

# Danesborough Chorus

Charity number 1188026

Trustees Report for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025

## Activities during the year

The choir celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> season with a range of concerts and social events. We have continued to perform to the high standards to which we have always strived. The Trustees have complied with Charity Commission guidance concerning the requirement for the choir as a charity to provide a public benefit.

Our first concert, which was our official anniversary event, was a performance of Handel's Messiah which was the work given at our inaugural concert in January 1976 and which we have only sung twice since. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we had to move from our usual Woburn venue, to Christ the Cornerstone in Milton Keynes where we had a sell-out audience. The performance was enhanced by a superb set of soloists - Carolyn Sampson, Anna Huntley, James Gilchrist and Ben Bevan.

A Christmas concert followed in Leighton Buzzard before we held our second Come and Sing event in March. Again we sold out the latter, this year for the Mozart Requiem, and finished the day with a full run through with guest soloists.

Our spring concert, back in Woburn Church, was a performance of the Brahms Ein Deutsches Requiem in the composer's own arrangement for piano accompaniment, with our current and a former accompanist at the keyboard. Our soprano soloist, Rebecca Bottone, also sang Berlioz Nuits d'Ete.

Finally our summer concert harked back to 1977 and we repeated the first time our musical director conducted a concert with us with an orchestra. The works were Mozart Solemn Vespers and Haydn Nelson Mass. We again contracted young soloists from the Royal Academy with financial support from the Josephine Baker Trust.

Other musical events included the annual Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue and Police Christingle in Woburn Church, carol singing in aid of Willen Hospice, and several weddings and funerals.

We are hugely indebted to our musical director, Ian Smith, who has been at the helm since 1977 and is without doubt the reason for our many years of success, and also to Tim Grant-Jones adding to a short list of hugely valuable accompanists over the past 50 years.

Our social events, increasingly important both for fund-raising and choir cohesion, included a celebration dinner at Cranfield University, an Indian meal at a local restaurant and a summer garden party generously hosted by our librarian.

## Day to day running

We continue to be very fortunate to have many members who assist in our day-to-day operation and ensure that concerts run smoothly. However persuading others to step up

and take over from some who have been in post too long can be a challenge. We have carried out a skills audit to try and identify hidden talents. A particular challenge is getting sufficient publicity for our concerts and the lack of younger members with the necessary social media skills.

The Trustees have met five times this year, and also held an awayday in August to review the challenges ahead and steps we might take to deal with these. The outcomes will be further developed and implemented. Our programming sub-committee seeks to balance the need to challenge the choir with less familiar music, while ensuring a programme across each season that attracts sufficient audience for the choir to remain viable. Our fund-raising sub-committee is charged with arranging events that are both financially and socially successful.

## Administrative information

Danesborough Chorus is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and was registered in February 2020 when we changed from a registered charity. Our objectives, set out in the constitution, are to educate the public in the arts and sciences and in particular the art and science of music. This is achieved by presenting concerts as set out in this report in the counties of Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The address for communications is 45 The Quantocks, Flitwick, Bedfordshire, MK45 1TG.

The Trustees are elected at the charity's AGM with a further two places available for co-option. Ordinary members may only serve for a maximum continuous period of three years, though there is no current limit on our officers remaining in post. In the past year Peter Snelling and Imogen Allen have been acting co-chairs. We expect to have a new chair in post after the next AGM.

We have developed and annually review a number of policies as recommended including Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Complaints and a Code of Conduct for members.

## Finance

As our attached accounts show, we emerged from a challenging season with our reserves intact. Concerts with a professional orchestra and soloists always run at a significant loss and other forms of income have to bridge the gap. Although reduced membership and audiences since covid present obvious difficulties, we have made a stepchange with fundraising to enable the choir to weather those issues. Our Friends scheme is an important source of support along with our chamber group who sing at weddings and funerals. As mentioned above the use of young soloists has assisted us financially as well as giving them opportunities to help develop their careers. We encourage all our members and Friends to sign up for gift aid which is usually our most important income stream apart from members subscriptions. Our reserve policy is to maintain a level sufficient to cover the average cost of a season's concerts, which we currently exceed. Our treasurer also looks ahead with draft budgets for two years to flag up potential financial challenges.

# DANESBOROUGH CHORUS

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	12 Mths ended 31.8.25		12 Mths ended 31.8.24	
	£	£	£	£
Current Assets				
Debtors and Prepayments	2076.00		4112.75	
Music Stock	720.43		866.85	
Bank	32036.53		30191.93	
Petty Cash	0.00		0.00	
		34832.96		35171.53
Current Liabilities				
Creditors and Accruals	892.76		1324.56	
		892.76		1324.56
Net Assets		<u>33940.20</u>		<u>33846.97</u>
Represented by				
Funds				
General Fund	29700.34		29607.11	
Staging Fund	590.00		590.00	
Friends Reserve	3649.86		3649.86	
		<u>33940.20</u>		<u>33846.97</u>

P J SNELLING  
TREASURER  
1st October 2025

on behalf of the Trustees

The notes on the attached pages form part of the accounts

Registered CIO No 1188026



# 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 2025

**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:**

17 OCTOBER 2025

**Name:**

JAMES LEGG ACMA

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

**Address:**

28 Grasmere Way

Leighton Buzzard

LU7 2QN



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