

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

Objects

The Society provides opportunity and encouragement for local people to participate in the study & practice of choral music, both secular and religious. The Society also aims to bring choral music to audiences from Godalming and surrounding areas with a view to encouraging greater musical knowledge and appreciation as well as reinforcing the sense of community amongst local residents.

Governance & Administration

The Society operates under the Constitution adopted on 1 November 1967 as amended by subsequent General Meetings of the Society. The last revision was in February 2023 which was filed and accepted by the Charity Commissioners. The Society is an Unincorporated Charitable Association with members and elected officers and trustees.

There is a main board of trustees with Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer as officers. Sub committees deal with specific issues & projects. Sub committees are appointed from the main board and trustees supplemented by members when required. Society members also perform additional functions under the guidance & control of the main board of trustees.

No member, trustee or otherwise, is paid for his or her role. For the year ending 31 July 2023 the Trustees were:

Julian Hubble (Chairman - resigned 30 May 2023)
Alyson Burton (Secretary)
William Middleton-Smith (Treasurer)
Henrietta Bradshaw
Helen Gee
Helen McSherry
Howard Muir (resigned 17 October 2022)
Susan O'Connell
Elizabeth Sims

Selection of Trustees

Full Members are invited to participate in the management of the Society and suitable applicants are elected at the Society's AGM.

Employees

The Society has no employees. Two professional musicians are hired on a renewable contract or ad-hoc basis to assist the Society in fulfilling its Objects. Orchestras and Soloists are engaged as required for the performances given and paid for this role.

Advisers

The Society banks with Lloyds Bank plc
Independent Examiner Katina Zach AICB

Review of developments, activities and achievements

At the start of the year our Musical Director Sam Hayes announced that he and his family were moving from the area and that he would be unable to renew his contract in September 2023: this was a sad loss but we were fortunate to recruit Paul Jeanes, an MD of equal talent, to replace him.

In October we formed Godalming Children's Choir to help bring the joy of music to children aged 7 to 11 with start up support by way of a generous donation. We were delighted to have some of the children singing with us in our Christmas concert.

In May our Chairman resigned and since then the committee of trustees has been working as a collective pending the election of a new Chairman.

The number of members fell back to 75 following the healthy increase the previous year. We continued to maintain our recruitment drive and encourage new members.

We performed only two concerts during the year as our summer concert of the Verdi Requiem at The Theatre in the Woods, the home of Grange Park Opera, could not take place until September for logistical reasons. Our Easter concert in Godalming Borough Hall was loosely based on the 1863 benefit concert given by GCS for the striking Lancashire Operatives, in the then newly built Assembly Rooms which now form part of the Borough Hall. Both this and our Christmas concert were well attended. We also organised a successful workshop where we worked on and rehearsed Vivaldi's Gloria. This was attended by members of the wider community as well as choir members.

The Society raised a further £300 for the DEC appeal for humanitarian relief for Ukraine.

Financial Review

Both of our concerts made small losses but donations, and lower costs in the absence of a third concert during the year, enabled the choir to show a profit for the year. Other fund-raising activities continued to help our finances.

The trustees' policy on reserves in the Endowment Fund remains broadly unchanged - they will still be used essentially to generate investment income and fund exceptional future planned capital expenditure. The members have however approved the allocation of up to £3,000 each year from the Endowment Fund to augment performance resources for an annual "Bradish Concert" in memory of the benefactor who bequeathed these funds to the Society. In the absence of such a concert during the year there was no reduction in the Endowment Fund balance.

Investment policy remains conservative & under regular review. No funds are held by the Society as custodian trustees on behalf of others.

Risk Management

The trustees perform regular reviews of the Society's operations and strategic objectives to ensure adherence to its principal charitable objects and financial controls. They are satisfied that there are sufficient systems and procedures in place to identify and address in a timely manner those risks that the Society may face from time to time. A constant potential risk throughout any season is that of having to cancel one or more concerts at short notice. Implementation of the Reserves Policy above together with subscription to Making Music's insurance scheme is agreed by the trustees as being of an adequate nature to minimise this particular risk.

Public Benefit

In the local area the Society actively promotes participation in choral singing: we offer free tickets to those under 18 to help stimulate interest in choral music among younger age groups.

We participate in local activities where possible and we also run events open to non-members, such as our singing workshops.

It is our opinion that the trustees of the Society have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Commission in exercising their powers or duties.



..... A BURTON [SECRETARY]





..... W MIDDLETON-SMITH [TREASURER]

GODALMING CHORAL SOCIETY. REGISTERED CHARITY No.254800			
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023			
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES <i>INC CHILDREN'S CHOIR</i>			
INCOMING RESOURCES			
£	2023		2022
Voluntary Income:			
Subscriptions	11,735.00		9,960.00
Tax Refunds - Gift Aid	3,672.05		5,149.48
Friends & Donations	5,518.49		13,258.51
Collections for DEC Ukraine Fund	300.00		286.00
Activities for Generating Funds:			
Specific Fund Raising Events	3,611.96		1,887.47
Sale of Merchandise	2.00		24.20
Rehearsal Refreshments	0.00		170.83
Sundry Income	0.00		820.95
Investment Income:			
Interest on Bank Accounts	275.44		21.73
Charitable Activities:			
Choral Workshop	545.60		1,369.46
Loan & Sale of Music	0.00		0.00
Concert scores	178.00		625.00
Concert Ticket Sales	4,033.70		8,614.34
Concert Programme Sales	688.47		1,081.30
Concert Refreshments	235.46		951.55
Concert Programme Advertising	240.00		1,473.00
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	(inc Children's Choir 2023) 31,036.17		45,693.81
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Cost of Generating Funds - Fundraising Events	60.00		0.00
Charitable Expenditure:			
Hire of Rehearsal Halls	1,833.55		1,994.60
Conductors' Rehearsal Fees	7,050.00		5,882.50
Accompanists' Rehearsal Fees	4,103.95		3,580.00
Subscriptions & Fees paid	1,454.80		654.50
Hire & Purchase of Music	543.05		769.61
Come and Sing 2021/2	845.78		1,487.72
Stationery & Postage	0.00		0.00
Concert Soloists' Fees	825.00		2,900.00
Booster singers	0.00		565.00
Concert Orchestra & Accompanist Fees	1,815.00		7,812.71
Concert & Orchestra Rehearsal Hall Hire	938.68		1,740.50
Hire of Orchestral Scores	0.00		80.00
Conductor's Concert Fees	1,065.00		2,305.00
Concert Refreshments	99.29		352.05
Concert Programmes Printing	479.00		684.00
Posters & Advertising - Concerts	382.19		882.85
Posters & Advertising - Choir	208.00		0.00
<i>Sundry Choir Expenses</i>	387.21		1,530.15
Sundry Concert Expenses	222.71		512.89
Ukraine collections paid to DEC	300.00		286.00
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	(inc Children's Choir 2023) 22,613.21		34,020.08
NET INCOMING RESOURCES	(inc Children's Choir 2023) 8,422.96		11,673.73
<i>(2023 of which 6403.83 Children's Choir/2,019.13 Adult Choir)</i>			
Total Funds brought forward	45,258.05		33,584.32
Total Funds carried forward	53,681.01		45,258.05

GODALMING CHORAL SOCIETY. REGISTERED CHARITY No.254800
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023
BALANCE SHEET

£	31 JULY 2023	31 JULY 2022
Current Assets		
Investments: Deposit & Fixed Rate Accounts	42,319.40	45,588.96
Cash at Bank & In Hand	15,289.11	3,357.74
Stock of Refreshments	0.00	0.00
Debtors	3,904.00	0.00
Creditors		
Advertising income in advance	0.00	0.00
Creditors	0.00	(3,688.65)
Advance income/expenditure (net)	(7,831.50)	0.00
NET ASSETS	53,681.01	45,258.05
Funds of the Charity		
Unrestricted Funds	32,681.01	24,258.05
Endowment Fund [Bradish Bequest]	21,000.00	21,000.00
TOTAL FUNDS	53,681.01	45,258.05

Signed pursuant to a Resolution of the Trustees dated

 A R Burton (Secretary)
 W Middleton-Smith (Treasurer)

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Report to the Trustees/Members of Godalming Choral Society [Registered Charity No. 254800]
on the accounts for the year ended 31 July 2023 set out on Pages 1 & 2.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees & Examiner

- 1] As the Charity's Trustees you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43[2] of the Charities Act 1993 [the Act] and that an independent examination is needed.
- 2] It is my responsibility to
 - a) Examine the accounts [under section 43 of the Act]
 - b) Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43[7b] of the Act.
 - c) State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

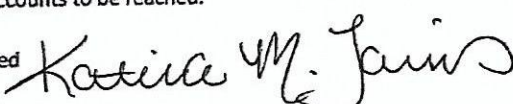
Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention

- 1] which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that
 - a] proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 41 of the Act).
 - b] accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act.
- 2] to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed 

Date 29/01/2024