

SUDBURY CHORAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

INTRODUCTION

The charitable objects of the Society : These are set out in the Constitution and are:

- (i). to advance, improve, develop 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;
- (ii) 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.

Overview: During the year under review the Society put on concerts for the benefit of the public in Sudbury and the local district. In addition the Society commissioned a choral work to celebrate its upcoming 80th anniversary.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

During the year under review the Society put on five public concerts for the public benefit and held one come and sing evening to encourage the public to join the Society and take advantage of all the benefits of singing in a group setting. The Society meets weekly in term time for choral rehearsals at which up to 45 people attend. These rehearsals are open to members of the Society. Members of the public are encouraged to join the Society which is open to all for an annual membership fee. This fee is reduced or waived where members are in financial difficulty.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position: The Society ended the year with reserves of £387 (2024: £3,634) which was disappointing however a gift aid claim for the current and prior years, submitted prior to the year end, resulted in £3,800 being received in September 2025 which significantly bolstered the Society's general reserves.

Details of any funds materially in deficit: For the year in review none of the Society's funds were materially in deficit.

Policy on reserves: The Society does aim to have adequate reserves at all times however due to the uneven nature of its receipts and payments there are times when reserves are lower than desired. The Trustees are aware of this and are actively looking for additional donors and grant income.

Remuneration of the Trustees: All Trustees act in a voluntary capacity and receive no remuneration or other material benefits from their services to the Society.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS:

Registered charity no. 269588. The Society is registered with HMRC for gift aid.

The principal address of the charity is 25 Brandeston Close, Great Waldingfield, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 0XY

The names of the trustees are: Carolyn Silberfeld (Chair), Josephine Monk (Treasurer) and Clare Lodge (secretary).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Type of Governing Document: The Society is an unincorporated associated governed by a constitution adopted in October 2010.

Statutory Declaration: The Trustees confirm that they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on the public benefit of the Society.

Trustee Selection Methods: There are at least three charity trustees. In accordance with the Constitution, the Trustees are elected at each Annual General Meeting. In appointing Trustees due consideration is given to ensuring that the Trustees have, between them, the skills and experience necessary to manage the charity effectively and in accordance with charity law.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 16 March 2025



Carolyn Silberfeld



Josephine Monk

The Charity Commission general guidance to trustees on public benefit is set out here.
An AI generated summary is below.

Public Benefit Requirement Overview

- The legal definition states a charity's purposes must be for the 'public benefit' to qualify as a charity under the Charities Act.
- The requirement involves two aspects: the 'benefit' (purpose must be beneficial and not harmful) and the 'public' (benefits must reach the public in general or a sufficient section).

Aspects of Public Benefit

- The 'benefit aspect' ensures purposes are beneficial and that any harm does not outweigh the benefits.
- The 'public aspect' requires purposes to benefit either the general public or a sufficiently large section, avoiding benefits limited to individuals or closed groups.

Legal and Court Decisions on Public Benefit

- The Charity Commission assesses each purpose individually, weighing benefits against detriments based on evidence.
- If a purpose is not for the public benefit, the organization may be refused registration or required to amend its purpose.

Beneficial Purposes and Evidence

- Purposes must be beneficial and capable of being demonstrated through evidence, especially when benefits are not obvious.
- The benefit can be qualitative, such as artistic or educational merit, and does not need to be quantifiable.

Detriment or Harm Considerations

- A purpose cannot be charitable if harm or detriment outweighs the benefit.
- Evidence must support claims of detriment or harm, especially when benefits are well-recognized.

Beneficiaries and Public Classes

- Benefits must reach the public in general or a sufficient section, defined by location, need, or protected characteristics.

- The section of the public must be appropriate for the purpose; narrow or overly specific definitions may not qualify.

Personal Benefit and Incidental Benefits

- Personal benefits are only permissible if incidental to the purpose.
- Benefits that are direct, private, or non-incidental disqualify a purpose from being charitable.

Special Rules for Poverty-Relief Charities

- For charities relieving poverty, the 'public' aspect is less scrutinized; benefits can be defined by family, employment, or membership.
- Such charities cannot benefit named individuals or benefit based solely on skin colour, and must avoid defining beneficiaries in ways that exclude the poor.

Additional Guidance and Terms

- The guide references other public benefit guides and legal terms, including governance, objects, and the role of courts and tribunals.
- Definitions clarify roles of trustees, governing documents, and legal terms used in charity law.

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Sudbury Choral Society

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2025

			31-Jul-25	31-Jul-24
	General funds	Restricted funds - Composition 80	Total	General funds
Receipts	£	£	£	£
Members' subscriptions	8,061		8,061	6,981
Associate Mems' subscriptions	720		720	790
Other donations	4,513		4,513	5,800
Ticket sales	5,354		5,354	5,666
Fund raising	33		33	559
Bonus Ball fund raising	1,819		1,819	1,529
Concert fund raising	508		508	1,062
Choir for hire	910		910	1,000
Other income	331		331	369
Choral Composition donations	-	376	376	-
Loan receipt	-	3,750	3,750	-
Music sales	32		32	96
Total income	<u>22,282</u>	<u>4,126</u>	<u>26,407</u>	<u>23,852</u>
Payments				
Rehearsal costs				
Professional fees	6,340		6,340	5,395
Choir for hire	937		937	615
Hall hire	2,470		2,470	1,260
Music hire	638		638	500
Library	446		446	158
Making Music	442		442	266
	<u>11,271</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,271</u>	<u>8,194</u>
Concert expenses	12,054		12,054	11,289
Concert fund raising	-		-	358
Administration	136		136	87
Other costs	1,323		1,323	551
Choral Composition stage payment		3,750	3,750	-
Bonus Ball fund raising	1,120	-	1,120	920
Total expenditure	<u>25,905</u>	<u>3,750</u>	<u>29,655</u>	<u>21,400</u>
Surplus/(deficit)	<u>(3,623)</u>	<u>376</u>	<u>(3,248)</u>	<u>2,452</u>
Movement of funds (cash)				
Opening balance	3,634	-	3,634	1,183
Surplus/(deficit)	- 3,623	376	(3,248)	2,451
	<u>11</u>	<u>376</u>	<u>387</u>	<u>3,634</u>
Represented by				
Cash in hand and at bank			<u>387</u>	<u>3,634</u>

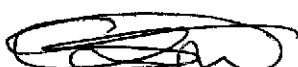
Notes

General Funds: A gift aid receipt of £3,800 was received in September 2025. Sudbury Arts Centre was paid £400 in September 2025 for the hire of St Peter's.

Restricted Funds: Restricted funds relate to the donations and loans received to fund the Choral Commission celebrating the Society's 80th birthday. The loan to the Society of £3,750 is interest free and has no fixed repayment date. To the extent possible the loan will be repaid out donations, grants and any other income received for the Choral Composition.

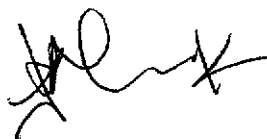
Other commitments: under the terms of the Choral Commission contract entered into in May 2025 a minimum of £5,600 is due to be paid on or before April 2026 and a further £4,650 on or before October 2026. The Society is actively seeking grant funding to cover these payments.

Approved by the Committee on [] and signed by the Trustees on that date.



Carolyn Silberfeld
Chairman

Josie Monk
Treasurer





**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Sudbury Choral Society

On accounts for the year
ended

31st July 2025

Charity no
(if any)

269588

Set out on pages

1

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("~~the Trust~~") for the year ended

**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:

Date:

23.2.2026

Name:

PHILIP RICHARDSON

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

FCA.

Address:

5 MEADOW LANE
SUDBURY
CO10 2TD