



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period



From **Period start date** 1 August 2023 **To** 31 July 2024 **Period end date**

## Section A Reference and administration details

**Charity name** Reigate and Redhill Choral Society CIO

**Other names charity is known by** RRCS

**Registered charity number (if any)** 1188249

**Charity's principal address** 46 Park Lane

Reigate

Surrey

**Postcode**

RH2 8JX

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Ailsa Darroch	Chair from 10/9/2019		
2	Adrienne Elliott	Secretary from 11/9/2018		
3	Tim Nelson	Treasurer from 11/9/2018		
4	Sarah Ashworth	Membership Secretary from 10/9/2019		
5	Yvonne Sinclair			
6	Kevin Chamberlain			
7	Richard Salmon			
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				

### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution adopted 26 September 2019, and came into effect with the registration of the CIO on 28 February 2020.
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	RRCS is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are normally elected or re-elected by members at the Annual General Meeting. Trustees may also be appointed at other times by members or the charity trustees.

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

#### Musical Director

Naomi Butcher, appointed in January 2023.

#### Membership

Membership remains stable at about 90 members.

#### Policies

The trustees are making arrangements for preparing the Safeguarding and EDI policies; and updating the Data Privacy and the Reserves Policies.

#### Inflation

The policy to date has been to use low risk, low return, bank deposit accounts. Although interest rates have improved the impact of inflation on reserves remains a concern.

## Section C Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

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

### Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Society is committed to providing a vehicle for the enjoyment of choral music in all its many forms by:

- promoting and encouraging live music in the community; bringing together all who enjoy singing in a lively and social atmosphere;
- raising standards of presentation and promotion through innovative programming and excellence in performance;
- welcoming singers regardless of their race, ethnic or national origins, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, age, disability, religious or political beliefs or socio-economic status;
- helping members to acquire and develop the necessary skills to achieve the realisation of their full musical potential;
- providing members with services that are effective, efficient and good value for money;



- aiming to achieve the highest possible standards in issues of governance, internal structure and communication;
- playing a constructive role in establishing and building ongoing relationships with businesses, organisations and individuals; and
- such other ways as the Society, through its Management Committee, shall determine from time to time.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. In pursuing our aims for the public benefit, the choir impacts on people's lives in two ways. First, for participants, we involve people in a creative, enjoyable and fulfilling educational activity, providing them with the opportunity to develop vocal technique and musical repertoire. Second, for audiences, we present exciting, innovative and high-quality performances which should always be a pleasurable cultural experience, but will sometimes challenge them and educate them by extending their musical knowledge.

The choir is non-audition, so that people without prior experience are able to join. There is a reduced subscription rate for students and a bursary scheme to cover the subscription in case of need.

At our concerts we offer concessionary rates for young people and we subsidise our ticket prices to make our events as accessible as possible.

In normal years the choir performs at least four times per season. It organises performances, workshops and other activities designed to involve the wider community, including other musicians, musical groups, schools and audiences. In addition, it holds fund-raising events, often with a social purpose, and tours each Spring either within the UK or on the continent.

#### Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

In addition to the functions of the trustees, the success of the choir relies heavily upon a large number of members who perform voluntary roles on behalf of the choir. The roles cover music library, fundraising, concert and tour organisation, marketing, website and media, and community development.

## Section D Achievements and performance

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

### RRCS CIO Chair Report, Season 82 2023 – 24

RRCS began our 82<sup>nd</sup> season programme in fine style, with our first concert repertoire of mainly English music, featuring Holst's Six Choral Folk Songs and most notably, Elgar's The Music Makers. Earlier in 2023, our MD Naomi Butcher introduced us to The Royal Philharmonic Society (RPS) which we were delighted to join as corporate members in October. The RPS offered us the exciting prospect of a workshop focusing on The Music Makers, facilitated by their Chief Executive, James Murphy, and led by Kathryn Rudge, one of the UK's foremost mezzo sopranos, and a leading exponent on this work. The October workshop was a resounding success, thanks to the efficient organisation by Kathy Farquharson and Chris Weekes as well as our excellent front of house team; later in April 2024, the RPS provided us with video highlights of the event for our website. The autumn concert itself was held in St Mary's Church in



Reigate in November, when we were accompanied by Charles Thompson and our regular associates from Surrey Pro-Musica, managed by Geoff Southall; the orchestral reduction was arranged by Naomi Butcher. Our mezzo-soprano soloist was Alexandra Pouta, winner of the prestigious Guildhall Gold Medal Award in 2023. Alexandra also entertained us with a short programme of her own choice, consisting of songs by Ravel, in which she was accompanied by her duo partner, Edward Picton-Turbervill. We were very pleased to welcome our Vice President Robin Gritton to the concert, as well as the Deputy Mayor of Reigate and Banstead, James Baker. We closed the calendar year with an informal Christmas concert held at Shaw's Corner URC, featuring several movements from Britten's Ceremony of Carols and an organ solo by our accompanist Charles Thompson; following the concert, the audience was invited to join us for festive refreshments.

In January 2024, we began rehearsing Dvorak's Stabat Mater, which we went on to perform in Reigate St Mary's Church in mid-March. This piece was a very popular choice with our members, as reflected in the standard of our performance as well as reviews from our audience on the evening. Our soloists Hannah McKay, Karima El Demerdasch, Dominic Lee and Alaric Green were all from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and were supported by the Josephine Baker Trust. Our accompaniment was once again provided by Surrey Pro-Musica.

Following a great deal of careful preparation by our tour team, led by Helier and Ann Dreux, the first weekend of May 2024 heralded our first RRCS tour since 2019. We packed in three performances in two days, visiting Kings Lynn Minster, St Edmunds Church in Downham Market and St Mary's in Saffron Waldon with a programme of beautiful choral music by Stanford, Goodall, Rachmaninov, Gjeilo, Holst and others. Naomi Butcher conducted us and Charles Thompson was also commended for the extra work he undertook in each church to prepare the organ accompaniment.

Our opera-themed summer concert in July was held at St John's Church in Redhill, and comprised a programme of well-known but challenging opera choruses, several of which were performed in their original languages of French and Italian. Our guest soprano for the evening was Chloe Todd, who sang four arias by Bizet, Purcell, Verdi and Humperdinck. The evening followed a similar pattern to last year, with a long interval for audience members to enjoy socialising over seasonal refreshments provided by members of our front of house team. The programme was devised and conducted by Naomi Butcher and accompanied by Charles Thompson.

On the social and fund-raising front, we began the year with a Garden Party in early September, kindly hosted by Chris and Philippa Weekes; this was followed by several carol singing fixtures, including an invitation to entertain the dinner guests at Nutfield Priory Hotel and Spa on Christmas Eve. Richard Salmon coordinated and conducted our small groups of volunteer singers, whilst Gina Eason provided accompaniment; in exchange for our entertainment, the Nutfield Priory generously provided us with a series of vouchers which were offered as prizes in a Grand Draw, running from March to June, raising almost £1500 in support of our bursary and concert funds. Other events included a highly successful Quiz night brilliantly organised by Helier and Ann Dreux in early February, and two hearty and instructive country walks, organised and led by Adrienne Elliott and Richard Salmon; thanks are also due to Nigel Riddell who organises our 100 Club draw every year, and to Kevin and Pia Chamberlain who hosted another successful Garden Party in July 2024, to round off a very successful year.

Our concert charity partners for the year were all local organisations nominated and coordinated by choir members, in line with our current policy. A total of £1,355 was raised by the charities Welcare, which

supports families and children in South London and East Surrey, Redhill Food Bank, The Brigitte Trust, which supports people and their families who face life-limiting illness, and lastly Stripey Stork, a baby bank helping local families experiencing hardship with donations of clothing and equipment.

In conclusion, RRCS's first full year under the leadership of Naomi Butcher was highly successful; acting on the results of a survey which she devised in the summer of 2023 designed to explore members' feelings about repertoire, rehearsal levels of difficulty, musical aims and events, she challenged and supported us to achieve our aims and improve our standards, both as individuals and part of a cohesive group. We were sad to learn at the end of the year that Naomi would be stepping down as our MD in December 2024 since she will be unable to fit RRCS requirements into her post-maternity leave schedule in 2025. Following her announcement, preparations were immediately initiated to find her replacement, and we look forward to our final term working with her in the Autumn of 2024.

Whilst the choir has benefited immensely from having consistent leadership in the MD role over the past 18 months, none of our achievements would be possible without the dedicated efforts of our Trustees, Operating Committee, and teams of volunteers who ensure the smooth running of all our many activities. Sincere thanks are due to them, and to all members for their unwavering support of RRCS, enabling us to look forward to a bright future into our 83<sup>rd</sup> Season and beyond.

Ailsa Darroch, January 2025



**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

The choir's total funds, less liabilities, stood at £82,601 at the year end, compared to £79,486 at the end of last year.

It has again not proved necessary to use reserves to make up any shortfall over the 2023-24 season. However the 2024-25 season is not starting as strong financially, and it is expected that reserves will need to be used next season.

Reserves of £33,000 are held to protect against future financial shocks and pressures. Designated funds of £41,000 are held for the purchase of new equipment (£3,000), equipment and staging (£18,000), orchestra costs in 2024-25 (£10,000) and £10,000 for a future major event.

No calls were made during the year on the Anne Garton Bursary Fund, that supports the scheme to cover subscriptions in case of financial difficulty. Financial support was provided from general funds while the bursary fund is being strengthened; £3,733 was added to the fund from the Christmas concert, fundraising events and bank interest. The fund now stands at a useful £4,925.

Fundraising events also raised £1,253 to be used to support future concerts.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

None.

**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

**Basis of Accounts**

The choir's accounts are prepared on a 'Receipts and Payments' basis and are prepared in accordance with Charity Commission requirements based on the CC16a template.

**Financial Highlights**

Including the £4,986 raised for the bursary and concert funds, there was an overall surplus for the season of £3,355 (despite an overall loss of £9,557 on workshop and concerts) thanks to:

- Subscription income recovering to £16,970 after a dip last year.
- An excellent total of £5,382 raised through donations and fundraising. Prizes provided by Nutfield Priory Hotel for carol singing raised £1,464 in a Grand Draw, which we plan to repeat next season.
- Gift Aid relating to subscriptions and donations in the 2022-23 season providing £3,482.
- Higher bank interest of £1,983 (used to strengthen the bursary fund) against £550 in the previous year.
- Hire of scores from our music library to other choirs raised £969, less postage costs.

The choir held a workshop, staged three main concerts this year, and had an informal Christmas event. These events generated the following surpluses or (losses) as follows:

• Workshop	£72
• Autumn	(£4,033)
• Christmas carol concert	(£95)
• Spring Concert	(£5,745)
• Summer Concert	<u>£244</u>
	(£9,557)

The main fundraising and social events raised the following:

• Garden party 2023	£362
• Carol singing (excluding donated grand draw prizes)	£49
• Winter walk	£345
• Quiz night	£1,041
• 100 Club	£200
• Grand draw	£1,464
• Summer walk	£290
• Garden party 2024	<u>£407</u>
	£4,158

Collections at the choir's events raised the following amounts for local charities:

• Welcare	£462
• Redhill Food Bank	£215
• The Brigitte Trust	£361
• Stripey Stork	<u>£317</u>
	£1,355

### Looking Ahead

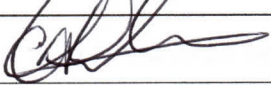
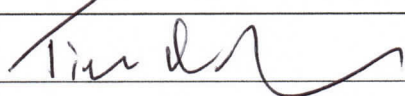
We have held subscriptions at 2019 levels into the 2024-25 season. However many of our costs have been steadily rising, including professional musicians fees and venue costs. To ensure that our basic running costs can be covered by income, and that we are able to pay appropriate fees to professionals, we will need to re-commence linking subscription rates to annual inflationary increases.

## Section F Other optional information

## Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Ailsa Darroch	Timothy Nelson
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	28/1/25	28/1/25



## Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year ending 31 July 2024

RECEIPTS				
Category	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Subscriptions	16,970.00		16,970.00	15,996.00
Friends	25.00		25.00	25.00
Fundraising Income	2,962.34		2,962.34	4,187.12
Anne Garton Bursary Fund		1,534.97	1,534.97	154.00
Concert Fund		1,253.13	1,253.13	
Donations	459.38		459.38	412.12
Anne Garton Bursary Fund				122.96
Concert receipts	6,164.75		6,164.75	7,135.57
Anne Garton Bursary Fund		215.00	215.00	
Josephine Baker Trust Grant		495.00	495.00	495.00
Workshop receipts	1,134.00		1,134.00	
Tour receipts	13,195.00		13,195.00	
Music hire income	3,417.40		3,417.40	2,936.11
Music sales	142.50		142.50	14.00
Tax refunds	3,482.40		3,482.40	5,573.00
Bank interest				550.09
Anne Garton Bursary Fund		1,983.06	1,983.06	
Collections, sundry receipts	353.00		353.00	606.77
<b>TOTALS RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£48,305.77</b>	<b>£5,481.16</b>	<b>£53,786.93</b>	<b>£38,207.74</b>

EXPENDITURE				
Category	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
MD rehearsal fees	6,539.20		6,539.20	5,338.60
Accompanist rehearsal fees	3,960.00		3,960.00	3,350.00
Hire of rehearsal venues	2,240.00		2,240.00	1,971.00
John Fletcher Rehearsal Tracks	93.53		93.53	172.56
Fundraising expenditure	853.18		853.18	997.35
MD concert fees	2,200.00		2,200.00	1,636.00
Accompanist concert fees	793.59		793.59	373.90
Orchestra concert fees	8,145.00		8,145.00	2,435.00
Soloist concert fees	1,681.50	495.00	2,176.50	1,790.00
Other concert expenditure	3,896.49		3,896.49	3,839.71
MD workshop fees	320.00		320.00	
Other workshop expenditure	768.99		768.99	
Tour expenditure	13,376.89		13,376.89	
Music hire expenditure	2,027.24		2,027.24	1,737.65
Music purchase	526.59		526.59	286.01
Collections, sundry expenses	541.39		541.39	1,076.00
Advertising	60.00		60.00	
Administration and insurance	928.50		928.50	1,647.51
Hire of garage	984.72		984.72	895.20
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>49,936.81</b>	<b>495.00</b>	<b>50,431.81</b>	<b>27,546.49</b>

SUMMARY				
Total Receipts	48,305.77	5,481.16	53,786.93	38,207.74
less Total Expenditure	(49,936.81)	(495.00)	(50,431.81)	(27,546.49)
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for year</b>	<b>(1,631.04)</b>	<b>4,986.16</b>	<b>3,355.12</b>	<b>10,661.25</b>
Cash Funds at last year end	78,927.75	1,192.11	80,119.86	69,458.61
<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS AT YEAR END</b>	<b>77,296.71</b>	<b>6,178.27</b>	<b>83,474.98</b>	<b>80,119.86</b>



## Statement of Assets and Liabilities at year end 31 July 2024

MONETARY ASSETS				
	Unrestricted <sup>3</sup>	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Current Account (CAF Cash)	5,353.95		5,353.95	29,430.85
Deposit Account (CAF Gold)	28,416.50	6,178.27	34,594.77	8,236.89
Long Term Deposit Account (CAF Platinum)	43,346.47		43,346.47	42,242.39
Cash and cheques on hand	179.79		179.79	209.73
	<b>£77,296.71</b>	<b>£6,178.27</b>	<b>£83,474.98</b>	<b>£80,119.86</b>

REPRESENTED BY FUNDS				
General Fund	3,296.71		3,296.71	4,927.75
Reserves	33,000.00		33,000.00	33,000.00
Designated Funds <sup>4</sup>	41,000.00		41,000.00	41,000.00
Anne Garton Bursary		4,925.14	4,925.14	1,192.11
Concert Fund		1,253.13	1,253.13	
	<b>£77,296.71</b>	<b>£6,178.27</b>	<b>£83,474.98</b>	<b>£80,119.86</b>

LIABILITIES				
Refunds Due	109.00		109.00	194.00
Hire of rehearsal hall	550.00		550.00	440.00
Redhill food bank	215.00		215.00	
	<b>£874.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£874.00</b>	<b>£634.00</b>

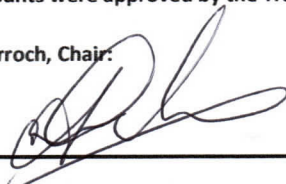
### Notes

- (1) No remuneration or fees were paid to any of the Trustees during this year, and no Trustees received any financial benefit from the CIO during this year.
- (2) There were no individual staff salaries paid.
- (3) Unrestricted Funds, available to be spent to fulfil the aims of the charity, comprise:
- a) General Funds: can be spent on any purpose including regular running costs.
  - b) Reserves: held to protect against financial shocks and pressures
  - c) Designated Funds: amounts earmarked for particular purposes
- (4) Designated funds of £41,000 currently comprise:
- |                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Equipment and staging      | £18,000 |
| Data storage and website   | £3,000  |
| Orchestra costs in 2024-25 | £10,000 |
| Major event                | £10,000 |
- More detail on restricted and unrestricted funds can be found in the Reserves Policy, which is due for review.

### Approval of accounts

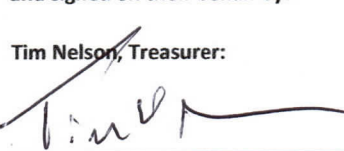
The accounts were approved by the Trustees on

Ailsa Darroch, Chair:



and signed on their behalf by:

Tim Nelson, Treasurer:





Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Reigate & Redhill Choral Society CIO

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 July 2024

Charity no  
(if any)

1188249

Set out on pages

1 to 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/07/2024.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Mariana Silverio

Date:

20 November 2024

Name:

Mariana Silverio

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

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Address:

1 St Johns Corner, St Johns Road

Redhill - Surrey

RH1 6NU