



Danesborough Chorus

Charity Number 1188026

Trustees' Annual Report Year ended 31 August 2023

Activities during the year

After four years of interrupted rehearsals and performances we made it through this season with a full complement of concerts.

We performed on four occasions. In November 2022 we performed Cherubini's *Requiem* and Fauré's *Requiem* and *Cantique de Jean Racine*. Our Christmas concert was performed in Hockliffe Street Baptist Church which proved to be a good venue. In March 2023 we sang *Stabat Mater* by Dvorak and for our Summer concert in June 2023 we achieved a partial standing ovation with our performance of Purcell's *My Heart is Indicting* and Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* which was wonderfully uplifting. Unfortunately, ticket sales were, again, lower than usual even though the weather for the interval picnic was ideal.

In addition to our own concerts Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service invited us to perform at their Christingle Service and to support their congregational carol singing. We also sang at the Carols on the Cobbles Christmas light switch-on in Woburn and provided some additional voices to Redbourne School choir in their Community Concert.

Day-to-day running

We are fortunate to have many members who assist in our day-to-day operation. Without these helpers, concerts would not run as smoothly as they do and the fun of belonging to the choir would be considerably reduced. Having many members performing these various functions means that no-one has to be overcommitted. As with all these tasks, we do need to have new members joining the band of helpers as some inevitably do retire, and so we appeal to those among you, whatever your skills, to see if you can assist in some small way.

As a Committee we have met four times in the past year. Danesborough Chorus continues to face financial challenges and these are influencing programming decisions heavily. We find ourselves looking at programming more popular classics, to try and increase tickets sales, and looking for pieces with reduced orchestration or alternative accompaniment to keep costs low in this area.

We are also finding that our membership levels have not returned to pre-pandemic levels. We are operating below our optimal membership of 100 and are finding recruitment difficult. This impacts on income from membership fees (and associated Gift Aid) and ticket sales as members tend to sell to family and friends.

Administrative Information

Danesborough Chorus is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and was registered in February 2020. Its objects, set out in the constitution, are to educate the public in the arts and sciences and in particular the art and science of Music. The address for communications is 3 Ackroyd Place, Shenley Lodge, Milton Keynes, MK5 7PA.

The Trustees who have served during the year are: Tessa Cox (Chair); Peter Snelling (Treasurer); Ian Smith (Musical Director); Siân Rees (Secretary); Julia Dickens; Imogen Allen and David Roberts.

The Trustees are elected at the charity's AGM with a further two places being available for co-option of members by the Committee. No members came forward to fill these places this year so they became vacant.

Ordinary members of the Committee can only serve for a maximum continuous period of three years.

Finance

The annual accounts are attached to this report.

The choir has reserves which are necessary for the performance of concerts which have to be financed before the concerts take place. Reserves considered necessary need to be sufficient to cover the average costs of a season's concerts. Concerts generally run at a loss which is covered by members' subscriptions and other revenues but we cannot put on a concert without having adequate reserves to cover the costs of performances. We sustained a loss of £3,200 in the year under review and our reserves now stand, as shown by the accounts, as just over £26,000. There will be a small increase in the membership subscription for the coming year and the ticket pricing structure is also under review.

DANESBOROUGH CHORUS

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	12 Mths ended 31.8.23		6 Mths ended 31.8.22	
	£	£	£	£
Current Assets				
Debtors and Prepayments	5985.00		2985.00	
Music Stock	1192.27		1300.98	
Bank	23657.69		28486.82	
Petty Cash	0.00		0.00	
		30834.96		32772.80
Current Liabilities				
Creditors and Accruals	332.45		0.00	
		332.45		0.00
Net Assets		<u>30502.51</u>		<u>32772.80</u>
Represented by				
Funds				
General Fund	26262.65		29472.94	
Staging Fund	590.00		590.00	
Friends Reserve	3649.86		2709.86	
		<u>30502.51</u>		<u>32772.80</u>

P J SNELLING
TREASURER
1st November 2023

on behalf of the Trustees

The notes on the attached pages form part of the accounts

Registered CIO No 1188026

DANESBOROUGH CHORUS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE 12 MTHS ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The CIO became active on March 1st 2022 and the comparative accounts are for the 6 month period until the end of our financial year on August 31st 2022.

	Notes	12 mths ended 31-Aug-23				6 mths ended 31-Aug-22			
		General Fund £	Staging Fund £	Friends Reserve £	Total Funds £	General Fund £	Staging Fund £	Friends Reserve £	Total Funds £
Income									
General Income	2	23372.87	0.00	1000.00	24372.87	4645.46	0.00	0.00	4645.46
Concerts	3	11071.53	0.00	0.00	11071.53	5725.31	0.00	0.00	5725.31
Grants	4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income		34444.40	0.00	1000.00	35444.40	10370.77	0.00	0.00	10370.77
Expenditure									
General Expenditure	2	13964.03	0.00	60.00	14024.03	5173.79	0.00	388.36	5562.15
Concerts	3	23690.66	0.00	0.00	23690.66	15101.84	0.00	0.00	15101.84
Total Expenditure		37654.69	0.00	60.00	37714.69	20275.63	0.00	388.36	20663.99
Net Income/(Loss)		(3,210.29)	0.00	940.00	(2,270.29)	(9,904.86)	0.00	(388.36)	(10,293.22)
Funds Brought Forward		29472.94	590.00	2709.86	32772.80	39377.80	590.00	3098.22	43066.02
Funds Carried Forward		26262.65	590.00	3649.86	30502.51	29472.94	590.00	2709.86	32772.80

DANESBOROUGH CHORUS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE 12 MTHS ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The CIO became active on March 1st 2022 and the comparative accounts are for the 6 month period until the end of our financial year on August 31st 2022.

1 Accounting policy

These accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice on accounting by charities.

2 General Income and Expenditure

	12 mths ended 31-Aug-23	6 mths ended 31-Aug-22
Income		
Members subscriptions	15948.00	545.00
Friends	2150.00	1055.00
Gift Aid tax refunds	3000.00	2126.37
Bank interest	0.00	0.00
Fundraising income	690.07	256.09
Wedding & funeral income	230.00	350.00
Donations	355.00	170.00
Programme advertising	208.00	50.00
Music hire income	291.80	93.00
Sponsorship	500.00	0.00
	<u>23372.87</u>	<u>4645.46</u>
Expenditure		
Rehearsal fees	8740.00	3320.00
Rehearsal premises	1178.00	615.00
MM/PRS fees	634.62	0.00
Publicity	158.88	0.00
Officers expenses	24.68	31.44
Sundry expenses	263.59	222.35
Training	0.00	0.00
Store rental	2364.00	985.00
Christmas costs	600.26	0.00
	<u>13964.03</u>	<u>5173.79</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus	<u>9,408.84</u>	<u>(528.33)</u>

3 Concerts

	12 mths ended 31-Aug-23		
	Woburn Nov 2022	Woburn March 2023	Woburn June 2023
Income			
Tickets	3,687.48	3,510.00	3,500.00
Programmes	<u>129.00</u>	<u>117.00</u>	<u>128.05</u>
	<u>3,816.48</u>	<u>3,627.00</u>	<u>3,628.05</u>
Expenditure			
Orchestra	400.00	4,385.00	5,350.00
Soloists	350.00	2,300.00	1,450.00
Conductor	1,450.00	1,450.00	1,350.00
Music	30.00	41.20	180.87
Premises	900.00	900.00	700.00
Programmes	140.09	144.46	150.75
Publicity	92.73	108.08	129.97
Other costs	<u>625.02</u>	<u>522.00</u>	<u>540.49</u>
	<u>3,987.84</u>	<u>9,850.74</u>	<u>9,852.08</u>
Deficit	<u>171.36</u>	<u>6,223.74</u>	<u>6,224.03</u>
Summary of all concerts			
	12 mths ended 31-Aug-23	6 mths ended 31-Aug-22	
Income	11071.53	5725.31	
Expenditure	23690.66	15101.84	
Deficit	<u>12619.13</u>	<u>9376.53</u>	

4 Grants and Sponsorship

	12 mths ended 31-Aug-23
Neville Funeral Services	500.00
	<u>500.00</u>

5 Fundraising detail (part of note 2)

	12 mths ended 31-Aug-23	6 mths ended 31-Aug-22
Members	76.00	18.00
Music hire (ext)	62.50	0.00
Sundries	1.79	0.00
Hire of choir	200.00	0.00
Coffee	0.00	127.91
easyfundraising	329.78	110.18
Sale of music/books	20.00	0.00
Total	<u>690.07</u>	<u>256.09</u>

6 Trustees Remuneration

No Trustees received remuneration or expenses in their role as Trustees

7 Staff

No staff are employed by the charity

8 Related Party Transactions

During the year musical director fees totalling £9275 (2022: £8480) were paid for the services of trustee, Mr I Smith,



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

DANESBOROUGH CHORUS

On accounts for the year
ended

31 AUGUST 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1188026

Set out on pages

3,4

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

31/01/2024

Name:

JAMES LEGG

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

ACMA

Address:

28 Grasmere Way

Leighton Buzzard

LU7 2QN