

Co-chair Report - AGM 24th September 2024

It has been a huge privilege to work with Jane to lead this great choir, founded so long ago in 1883. I feel proud that the WCS is in a very strong position, in its membership but also financially strong, thanks to a fantastic season - we surprised ourselves - it was a huge but deserved success and well done to us all.

What has been happening since that glorious day - 2/3/24?

1. In May we raised a good sum for Deben Rotary, we will be singing carols for them again this year.

2. In June - we launched our new website

I could not have managed this without Ken Odam's advice. He and I put in a good few hours sorting things out, including his many digital files of historical programmes, going right back to early days in the 1880s. We were concerned that as time passed these might be lost. After a huge effort from Ken, they are now stored at The Hold in Ipswich. These can be found via a link to Ken's website in the History section of our new website.

We are advised that for longevity we need a set of physical programmes which could be stored safely at The Hold. Maybe between us we could we put together a programme from each concert going back some years.

3. Supporter Scheme - launched last November, it raised a most useful sum and we are enormously grateful to our donors and our sponsors. This summer Sara and I have been reporting on choir success and our plans to the Supporters and Sponsors, and taking action to help ensure that they come back to donate every year.

This scheme has given an incredible boost to our reserves which Joanna will report on and this means that we can be more bold, we can plan more adventurous choices of repertoire. While giving audiences what they want - and that we enjoy singing, we can also tempt them with more unfamiliar works, and include new work for ourselves to learn.

I hope this season will bring as much joy as the last.

Finally, I want to say that, as co-chair, these last two years were a tremendous challenge, but also a most enjoyable and a hugely rewarding episode of my life. Thank you for allowing me to have this privilege.

Tricia Findley

Thanks –

We were saddened to receive the resignation of Peter Willsher after many years as our accompanist at rehearsal and on several occasions at concerts. We wish him a very happy retirement and thank all those who contributed towards a gift for him for their generosity.

Ken Odam - is stepping down this year after serving on the committee for many years as Webmaster and also as a valuable adviser on all technical issues. We thank him for his stalwart service, especially most recently in helping to set up the new website and to advise on the new constitution that was approved last February.

As you are aware, Tricia and I are also stepping down as co-chairs. We have shared the great privilege of leading this wonderful choir - both of us have enjoyed the experience and we will miss the work we have shared greatly as well as the camaraderie during our fantastic working relationship. We are not going far! I will step down from the committee but will remain a keen volunteer, helping whenever time allows. Tricia will stay on the committee

We are confident that the Chair elect, Dawn Gilmour will do a marvellous job as she takes on yet another role after 20+ years of experience on the committee. We wish her every success and much happiness in her future role.

As I step down as co-chair, I would like to thank all those who have helped and supported the choir in so many ways over my last four years on the committee. It has been a great pleasure for me to work alongside Andrew and Tricia in particular.

I will never forget Snape 2024, a proud moment in my life and one that I will always cherish.

Thank you!

Jane Hall

| Income | 2022/2023 | 2023/2024 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Interest | 56.91 | 225.96 |
| Advertising revenue | | 1296.00 |
| Concert Receipts | 12165.35 | 16907.37 |
| Subscriptions, grants and donations: | | |
| Subscriptions | 7538.64 | 10256.20 |
| Friends | 964.45 | 535.00 |
| Grants | 2000.00 | 1500.00 |
| Patrons and bequest, with donations not paid directly into supporters fund | 1240.00 | 2749.40 |
| Donations directly paid into supporters fund | | 9455.00 |
| Gift Aid | | 2649.60 |
| Score sales | 681.20 | 1465.69 |
| Miscellaneous other income | | 3.24 |
| Choir members donations | 610.00 | 623.50 |
| | 25256.55 | 47666.96 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Professional fees for concert performers | 7368.12 | 16867.07 |
| Other performance expenses | 2462.80 | 2377.68 |
| Score purchases and hire costs | 556.76 | 1580.96 |
| Rehearsal expenses, sundry costs and administrative costs | 3299.40 | 3718.11 |
| Miscellaneous costs including equipment purchases | 546.84 | 1175.30 |
| Social event costs | 439.40 | 769.56 |
| Expenses for extra fundraising concert | 934.87 | |
| | 15608.19 | 26488.68 |
| Excess of income over expenses | 9648.36 | 21178.28 |
| TOTAL | 25256.55 | 47666.96 |

Notes:

1. In 2022/2023 the choir worked hard to recover our financial position, and were successful in moving from an overspend of more than £3000 in 2021/2022, to an income in excess of spend of £9648 in 2022/2023. This was helped by generous donations from the Friends, and by a bequest following the sad death of choir member and stage manager Ian Kegel.

We also reviewed our constitution and how well our position matched recommendations made by the Charity Commission. This led to an acknowledgement that we did not have sufficient financial reserves. It was also realised that while the actions taken last year led to a greater income in excess of spend than we expected, the methods were not sustainable. We were very grateful to our musical director for the effort he put into the fundraising recital he gave, but he cannot be expected to undertake such a recital annually, nor would a regular event raise as much money. The significantly lower subscription income in 2022/2023 reflected the fact that the financial limits we imposed led to a programme which was less attractive to members.

Reviewing our options and what other choirs have done to tackle the issue, the committee decided that setting up a supporters' scheme was the best way forward. We are grateful for the hard work put into this scheme by committee members and those who have helped them. A separate bank savings account was set up to receive donations into the scheme and the balance in the account has reached £10,000. We are grateful for our supporters' generosity. We are now writing to them to thank them for their past support and to check that they are willing to continue to contribute annually.

2. The choir had a remarkably successful season. After a full house for the Christmas concert, in March we saw a sell-out concert at Snape Maltings – a rare event for any amateur choir. The applause at the end of the concert was rapturous. We featured a new composition by local composer Ben Ponniah, along with Mozart Requiem and the exciting Choral Fantasy by Beethoven, with Andrew Leach directing from the piano. This sell-out has meant that we still have £10,000 in the supporters' fund account to help us with our plans for the next 18 months which include an ambitious concert at Snape Maltings in November 2025.
3. Last year the claim to HMRC for GiftAid was not made in time to be included in the 2022-2023 income, and so the GiftAid income for 2023-2024 covers 2 years. More than half the money donated to our Supporters' scheme was given by corporate sponsors, for which Gift Aid does not apply, which is why the total may appear low given the total in the Supporters' scheme account.

Balance sheet

| | 2022/2023 | 2023/2024 |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Opening balance | £23,362.44 | £33,010.80 |
| Excess of income over expenses | £9,648.36 | £21,178.28 |
| | | |
| Balance carried forward | £33,010.80 | £54,189.08 |
| Represented by: | | |
| Cash in hand in Lloyds account | £21,010.80 | £32,175.67 |
| Balance on deposit account | £12,000.00 | £12,000.00 |
| Balance in supporters fund account | | £10,013.41 |
| Total cash and investments | £33,010.80 | £54,189.08 |

| | 2022/2023 | 2023/2024 |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Opening balance | £23,362.44 | £33,010.80 |
| Excess of income over expenses | £9,648.36 | £21,178.28 |
| Balance carried forward | £33,010.80 | £54,189.08 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Represented by: | | |
| Cash in hand in Lloyds account | £21,010.80 | £32,175.67 |
| Balance on deposit account | £12,000.00 | £12,000.00 |
| Supporters Fund account | | £10,013.41 |
| Total cash and investments | £33,010.80 | £54,189.08 |

| | | |
|---|--|---------|
| Fixed assets | | |
| Value (new equipment purchased this year) | | £965.44 |
| Asset value to be carried forward | | |

| Fixed asset list | Item | Purchase price |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| | LED lights and associated cables | £645.69 |
| | Card payment terminal | £199.00 |
| | wineglass storage trays | £120.75 |
| TOTAL price (2023-2024) | | £965.44 |

Treasurer *Joanna Crowe*

Joanna Crowe

Date *11.9.24*

Independent examiner's report

I have undertaken a review of the Society's receipts and payments for the year 2023-2024 and can confirm that the statement as presented to the members at the AGM is an accurate reflection of the transactions undertaken during the year.

Independent examiner *Mike Cullington*

Mike Cullington

Date: *11/09/24*

| Income | 2022/2023 | 2023/2024 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Interest | 56.91 | 225.96 |
| Advertising revenue | | 1296.00 |
| Concert Receipts | 12165.35 | 16907.37 |
| Subscriptions, grants and donations: | | |
| Subscriptions | 7538.64 | 10256.20 |
| Friends | 964.45 | 535.00 |
| Grants | 2000.00 | 1500.00 |
| Patrons and bequest, with donations not paid directly into supporters fund | 1240.00 | 2749.40 |
| Donations directly paid into supporters fund | | 9455.00 |
| Gift Aid | | 2649.60 |
| Score sales | 681.20 | 1465.69 |
| Miscellaneous other income | | 3.24 |
| Choir members donations | 610.00 | 623.50 |
| | 25256.55 | 47666.96 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Professional fees for concert performers | 7368.12 | 16867.07 |
| Other performance expenses | 2462.80 | 2377.68 |
| Score purchases and hire costs | 556.76 | 1580.96 |
| Rehearsal expenses, sundry costs and administrative costs | 3299.40 | 3718.11 |
| Miscellaneous costs including equipment purchases | 546.84 | 1175.30 |
| Social event costs | 439.40 | 769.56 |
| Expenses for extra fundraising concert | 934.87 | |
| | 15608.19 | 26488.68 |
| Excess of income over expenses | 9648.36 | 21178.28 |
| TOTAL | 25256.55 | 47666.96 |

Notes:

1. In 2022/2023 the choir worked hard to recover our financial position, and were successful in moving from an overspend of more than £3000 in 2021/2022, to an income in excess of spend of £9648 in 2022/2023. This was helped by generous donations from the Friends, and by a bequest following the sad death of choir member and stage manager Ian Kegel.

We also reviewed our constitution and how well our position matched recommendations made by the Charity Commission. This led to an acknowledgement that we did not have sufficient financial reserves. It was also realised that while the actions taken last year led to a greater income in excess of spend than we expected, the methods were not sustainable. We were very grateful to our musical director for the effort he put into the fundraising recital he gave, but he cannot be expected to undertake such a recital annually, nor would a regular event raise as much money. The significantly lower subscription income in 2022/2023 reflected the fact that the financial limits we imposed led to a programme which was less attractive to members.

Reviewing our options and what other choirs have done to tackle the issue, the committee decided that setting up a supporters' scheme was the best way forward. We are grateful for the hard work put into this scheme by committee members and those who have helped them. A separate bank savings account was set up to receive donations into the scheme and the balance in the account has reached £10,000. We are grateful for our supporters' generosity. We are now writing to them to thank them for their past support and to check that they are willing to continue to contribute annually.

2. The choir had a remarkably successful season. After a full house for the Christmas concert, in March we saw a sell-out concert at Snape Maltings – a rare event for any amateur choir. The applause at the end of the concert was rapturous. We featured a new composition by local composer Ben Ponniah, along with Mozart Requiem and the exciting Choral Fantasy by Beethoven, with Andrew Leach directing from the piano. This sell-out has meant that we still have £10,000 in the supporters' fund account to help us with our plans for the next 18 months which include an ambitious concert at Snape Maltings in November 2025.
3. Last year the claim to HMRC for GiftAid was not made in time to be included in the 2022-2023 income, and so the GiftAid income for 2023-2024 covers 2 years. More than half the money donated to our Supporters' scheme was given by corporate sponsors, for which Gift Aid does not apply, which is why the total may appear low given the total in the Supporters' scheme account.

Balance sheet

| | 2022/2023 | 2023/2024 |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Opening balance | £23,362.44 | £33,010.80 |
| Excess of income over expenses | £9,648.36 | £21,178.28 |
| | | |
| Balance carried forward | £33,010.80 | £54,189.08 |
| Represented by: | | |
| Cash in hand in Lloyds account | £21,010.80 | £32,175.67 |
| Balance on deposit account | £12,000.00 | £12,000.00 |
| Balance in supporters fund account | | £10,013.41 |
| Total cash and investments | £33,010.80 | £54,189.08 |

| | 2022/2023 | 2023/2024 |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Opening balance | £23,362.44 | £33,010.80 |
| Excess of income over expenses | £9,648.36 | £21,178.28 |
| Balance carried forward | £33,010.80 | £54,189.08 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Represented by: | | |
| Cash in hand in Lloyds account | £21,010.80 | £32,175.67 |
| Balance on deposit account | £12,000.00 | £12,000.00 |
| Supporters Fund account | | £10,013.41 |
| Total cash and investments | £33,010.80 | £54,189.08 |

| | | |
|---|--|---------|
| Fixed assets | | |
| Value (new equipment purchased this year) | | £965.44 |
| Asset value to be carried forward | | |

| Fixed asset list | Item | Purchase price |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| | LED lights and associated cables | £645.69 |
| | Card payment terminal | £199.00 |
| | wineglass storage trays | £120.75 |
| TOTAL price (2023-2024) | | £965.44 |

Treasurer Joanna Crowe

Joanna Crowe

Date 11.9.24

Independent examiner's report

I have undertaken a review of the Society's receipts and payments for the year 2023-2024 and can confirm that the statement as presented to the members at the AGM is an accurate reflection of the transactions undertaken during the year.

Independent examiner 

Mike Cullington

Date: 11/09/24