



Trustees' Annual Report for the period



From **Period start date** 1 August 2024 **To** 31 July 2025 **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 until 31/3/2025		
6	Kevin Chamberlain	Chair from 1/4/2025		
2	Adrienne Elliott	Secretary from 11/9/2018		
3	Tim Nelson	Treasurer until 31/7/2025		
8	Lesley Montgomery	Treasurer from 1/8/2025	From 28/1/2025	
4	Sarah Ashworth	Membership Secretary from 10/9/2019		
5	Yvonne Sinclair			
7	Richard Salmon			
9	Jane Ingham		From 24/4/2025	
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)

--

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

Cole Bendall was appointed in January 2025 following the resignation of Naomi Butcher.

Membership

Membership was a little down this year, but remains at circa 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 83 2024 – 25

RRCS embarked on its 83rd season with both ambition and courage, as members undertook the significant challenge of learning and performing Beethoven's mighty and seldom-heard Missa Solemnis. This undertaking was particularly meaningful, as it coincided with the 200th anniversary year of the work's original performance. Engaging with such a significant piece for the first time in our history provided a unique experience for all involved, and we were delighted that Peter Gritton, a renowned composer, performer and educator was able to run our September workshop, to deepen our understanding of the work in the early stages of our rehearsals.

For the autumn concert itself in November, held at St Mary's Church in Reigate and accompanied by our regular associates from Surrey Pro

Musica, we were privileged to be joined by a stellar team of soloists, who had already impressed audiences over the summer with their performances at the Proms, English National Opera and Glyndebourne. Our distinguished guests for the evening included the Mayor and Mayoress of Reigate and Banstead, Cllr and Mrs Humphreys, and our Vice President, the eminent conductor Robin Gritton together with other members of his musical family, including his son Peter who ran our September workshop.

Our final performance of the year was our informal Christmas concert, after which we bade farewell to our Musical Director, Naomi Butcher, as she left us to start her family. During the summer months, the Trustees launched a search to find her replacement and narrowed the field to a final group of four candidates who were invited to audition in November, following the autumn concert. The appointment of Cole Bendall was announced in December, to take office in January 2025.

Although Cole joined RRCS officially in January and immediately began working with the committee on programming and organisation for the remainder of the season, he was unable to lead our Tuesday rehearsals before the end of March due to prior contractual commitments. During this period, Charles Thompson, our accompanist, stepped in to run our spring term rehearsals and conduct the main choir in our performance of Tippett's Five Spirituals and Britten's *St Nicolas* in March. Cole made his public debut with RRCS by conducting the semi-chorus for the *St Nicolas* as well as Britten's Serenade for Tenor, Horn & Strings, which formed the second half of the concert. Both Cole's and Charles's distinct contributions on and off the podium, as they sourced and coached the soloists, were instrumental in ensuring the success of our spring performance.

On 1 April Kevin Chamberlain took over from Ailsa Darroch as RRCS Chair and Cole was finally able to start leading our Tuesday rehearsals. Under Cole's direction work commenced rehearsing the music for our tour to Paris and our Summer concert.

The Paris tour took place over the Bank Holiday weekend 24-26 May. The visit was a memorable experience for all involved, offering both musical and cultural highlights. On the morning of the 25th May, the choir had the privilege of singing at the morning mass in the beautiful Eglise de St Philippe de Roule. The congregation was extremely appreciative, and the service itself was a spiritual start to the tour's musical engagements. During the afternoon, several choir members took the opportunity to visit the newly restored Notre Dame Cathedral, marvelling at the impressive results of the restoration work and soaking in the atmosphere of one of Paris's most iconic landmarks. That evening, the choir performed a recital in Brunoy, Reigate's twin town located to the south-east of Paris. The performance was warmly received, and afterwards, the choir enjoyed generous hospitality at a buffet supper organised by the Reigate/Brunoy Twinning Association, further strengthening the bonds between the two towns. The tour concluded the following day with a recital at the iconic La Madeleine in central Paris, with a diverse repertoire including the *Cantique de Jean Racine* by the young Gabriel Fauré, who went on to become organist at La Madeleine. Special thanks are due to Helier, Ann, and Alys Dreux, whose dedication and meticulous organisation were instrumental in ensuring the tour's success.

The summer concert was held on 12th July at St John's Church in Redhill, adopting the festive theme of the Reigate & Redhill Proms. The first half included works by Handel, Quartel, Goodall, Paulus, Lauridsen,

and others, whilst the second half comprised traditional popular favourites by Parry, Chilcott, as well as well-loved classics such as Land of Hope and Glory, Rule Britannia, Jerusalem, the National Anthem (Britten arr.), and concluded with Auld Lang Syne. The enthusiastic participation from both choir and audience created a vibrant and memorable atmosphere. We were honoured by the presence of the Mayor of Reigate and Banstead, Councillor Rich Michalowski and the Mayoress, Mrs Michelle Gibney, as our guests.

Once again our dedicated volunteers organised a series of highly enjoyable and profitable social and fund-raising activities over the course of the year, beginning with a repeat invitation from Nutfield Priory Hotel and Spa to entertain their dinner guests with carols on Christmas Eve. Both guests and singers greatly enjoyed the event, and we were able to raise just over £1500 from the Grand Draw for the generous selection of vouchers donated by the hotel. Our expert Quiz masters, Helier and Ann Dreux, organised a very successful event in March, which was filled to capacity by our members and their teams. Sponsored country walks again featured twice during the year, enabling members, together with friends and family to explore less familiar areas of the Surrey countryside under the guidance of Adrienne Elliott and Richard Salmon. Nigel Riddell continues to run our 100 Club draw, and the season was rounded off by another delightful Garden Party in August, hosted by Kevin and Pia Chamberlain.

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 £2,120 was raised by our chosen charities, which were: Renewed Hope, which supports homeless and vulnerable people in East Surrey; Include Choir, Redhill; Kent Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance, and St Catherine's Hospice.

The year was marked by significant transitions both amongst our music professionals and our administrative team. We were sad to lose our Musical Director, Naomi Butcher, in December, but delighted to congratulate her on the birth of her son in January. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Charles Thompson who stepped in to cover the role during our spring term, ensuring continuity and musical excellence during this period of change. We were also delighted to extend a warm welcome to Cole Bendall as our new Musical Director and particularly enjoyed getting to know him better during our tour to Paris in May. We are eagerly looking forward to realising his ambitious plans for the choir in the coming year. At the time of writing our performance of Messiah on 15 November was a resounding success and the programme and other arrangements for the Spring and Summer concerts have been set. The UK tour will take place over the first May Bank Holiday 2026, and in the Autumn of 2026 we will be collaborating in a joint venture with Woking Choral Society to perform Elgar's Dream of Gerontius at the G-Live in Guildford.

Transitions have also taken place within our team of Trustees and the Operating Committee. Changes this year have included the appointment of a new chair and treasurer and assistant treasurer, as well as the formation of a new team responsible for all aspects of concert management. We were pleased to welcome two new trustees following our Annual General Meeting in January, and we are confident that these changes will help to strengthen our organisation as we move forward.

We are most grateful for the leadership and skills of Cole Bendall, our Musical Director, and our accompanist Charles Thompson, as well as their work to support the chair of the Trustees and Operating Committee.

In a year of such change, we are particularly grateful to all our volunteers and members. Their dedication in organising and supporting our many performances and activities has been invaluable, and the success of our season is due in no small part to their unstinting commitment and enthusiasm.

Ailsa Darroch
Kevin Chamberlain

January 2026

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The choir's total funds, less liabilities, stood at £77,459 at the year end, compared to £83,474 at the end of last year.

A designated fund for orchestra costs in 2024-25 of £10,000 has been utilised in order to maintain an adequate level of available general funds as a result of the season's £6,015 deficit.

Reserves of £33,000 are held to protect against future financial shocks and pressures. Designated funds of £31,000 are held for the purchase of new equipment (£3,000), equipment and staging (£18,000), and £10,000 for a future major event.

The Anne Garton Bursary Fund, which has been strengthened over the last few seasons, provided £400 to support members unable to pay subscriptions this year. The fund now stands at £5,278.

Fundraising events raised a further £753 for the fund to support future concerts which now stands at £2,006.

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

There was an overall deficit for the season of £6,015 compared to a surplus last year of £3,355. Factors contributing to the deficit included:

- Subscription income down £1,020 to £15,950 (before bursary support).
- Fundraising and donations down £1,207 to £5,028. Prizes provided by Nutfield Priory Hotel for carol singing raised £1,506 in this season's Grand Draw.
- Concert costs £2,791 higher than last season.
- A workshop deficit of £681 versus a £72 surplus last season.
- Tour costs of £2,627.

RRCS had a European tour to Paris in the season, the first since before Covid. In order to encourage participation in the tour, professional fees for the Musical Director and accompanist were met from choir funds.

Gift Aid relating to subscriptions and donations in the 2023-24 season was up by £209 to £3,691.

Hire of scores from our music library to other choirs raised £681 less postage costs (£969 last season).

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	(£681)
• Autumn	(£7,303)
• Christmas carol concert	(£270)
• Spring Concert	(£5,984)
• Summer Concert	<u>£1,062</u>
	(£13,176)

The main fundraising and social events raised the following:

• Carol singing (excluding donated grand draw prizes)	(£92)
• Winter walk	£280
• Spring walk	£375
• Quiz night	£470
• 100 Club	£130
• Grand draw	£1,506
• Coffee donations	<u>£385</u>
	£3,146

Collections at the choir's concerts raised the following amounts for local charities. Last season's total was £1,355.

• Renewed Hope	£460
• The Include Choir	£200
• KSSX Air Ambulance	£697
• St Catherine's Hospice	<u>£763</u>
	£2,120

Looking Ahead

Costs, including professional musicians fees and venue hire, continue to rise. It has been decided to raise 2025-26 subscriptions by £10 for each member, and there has been a small increase in concert ticket prices. Our new Musical Director, Cole Bendall, is engaging with the committee to plan well ahead, which should facilitate better budgeting and cost control.

Section F

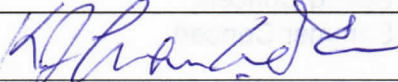
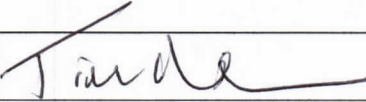
Other optional information

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)	Kevin Chamberlain	Timothy Nelson
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer for 2024-25 Season
Date	9/2/2026	9/2/2026

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year ending 31 July 2025

RECEIPTS				
Category	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Subscriptions	15,950.00		15,950.00	16,970.00
Subscriptions from bursary support fund	400.00		400.00	
Fundraising	3,469.51		3,469.51	2,962.34
Anne Garton Bursary Fund		753.18	753.18	1,534.97
Concert Fund		753.19	753.19	1,253.13
Donations	26.82		26.82	459.38
Friends	25.00		25.00	25.00
Concert receipts	7,507.62		7,507.62	6,874.75
Workshop receipts	850.00		850.00	1,134.00
Tour receipts	21,092.00		21,092.00	13,195.00
Music hire income (members)	1,920.75		1,920.75	2,448.45
Music hire income (external hire)	681.76		681.76	968.95
Music sales				142.50
Gift Aid claim	3,691.74		3,691.74	3,482.40
Collections, sundry receipts	1,317.00		1,317.00	353.00
Bank interest	1,932.77		1,932.77	1,983.06
TOTALS RECEIPTS	£58,864.97	£1,506.37	£60,371.34	£53,786.93
EXPENDITURE				
Category	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
MD rehearsal fees	6,456.20		6,456.20	6,539.20
Accompanist rehearsal fees	3,183.50		3,183.50	3,960.00
Hire of rehearsal venues	3,130.00		3,130.00	2,240.00
John Fletcher Rehearsal Tracks	154.00		154.00	93.53
Fundraising	1,631.41		1,631.41	853.18
Concerts ⁽⁴⁾	20,002.51		20,002.51	17,211.58
Workshop	1,531.17		1,531.17	1,088.99
Tour	23,719.48		23,719.48	13,376.89
Music hire	1,542.77		1,542.77	2,027.24
Music purchase	267.75		267.75	526.59
Bursary support for subscriptions		400.00	400.00	
Collections, sundry expenses	1,427.43		1,427.43	541.39
Advertising				60.00
Administration and insurance	2,039.72		2,039.72	928.50
Hire of garage	901.11		901.11	984.72
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	65,987.05	400.00	66,387.05	50,431.81

Summary of Receipts and Expenditure

Total Receipts	58,864.97	1,506.37	60,371.34	53,786.93
less Total Expenditure	(65,987.05)	(400.00)	(66,387.05)	(50,431.81)
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	(7,122.08)	1,106.37	(6,015.71)	3,355.12
Cash Funds at last year end	77,296.71	6,178.27	83,474.98	80,119.86
TOTAL CASH FUNDS AT YEAR END	70,174.63	7,284.64	77,459.27	83,474.98

Statement of Assets at year end 31 July 2025

MONETARY ASSETS				
	Unrestricted ³	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£
Current Account (CAF Cash)	2,321.22		2,321.22	5,353.95
Deposit Account (CAF Gold)	23,044.47	7,284.64	30,329.11	34,594.77
Long Term Deposit Account (CAF Platinum)	44,527.21		44,527.21	43,346.47
Cash and cheques on hand	281.73		281.73	179.79
	<u>£70,174.63</u>	<u>£7,284.64</u>	<u>£77,459.27</u>	<u>£83,474.98</u>

REPRESENTED BY FUNDS ⁽⁶⁾				
General Fund	6,174.63		6,174.63	3,296.71
Reserves	33,000.00		33,000.00	33,000.00
Designated Funds	31,000.00		31,000.00	41,000.00
Anne Garton Bursary		5,278.32	5,278.32	4,925.14
Concert Fund		2,006.32	2,006.32	1,253.13
	<u>£70,174.63</u>	<u>£7,284.64</u>	<u>£77,459.27</u>	<u>£83,474.98</u>

Notes

(1) While the accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis the Trustees think it will be helpful to quantify the unpaid liabilities at the year end. These are:

Refunds Due	109.00
Piano hire	389.89
Accompanist	92.40
Total	<u>£591.29</u>

(2) 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.

(3) There were no individual staff salaries paid.

(4) Concert expenses were higher this year. These break down as follows:

MD concert fees	2,117.50
Accompanist concert fees	567.00
Orchestra concert fees and scores	10,932.52
Soloist and singers concert fees	2,725.80
Other concert expenditure	3,659.69
Total	<u>£20,002.51</u>

(5) Event outcomes including fundraising and donation amounts were as follows:

	Expenses	Income	Surplus / (Deficit)	
Workshop	1,531.17	850.00	(681.17)	
Autumn	9,691.29	2,388.02	(7,303.27)	
Christmas	631.90	362.00	(269.90)	
Spring	7,853.95	1,870.10	(5,983.85)	
Summer	1,825.37	2,887.50	1,062.13	
Total	<u>£21,533.68</u>	<u>£8,357.62</u>	<u>(£13,176.06)</u>	(deficit of £9,413.87 last year)

(6) Choir funds include both Unrestricted and Restricted funds:

a) Unrestricted Funds:

- General Funds: can be spent on any purpose including regular running costs.
- Reserves: held to protect against financial shocks and pressures
- Designated Funds: amounts earmarked for particular purposes, currently:

Equipment and staging	£18,000
Data storage and website	£3,000
Major event	£10,000

The £10,000 designated fund for 2024/25 orchestra costs has been utilised this season.

b) Restricted Funds. Monies that have been raised for specific purposes:

- Anne Garton Bursary Fund - used to subsidise subs for members unable to pay
- Concert fund - raised over recent years to help cover orchestra and soloists fees.

More detail on restricted and unrestricted funds can be found in the Reserves Policy, which is due for review.

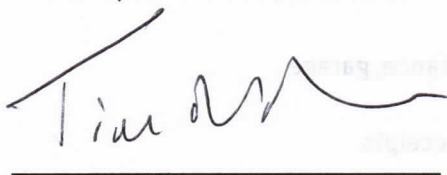
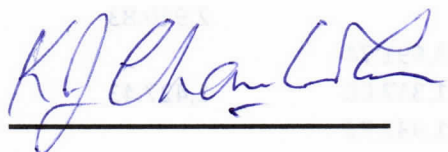
Approval of accounts

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on

and signed on their behalf by:

Kevin Chamberlain, Chair:

Tim Nelson, 2024-25 Treasurer:



2024-25 Management Account Summary

Category	Income £	Expenditure £	Nett Total £
Subscriptions	15,950.00		15,950.00
Bursary support	400.00	400.00	0.00
Fundraising	4,975.88	1,631.41	3,344.47
Friends and Donations	51.82		51.82
Rehearsals		12,923.70	(12,923.70)
Concerts	7,507.62	20,002.51	(12,494.89)
Workshop	850.00	1,531.17	(681.17)
Paris tour	21,092.00	23,719.48	(2,627.48)
Music hire (members and external)	2,602.51	1,810.52	791.99
Administration, insurance, garage		2,940.83	(2,940.83)
Tax refund	3,691.74		3,691.74
Collections, sundry receipts	1,317.00	1,427.43	(110.43)
Bank interest	1,932.77		1,932.77
TOTALS	£60,371.34	£66,387.05	(£6,015.71)

**Carisbrooke
Outwood Lane
Chipstead
CR5 3NP
01737557453**

28 November 2025

To the Trustees of the Reigate & Redhill Choral Society CIO

Review of the financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2025

As Trustees you are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records and, based on those accounting records, for preparing accounts which comply with the requirements of the Charity's Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the Society's accounts for the year to 31 July 2025 carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission. My work was less extensive than that which would have been needed had a full audit been undertaken.

Conclusion

I have completed my examination and confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records.

I have no matters of exception to report.



JEC Grant, FCA