

Trustees Annual Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Wokingham Choral Society
Registered Charity No. 274853

Charity address: is as reported

Trustees: are as reported

Structure and management of Wokingham Choral Society

The business of the Society is managed by a Committee of volunteers elected annually by the Society's membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), held just after the end of the financial year. These same Committee members are also the Trustees of Wokingham Choral Society. All members of the Committee are drawn from the Society's membership. The Committee meets not less than every three months to discuss and plan the business of the Society. Full details of the make-up, election and operation of the Committee are set out in Wokingham Choral Society's Constitution.

Objectives and Activities of Wokingham Choral Society

The objectives of the Society are to educate the public in the art and science of music, the presentation of concerts and other activities.

To achieve these objectives, funds are raised by charging annual subscriptions to the members, the sale of concert tickets to the public and the organisation of fundraising activities, to enable the Society to employ the services of the best possible professional Musical Directors, Rehearsal and Concert Accompanists, Concert Orchestras and Soloists.

Achievements and Performance of Wokingham Choral Society

There were unexpected changes at the start of the 2023/24 season. Our new Chairman, elected at the 2023 AGM, had to step down because of pressure of work. However, our newly elected Deputy Chair was able to step up and take his place. Shortly thereafter, our Musical Director, who had joined the Society (hereafter referred to as "the choir") just the previous January, stepped down to take up the role of conductor with a local symphony orchestra. We agreed with him that he could leave immediately after our Autumn Concert and before the start of rehearsals for the Christmas concert. Fortunately for the choir, our Accompanist, who had been appointed about 14 months previously, is also an accomplished choral conductor and was willing and available to take on the role of Musical Director. He

was formally appointed to this role following a consultation with the membership of the choir.

This, of course, left the choir without an Accompanist. We were again fortunate in being able to appoint to the role of permanent Accompanist someone already known to the choir, who had acted as stand-in accompanist on a number of previous occasions.

Our Autumn Concert was of Classical pieces: Beethoven's *Opferlied*, Mozart's Symphony No. 39 (orchestra only) and Haydn's *Theresienmesse*. This was followed in December by our annual, popular Christmas Carol Concert (under our newly appointed Musical Director).

The Spring Concert was of two twentieth century choral classics: Finzi's *Lo, the full, final sacrifice* and Durflé's *Requiem*. This concert also included Mendelssohn's beautiful and much-loved *Hear my prayer*, and Elgar's popular orchestral piece, *Serenade for Strings*.

Our lighter Summer Concert, entitled *A Song for Summer*, featured John Rutter's folk song settings, *The Sprig of Thyme*, and also included pieces by Elgar, Dyson, Sullivan and others.

Audience numbers for the Autumn and, in particular, the Spring Concert were disappointingly low. The Committee concluded that the location of the venue for these concerts, in Reading, was inconvenient for our largely Wokingham-based audience, and that we would in future make more use of All Saints Church in Wokingham, which had recently undergone extensive refurbishment, making it a much more attractive concert venue for both audience and performers.

Membership numbers were down slightly on the previous year, from just over one hundred to the mid-nineties.

Wokingham Choral Society is a hard-working, welcoming and forward-looking choral society and though an auditioned choir, it is open to anyone from 16 years upwards who meets the musical standard required.

Now in its eighth decade, the choir continues its long tradition of bringing high quality performances of classical choral works to the residents of Wokingham and the surrounding area. The 2024/25 season will start with a concert of works by English composers, in collaboration with St George's School, Windsor Castle, to feature as the main work *St Nicolas* by Benjamin Britten.

Financial Review:

Along with other organisations, Wokingham Choral Society has faced rising costs. In response to this, we reviewed and increased our tickets prices, effective from the last concert of the 2023/24 season; this has brought our ticket prices into line with the prices charged by other local choirs, and we shall monitor what impact this has on ticket sales. The choir finished the season with a relatively modest loss.

Wokingham Choral Society's Reserves at 30 June 2024 stood at £44,106 and accounts are available to support this figure.

Wokingham Choral Society

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

<u>2023</u>			<u>2024</u>
£		£	£
	Income:		
	Concerts:		
9,744	Ticket Sales	9,938	
604	Programmes	532	
120	Concert Refreshments	---	
2,289	Music - Choral	<u>2,604</u>	
			13,074
	Subscriptions:		
18,935	Members	18,278	
594	Patrons	644	
210	Friends	<u>210</u>	
			19,132
	Fund Raising:		
673	Coffee Sales	890	
580	100 Club	577	
11	Book Sales	---	
558	Raffles	862	
14	Easy Fundraising	41	
36	Amazon Smiles	---	
4,105	Come & Sing	---	
7	Miscellaneous Fund Raising	<u>7</u>	
			2,377
	Other:		
77	Folders	52	
1,072	Donations	876	
3,378	Gift Aid	3,134	
1,000	Sponsorship	1,200	
1,000	Grants	---	
165	Bank Interest	567	
1,655	Charity Collections	700	
375	Leaving Collection	---	
125	Miscellaneous Income	<u>---</u>	
			<u>6,529</u>
£ <u>47,327</u>	Total Income c/f		£ <u>41,112</u>

Wokingham Choral Society

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2023

£

47,327

2024

£

£

£

41,112

Income b/f

Less Expenditure

Concerts:

2,800	Conductor	2,700
1,720	Accompanist	1,490
2,300	Soloists	2,900
7,006	Orchestras	9,350
3,275	Venue	3,249
348	Green Room	348
100	Music Stands	50
565	Instrument Hire	250
438	Music : Orchestral	450
2,525	Choral	2,548
67	Concert Refreshments	---
354	Printing: Programmes	398
160	Flyers & Posters	208
71	Tickets	63
---	Miscellaneous	13
38	Postage: Orchestral	---
37	Choral	---
135	Gifts	182
796	Stage Transport	986
269	PRS Fees	295
165	Miscellaneous	<u>580</u>

26,060

Rehearsals:

5,942	Musical Director	6,243
4,958	Accompanist	5,204
3,142	Venue	<u>3,182</u>

14,629

Fund Raising:

10	Coffee	107
315	100 Club	315
86	Raffles	29
2,366	Come & Sing	---

451

£ 39,988

Expenditure c/f

£ 41,140

£ 47,327

Income c/f

£ 41,112

Wokingham Choral Society

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2023

£

47,327

39,988

271

20

263

533

144

75

76

86

1,655

375

527

202

298

44,513

£ 2,814

Income b/f

Expenditure b/f

General Administration;

Advertising

Printing, Postage & Stationery

Insurance

Subscriptions

Zoom

Meeting Venue

Miscellaneous

Other:

Card Commission

Folders

Charity Payments

Leaving Gift

New MD Expenses

Website Building

Miscellaneous

£

256

276

537

164

72

49

700

152

261

£

41,140

1,233

1,234

2024

£

41,112

43,607

(2,495)

Excess Income over Expenditure/

Expenditure over Income

Wokingham Choral Society

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024

<u>2023</u>		<u>2024</u>
£		£
	<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>	
259	Stock	---
2,120	Debtors and Pre-payments	3,935
5,132	Bank Accounts: Current Account	3,770
40,728	Reserve Accounts	39,218
<u>49</u>	Cash in Hand	<u>40</u>
£ 48,288		£ 46,963
	<u>Less:</u>	
	<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>	
<u>1,687</u>	Creditors, Accruals and Receipts in Advance	<u>2,857</u>
£ <u>46,601</u>		£ <u>44,106</u>
£	<u>CAPITAL ACCOUNT</u>	£
43,787	Accumulated Funds at 1 July 2023	46,601
<u>2,814</u>	Plus: Profit for the Year	<u>---</u>
46,601		46,601
<u>---</u>	Minus: Loss for the Year	<u>2,495</u>
£ <u>46,601</u>	Accumulated Funds at 30 June 2024	£ <u>44,106</u>


INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE ACCOUNTS OF
WOKINGHAM CHORAL SOCIETY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

I have examined the Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 30 June 2024, and the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024. I have also reviewed the accounting records kept by the charity. My examination was carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act") and was conducted in accordance with the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

In connection with my examination, I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1) the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act have not been met; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those 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.


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Neil Coupe ACA

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Berkshire RG40 2EF


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Date