

THE BRISTOL BACH CHOIR

Trustees' Report and Accounts for the Year ended 31st July 2024

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Legal and Administrative Information

The Bristol Bach Choir ("the Society") was established 29th June 1967, with adoption of constitution and amendment of rules adopted on 12th November 2009. An amended constitution and rules were adopted on 23rd March 2023. It is registered with the Charity Commission and its registered number is 253338. Its principal address is 59 Reedley Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, BS9 3TD

Trustees' Report

Objectives and Activities

The Constitution of 2023 sets out the Objectives of the Bristol Bach Choir ("the Society") shall be:

1. to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects, in particular the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, the Baroque era, and contemporary music by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals;
2. to further such charitable purpose or purposes as the trustees in their absolute discretion shall think fit but in particular through the making of grants and donations.

Financial Review

This was our first full season under our new musical director, David Bednall. With the support of the Bristol Bach Choir Foundation we were able to schedule an adventurous season, although numbers in the choir still remained lower than before the pandemic.

We started the season with a concert that paired the familiar delights of JS Bach's Magnificat, where we were joined by orchestra and professional soloists, with a number of contemporary pieces composed by Bristolians. In particular, we commissioned a new work by Esther Bersweden, which was very well received.

We continued our season with our traditional Christmas concert in St Georges, but with a twist. We performed on a Sunday afternoon and were joined by choirs from the Horfield CEVC Primary School. The children sang very enthusiastically!

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For the spring 2024 concert we combined the serene Stabat Mater by Domenico Scarlatti with the evocative Requiem by Gabriel Jackson. These works were technically difficult, but we rose to the challenge and our performance was very well received.

For the final concert of the season in June 2024 we were fortunate to be able to hire the Redland Hall at Redmaids High School. We performed a variety of works by 20th and 21st century composers, such as Bob Chilcott, William Mathias, Cecelia McDowall and George Shearing. It was a shame we didn't have a larger audience.

Overall we achieved a modest shortfall on concerts over the season as a whole, mainly due to the significant costs of the November concert. For the other concerts we broadly broke even.

We benefited from continued support from our Patrons, many of whom have been supporting us for a number of years. They provide a core audience and also make regular donations.

On the other hand, with reduced number of choir members we did not cover our weekly rehearsal costs. This shortfall was partially covered by income from a number of rent-a-choir events; we are grateful for the current and former choir members and patrons who helped with those.

Due to higher interest rates than in recent years, our deposit account generated a significant amount of interest. However, we do require our assets to generate returns so that our reserves broadly keep their value in real terms.

Taking everything into account, we made a modest shortfall for the year, before allowing for the interest earned on our assets.

Our ability to perform ambitious concerts, is currently constrained to some extent by our numbers and the audience levels we are able to attract. We are fortunate to have reserves currently, and we are grateful for the support that the Bristol Bach Choir Foundation provides. This does allow us to continue to plan future seasons with relative confidence for the time being. Our 2024/25 season is again ambitious and is expected to lead to a modest reduction in our reserves.

Structure, Governance and Management

Five trustees were voted in at the start of the season. Julie Borowski, Lisa Lewis, Emma Lovell, Rod Thouless and Basile Vigneron (the Trustees). Lisa Lewis served as Chair, Rod Thouless as Treasurer and Emma Lovell as Secretary.

Appointment of Trustees

In accordance with the Constitution of 2023 the management of the Charity is in the hands of a committee of Elected Trustees, including a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer as a minimum, with more officer roles appointed if deemed necessary by the trustees, with no maximum number.

All Trustees of the Charity shall be members of the Charity. Elected Trustees shall be elected by & out of the Charity's members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). At each AGM, a third of the Elected Trustees shall retire and be eligible for re-election up to a fixed number of three-year terms as set out in the Charity's rules and regulations.

In addition to Elected Trustees, further trustees can be elected by existing Trustees as Co-opted Trustees. Co-opted Trustees are not able to vote at committee meetings, should one take place. Co-opted Trustees would be expected to stand for election by members at the next AGM. Where relevant, existing Elected Trustees can appoint Co-opted Trustees who are not a member of the Charity, to provide additional expertise or experience, provided that the number of such Co-opted Trustees does not represent more than one third of all trustees and they do not serve more than two consecutive three year term.

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Achievements and Performance

In performance of the Trust Objectives, the Society has performed 4 times during this financial year.


November 2023: We sang a mixed programme of Baroque and contemporary works in St Albans, Westbury Park. The pieces performed included works by JS Bach, Bednall, Bersweden, Kitay, Pickard, Stunt and Warren.

December 2023: We had a concert of a mix of traditional and less well known carols and readings in St Georges, Bristol.

March 2024: We performed Domenico Scarlatti's Stabar Mater and Gabriel Jackson's Requiem in All Saints, Clifton.

June 2024: We performed a mixed programme of secular works in Redland Hall, Redmaids High School, including works by Bob Chilcott, Lily Boulanger, William Mathias, Cecilia McDowall and George Shearing.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Mrs Lisa Lewis, Chair

Date: 15/5/25



Mr Rod Thouless, Treasurer

Date: 15/5/25

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Independent Examiner's Report on the accounts

Report to the trustees of the Bristol Bach Choir, registered charity number 253338, on accounts for the year ended 31st July 2024 set out on pages 5 to 8.

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 also that an independent examination is not needed due to the low gross income this year. However, they have chosen to have an independent examination, as has been needed in previous years.

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 and guidance for examiners (CC32) 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 the general Directions and guidance for examiners 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 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; or the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:



Mr Philip Neville

Address:

16 Wyedale Avenue
Coombe Dingle
Bristol
BS9 2QQ

Date:

15/5/25

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Statement of Financial Activities

	2023-24	2022-23
Income (Note 4)		
Income and endowments from:		
Subscriptions, Donations and Grants	£16,848	£11,832
Charitable activities	£15,799	£14,264
Investment interest	£1,344	£664
Other	£836	£907
Total	£34,827	£27,667
Expenditure (Notes 5)		
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	£33,698	£22,960
Other	£1,533	£1,460
Total	£35,231	£24,420
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period	£(404)	£3,247
Reconciliation of funds:		
Total funds brought forward	£31,738	£28,491
Total funds carried forward	£31,334	£31,738

Balance Sheet

	2023/24	2022/23
Current Assets		
Deposits - CCLA COIF Charities Deposit Fund	£27,014	£23,169
Cash at bank - Barclays Plc	£2,822	£7,355
Debtors and prepayments	£3,626	£2,030
Total	£33,462	£32,334
Less current liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	£2,128	£816
Net Assets / General purpose fund (unrestricted)	£31,334	£31,738

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These financial statements were approved by the Committee on 12 May 2025
and were signed on its behalf by:



Mr Rod Thouless, Treasurer

Date: 15/5/25



Mrs Lisa Lewis, Chair

Date: 15/5/25

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of Preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16th July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

1.2 Accounting policy

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 the restatement of comparative items is required. No restatement of comparative items is considered necessary.

1.3 Material prior year errors

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period.

1.4 Policy for holding reserves

There is currently around £27,000 held in cash in a savings account, which is treated as reserves for the choir. This will not be accessed unless agreed by the committee for special projects or if there is not enough funds in the working bank account, e.g. building the website or a large expensive concert.

The committee may be approached to approve accessing these funds to help finance some of the concerts for the 2024/25 financial year.

There are currently no financial uncertainties about the Society continuing as a going concern.

2. Accounting Policies

2.1 Income

Income is recognised when the Society has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured directly.

Donations and grants are recognized once received. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the Society is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognized until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the Society and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts: Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift.

Income from interest and dividends: This is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

Fund accounting: Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the Society. The Society has no other funds.

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2.2 Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability Recognition: Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Society to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Deferred Income: No items of deferred income have been included in the accounts.

2.3 Assets

Debtors: Debtors are measured at the settlement amount at the cash consideration expected to be received.

Cash at bank and in hand: Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

3. Related Party Transactions and Trustees' Remuneration

The Trustees received no emoluments or reimbursement of expenses.

4. Income

Income Recognition: Income is recognised as and when received, unless it is more likely than not that there is an obligation committing the Society to return the funds and the amount to be returned can be measured with reasonable certainty.

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Income

	2023/24	2022/23
Donations, Grants & Subscriptions		
Membership Subscriptions	£7,766	£6,937
Donations & Gifts	£2,139	£1,675
Gift Aid	£1,243	£1,220
Grants from other Charities	£5,700	£2,000
Total	£16,848	£11,832
Charitable Activities		
Tickets	£13,920	£12,553
Programmes & Advertising	£196	£166
Refreshments	£322	£391
Members music recoveries	£1,360	£1,154
Total	£15,798	£14,264
Investment income		
Interest on deposits and cash at bank	£1,344	£664
Other income		
Rent-a-choir	£825	£510
Other	£11	£397
Total	£836	£907

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Expenditure

	2023/24	2022/23
Expenditure on Charitable Activities		
Performers Fees	£11,567	£4,900
Hire Charges	£5,361	£4,752
Printing and Advertising	£2,078	£1,675
Members' music costs	£1,621	£1,331
Other concert expenditure	£2,812	£1,264
Rehearsal costs	£10,259	£9,038
Marketing costs	£0	£0
Total	£33,698	£22,960

Other Expenditure

Making Music membership	£543	£550
Admin, expenses and gifts	£20	£251
Patrons event	£447	£106
MD Recruitment/Reaudition costs	£0	£266
Other	£523	£287
Total	£1,533	£1,460