

CHAIRMANS REPORT

For the benefit of our new members, as stated in our Constitution, the objects of the charity are “to promote, inspire and develop appreciation of the art and science of music” which I feel we have demonstrated through our concerts and ‘come and sing’ events.

October 2024 we welcomed our new accompanist Marina Korneva. We are pleased she is part of the WCS and appreciate her role in assisting us at our rehearsals. Marina has played in two concerts so far. Thank you Marina

October 12th 2024 we were invited to join the St Mary’s Church Woodbridge Choir for a concert to benefit the Friends of St Mary’s, when we performed the work of local composer Ben Ponniah which was most enjoyable.

December 7th 2024 at St Mary’s Church Woodbridge we performed works by
Martin Palmeri -*Misatango*

Vaughan Williams *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*

Ben Ponniah *Seeing the Star*

And Christmas carols the congregation could join in. This was a very successful and popular concert.

March 29th 2025 at St. Mary’s Church Woodbridge our Concert

Rossini *Petite Messe Solennelle* another much loved and successful concert.

Our concerts are performed with dedicated singers and talented musicians who continue to come back time and again to our concerts which we greatly appreciate.

We are grateful to Supporters, Sponsors and Friends who generously donate towards the costs of our concerts.

Many thanks to St.Mary’s Church and thanks to the Methodist Church for letting us use their space for extra rehearsals, always very welcoming.

We are now into a new season of work which will be performed in November 1st 2025 at Snape Maltings and another concert at St Mary’s Church in December. We have much to look forward to.

I would like to thank the Committee for their support, for all their hard work and dedication into making the Society a success and enjoyable for our Members.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge the work that Jackie Leach does behind the scenes proof-reading our programmes and along with Andrew and Tricia making it fit for print.

A big thank you to Andrew Leach our Musical Director for his hard work and commitment to the WCS. Andrew continues to inspire, educate and lead us on our musical journey, long may this continue.

Dawn Gilmour (Chair)
October 2025

| Income | | 2023/2024 2024-2025 | |
|--|--|----------------------------|------------------|
| Interest | | 225.96 | 320.40 |
| Advertising revenue | | 1,296.00 | 915.00 |
| Concert Receipts | | 16,907.37 | 7,332.76 |
| Subscriptions | | 10,256.20 | 9,242.22 |
| Friends | | 535.00 | 605.00 |
| Grants | | 1,500.00 | 500.00 |
| Patrons and bequest, with donations not paid directly into supporters fund | | 2,749.40 | 1,008.55 |
| Donations directly paid into supporters fund | | 9,455.00 | 7,590.00 |
| Gift Aid | | 2,649.60 | 2,332.13 |
| Score hire/sales | | 1,465.69 | 775.44 |
| Miscellaneous other income | | 3.24 | 0.00 |
| Interim balance from Choir members donations for gifts from the members | | 623.50 | 11.15 |
| | | 47,666.96 | 30,632.65 |
| Expenditure | | | |
| Professional fees for concert performers | | 16,867.07 | 10,513.72 |
| Other performance expenses | | 2,377.68 | 2,062.22 |
| Score purchases and hire costs | | 1,580.96 | 1,631.68 |
| Rehearsal expenses, sundry costs and administrative costs | | 3,718.11 | 3,441.92 |
| Miscellaneous costs | | 1,175.30 | 420.00 |
| Social event costs | | 769.56 | 348.06 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | | 26,488.68 | 18,417.60 |
| Excess of income over expenses | | 21,178.28 | 12,215.05 |

Notes:

1. Following the financial recovery in 2022-2023 and the ambitious and remarkably successful season in 2023-2024 which allowed us to leave our new supporters' fund untouched, culminating in the amazing, sell out concert at Snape in March 2024, the plan was to review and improve our strategy for the future financing and management of the choir while working on and presenting 2 concerts in our home venue of St Mary's Church in Woodbridge. We still needed to present an interesting program in order to try and ensure that we maintained high membership numbers. Although our program was lively and unusual, including a concert with South American music in December as well as carols, overall it is clear that our numbers dropped somewhat since our subscription income dropped by about £1000 but it still indicates a choir of over 90 singers.
2. The Giftaid payment for 2023-2024 was high because it included gift aid payments over 2 years, so the £2332 in 2024-2025 is not a reduction. In fact, quite a number of choir members filled in gift aid forms for this claim as we tried to maximise the amount we could claim. The supporters' fund did contribute to this payment, but more than half of the money donated came from corporate sponsors for whom Giftaid is not relevant.
3. The committee has agreed to a new strategy for managing the choir's running costs. The objective is that all the costs of running the choir throughout the year with weekly rehearsals in season will be covered by the membership subscription, with the aim then that all concerts will be self-funding, calling on support from the reserves in the supporters' fund as necessary.
4. The choir has achieved an exciting program while managing the finances to stay in profit over the last 2 years. This has resulted in a significant balance building up in the current account. The independent examiner pointed out that this is a missed opportunity and asked the treasurer to investigate options for earning interest on these funds.

Balance sheet

Balance sheet

Funds

| | 2023-2024 | 2024-2025 |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Excess income over expenses: general fund | 11,164.87 | 4,472.16 |
| Excess income over expenses: supporters' fund | 10,013.41 | 7,742.89 |
| Excess income over expenses: total | 21,178.28 | 12,215.05 |
| Opening balance | 33,010.80 | 54,189.08 |
| Balance carried forward | 54,189.08 | 66,404.13 |

Fixed assets

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Value brought forward | 965.44 |
| New fixed assets | 79.90 |
| less depreciation | -258.82 |
| Value C/F | 786.52 |
| Sum of all assets | |

Fixed asset list

| Item | Year of purchase |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| LED lights and associated cables | 2023-2024 |
| Card payment terminal | 2023-2024 |
| wineglass storage trays | 2023-2024 |
| Heavy duty stands for choir lighting | 2024-2025 |

Treasurer

Joanna Crowe

Joanna Crowe

Date

4th September 2025

Independent examiner's report

I have undertaken a review of the Society's receipts and payments for the year 2024 – 2025 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: *4 September 2025*

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| Balance carried forward | 54,189.08 | 66,404.13 |
| Represented by: | | |
| Lloyd's treasurer account | 32,175.67 | 36,647.83 |
| Deposit account | 12,000.00 | 12,000.00 |
| Supporters fund account | 10,013.41 | 17,756.30 |
| TOTAL funds in bank | 54,189.08 | 66,404.13 |
| Fixed assets | | |
| Value brought forward | | 965.44 |
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| less depreciation | | -258.82 |
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Joanna Crowe

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Independent examiner **Mike Cullington**

Date: