

Sing Healthy Choirs
Report and Financial Statements
Year ending 31st December 2024
Charity Number: 1194226

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1.0 Introduction

The trustees present their annual report for the year ending 31st December 2024. The financial statements have been prepared on the “Receipts and Payments” basis as defined by the Charity Commission to apply to a charity of our size.

2.0 Reference and administration details

CIO name: Sing Healthy Choirs

Charity registration number: 1194226

Charity address: Wilton House, Basingstoke Road, Spencers Wood, Reading RG7 1PH

Trustees

The Trustees as voted at the Annual General Meeting held on 21st March 2024:

Lynn Marshall	Secretary
Michael Gale	Treasurer
Paul Dunn	Trustee
Nicola Nicholson	Trustee
Ann Stainton	Trustee
Michael Hardman	Trustee
Sian Morris	Trustee
Colette Ashby	Trustee
Clare Waters	Trustee
Alison Roberts	Trustee
Gloria Groves	Trustee
Margaret Bunker	Trustee

In compliance with our constitution, two trustees stood down at the AGM; Ann Shaw did not stand for re-election. During the year, Alison Roberts and Michael Gale resigned.

3.0 Structure, governance and management

Sing Healthy Choirs CIO is governed by its Constitution document of 26th April 2021. The Constitution defines the objects of the charity and the associated controls and governance around it.

4.0 Objectives and activities

Sing Healthy Choirs CIO has two objects for the benefit of the public:-

1. To promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the CIO trustees see fit including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals
2. Such charitable purposes for the public benefit as are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England and Wales as the trustees may from time to time determine

The CIO seeks to fulfil its objects through the running of choirs that benefit both the members in their enjoyment of music and also the general public who benefit from the choir performances.

Charitable donations are made to, primarily, local organisations when the funding position of the CIO permits.

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. The following responses are taken from the charities which benefited from Sing Healthy Choir concerts during 2024.

"I am really pleased to hear that the concert was a success. Thank you for your kindness." - **Just Around the Corner (JAC)**, April 2024

"That is an amazing result and far exceeds our expectations! Thank you so very, very much – and please pass on our huge thanks to everyone involved." – **My Cancer, My Choices**, June 2024

"The incredible £2,000 you raised means the world to us and will enable us to bring about positive changes in the lives of more people through gardening." – **Thrive**, December 2024

5.0 Achievements and performance

5.1 General Situation

2024 represented the third full year of Sing Healthy Choirs being a CIO. The trustees have continued to operate two choirs, one more oriented towards classical choral repertoire and the other to popular contemporary music. This mix offers the new members a choice and some do attend both choirs.

Our two Music Directors continue to develop enjoyable repertoires for the choirs that have led to successful concerts both musically and financially. The trustees much appreciate the Directors for their talent, musicality and willingness to try many new approaches for the enjoyment of the members and general public.

Overall, our membership numbers have remained relatively stable with new members largely matching our losses. There is some seasonality to the membership numbers and some movement between the choirs which has meant a reduction in membership income over the year compared with 2023.

As a non-auditioned community choir, we are always pleased to welcome new singers. The trustees provide the membership with newsletters to keep them abreast of choir activities, plans and charitable donations.

5.2 Performances

We held four successful public performances this year.

In April, we staged a Wokingham choir concert of '**Shakespeare Songs,**' in collaboration with Berkshire Youth String Ensemble.

June saw our Bracknell Choir's '**Premium Bond**' concert which featured themes from James Bond films and we were pleased that the clarinet octet, Liquorice Allsorts, joined us again.

A summer concert/picnic was held in July for the choir members, family and friends. This provided an opportunity for both choirs to come together, to enjoy each other's music and to sing joint pieces. Our CLASP Choir for adults with learning disabilities took part, too.

Finally in December, we had our joint choirs Christmas concert in conjunction with CLASP self-advocacy charity.

All our organised concerts proved to be very popular and appreciated. All were profitable and donations were presented to our chosen charities.

Christmas time also saw the members supporting several fundraising and publicity "sing outs" of popular carols at various locations across our area.

"Thank you for your time and efforts at Reading Train Station Bucket Collection, we raised an amazing £763.50, and we couldn't have done this without the help of all our volunteers. Thank you so much for your continued support." **Daisy's Dream**

5.3 Charitable giving

The CIO has been very pleased to make an increased number of charitable donations this year from our concert profits. Recipient charities:

Berkshire Music Trust – teaching instrumental and singing lessons in schools and music centres is the backbone of the Trust's objectives

Just Around the Corner (JAC) – supports thousands of children and young people through mentoring and development work in schools and outreach work in the community

My Cancer, My Choices – offers holistic complementary therapies to enhance the wellbeing of individuals with cancer in Berkshire

Thrive – empowers people through gardening and nature-based activities, helping them build skills, improve mental health and their own self-confidence

Caring, Listening and Supporting Partnership (CLASP) – a self-advocacy group for adults with learning disabilities which helps them to find a voice in the community

6.0 Financial review

Overall, the CIO made a loss of £775. This loss was expected and planned to be absorbed from the reserve fund.

Our cash reserves have decreased to c. £15.5k and in line with our target level of approximately 50% of our subscription income.

Member subscription levels have been held stable for many years, but cost pressures have led to the trustees deciding to increase them in 2025 to avoid further losses.

Our approach to charitable donations is to use the profits from our concerts. The generosity of our members and audiences has allowed us to make just under £5k in donations to a range of local charities selected by our members.

6.1 2024 Commentary

Comments are made on an exception basis

6.1.1 Income

The numbers for 2024 are similar to 2023 and reflect a generally consistent financial performance.

Membership income over the year is slightly down, but marginally mitigated by an increased take up of Gift Aid registrations. Concert income is increased as a result of the larger audience numbers at our events. This has allowed us to increase charity donations marginally from the concert profits despite the cost of concerts having risen.

6.1.2 Expenditure

Expenditure has increased consistent with the broader rise of charges in the UK.

The Music Directors' income is the largest component of costs and has increased by c. 14%, but concert and rehearsal venue outlays have also increased. The trustees continue to maintain close monitoring of expenses and try to mitigate them wherever possible. The renegotiation of our storage facilities to a lower cost is one example.

The achievement of just under £5k of charitable donations in total is considered a great success by the trustees.

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2024	To	Period end date 31/12/2024
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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 £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Membership Fees	26930	-	-	26,930	26708
Concert Income	8299	-	-	8,299	7634
HMRC Gift Aid on Membership Fees	3243	-	-	3,243	3113
Music Score Sales	1506	-	-	1,506	2019
HMRC Gift Aid on Concert/Event donations	555	-	-	555	518
Other Income	456	-	-	456	427
Clothing Sales	418	-	-	418	344
Tea/Coffee donations	148	-	-	148	92
Sub total (Gross income for A1)	40,557	-	-	40,557	40,854
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	40,557	-	-	40,557	40,854
A3 Payments					
Musical Directors Fees	18478	-	-	18,478	16244
Donations from concerts	4850	-	-	4,850	4665
Concert Costs	4371	-	-	4,371	3560
Musical Directors Expenses	3259	-	-	3,259	3325
Rehearsal Venues Hall Hire	3410	-	-	3,410	3086
Music Scores	2369	-	-	2,369	3104
Book Keeping	1800	-	-	1,800	1800
Self Storage Hire	921	-	-	921	1320
Making Music Membership & Insurance	566	-	-	566	543
Website/Telephone/Storage/IT	435	-	-	435	430
Choir clothing	395	-	-	395	247
Other Donations	0	-	-	-	400
Miscellaneous Purchases	394	-	-	394	99
Zoom Video Conferencing	0	-	-	-	
HSBC Bank Charges	85	-	-	85	86
Increase in cash float	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	41,332	-	-	41,332	38,909
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	41,332	-	-	41,332	38,909
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 775	-	-	- 775	1,946
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	16,229	-	-	16,229	14,283
Cash funds this year end	15,454	-	-	15,454	16,229

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank current account	15,454	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	15,454	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	<i>M R Gale</i>	M R Gale	08/01/2025	
	<i>C. Waters</i>	C. Waters	08/01/2025	