

Trustees' Annual Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

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

At the 2024 AGM of the Society (hereafter referred to as "the choir"), our Librarian stepped down from the role and the Committee, and a new Librarian was elected to the Committee by the choir's membership. There were no other changes to the makeup of the Committee. Our professional Musical Director and our professional Rehearsal and Concert Accompanist continued in post throughout 2024-25 season.

Our Autumn Concert, entitled *English Masters*, was a collaboration with pupils from St George's School Windsor Castle. The main work performed was Britten's cantata *Saint Nicolas*, which features a children's choir. In the first half of the concert, there were

performances of works by Purcell and of contemporary English composers by both the choir and pupils from St George's School. The concert was held in the refurbished All Saints Church, Wokingham, which has now become our main concert venue; the church was filled with a capacity audience, which included friends and supporters of the choir, and parents and other relatives of the pupils from St George's School. The Autumn Concert was followed in December by our annual, popular Christmas Carol Concert.

The Spring Concert was another collaboration, this time with Bracknell Choral Society. The two choirs joined forces to give a performance of Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*, which neither choir could feasibly mount independently. The work requires a large choir, which includes a semi-chorus, and also a large orchestra. We also needed to find a venue large enough to accommodate the ca. 180 singers, 60-piece orchestra and – it was hoped – large audience for this popular work. In the event, we chose to perform the work in Guildford Cathedral. Planning for this concert had begun in the previous season, and involved a considerable amount of additional work. Therefore, it was gratifying that the concert was a great success, attracting an audience of nearly 480 people.

We were back in All Saints Church, Wokingham for our Summer Concert, which included Mozart's Coronation Mass and pieces by Parry, Haydn, Brahms and Handel. The concert also showcased four young soloists, who, for the main part, were still studying music at undergraduate level. Again, audience numbers for this concert were relatively healthy, further vindicating our move to a performance venue in Wokingham from Reading, where we'd customarily performed in previous seasons.

Membership numbers were again down on the previous year, from the mid-nineties to 90 by the end of the 2024-25 season. This is concerning, not least because of the impact on income from subscriptions. However, it is hoped this number will increase next season.

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 2025/26 season will start with a concert of works by the Baroque masters, Bach and Handel, featuring five soloists and a period-performance orchestra.

Financial Review:

Wokingham Choral Society has continued to face rising costs. In response to this, we increased our standard ticket prices for the 2024/25 season, such that they are in line with the prices charged by other local choirs. These price increases do not appear to have negatively impacted ticket sales; indeed, these have probably received a boost from the change of performance venue to Wokingham. Despite ongoing financial pressures, the choir finished the season with a relatively modest profit, thanks in large part to the hard work and generosity of its members.

Wokingham Choral Society's Reserves at 30 June 2025 stood at £44,689 and accounts are available to support this figure.

Wokingham Choral Society

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

2024

£

9,938
532
2,604
18,278
644
210
890
577
862
41

7
52
876
3,134
1,200

567
700

£ 41,112

Income:

Concerts:

Ticket Sales
Programmes
Music - Choral

Subscriptions:

Members
Patrons
Friends

Fund Raising:

Coffee Sales
100 Club
Raffles
Easy Fundraising
Bingo Evening
Miscellaneous Fund Raising

Other:

Folders
Donations
Gift Aid
Sponsorship
Grants
Bank Interest
Charity Collections
Miscellaneous Income

Total Income c/f

2025

£

£

£

14,577
449
2,365

17,391

17,370
500
270

18,140

1,033
628
1,038
26
882

3,607

23
2,286
3,090
1,025
1,000
1,243
2,132
391

11,190

£ 50,328

Wokingham Choral Society

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

<u>2024</u>			<u>2025</u>
£		£	£
41,112	Income b/f		50,328
	Less Expenditure		
	Concerts:		
2,700	Conductor	2,553	
1,490	Accompanist	1,541	
2,900	Soloists	2,100	
9,350	Orchestras	9,583	
3,249	Venue	3,258	
---	Cathedral Expenses (Gerontius)	757	
348	Green Room	---	
50	Music Stands	---	
250	Instrument Hire	157	
---	Instrument Tuning	130	
450	Music : Orchestral	259	
2,548	Choral	2,539	
398	Printing: Programmes	693	
208	Flyers & Posters	251	
63	Tickets	66	
13	Miscellaneous	62	
---	Postage: Orchestral	---	
---	Choral	17	
182	Gifts	154	
986	Stage Transport	789	
---	Stage Hire	2,574	
295	PRS Fees	649	
580	Miscellaneous	---	
			28,132
	Rehearsals:		
6,243	Musical Director	6,596	
5,204	Accompanist	5,493	
3,182	Venue	3,524	
---	Gerontius Workshop Rehearsal	<u>721</u>	
			16,334
	Fund Raising:		
107	Coffee	121	
315	100 Club	315	
29	Raffles	---	
---	Bingo Evening	<u>428</u>	
			<u>864</u>
£ <u>41,140</u>	Expenditure c/f	£ <u>45,330</u>	
£ <u>41,112</u>	Income c/f		£ <u>50,328</u>

Wokingham Choral Society

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

<u>2024</u>			<u>2025</u>
£		£	£
41,112	Income b/f		50,328
41,140	Expenditure b/f	45,330	
256	General Administration;		
---	Advertising	229	
276	Printing, Postage & Stationery	99	
537	Insurance	286	
164	Subscriptions	451	
---	Meeting Venue	60	
	Miscellaneous	---	
			1,125
72	Other:		
49	Card Commission	128	
---	Folders	23	
700	Hospitality	114	
152	Charity Payments	2,132	
---	Making Music Platform (website)	113	
---	Voice Balancing	570	
261	Gerontius Photographer	240	
	Miscellaneous	<u>130</u>	
			<u>3,450</u>
<u>43,607</u>			<u>49,905</u>
£ (<u>2,495</u>)	Excess Income over Expenditure/ Expenditure over Income		<u>£ 423</u>

Wokingham Choral Society

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2025

<u>2024</u>		<u>2025</u>
£		£
	<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>	
---	Stock	38
3,935	Debtors and Pre-payments	637
3,770	Bank Accounts: Current Account	9,739
39,218	Reserve Accounts	37,462
<u>40</u>	Cash in Hand	<u>40</u>
£ 46,963		£ 47,916
	<u>Less:</u>	
	<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>	
<u>2,857</u>	Creditors, Accruals and Receipts in Advance	<u>3,227</u>
£ <u>44,106</u>		£ <u>44,689</u>
£	<u>CAPITAL ACCOUNT</u>	£
46,601	Accumulated Funds at 1 July 2024	44,106
	Plus: Capital Introduced	160
<u>---</u>	Profit for the Year	<u>423</u>
46,601		44,689
<u>2,495</u>	Minus: Loss for the Year	<u>---</u>
£ <u>44,106</u>	Accumulated Funds at 30 June 2025	£ <u>44,689</u>

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE ACCOUNTS OF
WOKINGHAM CHORAL SOCIETY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

I have examined the Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 30 June 2025, and the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2025. 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.

NA Coupe
.....
Neil Coupe ACA

50 Easthampstead Road
Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 2EF

21 August 2025
.....
Date