 -		0	2336 -		2336
Bank Interest	0 -		0	0 -		0
Overseas Tour	0 -		0	0 -		0
Workshop	0		0	0		0
Anniversary Meal	0 -		0	0 -		0
Other	3		500	124 -		124
Total Incoming Resources	1151	500	1651	9239	0	9239
Resources Expended						
Hire of halls & rehearsal facilities	120 -		120	1656 -		1656
Prior Year Hall Hire written back	0 -		0	0 -		0
Music Hire and Purchase	52.5 -		52.5	369 -		369
Music Commission	0 -		0	0 -		0
Member's Hire and Purchase of Music	0 -		0	0 -		0

Music Storage	0 -	0	1105 -	1105
Advertising & Publicity	0 -	0	0 -	0
Orchestra & Soloists	0 -	0	2476 -	2476
Musical Director	420 -	420	2400 -	2400
Rehearsal Accompanist	300 -	300	625 -	625
Insurance & Subscriptions	275.33 -	275.33	403 -	403
Sundry Concert Expenses	0 -	0	177 -	177
Postage & Printing	0 -	0	108 -	108
Fundraising Events	0 -	0	0 -	0
Overseas Tour - payments to tour o	0 -	0	0 -	0
Overseas Tour - other expenses	0 -	0	0 -	0
Workshop	0 -	0	0 -	0
Anniversary Meal	0 -	0	0 -	0
Other	2 145.52	482 627.52	97 -	97
Total Resources Expended	1313.35	482 1795.35	9416	0 9416
NET INCOMING RESOURCES	-162.35	18 -144.35	-178	0 -178

Note 1

Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the society's financial statements

Basis of accounts: The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention

Note 2

Other receipts: collection for A Childs (restricted)

Other expenditure: depreciation ; collection for Alan Childs(restricted) ; noticeboard bag

LEIGHTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SINGERS
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MAY 2021

	Note	2021		2020	
CURRENT ASSETS					
Music Stocks valued by officers		796.75		885.28	
Sweatshirts/Uniforms		0		0	
Debtors & Prepayments		0		0	
Cash in hand and at bank		6015.81		6053.36	
			6812.56		6938.64
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors & Accrued Income		18.01		0	
			-18.01		0
ASSETS			6794.55		6938.64
GENERAL FUND					
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted
		£	£	£	£
Balance 1 June 2020		6938.64		7116.92	
Balance of Income ove		-126	-18	-178	
Balance 31st May 2021		6812.64	-18	6938.92	0
			6794.64		6938.92