

NORTHAMPTON BACH CHOIR

Registered Charity No 276390

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1st AUGUST 2023 to 31st JULY 2024

The following information is given in accordance with the Charity Commissioners' 'Accounting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice'.

1. The full name of the Charity (the Choir) is 'Northampton Bach Choir'.
2. The Choir is registered with the Charity Commission, its registration number being 276390.
3. The Choir's Honorary President is Sir Peter Ellwood, DL, CBE.
4. The Choir is managed by a General Committee (the Committee), the appointment of whose members is governed by the constitution document. 3The following were the Choir's Committee during the year under review:

Chairman: Jonny Alms

Secretary: Sheila Moakes

Concerts: Manager David Tristram

Treasurer: David Leathley (appointed 8 January 2024) (formerly Jackie Campbell)

Friends Secretary: Judy Ellwood

Membership Secretary: Rachael Gill (appointed 23 October 2023) (formerly Crawford Craig)

Librarian: Iain Erskine

Marketing: Elianne Montero

Member: Leah Perry (appointed 23 October 2023)

Member: Claire Jennings (appointed .23 October 2024)

The holders of the first four posts listed above are defined in the constitution as Officers, and they and the other members of the Committee are the Trustees of the Charity and are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee can number between 8 and 12. All members retire from office at the end of the AGM following that at which they were elected, but are eligible for re-election, with the exception of the Chairman, who cannot serve in the post for longer than five years at a time. The constitution provides for a number of Choir members to be co-opted to the committee as necessary. All members of the Committee are fully aware of their responsibilities as Trustees of the Charity.

5. The objectives of the Charity are the study and practice of choral music in order to foster the knowledge and appreciation of such music by means of public performance. The Choir was established in 1936 and has a programme of, normally, 3 or 4 concerts each year, many of which are held at St Matthew's Church in Northampton. Further information about the Choir's history and current programme is available from any Committee member or on the Choir's website at www.northamptonbachchoir.org.uk

6. The activities undertaken to further the charity's purposes for the public benefit are listed above. The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and believe that the Charity is a public benefit.

7. The Choir's members form the electorate from which the Committee is elected annually. The Choir consists of;

Voice Part	2023 – 2024	2022 - 2023	2021- 2022
Soprano	46	45	45
Alto	42	41	44
Tenor	18	17	12
Bass	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>
<i>Total</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>125</i>

Membership of the Choir is gained by expression of interest and a voice test.

8. Financial Review: Total income for the year was £56,797 compared to £52,800 in 2023. The Charity made a surplus of £906 (2023: deficit of £6,195), increasing total reserves as at 31 July 2024 to £58,879. All reserves held by the Charity are unrestricted.

9. Reserves Policy: The choir aims to hold cash reserves approximating to 6 months' expenditure in

order to fund concerts and other events where a proportion of the income only arises close to the event itself. At 31 July 2024 the reserves were £58,879 and 50% of the estimated annual expenditure is £28,000. This policy will be reviewed annually but will also be kept under continual review by the Charity's Treasurer.

10. The Choir's bankers are:

The Co-operative Bank PLC, Skelmersdale, Lancs. WN8 6WT

Charities Aid Foundation, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Shawbrook Bank, Warley Hill Business Park, The Drive Great Warley, Brentwood, CM13 3BE

11. The Choir's Independent Examiner is;

Shaw Gibbs Limited, Eagle House, 28 Billing Road, Northampton NN1 5AJ

12. The Choir neither owns or leases property and consequently has no registered address.

However, correspondence should be sent to, and copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, Sheila Moakes, at:

38 Fishers Close, Little Billing, Northampton, NN3 9SR

13. The Treasurer's Report and Accounts which follow should be regarded as part of the Charity's Annual Report.

Signed:



Chairman

Date: 11/10/2024

David Leathley

Treasurer

11/10/2024

Northampton Bach Choir

Registered Charity No 276390

Treasurer's Report for the year 01/08/2023-31/07/2024

I was elected to serve you as treasurer in January 2024 much to the relief of my predecessor whose professional demands did not allow her sufficient time to carry out the treasurer's duties to her satisfaction. Jackie was very helpful when handing over the role and all the complexities involved.

I have spent most of my adult life as an accountant but most of it spent on Sage line 50 software. The choir use QuickBooks and the learning curve has not been easy. I am still trying to come to terms with some aspects of the software.

As you will see we have produced a surplus this year which is a significant improvement after the losses of recent years. However, this reversal of fortunes is as a result of the Rutter Come and Sing day which produced a profit of £6552. We cannot do this every year so we need to look for new funding to finance the increasing costs of performing to the standards to which we are committed. In the new year we will be making this one of our priorities.

Concert account

Total income has increased by £1114 as a result of higher ticket sales. It is vital that we continue to attract more customers as part of the financial model.

The Director/conductor costs appear to show an increase of £1518 over last year but are in line with the total of £2400 in 2021-2022.

The decrease in music charges is artificial as 2022-2023 included exceptional charges of £3723 for the Ethel Smyth concert. The total for 2021-2022 was £1208.

Soloists continue to be more expensive but the amount we paid per concert this year of £1593 compares with £1460 in 2022-2023.

Administration account

The figures reflect the effect of the Rutter day. The income of £10898 is included under donations and costs of £4346 are included under various categories of expenditure and, in particular, the venue cost of £1991.

It appears that there is a fall in choir subscriptions of £2034 whilst there has been an increase in the subscription rate. We are investigating whether any subscriptions have not been paid although due. No income has been accounted for this due to the uncertainty over receipt.

The deficit on music scores of £526 compares with a surplus of £1296 in 2022-2023. The deficit in 2021-2022 was £618. The introduction of the flat rate charge of £20 should simplify the accounting for music scores.

Accompanists' costs are lower than in 2022-2023 but in line with the 2021-2022 cost of £3770.

Statement of Financial Activities

The choir made a surplus of £906 against a deficit of £6195 in 2022-2023 and a deficit of £7165 in 2021-2022.

Our Net current assets remain a very healthy £58879.

The Shawbrook 90 day account was closed during the year and the balance of £16227 transferred to the Co-operative Community account.

The accrued income is made up of £1089 interest due from Shawbrook 1 year fixed deposit and £1775 music income invoiced to members after the close of the year.

The accrued expenses are for Simon Toyne £3119, Bluetree £82 and Shaw Gibbs £238.

The amount due for Gift Aid is lower than for 2022-2023. This is due to the inclusion of evensong income in the last year.



David Leathley

Treasurer

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Registered Charity No. 276390

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 01/08/23- 31/07/24

	2023-24 £	2022-23 £
Income from Charitable Activities		
Concerts Account (see page 2)	15,361	14,247
Administration Account (see page 3)	41,436	34,081
Other Income (see page 4)	-	4,472
Total	56,797	52,800
Expenditure on Charitable Activities		
Concerts Account (see page 2)	32,224	29,641
Administration Account (see page 3)	23,340	25,200
Other Expenditure (see page 4)	327	4,153
Total	55,891	58,994
Surplus/Deficit	906	(6,195)

All income and expenditure relates to unrestricted funds.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31/07/24

	31/07/2024 £	31/07/2023 £
Current Assets		
Co-operative Bank PLC Community a/c	19,557	11,866
Shawbrook Bank 90 day notice	-	16,227
Shawbrook Bank 1 Year Fixed Rate	32,907	32,904
Paypal	2,334	548
SumUp	-	-
Debtors & Prepayments (see page 4)	8,840	5,703
Total	63,638	67,248
Current Liabilities		
Creditors & Accruals (see page 4)	4,759	9,275
Total	4,759	9,275
Net Current Assets	58,879	57,973
Represented by:		
Balances b/fwd	57,973	64,168
Surplus for year	906	(6,195)
Balance c/fwd	58,879	57,973




Chairman

14/10/2024

David Leathley

Treasurer

14/10/2024

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CONCERTS ACCOUNTS 01/08/23 - 31/07/24							
	Total	Creation	Christmas Concert	St John	Opera Chorus	2022-2023	
							£
INCOME							
Tickets	13,624	3,538	3,291	4,592	2,203	12,649	
Refreshments	379	196	63	120	-	1,125	
Sub total	14,003	3,734	3,354	4,712	2,203	13,775	
Programme Sales	1,008	274	290	320	124	472	
MA Trust Grant	350		350		-	-	
Total	15,361	4,008	3,994	5,032	2,327	14,247	
EXPENDITURE							
Advertising/publicity	120	30	-	90		182	
Catering	-	-	-	-	-	300	
Director/Conductor	2,618	600	818	600	600	1,100	
Gifts	40	40	-	-	-	-	
Hire of Staging	3,348	1,644	-	1,704	-	3,174	
Hire of Venue	3,754	972	1,487	800	495	3,959	
Instrument/ Music Hire/ Music Purchase	1,698	223	-	467	1,008	3,723	
Miscellaneous	243	-	61	182	-	-	
Orchestra inc travel	12,308	5,118	3,010	4,180	-	11,330	
Organist/Accompanist/Musicians	180	-	180	-	-	-	
Posters/Leaflets/Photography	382	17	83	222	60	378	
Printing	199	158	9	32	-	179	
Programmes	747	253	239	146	109	766	
Soloists/Artists inc travel	6,374	1,725	1,624	1,325	1,700	4,400	
Tickets	-	-	-	-	-	59	
Refreshments	213	34	-	-	179	91	
Total	32,224	10,814	7,511	9,748	4,151	29,641	
Surplus / (Deficit)	(16,863)	(6,806)	(3,517)	(4,716)	(1,824)	(15,395)	
Concert Venue		St. Matthews	Cripps Theatre	St. Matthews	Christchurch		
Attendees		221	288	304	127		
							
Chairman					David Leathley		
					Treasurer		
14/10/2024					14/10/2024		

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ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT 01/08/23 - 31/07/24

	2023-24 £	2022-23 £
INCOME		
Deposit interest	1,194	356
Donations / Fundraising	16,326	4,704
Music Account	1,780	3,778
Subscriptions - Choir	16,097	18,131
Subscriptions - Friends	939	1,445
Tax rebate on Gift Aid	5,100	5,667
Total	41,436	34,081
EXPENDITURE		
Accompanist	4,555	5,212
Advertising/publicity	75	-
Venue hire	1,991	-
Gifts	111	-
Software subscriptions	-	58
Independent Examination fee	650	600
Accountancy	1,234	780
Insurance	317	508
Miscellaneous	163	1,108
Music Director/Conductor/Teacher	6,045	7,906
Music Account Purchase/ Hire	2,306	2,482
Postage	-	170
Rehearsal Room Hire	5,138	5,831
Website	755	545
Total	23,340	25,200
Surplus	18,096	8,881

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OTHER INCOME 01/08/23 - 31/07/24

	2023-24 £	2022-23 £
Choral Evensong	-	4,472
Total	0	4,472

OTHER EXPENDITURE 01/08/23 - 31/07/24

	£	£
Professional Musicians Non concert related	-	500
Bank charges	327	528
Fundraising	-	42
Evensongs Conductor	-	1,100
Evensongs Music costs	-	139
Evensongs transport	-	1,844
Total	327	4,153

DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS AT 31/07/24

	£	£
HMRC (Gift Aid)	5,100	5,667
Prepayments	226	36
Accrued income	2,864	-
Other debtors	650	-
Total	8,840	5,703

CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS AT 31/07/24

	£	£
Independent Examiner fees	1,320	1,200
Accrued expenses	3,439	150
Deferred concert income	-	7,925
Total	4,759	9,275

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The Charity is an unincorporated charity registered in England and Wales. The presentational currency of the Financial Statements is pounds sterling (£).

Income is included as it is received and expenditure is included as it is incurred.

The Charity is under the control of its Trustees, and is dependant for its existence as a going concern on the continuing support of its members both financially and in providing the vocal content of its concerts.

The amounts described in these accounts all fall within the description of 'Unrestricted' funds.

Financial Instruments - cash and cash equivalents in the balance sheet comprise cash at banks and in hand and short term deposits with an original maturity date of three months or less.

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income under administrative expenses.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the entity after deducting all of its financial liabilities.

No Trustees have been paid any remuneration or expenses except direct re-imbursement for expenditure incurred on the Choir's behalf and with its authority.

Donations and other subscriptions received from trustees in the year amounted to £3,239 (2023: £301)

There were no further related party transactions in the current or previous year.

Chairman



Date: 11/10/2024

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
NORTHAMPTON BACH CHOIR**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 July 2024 which are set out on pages one to five, and on the Trustees' Annual Report for the year.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

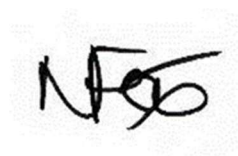
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our independent examination work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our independent examination work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Nicola Fox FCA
Shaw Gibbs Limited
Eagle House
28 Billing Road
Northampton
Northamptonshire
NN1 5AJ

Date: 23 October 2024