



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01 August 2023 To 31 July 2024

Charity name: The Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society

Charity registration number: 273310

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To educate the public in the art and science of music and in particular the art of choral singing, through the presentation of public concerts and in such other ways as the Society shall determine from time to time by the decision of its Committee.
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	<p>The Society gave four concerts during the reporting period. Requiems by Durufle and Faure at the Assembly Hall Theatre in November; a Christmas concert featuring works by a local composer at St Mary's, Goudhurst in December; Beethoven's Mass in C and Handel Coronation Anthems at the AHT in April '24 and a summer concert of jazz arrangements at Holmewood House School Theatre in June.</p> <p>In addition, in April the choir travelled to Wiesbaden in Germany (the twin town of Tunbridge Wells') where they were able to demonstrate our shared cultural bond with the community in Wiesbaden through participation in a repeat performance of the Beethoven/Handel concert in the Marktkirche with the Frankfurter Sinfoniker. .</p> <p>We were also able to resume our annual carol singing visit to Halliwell for the first time since the epidemic (having been cancelled last year due to extreme weather).</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public	Para 1.18	Membership of the Society is open to anyone who is able to attend the weekly term time rehearsals. A membership subscription is payable with concessions made from time to

benefit		time for those who may not be able to pay the full fee.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The Society is run entirely by volunteers, principally through a dedicated and hard working Committee, with the active support of all its members.
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>Choir numbers continued to steadily increase over the reporting period, welcoming many new as well as returning members.</p> <p>The choir tackled a broad range of musical styles this season, under the tutelage of our Musical director, Robyn Sevastos and accompanist Craig Hudson. Their support, expertise, enthusiasm and musical leadership continues to be both appreciated and vital.</p> <p>The four concerts staged during the season were well received, as was the performance in Wiesbaden. Attendance numbers at the Assembly Hall concerts continued to improve.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

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Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	<p>No extraordinary fundraising activities were undertaken during the reporting period with the weekly raffle raising in excess of £900.</p> <p>The choir trip to our twin town of Wiesbaden (following an invitation originally issued in 2019) was partially subsidised from reserves, by approx. £6,500. This equated to cost of coach travel and guest participation at a post-concert dinner. Attending members were responsible for meeting their own accommodation and incidental expenses. This subsidy made it possible for choir members to attend who would not otherwise have been able to afford to take part in the experience.</p>
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	<p>For sound financial governance and to optimise improving interest rates a significant sum was moved from our current account to our deposit account . The increased revenue from such interest received is shown in the accounts.</p>
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The Society's financial position at year end is healthy. We continue to hold an appropriate buffer of reserve funds which ensures we can maintain existing levels of activity without undue worry. Subscription income increased due to continued growth in membership numbers.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The Society has never aimed to make a surplus from its activities but retains cash reserves in the interests of prudence. For instance, the Society has always recognised the financial risk of a series of poorly attended concerts. Not only did this philosophy allow us to quickly resume full operations post pandemic it allows artistic freedom in repertoire choice to confidently showcase choral works that are perhaps less well known to the general public.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£45,774
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

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	<p>The Society has significant expenses in the provision of rehearsal venues, concert halls, music hire, professional soloists and instrumentalists for concerts and publicity.</p> <p>Our income derives from members' subscriptions, patrons' contribution, concert ticket sales, donations, legacies, occasional sponsorship and advertising. Members are also prepared to raise valuable income from regular raffles.</p> <p>Such expenditure is necessary if we are to put on the best possible performances in keeping with our object of entertaining and education the public and maintaining the tradition of high quality classical choral music in the local area.</p> <p>Subscription income increased as choir member numbers increased. This is turn</p>
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		means we have been able to hold the subscription rates without increase (with concessions as detailed previously).
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Revised constitution adopted 05 September 2011 as amended 24 October 2016.
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	<p>The Society is run by an elected Committee of Officers and ordinary members, all of whom are Trustees by virtue of their membership of the Committee.</p> <p>Officers may serve for an indefinite period subject to re-election by the general membership at each Annual General Meeting. Ordinary members of the Committee are elected for a fixed term of three years. They may be re-elected after a period/gap of at least a year. Additional members may be co-opted to the Committee as necessary and subject to approval by the Society at the next available opportunity.</p> <p>The Musical Director and Rehearsal Accompanist may also attend Committee meetings as ex-officio non voting members.</p>

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	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	<p>The Committee, all of whom are Trustees, is the governing body. Officers hold specific functions and a Management Sub-Committee leads much of the day to day work of programme planning, rehearsal organisation and other detailed operational issues.</p> <p>The Society is a long standing member of Making Music (formerly the National Federation of Music Societies) which provides advocacy, advice and support as well as insurance and collection of Performing Rights Society fees.</p>
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

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Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	273310
Charity's principal address	c/o Michael Selway Edensor Linden Park Road Tunbridge Wells KENT TN2 5QL

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	Michael Selway	Chair		
2	Clive Steward	Vice Chair		
3	Ailsa McMahon	Treasurer		
4	Janet Noble	General Secretary Minutes Secretary		
5	Sheila Jones	Concert Secretary	Stood down October 2023	
6	Laura Marshall Jenny Selway	Concert Secretary (joint appt)	Elected October 2023	
7	Jane Walters	Membership Sec.		
8	Judith Henderson	Librarian		
10	Isobel Lowe	Publicity Secretary		
11	Nicolas Franck		Stood down January 2024	
12	Catherine Palmer		Elected October 2023	
13				
14				

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

Director name		
NONE		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
NONE		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the 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)	Michael Selway	JANET NOBLE
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	GENERAL SECRETARY
Date	27/05/2025	

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

	31 JULY 2024	31 JULY 2023
	£	£
GENERAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE		
Income		
Subscriptions & donations	17,859	16,366
Other income	4,358	3,350
	<u>22,217</u>	<u>19,716</u>
Expenditure		
Core expenditure on musical activities	9,924	8,962
Other expenditure	2,036	1,870
	<u>(11,960)</u>	<u>(10,832)</u>
General income surplus (see detail page 3)	<u>10,257</u>	<u>8,884</u>
CONCERT ACCOUNTS		
Autumn	(2,250)	(2,443)
Christmas	(377)	(222)
Spring	(4,866)	(2,426)
Summer	(4)	454
	<u>(7,497)</u>	<u>(4,637)</u>
Net (deficit) on concerts (see detail page 4)	<u>(7,497)</u>	<u>(4,637)</u>
OTHER EVENTS		
Wiesbaden trip - receipts	13,635	-
Expenditure	(20,119)	-
Net (deficit)	(6,484)	-
Wine tasting net	328	-
	<u>(6,156)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net (deficit) on other events	<u>(6,156)</u>	<u>-</u>
Overall surplus/(deficit) for the year	<u>(3,396)</u>	<u>4,247</u>
Accumulated funds at beginning of year	<u>49,170</u>	<u>44,923</u>
Accumulated funds at end of year	<u><u>45,774</u></u>	<u><u>49,170</u></u>


ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 JULY 2024

	<u>31 JULY 2024</u>		<u>31 JULY 2023</u>	
	£	£	£	£
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		<u>45,774</u>		<u>49,170</u>
REPRESENTED BY:				
Debtors and prepayments - note 1		118		224
Cash at bank				
Deposit account - CAF	40,575		39,597	
Current account - CAF	5,421		9,349	
		<u>45,996</u>		<u>48,946</u>
		46,114		
Creditors and accruals - note 2		(340)		-
		<u>45,774</u>		<u>49,170</u>

I have examined the accounts of The Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society, together with the books, vouchers produced, and explanations given and in my opinion they are in accordance therewith.


DAVID MILLER FCA
Hon. Auditor

Date: 23.10.2024

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY

GENERAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

	31 JULY 2024			31 JULY 2023		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME						
Subscriptions & donations						
Patrons			1,208			1,538
Legacies, donations, sponsors			1,100			605
			2,308			2,143
Members			15,551			14,223
			17,859			16,366
Other income						
Gift Aid tax reclaim		2,160			1,907	
Bank interest		1,003			365	
Sale and hire of music & folders		216			40	
Self help						
Raffles	919			961		
CD and music sales	60			47		
Easyfundraising/Amazon	-			30		
		979			1,038	
			4,358			3,350
			22,217			19,716
EXPENDITURE						
Core expenditure on musical activities (rehearsals)						
Musical director		5,280			4,800	
Accompanist		2,380			2,016	
Hall hire		2,264			2,146	
		9,924			8,962	
Other expenditure						
Making Music (inc Insurance)		543			433	
IT/Web hosting/Zoom		345			328	
Committee, sundries		314			305	
Purchase of drinks tokens, cups etc		-			109	
Music library/storage		569			630	
Purchase of music folders		203			-	
Bank charges		62			65	
		2,036			1,870	
			(11,960)			(10,832)
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			10,257			8,884

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY

CONCERT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

	Autumn 2023 Fauré Durufle	Christmas 2023 Goudhurst	Spring 2024 Beethoven Handel	Summer 2024 Chilcott	Total for Year	Total previous year
	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME						
Ticket sales	5,255	761	4,330	1,579	11,925	13,893
Programme sales/advertising	392	-	373	-	765	935
Music hire/sales	224	215	416	306	1,161	708
	5,871	976	5,119	1,885	13,851	15,536
EXPENDITURE						
Assembly Hall hire & related costs	4,121	-	3,850	-	7,971	7,913
Hall hire & staging other	-	312	-	600	912	862
Conductor	620	300	620	300	1,840	1,670
Soloists vocal & instrumental	750	150	1,350	210	2,460	2,025
Orchestra/band	1,465	-	2,760	-	4,225	4,655
Organ hire	590	-	340	-	930	-
Music hire/purchase	227	136	545	342	1,250	1,245
Printing, publicity, drinks, gifts	348	455	520	437	1,760	1,803
	8,121	1,353	9,985	1,889	21,348	20,173
NET (DEFICIT)	(2,250)	(377)	(4,866)	(4)	(7,497)	(4,637)

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

31 JULY 2024

	31.7.24	31.7.23
<u>Debtors and Prepayments</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Next season's costs paid in advance	118	224
	<u>118</u>	<u>224</u>
<u>Creditors and Accruals</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Concert invoice paid after year end	340	-
	<u>340</u>	<u>-</u>