

HENLEY CHORAL SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 276728

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1978-11-16

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Website <http://www.henleychoralsociety.org.uk>

Activities

Objects: TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN THE ARTS AND SCIENCES, AND IN PARTICULAR THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC, BY THE PRESENTATION OF CONCERTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

Activities: Henley Choral Society comprises of an adult choir as well a youth choir (age 8-17) who rehearse weekly during term times and perform one or more concerts each term. In addition the Society runs workshops some of which are open to the public and is part of Henley Town's public Christmas and summer festivals.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED-IN PRACTICE HENLEY
- Buckinghamshire
- Oxfordshire
- Reading
- West Berkshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£73,146	£68,933	-	-
2024-08-31	£58,815	£60,733	-	-
2023-08-31	£61,764	£66,999	-	-
2022-08-31	£63,290	£71,652	-	-
2021-08-31	£27,603	£25,536	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Angela Law		2024-10-31
Dr Daniel Timothy Richardson Wilson		2020-10-19
Felicity Bazell		2023-10-23
Kate Alexandra Philbrick Dore		2023-10-23

Accounts



Meeting Type: AGM

Location: d:two

Date: 20th October 2025 at 20:30

Attendees: HCS members, committee & officers

Item no.	Subject	Reports and discussion	Agreed action	Who	When
1	Apologies	Jenny Haywood Judy Skeet Heather Wood Liz Ware Catherine Williams Anne Thomas			
2	Previous AGM Minutes (2024)	Minutes for 2024 have been posted on the website. The Chair recommended that the minutes were adopted and this was approved.	Approved	All	
3	Matters arising	None			
4	Chair report: Angela Law	We have had a fantastic and enjoyable season from Autumn 2024 to Summer 2025. In the Autumn we had the fun and challenge of having a temporary Musical Director Hilary Campbell. She took us through the very enjoyable rendition of Handel Messiah and taught us all better vocal techniques. Meanwhile, our wonderful Musical Director Richard Harker was experiencing his own fun and challenges while on Paternity leave and welcoming his son Roman. Our two major concerts were sold out in 2024-25, (and the Summer concerts very nearly so) You are our best ticket agents and do a great job, as well as the superb and knowledgeable work of our excellent and			

		very hard working publicity team Jane Edwards and Wendy Reed. We run successfully because of the group of people who willingly and brilliantly give their time volunteering - thanks to them. We are lucky to have such an excellent Musical Director, Richard Harker and we are likewise very fortunate to have two brilliant accompanists, Dave Smith and Anita d'Attellis. Autumn 2024 In the Autumn term we really enjoyed having Hilary Campbell with us. Hilary really worked us on our physical aspects of vocal technique and also on putting across a performance. She really helped us see new colours in the Messiah and was a great choice of stand in. Hilary also led a public workshop on the Messiah in the Autumn term, and although this had some practical challenges on the day (St Mary's unable to find the key to access the cupboard containing microphone and lighting) it was very enjoyable and was a profitable event that raised funds. We will carry through any learning to the next public Workshop on Brahms German Requiem. Our Christmas concert was Handel's Messiah. And, having sung this many times under many different Musical Directors I have to say this was a stonking performance – despite not one but two of the soloists dropping out the day before. It included singing the Hallelujah chorus off score. There is a clip of this on the website. Particular thanks to Katharine Foderingham for her terrific concert manager work on this concert. There was far more work than usual because Richard was away and I am hugely appreciative of all the work that Katherine, her partner and all the amazing concert volunteers did. The term ended with a fun, well attended, Christmas dinner, organised by Francis Piesse. We will be doing this again. Please do get involved. Spring 2024 Bach Mass in b minor. I have been a member since 2010 and can say hand on heart this is the most challenging piece I have ever sung – and I believe HCS has sung in that time. Huge thanks to David Lewis for finding a new source of sung rehearsal part tracks and organising and distributing them – that made a huge difference. All those who stuck it out were rewarded with a fantastic concert. Richard is right to challenge us, and it was a challenge in many ways but so rewarding.			
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		Summer 2024 After the intellectual rigour of Bach, the summer concert was full of great tunes. We had a fabulous workshop in May – once again organised by Felicity Bazell with Miriam Allen helping us become more confident and relaxed using a variety of vocal techniques. Our Summer concert at Christ Church was described as: ‘a series of innovative choral showstoppers’ and so it proved to be Haydn’s <i>Insanae et Vanae Curae</i>, the Magnificat by Pergolesi, Beethoven’s Choral Fantasia in C major and the Mozart Coronation Mass. Highlight of this concert was the solos performed by our own members. This was noted and appreciated by the audience. This is an excellent development by Richard and happening again this Christmas. Thanks to soloists Claudia Klaver, Kate Ayers, Vittoria Compagnoni, Wendy Reed, Graham Marsden, David Lewis, Francie Piesse, David Bagshaw, Dru Ross, Charlotte Lynch, Tom Foster. Another highlight was having Dave’s superb accompaniment throughout and Richard and Dave’s two hander of Variations by Schubert. I spoke to many of the audience as they were leaving and they were in raptures. We ended the year with a lovely summer party, kindly hosted by Elfrida Calvocoressi in her beautiful house and garden in Bix Bottom with a lovely set of photos by Hannah Skalleberg. We also ended with year with a Member Survey. The previous survey was undertaken in 2013, so it was about time! We had 90 replies, and it was very helpful to get your thoughts and feedback on all aspects of HCS. We have carried that forward into discussion of future repertoire and events and into Richards’ review. You can read the full review on the member section of the website (password hcs2014) If you want to have influence, volunteer for a role and get on the Committee - that’s where the decisions are made. Membership One of my ambitions is to keep re-plenishing the membership, to encourage younger members. And to try and keep the balance and effort in getting tenor and bass members.			
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Again, you are our best recruitment agents so do please talk to your friends about singing.

Season	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
Sopranos	42	46	42	46	39	39
Altos	31	33	37	40	42	40
Tenors	12	13	13	13	13	17
Basses	16	20	18	17	18	19
Total	101	112	110	116	112	115

Table: Active HCS members according to membership lists

Great to see the tenor section growing. It has been lovely to welcome new members both in the past season and in the recent term.

Of course in this season 25-26 year we have also launched the Choral Scholars scheme, and we are delighted to welcome Ellie Vockins who was inspired to pursue her love of music and singing by being a member of Henley Youth Choir.

Thank you

Henley Choral Society, a charity registered with the Charity Commission, exists to educate the public in the arts and sciences, and in particular the art and science of music, by the presentation of concerts and other activities.

It relies entirely on the time and efforts of volunteers. No one is paid, nor receives benefits from the charity. So, we should all be hugely grateful for the time and efforts of all the volunteers who enable a charity to fulfil its purpose.

We are especially grateful for the additional support that the Friends of Henley Choral Society provide. It is a welcome addition to our resources. Thank you to Jane Redley and Fiona O'Shea, for their work with the Friends.

This year has been marked by some terrific publicity work. So, thank you to Jane Edwards and Wendy Reed for their fantastic input.

Thank you to Fi Harding, Jo Dickson and the whole team at HYC – which includes Felicity Bazell, Susan Edwards, Maureen Smith, Wendy Hawkins, Raquel Dominguez and Jan French. Certainly, their joint

		Summer concert with Studio Forcada was a highlight of the year. I especially want to thank Jo Dickson for her fantastic hard work and success in applying to the grants that keep HYC afloat. Felicity Bazell will tell you more in her report on HYC. Thank you to our founding member, Wendy Hawkins, who acts as membership secretary and many other activities, including practicing with sections - essential and much appreciated for the Bach - and organising the reviewers for our concerts, and all the front of house arrangements. Wendy is a fount of wisdom on all aspects of HCS, and her support is very much appreciated. I will say more about concert management in a moment, but I also want to thank all those who give up their time so generously to collect the staging, put it up and take it down. I am also so appreciative of the fact that people rope in their partners and children to do this. We have had a significant and very welcome uplift to funds from the claiming of previous years' Gift Aid. This has been done with fantastic diligence by Michael Kay. Thank you. Thank you to Aileen Gleeson and Jo Dickson for organising the seating and Catherine Williams for corralling us in going on and off the stage in an orderly fashion. Thanks to Nigel Grundy for banking and countless other activities. He is always to be found helping out where needed. We are very grateful to the voice representatives, who do a vital job in supporting you all: Michael Kay, David Bentley, Jo Dickson, Meg Ashby and Magdalen Hoskins. Making sure we are provided with cakes and drinks at the right time, Meg and Peter Ashby, Nigel Grundy, David Lewis, Toni Aitken, Anne Frankum, and all the others who step in to help. We could not sing without Jenny Wager, our brilliant librarian, who has risen to every challenge we throw at her and is always fantastically well organised and now to Raquel Dominguez for stepping in to this role. Thank you to Peter Ashby and Heather Webb for opening up d:two every week, and to the team of people who come early to help set up the hall and sort the chairs. Equally huge thanks to all those then put the chairs away and a special thanks to David Bagshaw for checking we leave the hall as it is and locking up the building after every rehearsal. Thank you to Jan French who continues to pass on website enquiries and emails. Thanks to Mike Hails for running the raffle and providing us with much needed extra revenue.			
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		Thanks to Glynnis Akehurst and Fiona O'Shea and more recently to Bridget Martindale for organising the gifts for professionals at our concerts. Nick Richardson is not singing due to other commitments however he continues to do a fantastic job as our Staging Leading – sorting the essential job of storing, collecting, managing the putting up of the staging under the H&S protocols that were so ably commissioned and then everything to do with the de-rig and taking it back to storage. Thank you to Francis Piesse for always stepping in to help on such things as putting up posters in advance of concerts, moving the conductor's plinth and organising our Christmas parties. Francis will also be organising the coaches for the Brahms in Reading. Dru Ross works incredibly hard to bring together the programme. Enormous thanks to Toni Aitken for her absolute determination in so successfully finding programme sponsors who submit adverts, and to Jenny Haywood for her support. Many thanks to my fellow Trustees of the Charity: • Kate Ayers for being a superb and diligent secretary. Kate keeps everything on track and deals with a huge amount of forward planning, administration and detail. Together with Felicity Bazell, Vice Chair, they also keep on top of the important policies and procedures we must have, not least to support our charitable status. • A special thank you to Tim Wilson who had done a great job as Chair, stepped down from that role and immediately stepped into being Treasurer. I am hugely grateful to Tim for his accurate reports and sound management of HCS funds (and for his support to a new Chair.) • Finally and very important a huge thank you to Vice Chair Felicity Bazell. Felicity organises the Workshop for the members virtually single handedly. Felicity has stepped in to perform the duties of the Concert Manager and has done so admirably and brilliantly. Huge round of thanks and applause. However, this is not sustainable. We do need someone who knows the ropes as far as the usual St Mary's set up goes to step in to that role. And to all of you who also step in to help – on task from moving chairs to making cakes and washing tea-cups - a huge thanks. Finally after a year as Chair I want to say thank you to you all for your enthusiasm, your good humour and your support.			
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5	Musical Director's report: Richard Harker	Richard reiterated gratitude for all those who volunteer, and added his particular, personal thanks: • To the HYC team, who do such an important and vital job and work so hard • To Hilary Campbell for covering his paternity leave, bringing her incomparable talents and professionalism to bear on our singing. • To Felicity Bazell for all her hard work on concert management . • To Angela for her support, as Chair. He reflected on the significant progress that the choir has made in recent years; we have become more responsive to direction, improved in note accuracy and pitch and are heading to good new places.. He expressed thanks for our hard work and for putting our trust in him.			
6	Finance Report: Tim Wilson, Treasurer	<i>Copies of the approved accounts for 2024-25, signed off by an Independent Examiner for submission to the Charity Commission, were circulated before the meeting (also posted on the HCS website).</i> The Henley Choral Society has enjoyed a successful financial year, achieving a surplus in contrast to recent years. This positive outcome reflects the dedication and hard work of many individuals and the continued support of our members and community partners. The surplus has been made possible through several key income streams: 1. Gift Aid – thanks to the diligent efforts of Mike Kay in managing and submitting claims. 2. Ticket Sales – successfully overseen by Jane Edwards and Wendy Reed, contributing significantly to our overall revenue. 3. Henley Youth Choir Grants – secured and managed by Jo Dickson, providing valuable support for our youth activities. 4. Programme Sponsorship – coordinated by Jenny Haywood, Toni Aitken & Dru Ross, whose work has strengthened relationships with local sponsors. 5. Membership Subscriptions – efficiently managed by Wendy Hawkins, ensuring consistent income from our members.			

		6. “Come and Sing” Event – organised by Felicity Bazel, which generated both financial and community engagement benefits. In addition, several other activities have continued to provide important, ongoing income: 1. Friends Scheme – coordinated by Jane Redley. 2. Raffle – managed by Mike Hails. 3. Bar Sales – run by Peter Ashby, David Lewis, and Nigel Grundy. 4. Rehearsal Tracks – produced and maintained by David Lewis. Special thanks are due to Jenny Wager, our librarian who has to manage large numbers of payments related to the purchase and hire of music, and the collection of payments. Thanks also to Mike Hails and Nigel Grundy for managing the physical banking of cash and cheques. Looking ahead, the Society faces several financial commitments which will place increased demands on our resources. For this reason, an increase in membership fees has become necessary. Key upcoming expenditures include: • The start of our Scholarship Scheme,. • The Spring Concert, which your committee has agreed to invest in. • Greater investment in concerts generally, particularly for orchestras and soloists. • Staging and logistical support, for which we will need additional volunteers; otherwise, it may be necessary to employ external assistance. The Society remains in a sound financial position and is committed to ensuring that future spending supports both artistic excellence and the long-term sustainability of our activities.			
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The income and expenditure of HCS over the last seven years:

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Income	£59,850	£43,320	£27,603	£63,190	£61,667	£58,647	£73,146
Expenditure	£58,820	£42,350	£25,536	£71,497	£66,994	£60,733	£58,911
Surplus/ (deficit)	£1,030	£970	£2,067	-£8,307	-£5,328	-£2,086	£14,235

The chief reasons for HCS making a surplus this financial year (compared to 2023-24):

	2023-24	2024-25	Difference
Gift Aid	£0	£6,782	£6,782
HYC grants	£2,450	£4,725	£2,275
Friends	£2,789	£2,939	£150
Raffle	£1,018	£1,184	£166
Programme sponsor	£2,280	£3,600	£1,320
Ticket sales	£15,712	£21,631	£5,919
HCS Membership	£16,810.00	£18,486	£1,676

7	Henley Youth Choir Report: delivered by Felicity Bazell	<i>Prepared by the Committee of the Henley Youth Choirs, the Junior and Senior Choir, approved and delivered on behalf of the HYC Committee.</i> 2024-2025 highlights: A busy year, under the leadership of MDs Jen Statham (for the Autumn term) and Richard Harker (for the Spring and Summer terms) both who the children really enjoyed working with. Both MDs continued to expand the repertoire of the junior and senior choir, mixing fun rehearsals, informal performances and formal concerts. This year was HYC's 10th anniversary. Safeguarding: Children who take part in performances are required to have a licence to perform in most venues. Where necessary, HYC use a Body of Persons Approval (BOPA) licence from an umbrella body to cover all children within HYC. The umbrella body requires HCS and HYC to have relevant policies, documents and training in place, including a Safeguarding Policy. As per last year, performances are covered under a license where this is necessary and all activities are undertaken in line with the Safeguarding Policy. Administration: The band of volunteer HCS members led by Fi Harding are an exemplary and experienced team, and the two children's choirs are a very important opportunity for those children from 5 to 17 years to access professional tuition in singing and music making. We must all thank the whole team for all their hard work and dedication during all three terms of the year, and the children delight in working with music professionals, Jen, Richard and Anita. Fi Harding founder member and chief organizer and Designated Safeguarding Officer for the choirs is a force of nature – thank you Fi from everyone connected with the choirs, children, adults, supporters, friends. Membership: Numbers of members over the 3 terms of 2024-25 vary but are broadly 25 across both choirs. Performances: Autumn term: - Thamesfield Retirement Village, Dec 2024. - Christmas Jingle, The Green Room, Dec 2024.			
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		Spring term: - Henley Youth Festival, March 2025. Summer term: - Harpsden Hoo Ha, June 2025 (our third visit). - Joint concert with Studio Forcada, June 2025. - 10th anniversary celebration with supporters, sponsors and past members and volunteers, June 2025. Recruitment: continues with workshops at local schools. Funding/Sponsorship: Donations and grants received: Invesco: January 2025 £1,250 for 6 bursary places. The Arts Society Henley: £500 for bursary places. Private Donation: £500 for bursary places. Henley Educational Trust: £1,000 for bursary places. Henley Bridge Charity: £525 for music purchase. Henley Playing Cards: £36 from sales of playing cards. Henley Town Council: £525 for school workshops. Tesco / Groundworks: £500 for school workshops (to be spent in 2025-26). Huge thanks to: - Richard Harker, Jen Statham & Anita D'Attellis (we are so lucky to have them!). - Wendy Hawkins (HYC librarian who spends a lot of time sourcing music & finding music within our HYC library). - Maureen Smith (for liaising with schools to organise our outreach). - Jo Dickson (our secretary) & Susan Edwards (Treasurer). - the HYC team (Maureen Smith, Jan French, Raquel Domingues, Susan Edwards & Wendy Hawkins) who regularly volunteer to attend HYC rehearsals, events & performances. - Angela Law. - Support from the HCS Trustees.			
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8	Safeguarding: DSO, FI Harding delivered on her behalf by Felicity Bazell	<i>The Safeguarding Policy for Henley Choral Society (including the Henley Youth Choirs) was updated, signed and published on the website at: https://henleychoralsociety.org.uk,</i> It was approved by all trustees on 16 October 2025 and recommended for adoption by the whole society. It will be reviewed after one year, in October 2026. The new policies which HCS have undertaken to review each year or at the agreed interval have been or will be published on the Society's website. Children who take part in performances are required to have a licence to perform in most venues. Where necessary, HYC use a Body of Persons Approval (BOPA) licence from an umbrella body (Brass Bands England) to cover all children within HYC. The umbrella body requires HCS and HYC to have relevant policies, documents and training in place, including a Safeguarding Policy. All HYC activities are undertaken in line with the Safeguarding Policy. There have been no safeguarding issues reported in the past year. There will be a report to each AGM on Safeguarding.			
9	Nominations and elections for committee members and trustees	TRUSTEES: All the trustees are within term COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Two new nominations were agreed : Raquel Dominguez is to take on the role of Librarian <i>proposed by Jenny Wager seconded by Felicity Bazell</i> Claudia Klaver is to take on the role of Social Secretary <i>proposed by Kate Ayers, seconded by Melissa MAPLE??</i> All current committee members were approved as a block <i>proposed by Peter Ashby, seconded by Susan Edwards.</i> All choir members were encouraged to come forward to fill concert management roles, which are still vacant.			

10	AOB and close	Susan Edwards proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair and the meeting was brought to a close.			
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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Henley Choral Society

276728

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

1st September 2024

To

31st August 2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Ticket Sales	21,632	-	-	21,632	15,712
Programme Sales	1,380	-	-	1,380	1,044
Member Subs	22,469	-	-	22,469	21,225
Friends Donations	2,939	-	-	2,939	3,768
Gift aid tax relief	6,782	-	-	6,782	-
Bank interest	1,094	-	-	1,094	1,075
Donations	4,870	-	-	4,870	3,450
Hire of music to members	30	-	-	30	-
Sales of music to members	2,630	-	-	2,630	6,090
Advertising revenue	3,600	-	-	3,600	2,832
Bar takings	1,639	-	-	1,639	845
Sundry	4,081	-	-	4,081	2,773
Sub total	73,146	-	-	73,146	58,815
A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	73,146	-	-	73,146	58,815
A3 Payments					
Conductors fee	14,813	-	-	14,813	12,479
Accompanist's fees	6,555	-	-	6,555	7,700
Orchestra Fees	7,079	-	-	7,079	10,558
Soloist's Fees	3,280	-	-	3,280	4,084
Other fees	3,086	-	-	3,086	772
Hall hire	7,182	-	-	7,182	6,430
Equipment hire	3,171	-	-	3,171	768
Music Hire	-	-	-	-	531
Music purchase	3,646	-	-	3,646	6,647
Bar Expenses	489	-	-	489	646
Publicity	3,458	-	-	3,458	5,150
Sundry	6,087	-	-	6,087	4,763
Bank charges	65	-	-	65	205
Sub total	58,911	-	-	58,911	60,733
A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	58,911	-	-	58,911	60,733

<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	14,235	-	-	14,235	- 1,918
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	54,698	-	-	54,698	56,616
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	68,933	-	-	68,933	54,698

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF CURRENT	11,476	-	-
	CAF DEPOSIT	53,141	-	-
	HSBC	4,316	-	-
	Total cash funds	68,933	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	N/A	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	N/A		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	N/A		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	N/A		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A**Independent Examiner's Report****Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name

HENLEY CHORAL SOCIETY

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/08/2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

276728

Set out on pages

1

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

- In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention
1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met ; or
 2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:**Date:**

29/09/2025

Name:

JOANNE GRUNDONNER

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

AAT

Address:

37 Grove Street, Wantage, OX12 7AG

HENLEY CHORAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 276728

Accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Henley Choral Society

276728

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

1st September 2023

To

31st August 2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Ticket Sales	£15,712	-	-	15,712	£19,483
Programme Sales	£1,044	-	-	1,044	£1,399
Member Subs	£21,225	-	-	21,225	£18,491
Friends Donations	£3,768	-	-	3,768	£5,355
Gift aid tax relief	£0	-	-	-	£0
Bank interest	£1,075	-	-	1,075	£524
Donations	£3,450	-	-	3,450	£5,000
Hire of music to members	£0	-	-	-	£0
Sales of music to members	£6,090	-	-	6,090	£4,396
Advertising revenue	£2,832	-	-	2,832	£3,180
Bar takings	£845	-	-	845	£1,825
Sundry	£2,773	-	-	2,773	£2,110
Sub total	£58,815	-	-	58,815	61,764
A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	58,815	-	-	58,815	61,764
A3 Payments					
Conductors fee	12,479	-	-	12,479	13,148
Accompanist's fees	7,700	-	-	7,700	7,753
Orchestra Fees	10,558	-	-	10,558	2,643
Soloist's Fees	4,084	-	-	4,084	3,207
Other fees	772	-	-	772	16,241
Hall hire	6,430	-	-	6,430	6,736
Equipment hire	768	-	-	768	2,420
Music Hire	531	-	-	531	-
Music Purchase	6,647	-	-	6,647	5,202
Bar Expenses	646	-	-	646	1,084
Publicity	5,150	-	-	5,150	5,416
Sundry	4,763	-	-	4,763	3,150
Bank Charges	205	-	-	205	-
Sub total	60,733	-	-	60,733	66,999
A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	60,733	-	-	60,733	66,999
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 1,918	-	-	- 1,918	- 5,236
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	56,616	-	-	56,616.31	70,214.00
Cash funds this year end	54,698.00	1	-	54,698.00	26,096,240,978.31

CCXX R1 accounts (S&P)

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF CURRENT	8,776	-	-
	CAF DEPOSIT	42,064	-	-
	HSBC	3,858	-	-
	Total cash funds	54,698	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	N/A	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	N/A		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	N/A		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	N/A		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	

Chair's annual report 2023-24

Summary

After a few years of challenges (many welcome) such as a change in musical director, a fabulous fiftieth anniversary year, and a global pandemic, 2023-24 has been relatively stable. However, our excellent Musical Director, Richard Harker, stretched us with a varied and rewarding musical repertoire.

All three concerts were sold out in 2023-24, due in large part to the efforts of each of us to sell tickets, and our excellent publicity team Angela Law and Jane Edwards. We run successfully because of the group of people who willingly and brilliantly give their time volunteering- thanks to them. We are lucky to have such a brilliant Musical Director, Richard Harker and we are likewise very fortunate to have two brilliant accompanists, Dave Smith and Anita d'Attelis.

Autumn 2023

Our Christmas concert was a mix of carols, pieces performed by Henley Youth Choir and three Cantatas from Bach's Christmas Oratorio. The music was sublime, the performance excellent, with the choir giving its best rendition of the Bach. But overall, the concert was perhaps a little long for a Christmas event. Learning for future concerts, but wonderful music, well performed nonetheless.

The term ended with a fun, well attended, Christmas dinner, organised by Francis Piesse.

Spring 2024

For the first time in recent years we performed at The Great Hall, University of Reading. It was a lovely venue with good, but not perfect, acoustics. There were quite a few logistical challenges which need to be considered for future performances there. The music, British 20th century music by Finzi, Vaughan Williams and Elgar, in memory of the world wars was especially moving. Accompanied by a large and talented orchestra meant we made a fantastic sound. Many in the choir and audience considered it to be Henley Choral Society's best, and most emotional, performance- notable given the difficulty of these works. However, some audience and choir members found themselves positioned too close to the orchestra, particularly the impressive percussion section, meaning that their pleasure was reduced- more learning for us all.

Summer 2024

The summer concert, with Henley Youth Choir, was one of the most successful joint concerts ever, with the two choirs singing two works by Alexander L'Estrange, - Zimbe! and Ahoy!. Performers and audience were equally surprised and delighted by the uplifting and fun concert. It was a blast!

In summer we had an enjoyable workshop with Hilary Campbell. She took us through the summer concert works and taught us all better vocal techniques. A taste of what was to come as she took on the task of temporary MD in Autumn 2024.

We ended the year with a lovely summer party, kindly hosted by Mark and Jo Turner in their beautiful garden in Fawley.

Membership

The number of people singing in the latter two concerts dwindled considerably. There will be many reasons for this, including the different and challenging repertoire. The Committee is agreed that it is important that our Musical Director introduces us to new works and different composers. Choirs that simply sing the old favourites will quickly become stale.

Our membership has stayed remarkably stable over the last few years, with leavers and joiners more or less balancing out, and a recovery in numbers post Covid-19.

Season	20-21 23-24	21-22 24-25	22-23
Sopranos	42 46	46 39	42
Altos	31 40	33 42	37
Tenors	12 13	13 13	13
Basses	16 17	20 18	18
Total	101 116	112 112	110

Table: Active HCS members according to membership lists

We continually publicise the choir and the fun and benefits to be had joining. If anyone would like to help with a membership drive, they would be most welcome.

Thank you

Henley Choral Society, a charity registered with the Charity Commission, exists to educate the public in the arts and sciences, and in particular the art and science of music, by the presentation of concerts and other activities.

It relies entirely on the time and efforts of volunteers. No one is paid, nor receives benefits from the charity. So, we should be grateful for the time and efforts of all the volunteers who enable to charity to fulfil its purpose.

We are especially grateful for the additional support that the Friends of Henley Choral Society provide. It is a welcome addition to our resources. Thank you to Jane Redley and Fiona O'Shea, for their work with the Friends.

This year has been marked by some terrific publicity work. So, thank you to Angela Law and Jane Edwards for their brilliant work.

Thank you to Fi Harding, Jo Dickson and the team at HYC for all they do. Susan Edwards and Maureen Smith did some great work to get the accreditation sorted to allow HYC to perform. Felicity Bazell will tell you more in her report on HYC.

Thank you to our founding member, Wendy Hawkins, who acts as membership secretary and many other activities, including practicing with sections and organising front of house at concerts.

Thank you to Katharine Foderingham for her terrific concert manager work. This is a difficult job that she does with energy and a smile.

Thank you to Aileen Gleeson for organising the seating and Catherine Williams for corralling us in a pre-concert warm-up and going on and off the stage in an orderly fashion.

Thank you to Cath Reynolds for supporting the setup and running of the online ticket sales.

Thanks to Nigel Grundy for banking and countless other activities. He is always to be found helping out where needed.

We are very grateful to the voice representatives, who do a vital job, brilliantly: Michael Kay, David Bentley, Jo Dickson, Meg Ashby and

Magdalen Hoskins.

Making sure we are provided with cakes and drinks at the right time, Meg and Peter Ashby, Nigel Grundy, Toni Aitken Anne Frankum, and others, and to our sommelier, David Lewis. Our thanks go to them.

We could not sing without Jenny Wager, our brilliant librarian, who rises to every challenge we throw at her.

Thank you to Peter Ashby and Heather Webb for opening up d:two every week, and to the team of people who come early to help set up the hall.

Thank you to Jan French for managing website enquiries.

Thanks to Mike Hails for running the raffle and providing us with much needed extra revenue.

Thanks to Glynnis Akehurst for organising the gifts for professionals at our concerts.

Thanks to Nick Richardson for photography, announcements, and leading our work to move and erect staging.

Thank you to Francis Piesse for putting up posters in advance of concerts, moving the conductor's plinth and organising our Christmas parties.

Dru Ross works incredibly hard to bring together the programme.

Thanks to Toni Aitken and Jenny Haywood for so successfully finding programme sponsors.

Many thanks to my fellow Trustees of the Charity:

- Kate Ayers for taking on the role of secretary and doing it incredibly efficiently. Amongst all she has done this year includes commissioning a professional risk assessment for our staging. Very reassuring and with some clear pointers for consolidating what we already do.
- Felicity Bazell, our Vice Chair, who acts as the main liaison with HYC, plans and organises our workshops each term and along with Kate is working on our policies and protocols to make sure we are well run.
- Finally, a special thank you to Mark Turner, who has been our Treasurer for the last six years and is stepping down today. He has done a tremendous job. Despite a period of turbulence, our finances have remained stable and healthy and he has ensured we pay people promptly, very important to young professionals. On top of that, Mark and his wife, Jo, generously hosted a fantastic summer party to end our 2023-24 season. Mark continues to support his community in Fawley and as a counsellor in Buckinghamshire for the Socialist Works Party- he's one of those people who, in the background, quietly make our society better. Thank you Mark.

I want to mention the death of Arthur Weir. He was a stalwart supporter of the choir, especially HYC, taking on many roles. Donations in his memory, in aid of HYC, topped £935. His positive energy, present even towards the end of his life, will be greatly missed.

Although there are many people who contribute- all those wonderful people already mentioned and more, we could still do more if more people would step forward. It is always the same people to be found helping out. Staging is notable- it is always a moment of anxiety for the Chair and Concert Manager when we perform at St Mary's. We do need more staging leads (who have the professional risk assessment to aid them) and more people who want the benefit of weight training and mobility exercise.

Susan Edwards reminded me early in my time as Chair that people come to choir to enjoy themselves. That enjoyment can come in many forms- the pleasure of performing music, the sense of achievement of mastering a difficult piece, the interaction with a group of like-minded friends, being taught and accompanied by outstanding professionals, or the chance to do free weight training. We all seek slightly different things. We do need to recognise that the choir is a community of people with varying views- so whether it is talking, ventilation, seating or some other issue that could divide us- in the end it is a wonderful thing to sing with others and create such a tremendous sound. Never forget- you leave each rehearsal happier, enriched and ready for another week.

Finally, this is my last AGM as your chair. I am handing over to Angela Law, who brings great experience, energy and a love of the choir- you are in great hands. When Susan Edwards rang me to ask if I would consider becoming chair, the sound of barrels being scraped was loud and clear. I took over as a newbie of the choir- typical bravado of a male- pale- stale middle-class man. But with the support of others, and the immediate past chair, I managed. It has been a privilege to see the choir through the turbulence of the last four years, and now, as Treasurer, I have the enormous size 14 shoes of Mark Turner to fill. I look forward to it with some trepidation- please be patient.



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

HENLEY CHORAL SOCIETY

On accounts for the year
ended

31/08/2024

Charity no
(if any)

276728

Set out on pages

1

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met ; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

JO Grundonner

Date:

30/9/24

Name:

JOANNE GRUNDONNER

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

AAT

Address:

37 Grove Street, Wantage, OX12 7AG

HENLEY CHORAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 276728

Accounts

Chair's annual report 2022-2023

Summary

This year has been one of celebration with our 50th anniversary, including a gala concert, a world premiere and workshops with leading composers. The successful anniversary year (which stretches across 2023), led by Susan Edwards, was achieved through the hard work of a small team of volunteers who did a great job planning events, securing grants and sponsorship, recruiting Gold Friends, and publicising our activities.

All three concerts have been sold out in 2022-23, due in large part to the efforts of each of us to sell tickets, and our excellent publicity team. Notwithstanding our anniversary, it has been a year of stability, restrictions to Covid-19 having been lifted and a stable membership.

We are lucky to have such a brilliant Musical Director, Richard Harker, who is getting the measure of the choir and finding ways to stretch us whilst keeping up the enjoyment. We are also very fortunate to have two brilliant accompanists, Dave Smith and Anita d'Attelis.

Autumn 2022

This felt like a return to normality, with the choir rehearsing in d:two, no need for freezing conditions and a very successful, sold-out, Christmas concert, performed with Henley Youth Choir. The term ended with a fun Christmas dinner, organised by Fi Harding.

Spring 2023

January '23 saw the launch of our 50th Anniversary with a small celebration in d:two. As the term went on, we received the movements of our 50th anniversary commission from composer Cecilia McDowall- The Ice is Listening. We learnt more about the lyrics and music from Cecilia and Kate Wakeling (lyricist) during an event before the rehearsal.

The gala concert opened with a reception for our sponsors and our many Gold Friends. The performance of The Ice is Listening was the best we had ever done and went down well, with a great critical response.

Summer 2023

In summer we had an enjoyable workshop with Bob Chilcott, composer of the music for our summer concert. We had many visiting singers who likewise enjoyed the day.

The summer concert, with Henley Youth Choir, was one of the most different we have ever done, ending with audience participation in Mamma Mia. Who can forget the playing of the small band, including our own Dave Smith, in West Side Story?

Finally, we ended 2022-23 season with a lovely summer party at the beautiful home and garden of Jill and Peter Steward in Hambleden, where we were able to thank our founding member, Wendy Hawkins.

A perfect end to an exciting year.

Membership

Our membership has stayed remarkably stable over the last few years, with leavers and joiners more or less balancing out. We continually publicise the choir and the fun and benefits to be had joining. If anyone would like to help with a membership drive, they would be most welcome.

Thank you

Henley Choral Society, a charity registered with the Charity Commission, exists to educate the public in the arts and sciences, and in particular the art and science of music, by the presentation of concerts and other activities.

It relies entirely on the time and efforts of volunteers. No one is paid, nor receives benefits from the charity. So, we should be grateful for the time and efforts of all the volunteers who enable to charity to fulfil its purpose.

We are especially grateful for the additional support that the Friends of Henley Choral Society provide. It is a welcome addition to our resources. Thank you to Liz Ware and Fiona Franks, who are stepping down this year, for their work with the Friends, including recruiting so many Gold Friends this year.

This year has been marked by some terrific publicity work. So, thank you to Angela Law and Jane Edwards for their brilliant work.

Thank you to Fi Harding and the team at HYC for all they do. Carol Kelly will cover HYC in her report.

Thank you to Wendy Hawkins as membership secretary and many other activities, including practicing with sections and organising front of house at concerts.

Thank you to Jane Hutton for her terrific concert manager work, which has now been picked up brilliantly by Mark Treherne.

Thank you to Cath Reynolds for online ticket sales.

Thanks to Nigel Grundy for banking and countless other activities. He is always to be found helping out where needed.

We are very grateful to the voice representatives, who do a vital job, brilliantly: Paul Scrivens, Arthur Weir, Jo Dickson, Meg Ashby and Nicky Norminton- and now Magdalen Hoskins.

Thanks to Arthur Weir for making sure we claim gift aid and his work as treasurer for Henley Youth Choir. Arthur has decided to step down from his many roles supporting the society. This marks the end of many years of devoted service to the choir. It is wonderful that Arthur will still be singing with us.

Making sure we are provided with cakes and drinks at the right time, Meg and Peter Ashby, Nigel Grundy, Anne Frankum, and our sommelier, David Lewis. Our thanks go to them. We could not sing without Jenny Wager, our brilliant librarian, who rises to every challenge we throw at her.

Thank you to Jan French for managing website enquiries.

Thanks to Mike Hails for running the raffle and providing us with much needed extra revenue. And thank you to Sally McEwan for the Garsington tickets which we raffled and to David Bentley who helped with the summer raffle and ticket sales.

Thanks to Nick Richardson for photography, announcements, putting up posters, leading our work to move and erect staging.

Dru Ross works incredibly hard to bring together the programme, including, this year, our 50th anniversary souvenir programme.

Thanks to Toni Aitken and Jenny Haywood for so successfully finding programme sponsors.

Thanks to the Trustees of the Charity, including:

- **Mark Turner, our Treasurer.**

- Caroline Rake is stepping down as secretary because of other commitments- thank you to her for all her tremendous hard work and support.
- Carol Kelly is stepping down as Deputy Chair. She, like me, had to climb a steep learning curve on taking on her role. Carol has been the main liaison between Trustees and HYC, has organized our very successful workshops, helped with concert organisation and has done countless other things, including, with Susan Edwards, opening up d:two every week.
- Finally, this marks the end of an era, with Susan Edwards, for the time being at least, no longer being on committee or Trustees. She has served in many roles over the years, including as a very successful Chair. When Carol and I took over, the choir was in excellent administrative and financial order. This last year Susan led the work on the 50th anniversary and has been a great support to Carol and me. Thank you, Susan.

2022-2023 Income

		References									
		General	Christmas	Spring	Summer	outh Choir	Autumn Workshop	Spring Workshop	Chilcott Workshop	Summer Party	Totals
Cost centres		500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	
Ticket sales	100	£0.00	£5,754.51	£6,087.82	£3,735.13	£385.20	£0.00	£0.00	£3,110.74	£410.00	£19,483.40
Programme sales	101	£0.00	£452.15	£720.00	£226.50	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,398.65
Members' subs	102	£13,880.90	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£4,609.75	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£18,490.65
Friends' Donations	103	£5,255.45	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£100.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,355.45
Gift aid tax relief	104	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Bank interest	105	£524.47	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£524.47
Donations	106	£2,250.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,750.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,000.00
Hire of music to members	107	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Sales of music to member	108	£22.00	£1,766.75	£1,090.60	£1,516.70	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£4,396.05
Advertising revenue	109	£0.00	£1,030.00	£1,250.00	£900.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,180.00
Bar takings	110	£0.00	£660.68	£554.50	£484.50	£125.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,824.68
Sundry	111	£2,110.20	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,110.20
Received from petty cash	112	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Received from bank	113	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Float returned	114	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Totals		£24,043.02	£9,664.09	£9,702.92	£6,862.83	£7,969.95	£0.00	£0.00	£3,110.74	£410.00	£61,763.55

2022-2023 Expenditure

2022-2023 Expenditure		References									
		General	Christmas	Spring	Summer	'outh Choir	Autumn Workshop	Spring Workshop	Chilcott Workshop	Summer Party	Totals
Cost centres		500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	
Conductor's fees	200	£6,350.00	£500.00	£450.00	£500.00	£4,405.00	£0.00	£0.00	£943.20	£0.00	£13,148.20
Accompanist's fees	201	£3,532.50	£470.00	£300.00	£300.00	£2,430.00	£270.00	£0.00	£450.00	£0.00	£7,752.50
Orchestra fees	202	£0.00	£0.00	£2,642.50	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,642.50
Soloists' fees	203	£0.00	£357.44	£1,900.00	£950.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,207.44
Other fees	204	£640.75	£0.00	#####	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£16,240.75
Hall hire	205	£2,762.40	£0.00	£765.00	£1,160.00	£2,049.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£6,736.40
Equipment hire	206	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,246.65	£173.76	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,420.41
Music hire	207	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Music purchase	208	£1,207.59	£875.05	£1,520.55	£1,098.95	£499.60	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,201.74
Bar expenses	209	£892.64	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£85.97	£105.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,083.61
Publicity	210	£749.70	£1,147.40	£2,135.20	£994.60	£200.32	£0.00	£0.00	£188.89	£0.00	£5,416.11
Sundry	211	£1,758.91	£699.99	£152.88	£228.87	£225.70	£0.00	£0.00	£83.23	£0.00	£3,149.58
Bank Charges	212	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Transfer to bank	213	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Float out	214	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Totals		£17,894.49	£4,049.88	#####	£7,479.07	£9,983.38	£355.97	£105.00	£1,665.32	£0.00	£66,999.24
Profit		£6,148.53	£5,614.21	#####	-£616.24	#####	-£355.97	-£105.00	£1,445.42	£410.00	-£5,235.69

Check sums

	Rows	Columns	Worksheets	Difference	Difference
Income	£61,763.55	#####	#####	#####	#####
Expenditure	£66,999.24	#####	#####	#####	#####



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A**Independent Examiner's Report****Report to the trustees/
members of**Charity Name
HENLEY CHORAL SOCIETY**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/08/2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

276728

Set out on pages

1

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met ; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:**Date:**

5/10/2023

Name:

JOANNE GRUNDONNER

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

AAT

Address:

43 St Helens Way, Benson, OX10 6SP

HENLEY CHORAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 276728

Accounts

2021-22 Henley Choral Society- chair's annual report

2021-22 represented another unsettled year for Henley Choral Society, with covid-19 still leaving its mark (necessitating that we dip into reserves) and a change in Musical Director. But, as you will hear, I think we are moving into steadier times, allowing us to grow, develop and look forward to our 50th anniversary and beyond.

Autumn 2021

The first term of the year was still marked by covid-19 and the associated restrictions. We did not appear to have any outbreaks as a consequence of rehearsing, so precautions taken by members and the choir as a whole, in the form of ventilation, mask wearing, spacing, vaccination and staying away when unwell, all seemed to work.

As reported in last year's Chair's report, term started with a 'Bring and Sing' workshop of Brahms' Requiem (the performance having been cancelled from the prior term). Members of local choirs joined us and they especially commented on the skills of our two piano accompanists, Anita d'Attelis and Dave Smith.

Our Christmas concert felt like we were getting back to some normality, although ticket sales were nearer 250, when we might expect 400. We were accompanied by Onyx Brass, giving a wonderful Christmassy feel. Overall, it was a lovely concert, with a mix of favourites like Handel's Zadok the Priest, many well-known carols, and less well-known works such as Daniel Pinkham's moving Christmas Cantata and Orlando Lassus's majestic Omnes De Saba Venient. We were pleased, once again, to sing with HYC.

Spring 2022

This term continued to be hampered by covid-19, notably with our chosen venue. University of Reading announced in January that their great hall had severely restricted numbers, making performing there impossible. Many alternatives were considered and investigated by Jane and Carol, in the end, a recommendation from Toni and subsequent multiple visits by Jane and others led to us choosing the Oratory School. Again, despite strong efforts, we had limited ticket sales and the challenge of last-minute changes in soloists leading to last minute searches for people who knew the work and were available and programme adjustments. But our performance of Mendelsohn's Elijah, with the Henley Symphonia, was a tremendous success. Here's what the Henley Standard said:

"As the audience chatted in the interval, one heard either astonished excitement from those who didn't know the work, or great praise from those who did...Despite the vicissitudes of covid, choir, soloists and orchestra were brought together splendidly by their conductor, Peter Asprey in this bravura production of Elijah: a fitting finale to his six years of work with Henley Choral Society."

In February, we had an excellent workshop run by voice coach, Liz Toye. It was high energy, enjoyable and educational.

During that same term we completed the search for a new MD, with a stand-out candidate emerging in both interview and auditions. It was wonderful to have input from the whole choir through the audition process. Our accompanists also gave top marks to our final choice. We are fortunate that he accepted, so for Summer 2022 we had a new MD, marking the start of the Harker era.

Summer 2022

Richard quickly settled in and had an excellent first term, showing us what a varied repertoire he was going to introduce us to, and how he wanted to stretch and encourage us. This included the sailors

who appeared more drunken than rambling. Because of diary clashes, we again had late adjustments to the date, the venue and alike. But the concert has probably made a small profit and was great fun. Here again is Henley Standard

“A special mention has to be given to David Smith, a brilliant musician and accompanist who played with authority and musical excellence — bravo. This was a thoroughly enjoyable concert with plenty of variety and musical colour. Both Henley Choral Society and Henley Youth Choir are going from strength to strength.”

Picking up from that, we must remind ourselves how lucky we are to have such talented and committed accompanists, Anita d’Attelis and Dave Smith. They are outstanding.

We had a very enjoyable and educational workshop in the summer term run by Richard, featuring hits from the musicals (favourites of our late Queen).

Sadly, Alex Haigh left HYC in June, after he was offered a prestigious position at the Royal Opera House. The summer concert was his last. But we are fortunate that Richard agreed to combine the two roles of HCS and HYC MD.

Looking ahead

We seem to be in a stable phase regarding covid-19. Our MD has planned a programme of music looking out to 2026, allowing us to plan well in advance. We have a joint HCS and HYC MD allowing for greater synergies and, we hope, growth of HYC. We are looking forward to our fiftieth anniversary with the world anniversary of our commission and other activities. Our finances are healthy, although we do need to get back into balance year on year. The membership has grown, although more tenors are always welcome.

Fees

As you know, the Committee decided to increase fees to £150 this year. Mark will speak about this in the Treasurers report shortly. At the risk of stealing his thunder I thought I would say a few words about the Committees rationale, as I know the cost of living is going up in all realms, so this increase would not have been welcome:

- This is the first increase in three years
- All our expenses are increasing.
- We do need to get back into in-year financial balance, we cannot keep drawing on our reserves, which we had to do during Covid-19
- We get tremendous value from our fees- rehearsals with two outstanding professionals, at least two free workshops a year, the opportunity to perform a wide variety of works with leading soloists, orchestras and other musicians
- We support the important work of Henley Youth Choir



Henley Choral Society	276728
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	1st September 2021	To	31st August 2022
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Ticket Sales	£14,760	-	-	14,760	£395
Programme Sales	£1,093	-	-	1,093	
Member Subs	£20,080	-	-	20,080	£15,880
Patron Subs	£2,200	-	-	2,200	£4,125
Gift aid tax relief	£5,270	-	-	5,270	£3,705
Bank interest	£31	-	-	31	£5
Donations	£10,150	-	-	10,150	£3,300
Hire of music to members		-	-	-	
Sales of music to members	£2,332	-	-	2,332	
Advertising revenue	£2,365	-	-	2,365	
Bar takings	£1,775	-	-	1,775	
Sundry	£3,234	-	-	3,234	£177
Petty Cash		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
Sub total	£63,290	-	-	63,290	27,587
A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	63,290	-	-	63,289.92	27,587
A3 Payments					
Conductors fee	14,630	-	-	14,630	9,907
Accompanist's fees	7,920	-	-	7,920	4,934
Orchestra Fees	10,982	-	-	10,982	3,425
Soloist's Fees	4,494	-	-	4,494	
Other fees	6,416	-	-	6,416	1,585
Hall hire	7,617	-	-	7,617	1,712
Equipment hire	3,648	-	-	3,648	531
Music Hire		-	-	-	
Music Purchase	4,441	-	-	4,441	51
Bar Expenses	1,189	-	-	1,189	
Publicity	3,716	-	-	3,716	1,515
Sundry	6,599	-	-	6,599	2,301
		-	-	-	
Sub total	71,652	-	-	71,652	25,961
A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	71,652	-	-	71,652	25,961

<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	- 8,362	-	-	- 8,362	1,626
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	70,214	-	-		68,588
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	61,852	-	-	Cross Add Error	70,214

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF CURRENT	10,875	-	-
	CAF DEPOSIT	48,077	-	-
	HSBC	2,899	-	-
	Total cash funds	61,852	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	N/A	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	N/A		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	N/A		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	N/A		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Henley Choral Society

On accounts for the year
ended

31st August 2022

Charity no
(if any) 276728

Set out on pages

1

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

28/09/2022

Name:

Joanne Grundonner

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

AAT

Address:

43 St Helens Way, Benson, OX10 6SP

HENLEY CHORAL SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 276728

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1 st	Sept	2020		31 st	August	2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Henley Choral Society

Other names charity is known by

None

Registered charity number (if any)

276728

Charity's principal address

Crockmore Farm

Fawley

Henley on Thames

Postcode RG9 6HU

Oxfordshire

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Daniel Timothy Richardson Wilson	Chair		Members of Henley Choral Society
2	Mark Turner	Treasurer		
3	Nicholas Tuggey	Secretary		
4	Carol Kelly	Vice-Chair		
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Peter Asprey, Musical Director; Jessica Norton, Musical Director

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution adopted 30 th April 1973 and subsequently amended
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Society with approximately 120 adult members and 30 youth members
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by membership of Henley Choral Society at AGM

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Henley Choral Society operates an adult choir, Henley Choral Society (HCS) and two youth choirs, senior and junior, known as Henley Youth Choir (HYC). HCS committee consists of the trustees and approximately 15 other choir members, elected by the members at the AGM.

HYC has a steering committee consisting of the manager/administrator and other volunteers. All are members of HCS. All have DBS checks. Other volunteers, including parents, volunteer at rehearsals/concerts.

The Society has a professional musical director and a professional accompanist for the adult choir and the same for the youth choirs.

During 2020-21 the Trustees operated mindful of our objects and policies concerning the following: risks, as covered in our risk assessment; our safeguarding policy; data privacy and retention, and all procedures complying with GDPR regulations.

The trustees remained vigilant concerning the financial viability of our youth choir, the reputation of our choirs' performances and, during 2020-21, Covid restrictions and the resulting financial implications of cancelling all public performances and live rehearsals. We also acted in compliance with our contracts with hired musicians and clearly laid out the financial arrangements for the lockdown periods.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance, improve, develop and maintain in Henley on Thames and elsewhere public education in, and appreciation of the art and science of music including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals; to provide in Henley on Thames and elsewhere facilities which promote the practice or enjoyment of the art of music to individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances and for the public at large.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Main activities

Our purpose, while remaining the development of the art and science of music among our members and beyond, has presented a challenge in times of Covid.

We managed to continue weekly rehearsals on Zoom, keeping the interest of the majority of members. At one time we had 75 screens (probably nearly 90 members) participating in zoom rehearsals. We produced a composite video of tunes, which we sent to members, the friends and family, Friends of the Society and various organisations in Henley for onward distribution. Our YouTube clip had almost 800 views.

Both the musical directors and adult choir members offered considerable help enabling members participate in on-line involvement as the season progressed.

We managed to get back to limited in person rehearsals, with reduced numbers of members, taking it in turns to attend, whilst others remained online. This occurred during one of the periods of lockdown relaxation.

Throughout this turbulent year, the Society kept their fees at the same rate and continued to waive fees for members in the adult choir who are under the age of 30 and members who experience financial hardship could seek confidential help from the Trustees. HYC offered 2 bursaries to their members.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

Contribution made by volunteers

All trustees gave additional time during these exceptional times to ensure that the Society continued to flourish.

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Sadly, the choir did not have any public performances during this year (aside from the composite video). However, with the agreement of an orchestra engaged to accompany us in a cancelled concert, we put on an open-air concert in one of Henley's parks. This was free to the public. It received very positive feedback from everyone who attended (perhaps 150 people in all).

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The trustees arranged to pay reduced fees to all our professional musicians during lockdown. They reviewed the reserves policy and agreed to continue to retain sufficient reserves to cover substantial risk of loss associated with the late cancellation of concerts and the possible need to replace staging units and/or our rehearsal piano.

Thus, the Society was in a strong financial position to withstand the unexpected impact of Covid. The Society's reserves continue to reflect our wish to pursue funding to commission a new work as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations in 2023/4 as well as unforeseen financial problems.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The Society's main sources of revenue were HCS and HYC subscriptions and donations from Friends. We also received a grant from Henley Town Council for Henley Youth Choir to do outreach workshops in local schools. These have been well received.

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Daniel Timothy Richardson Wilson

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	24 May 2022	



Henley Choral Society			276728
Receipts and payments accounts			
For the period from	1st September 2020	To	31st August 2021

CC16a

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Ticket Sales	395	-	-	395	9703
Programme Sales	-	-	-	-	574
Member Subs	15880	-	-	15,880	18915
Friends' Donations	4125	-	-	4,125	4025
Gift aid tax relief	3705	-	-	3,705	4929
Bank interest	5	-	-	5	596
Donations	3300	-	-	3,300	500
Hire of music to members	-	-	-	-	0
Sales of music to members	-	-	-	-	1410
Advertising revenue	-	-	-	-	1200
Bar takings	-	-	-	-	330
Sundry	177	-	-	177	1134
Petty Cash	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	27587	-	-	27,587	43,318
A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	27,587	-	-	27,587.42	43,318
A3 Payments					
Conductors fee	9,907	-	-	9,907	15,602
Accompanist's fees	4,934	-	-	4,934	6,203
Orchestra Fees	3,425	-	-	3,425	-
Soloist's Fees	-	-	-	-	1,635
Other fees	1,585	-	-	1,585	1,149
Hall hire	1,712	-	-	1,712	6,154
Equipment hire	531	-	-	531	425
Music Hire	-	-	-	-	1,428
Music Purchase	51	-	-	51	1,202
Bar Expenses	-	-	-	-	618
Publicity	1,515	-	-	1,515	3,173
Sundry	2,301	-	-	2,301	4,756
Sub total	25,961	-	-	25,961	42,346
A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	25,961	-	-	25,961	42,346
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,626	-	-	1,626	972
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	68,588	-	-	68,588	67,615
Cash funds this year end	70,214	1	-	70,214	68,588

CCXX R1 accounts (S6)

04/10/2021

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF CURRENT	19,843	-	-
	CAF DEPOSIT	48,047	-	-
	HSBC	2,324	-	-
	Total cash funds	70,214	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	N/A	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	N/A		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	N/A		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	N/A		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
HENLEY CHORAL SOCIETY

On accounts for the year
ended

31/08/2021

Charity no
(if any)

276728

Set out on pages

1

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met ; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Joanne Grundonner

Date:

9/10/2021

Name:

JOANNE GRUNDONNER

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

AAT

Address:

43 St Helens Way, Benson, OX10 6SP