

DSO INAUGURAL TRUSTEES REPORT

I. INTRO

Our annual report for 2019-2020 covers a period which was almost utterly dominated by a world of Covid-19 and the UK lockdowns. Because the charity was originally centred around free weekly gatherings of singing and social interaction, the very essence, in so many ways, of our modus operandi changed completely from our last session which was held on March 5th 2020. However, we are immensely proud that against all of the odds the charity not only survived but has continued to thrive. The objectives as a charitable foundation did not alter rather necessity forced the trustees to adapt in a different context. The trustees' previous patterns of thinking were challenged and we responded to a new environment by providing, as have so many other organisations, an on-line provision.

II. OVERVIEW of ACTIVITIES

The 12-month period covered by this report (November 2019- November 2020) began with the nascent charity being only 3 months old. We were in the throes of establishing our client base, our financial & donation base, our volunteer structure base and our publicity & marketing structure. The application for & the acceptance of, our National Lottery bid was a tremendous boost for all concerned. We struck up excellent relationships with local care homes across Northamptonshire as well as with individual carers & family members of many of those living with dementia. We were unbelievably fortunate to secure the services of local choirmaster Gareth Fuller and his distinctive approach provided DSO with its unique attraction. Throughout the original pre-Lockdown period there were regularly 80 attendees on a weekly basis. 25 supporters received formal Dementia Friends training and all trustees underwent Safeguard Training for working with vulnerable adults. Close relationships and collaboration with local school, church & community groups as well as interviews with & visits from Radio Northampton, BBC & Anglia TV, reinforced the growing DSO profile across the East Midlands. Indeed publicity extended our contacts to others involved in dementia care & research beyond our local area.

As well as not being able to meet face-to-face from March 2020 the trustees faced the highly restrictive and well-documented Care Home regulations. Undaunted we worked around these unprecedented circumstances by maintaining regular contact with Care Homes providing moral and practical support including physically delivering updated song booklets by DSO volunteers and providing telephone support to individuals. Beyond that we extended our publicity to try to capture private individuals and their carers living in domestic situations, often in isolation. The trustees committed to

increasing the charity's support to private individuals who are living alone, carers and family members and we provided much-needed IT support as well. Trustees have met frequently on-line to agree adapted approaches and have consulted with each of the Care Homes with whom we have relationships.

Covid-19 and the resultant lockdowns have highlighted the pressures under which both Care Homes and private individuals whom we seek to support, exist. We feel comfortable in having done everything in our powers to maintain our weekly sessions at the same time as contending with the debilitating impact of Lockdown restrictions. These were most acute, as media outlets have publicized, within many Care home settings where there were no communal gatherings allowed and residents were confined to their own rooms with no opportunity to take advantage of DSO weekly singing sessions. The trustees and Gareth Fuller provided, via the DSO website, recorded sessions which could be accessed at any time. Post March 2020 an unforeseen benefit of Zoom sessions is that numerous family members have been able to see their loved ones responding to the singing in a way which had not been possible pre-Lockdown unless they physically accompanied them on a Thursday morning. Equally the visual of a Zoom screen on a Thursday morning was literally the only contact enjoyed by some family members; these instances alone confirmed the value of continuing our efforts.

The therapy provided by singing has been blatantly obvious in the feedback received from individuals and family members since DSO's inception. However, another aspect of our activity which has taken the trustees by surprise is the attendance of an increasing number of individuals who have quite simply been isolated over the lockdown period and who have been missing social interaction. Even though our focus continues to be on the benefits of singing for those living with dementia we have been forced to review our provision and even though our emphasis will always be upon those living with dementia and their carers. the trustees have decided to turn no one away because of the obvious benefits of singing for all.

III. SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

- I. Setting up of weekly Zoom singing sessions
- II. Safeguarding training for all trustees
- III. On-line recorded sessions
- IV. Delivery of song booklets to Care Homes
- V. IT Teaching support for private individuals
- VI. Monitoring of success of DSO activities/provision via website analytics
- VII. Promotion of DSO activities through increased media publicity campaigns

VIII. FUTURE PLANNING

DSO, as with all charities, has been both stretched and challenged further since March 2020; as Trustees we continue to believe that, even in unprecedented times which fundamentally challenge the very basis upon which we were founded, there is a demand for singing activities and general support even if that is not face-to-face as it was pre-Lockdown. We are obviously aware that those living with dementia require support with technology and we are building upon our provision in this respect. The trustees' approach will continue to be in collaboration with the community, developing relationships with individuals and organisations and promoting the wider benefits of singing. Our next Annual Report will detail the way in which we have been able to work in the uncertain times ahead post-pandemic.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Dementia Sings Out

No (if any)
1186115

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 6/3/2019	To	Period end date 11/30/2020
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
The National Lottery Grant	-	9,420	-	9,420
Voluntary Donations	17,958	-	-	17,958
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	17,958	9,420	-	27,378
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	17,958	9,420	-	27,378
A3 Payments				
Choir Director Fees	2,650	6,900	-	9,550
Use of Venue	-	1,360	-	1,360
Refreshments	93	381	-	474
Liability Insurance	94	200	-	294
Advertising	883	-	-	883
Stationery & Printing	91	-	-	91
Website Hosting Fee	241	-	-	241
Website Design	346	-	-	346
Website Support	960	-	-	960
Carers' Choir project	696	-	-	696
Taxi fares for attendees	120	-	-	120
Governance Costs - DBS checks	108	-	-	108
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	6,282	8,841	-	15,123
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total payments	6,282	8,841	-	15,123
Net of receipts/(payments)	11,676	579	-	12,255
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	11,676	579	-	12,255

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current Bank Account	11,658	579
	Petty Cash	18	-
		-	-
	Total cash funds	11,676	579
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
	Gift Aid to be claimed	407	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
			-
			-
			-
			-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)
			-
			-
			-
			-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees			
Signature		Print Name	

CC16a

Last year

to the nearest £

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**Endowment
funds**

to nearest £

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OK

**Endowment
funds**

to nearest £

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**Current value
(optional)**

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**Current value
(optional)**

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**When due
(optional)**

Date of
approval

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Dementia Sings Out**

I report on the accounts for the period 3rd June 2019 to 30th November 2020, which are shown in the document reference CCI 6a

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I have examined your charity's accounts as required under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the act; or
2. That the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the Accounts

Independent examiners statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with the following the Directions of the Charity Commission I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention



Ben Matthews
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6th August 2021