



## **FORDINGBRIDGE CHORAL SOCIETY**

*Registered Charity Number 1199533*

*President: Chris Dowie*

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2025**

The Trustees of Fordingbridge Choral Society present their report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025.

The Society's activities are governed by a committee of trustees, who are elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting. Trustees serve for three-year terms of office, and stand down by rotation at each Annual General Meeting. They are eligible for re-election.

#### **Trustees during the year:**

Rowena Padel (Chair, Soprano Rep and Digital Publicity)  
Ian Gates (Secretary)  
Peggy Jackson (Treasurer)  
Ian Turner  
Jane Calver (Publicity)  
Angela Cox (Librarian)  
Colin Burt (Tenor Rep and media publicity)  
Robert Gemmell (Bass Rep)  
Rose Heathcote (resigned 18 June 2025)  
Carol Larkins (Alto Rep)

#### **Musical Director:** Nigel Edwards

The trustees and Musical Director met seven times during the year, in order to organize the programme of activities, and monitor the Society's progress towards its objectives.

#### **Objectives**

The objects of the Society are to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, music in all its aspects. The trustees seek to do this chiefly through local concert performances of choral music from the classical repertoire, enhanced by the participation of professional musicians. The Society actively encourages local people to become involved, through 'Come & Sing' events, and the recruitment of new members. It raises funds chiefly through members' subscriptions and the sale of concert tickets.

#### **Activities and Achievements**

The following events made up the programme for this year:

- Winter Concert, including 'The Messiah', in St Mary's Church, Fordingbridge
- Carols at Salisbury Hospital, and Carol Concerts at Redlynch Church and, with local schoolchildren, at the URC Church in Fordingbridge
- Spring Concert, with music by Mozart and the Haydn brothers, in St Mary's Fordingbridge
- 'Come & Sing', Jenkins 'Stella Natalis and Rheinberger 'Stabat Mater', in the Victoria Rooms, Fordingbridge.

The concerts were well-supported by local audiences, although the Society continues to have to work hard to recruit new members to make an active commitment to become involved.

In October 2024, the Society received a legacy gift of £28,834 from the estate of Pauline Umfreville, a well-known former member of the choir, which, after consultation with members, the trustees decided to use to support the continuing pattern of choir activity over the next few years. In gratitude, the Spring Concert was dedicated in Pauline's memory.

For a second year, the Society was awarded grant funding from Choralis Ficus, and was pleased to use those funds to commission a new carol 'Yet One Voice Sings' (music by Paul Carr, words by Stephen Feltham), which will be performed as a world premiere in November 2025.

In January 2025, the Society moved its weekly practices to the hall of the Fordingbridge Catholic Church, and in August purchased a portable keyboard, to enable more flexible and reliable accompaniment.

By popular decision, in January 2025, the Society was pleased to appoint Christopher Dowie as our President.

### **Financial Review**

The accounts for the year reflected the exceptional receipt of the legacy from Pauline Umfreville's estate, and the Choralis Ficus grant award, in showing a surplus of receipts over payments, of £25,630.

The Committee has taken the decision to use the legacy to subsidise the regular life of the Society for the next few years, allowing also for an increase in fees paid to the Musical Director, and Accompanist. Members were reminded that the effect of this has been to postpone, and not eliminate, a future time when the Society's finances will require substantial restructuring, unless substantial sources of additional income are found.

The accounts were examined By John Spalton, and there were no matters requiring exceptional report.

*12 November 2025*

**Fordingbridge Choral Society**  
**Registered Charity No: 1199533**  
**Examined Statement of Accounts: Year ended 31st August, 2025**

	Income			Expenditure	
	Year 2024-2025 £	Year 2023-2024 £		Year 2024-2025 £	Year 2023-2024 £
Subscriptions	3,480.00	3,902.00	Premises	-1,110.00	-1,200.00
Gift Aid Received	749.63	839.54	Conductor	-2,630.00	-2,000.00
Bank Interest	327.46	31.24	Pianist	-1,700.00	-1,150.00
Donations	131.00	145.00	Making Music	-443.29	-311.72
Music Sold	0.00	0.00	Music Bought	-157.50	0.00
			Music Commissioned	-750.00	0.00
Misc. Income	202.15	0.00	Misc. Expenses	-852.14	0.00
Fundraising Income	54.38	654.71	Fundraising Expenses	-92.00	-163.73
Library Income	135.60	97.30	Library Expenses	-185.45	-112.50
Concert Income	2,759.00	3,319.00	Concert Expenses	-4,131.25	-4,234.42
Choral Folders	0.00	7.00	Choral Folders	10.00	0.00
Grants/Sponsorship	950.00	750.00	Sec. Expenses	0.00	0.00
Concert Donations	47.50	262.13	Website	0.00	0.00
	<u>8,836.72</u>	<u>10,007.92</u>		<u>-12,041.63</u>	<u>-9,172.37</u>
Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>-3,204.91</u>	<u>835.55</u>			

<b>Note - Legacy:</b>	
Legacy received	28833.72
2025 deficit funded	(3204.91)
Residual Legacy	<u>25628.81</u>

<b>Balance Sheet as at:</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
Bank Accounts:		
Current Account	1,232.75	2,765.12
Reserve Account	29,332.89	2,171.71
Cash in Hand	40.00	40.00
	<u>30,605.64</u>	<u>4,976.83</u>
Reserves b/f 1 Sept 2024	4,976.83	4,141.28
Surplus / (Deficit) for Year	0.00	835.55
Residual Legacy	25,628.81	
Reserves c/f 31 August 2025	<u>30,605.64</u>	<u>4,976.83</u>

**Peggy Jackson (Treasurer)**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS**  
I have examined the accounts of the Fordingbridge Choral Society for the year ended 31 August 2025 and in my opinion they represent a true and fair view of the Society's financial affairs and are in accordance with the records.  
John Spalton. ACIB. (Independent Examiner.)

**John Spalton (Examiner)**

 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

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24<sup>th</sup> October 2025.