



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **01/08/2024** Period start date To **31/07/2025** Period end date

Charity name: Portsmouth Choral Union

Charity registration number: 266974

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objects of the Society will be to advance 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 in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	In 2024-2025 we planned a programme of four concerts of music ranging from the traditional classical Haydn <i>Creation</i> , written in 1798, to Will Todd's Jazz-inspired <i>Passion Music</i> , written in 2021. We held a lively open workshop with the composer himself to give singers an opportunity to learn this new work. We collaborated with Portchester's Castle Primary School on a carol concert and enjoyed a rousing concert of Opera Choruses.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A

Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The charity is entirely run by members on a voluntary basis. Many members (including the Trustees) and friends regularly volunteer in roles in fundraising, behind-the-scenes organisation and helping with audiences and refreshments at events.
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>We started the 2024 -2025 season with a new Deputy Music Director and Accompanist in place, Mrs Sue Graham Smith, Happily, she settled in quickly and proved to be a tremendous asset to the choir's rehearsals and a key support and backup to our Music Director Mr David Gostick.</p> <p>Our first performance of the season was a classical choral favourite, Joseph Haydn's <i>The Creation</i>, working with the orchestra Southern Pro Musica and with three gifted young soloists. This was followed by a traditional Christmas Carol concert accompanied (and upstaged by) the school choir from Portchester Castle Primary School who we invited to share the evening.</p> <p>Our spring concert was planned to be a real contrast in repertoire, with works by two Modern composers. We sang <i>Feel the Spirit</i>, a choral setting of spirituals by John Rutter, and a recently-written work by Will Todd, <i>Passion Music</i>, which is a retelling of the Easter Story with a jazz/gospel fusion with choral music. This was a challenging step away from our usual classical comfort zone but we were greatly enthused and informed by a workshop with the composer himself. This was also attended by members of the Medici Choir from London who we invited to sing in the concert with us. We learned a lot about a more free-form way of singing in harmony and were able to perform in a way that passed on our enjoyment and understanding of the music to the audience.</p>

		Our summer concert was another style again, with a night at the opera performing favourite opera choruses. Supported by two expert and dramatic opera soloists, Lynsey Docherty and David Pendred we had a fun evening with a slightly lighter note to finish the season.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	In 2024-2025 we gave 4 concerts ranging in style from the modern to the classical and held an educational workshop led by the composer of one of the compositions. We collaborated again with the Medici choir and with young singers from Portchester Castle Primary School. We were able to work with professional orchestral musicians and with a range of different expert soloists.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	Our fundraising is mainly through membership subscriptions and ticket sales, plus internal fundraising events. We are finding some external sources of income, like the local charitable lottery. We are planning some bigger events for our 150 th anniversary in four years time and are exploring strategies for fundraising for this.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Our policy is to try to hold one year's running costs in reserve which we achieved in this financial year.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	We aim to maintain the minimum of one season's running costs in hand to act as a reserve against years when concerts are more expensive and against unforeseen events.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£ 68,313.91 as of 31/07/2025
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	Our audience are still smaller than before Covid, and we are also concerned that the age profile of our audiences and membership is creeping higher.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Member subscriptions and (normally) ticket sales provide the majority of our income. We also receive donations from members and supporters and from the Portsmouth Lottery. We also have a 'Friends' scheme of supporters.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	We have one investment with a fund tailored for charitable investments.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Rising costs are making it harder to afford venues and put on full orchestral concerts. We are also concerned about the smaller audiences that now come to concerts.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed , royal charter)	Para 1.25	Written constitution dated 30 th January 2018
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association , CIO)	Para 1.25	Unincorporated association
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	All Trustees are elected at our Annual General Meeting of members or by Extraordinary Vote of members following any mid-term resignations.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	All Trustees are made aware of their responsibilities under the law as Charity Trustees using guidance from the Charity Commission.
		We co-operate with other musical groups and other choral charities in the area to

The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	avoid clashes of concert dates as far as possible and to collaborate on selected projects
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	N/A
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Portsmouth Choral Union
Other name the charity uses	PCU
Registered charity number	266974
Charity's principal address	21, Second Avenue, Emsworth, Hampshire, PO10 8HP

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	Mrs Sylvia Mary Lock	Chair		
2	Mrs Jane Helliwell	Deputy Chair		
3	Dr Andrea Hegedus	Treasurer		
4	Mrs Sonia Schofield	Registrar		
5	Mrs Lois Houston	Marketing and Publicity Officer		
6	Dr Alison Barker	Secretary		
7	Julie Ann Smith	Ticket Manager		
8	Carolyn Ann Keyzor	Soprano Representative	Until 31 st July 2025	
9	Susan Florence Ward	Soprano Representative	From 7 th October 2025	
10	Lesley Evelyn Chapman	Alto Representative		
11	Dr David Gweirydd Griffiths	Tenor Representative		
12	Mr James Sweasey	Bass Representative	Until 1 st October 2024	
13	Mr Anthony Spender	Bass Representative	From 1 st October 2024 until 7 th October 2025	
14	Mr Paul Alistair Hately	Bass Representative	From 7 th October 2025	

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the	N/A

assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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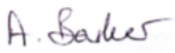

Other optional information

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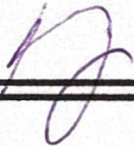
Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Alison Margaret Barker	Sylvia Mary Lock
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	Chair
Date	15/05/2026	

Section A Receipts and Payments					
		2024/2025		2023/2024	
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions		22,069.00		22,875.54	
Sub Donations		355.00		452.99	
Donations		10,486.15		2,882.27	
Gift Aid		5,463.24		4,177.48	
Programmes & Adverts		1,212.93		1,131.54	
Library		616.17		917.16	
Friends		430.00		483.58	
Recordings		11.85		24.56	
Fundraising		562.82		0.00	
Merchandise Sales		12.89		1.48	
100 Club		0.00		430.00	
e-fund (Easyfundraising, everyclick)		182.85		325.04	
Portsmouth Lottery		647.00		621.50	
Sundry		355.94		474.46	
Interest from Investments/Savings		5,923.65		1,019.08	
Bank Interest				0.00	
			48,329.49		35,816.68
A2 Asset and Investment Sales					
A3 Payments					
Professional Fees		13,542.00		13,008.00	
Donations		75.00		0	
Hall Hire		2,405.21		2,460.10	
Storage of Staging		3,000.00		1,500.00	
Publicity		1,301.43		1,051.53	
Sundries		809.10		1,132.68	
Insurance		700.00		675	
Red scarves		-24.56		0	
Subscriptions					
Bank Charges		120.00		121.5	
PRS Charges		125.30		0	
Loss from Investments/Savings					
Admin and Stationery		0.00		273.2	
Internal fundraising					
Bookkeeping / Accountancy		0		0	
Deficit from Recordings		0		0	
Deficit from Programmes		0		0	
Deficit from Tour Refunds		0		0	
Deficit from Concerts		11,767.76		6,408.01	
			33,821.24		26,630.02
A4 Asset and Investment Purchases					
Net of Receipts/Payments			14,508.25		9,186.66
Balance B/Fwd from Previous Year			53,805.66		44619
Fund Balance Carried Forward			68,313.91		53,805.66

Section B Statement of Assets and Liabilities				
		2025	2024	
		Cost	Cost	
B1 Cash funds				
CAFCash Account (main)		66,437.75	7,291.15	
CAF Gold Account (tour)		2,701.61	5,090.47	
CAF Cash Account (tour)		95.05	100.00	
Petty Cash		200.00	200.00	
B2 Other Monetary Assets				
Deposits		600.00	700.00	
B3 Investments Assets				
M&G Charibond		0.00	45,996.58	
B4 Assets Retained for the Charity's own use				
Keyboard (purchased 13/03/20)		0.00	0.00	
Compact Audiohub (purchased 16/10/20)		0.00	0.00	
B5 Liabilities				
Accrual - PRS		150.00	150.00	
Accrual - Bookkeeping		250.00	250.00	
Accrual - Storage				
Creditor - Members travel funds		1,320.50	5,172.54	
Total Assets less Liabilities		68,313.91	53,805.66	
Signatures				
(Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees)				
Signature	Print Name	Approval Date		
	DR ANDREA HEDGES	19/5/26		



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

PORTSMOUTH CHORAL UNION

On accounts for the year
ended

31st July 2025

Charity no
(if any)

266 974

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

J Przybycin

Date:

22/09/2025

Name:

JOANNE PRZYBYCIN

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

F.C.A
ICAEW

Address:

13 PETERS ROAD, LOCKS HEATH,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 6EQ