



Ipswich Choral Society

Trustees' Annual Report 2024-25

Charity registered number: 278866

Registered address: 39 Sidegate Avenue
Ipswich
IP4 4JH

Trustees	Philip Powditch	Chair
	Michael Robertson	Vice chair
	Pamela Sutton	Secretary
	Linda Scott	Treasurer (Up to 21/5/2024)
	Lionel Mackay	Treasurer (From 21/5/2024)
	Fenella Andrews	
	Jacqui Cant	(From 21/5/2024)
	Kate Dixon	(Up to 21/5/2024)
	Maureen Fell	
	Philip Hall	(From 21/5/2024)
	Paul Kearney	(From 21/5/2024)
	Graham Popple	(Up to 3/10/2024)
	Joanne Rogers	(Up to 15/11/2024)
	James Skellorn	
	Alan Way	(Up to 21/5/2024)

Structure The Society is managed by a committee which is elected annually by the members at the AGM. The duties of the committee include:

- Appointment of the Music Director
- Planning of rehearsals and concerts
- Setting subscriptions

Activities and Objectives

The purposes of Ipswich Choral Society are to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects through the presentation and/or performance of concerts and associated activities, subject to any legal restrictions that from time to time may be in force.

Public benefit

In pursuing our aims for public benefit, the choir believes it impacts on people's lives in two ways. First, for participants (young and old), we involve people in a creative, enjoyable and fulfilling educational activity, providing them with an opportunity to develop vocal technique and musical repertoire.

Second, for audiences, we present exciting, innovative and high-quality performances which should always be a pleasurable cultural experience but will sometimes challenge them and educate them by extending their musical knowledge.

In addition to the public educational benefits to participants and audiences mentioned above, the trustees are conscious that its activities must be affordable, so both membership subscriptions and audience ticket prices are regularly reviewed so as to be sustainable. Any member with financial difficulties can privately discuss a special reduced subscription arrangement with the Treasurer.

Achievements and performance

2024 saw the choir reach a significant milestone of becoming only the second choral society in the country to be continuously formed for 200 years. (Halifax Choral Society being the other one, seven years older than Ipswich Choral Society). This provided the opportunity choir members and the people of Ipswich to learn about the heritage of music and arts in the town at various events held throughout the year.

During the year three main public concerts were performed:

April 2024 Haydn's Creation, in collaboration with Halifax Choral Society at Snape Maltings Concert Hall offering members of both choirs the opportunity to work together. A different approach to learn the material is used when collaborating with another choir, broadening the experience of the members of both choirs. The audience was also given the opportunity to hear two long-established well-respected choirs and a professional orchestra at the concert.

June 2024. An outdoor concert in Christchurch Park, Ipswich, celebrating the 550th anniversary of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey's birth in Ipswich. The music for the concert consisted of three commissioned pieces composed by local composers, giving choir members the chance to learn and perform brand new music that had never been sung before, along with other period work from Wolsey's lifetime.

A few days after the concert the choir took part in a parade through the town, helping local school children sing music from the period of Wolsey's birth culminating in a concert held on Ipswich Cornhill.

All this was made possible through a collaboration with The Wolsey 550 project put together especially for the anniversary comprising of many local organisation's working together.

December 2024 The choir performed Handel's Messiah in the Corn Exchange, Ipswich, this time in collaboration with Ipswich Chamber Choir, providing the chance for singers and audience alike to be a part of one of the best loved choral work.

Community events: The choir performed at Ipswich Music Day, and sang during the laying of wreaths at the civic service of remembrance organised by Ipswich Borough Council and the Royal British Legion. The choir also sang Christmas carols at Christchurch Mansion.

Financial review

The turnover for the year was significantly higher than 2023-24, with receipts of £79,742 (2023-24 £28,722) and expenses of £80,755 (2023-24 £19,426). This was due mainly to:

- The concerts at Snape in April and Ipswich Corn Exchange in December;
- A legacy of £10,000;
- Participation in the celebration of the 550th anniversary of Cardinal Wolsey, for which we received a grant of £3,000.

Operating income and expenses

Operating income increased from £18,931 to £26,466. This was partly due to a continued increase in the membership, and increased bank interest receipts. There were one-off contributions due to interest and Gift Aid receipts being brought forward; on a like-for-like basis the total operating income would have been £22,698.

Operating expenses increased from £13,548 to £14,597. As a result of Robin Walker's resignation in the summer there were reductions in the payments to the conductor and accompanist, offset by increased costs of music and other expenses.

Concerts

Although held in the previous year, the majority of the income (£3,565) and expenses (£1,874) for the Christmas 2023 concert was booked during the 2024-25 financial year contributing a surplus of £1,691.

Income during the year for the Snape concert was £13,910; expenses were £33,909 resulting in a deficit of £19,999. The small surplus from 2023-24 reduced the overall deficit to £18,506

The Messiah concert in December generated income of £7,520; however expenses totalling £11,759 resulted in a loss of £4,239.

The year also included payments (£10,239) and receipts (£6,834) for accommodation for choir members and guests for the St Matthew Passion concert to be held in Halifax in April 2025.

Overall the loss during the year was £26,141.

Wolsey 550

A grant of £3,000 was received to enable us to perform a concert in Christchurch Park in the summer as part of the celebration. The programme included three pieces of music commissioned for this occasion. This resulted in a small surplus of £291, which is held in a restricted fund.

Fund raising and donations

Fund raising events contributed a surplus of £1,523 and donations a further £1,648. We also received a generous legacy of £10,000 from June Catling. A retiring collection at the Messiah concert raised £316 for Music In Our Bones, our sponsored charity.

Other events

As part of the celebration of the 200th anniversary a dinner was held attended by representatives for Ipswich Borough Council, our president and vice presidents and former conductors. Payments from choir members contributed £4,151 towards the total cost of £5,612.

Overview

The General Fund had a modest deficit during the year of £1,304. This would have been significantly larger without the one-off contributions of:

- The legacy (£10,000)
- Interest income accrued during the previous year (£1,094)
- A Gift Aid claim on the current year's income (£2,675)

Total funds held, including the small surplus in the Wolsey 550 restricted fund, reduced from £74,060 to £73,047. Reserves are the result of accumulated surpluses. The trustees policy is to maintain a balance of 50% of the average expenditure of the last 3 years, in addition to any designated or restricted funds.

Funds held as a custodian trustee

None.

Approved by the Committee on 20th October 2025

Phil Powditch
Chair



Ipswich Choral Society
Receipts and payments accounts
Year ending 28 February 2025

		General	Restricted			General	Restricted
2023-24	RECEIPTS	Fund	Fund	2023-24	PAYMENTS	Fund	Fund
		2024-25	2024-25			2024-25	2024-25
	Operating receipts			Notes	Operating costs		
15,099	Subscriptions	16,305	-		2,488	3,290	-
2,580	Gift Aid	6,337	-	1	7,197	5,631	-
585	Guest singers (Workshops)	-	-		1,993	1,748	-
5	Music sales	540	-		278	1,328	-
327	Interest received	3,174	-	2	264	152	-
336	Other income	110	-		1,288	1,377	-
18,931		26,466	-		42	1,072	-
	Concert receipts				13,548	14,597	-
4,581	Ticket sales	24,404	-				
80	Programme sales and adverts	291	-		1,143	7,545	-
1,200	Donations	300	-		1,199	1,121	735
-	Travel & accomodation	6,834	-	3	485	33,589	-
5,861		31,828	-	4	-	-	1,375
	Donations and fund raising				652	1,301	-
140	Donations	1,648	-	3	-	10,239	-
-	Grants	-	3,000		108	4,174	599
3,625	Fund raising - ICS	2,332	-	4	3,586	57,969	2,709
165	Fund raising - Other charities	316	-	5			
-	Legacies	10,000	-	6			
3,931		14,296	3,000		366	809	-
	Non-operating income				985	-	-
-	Member events	4,151		7	1,351	809	-
28,722	Total income	76,742	3,000				
9,296	Net surplus/(deficit) for year	(1,304)	291				

2023-24		General Fund 2024-25	Restricted Fund 2024-25	2023-24		Total Funds 2024-25
				Cash held at year end		
64,764	Funds brought forward	74,060	-	156	Cash	14
				18,551	Current account	2,205
<u>74,060</u>	Funds carried forward	<u>72,756</u>	<u>291</u>	55,353	Savings accounts	50,184
				-	1 year bond	20,644
<u>74,060</u>	Total General and Restricted Funds		<u>73,047</u>	<u>74,060</u>		<u>73,047</u>

Lionel Mackay
5th April 2025

Notes to the accounts

- 1 Gift Aid claims in 2024-25 have been brought forward; like for like figures, claiming Gift Aid on the previous year's subscriptions, are:

2023-24	£2,580	2024-25	£3,663
---------	--------	---------	--------
- 2 Bank interest is now received during the year in which it is earned; interest received in 2024-25 includes interest earned in 2023-24. Like for like figures are:

2023-24	£1,094	2024-25	£2,080
---------	--------	---------	--------
- 3 Concert travel and accommodation relates to the St Matthew Passion concert in Halifax on April 12th 2025.
- 4 An analysis of income and expenses for concerts during the last 2 years is shown on the following pages
- 5 Fund raising for other charities is for Music In Our Bones.
- 6 Legacy income represents a legacy from June Catling.
- 7 Member events' under non-operating income and expenses relates to the 200th Anniversary dinner in September 2024.
- 8 The figures for 2023-24 have been adjusted from the 2023-24 statement to align with categories used in the 2024-25 accounts.

Concert income and expenses

	01/03/2023 - 29/02/2024	01/03/2024 - 28/02/2025	Total
Christmas 2023			
Income			
Programme advertisements	80	-	80
Ticket sales	1,654	3,565	5,219
Income - TOTAL	1,734	3,565	5,299
Expenses			
Conductor	646	-	646
Hall hire	-	1,829	1,829
Musicians	160	-	160
Other expenses	37	45	82
Printing	113	-	113
Publicity	185	-	185
Expenses - TOTAL	1,141	1,874	3,015
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	593	1,691	2,284

Snape Creation

Income			
Donations	1,200	300	1,500
Programme sales	-	291	291
Ticket sales	1,628	13,319	14,947
Income - TOTAL	2,828	13,910	16,738
Expenses			
Accompanist	-	53	53
Conductor	-	1,121	1,121
Hall hire	1,143	3,579	4,721
Musicians	-	25,790	25,790
Other expenses	-	2,570	2,570
Printing	192	613	805
Publicity	-	164	164
Admin - Transaction fees	-	19	19
Expenses - TOTAL	1,335	33,909	35,244
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	1,493	(19,999)	(18,506)

	01/03/2023 - 29/02/2024	01/03/2024 - 28/02/2025	Total
Messiah 2024			
Income			
Ticket sales			7,520
Income - TOTAL			7,520
Expenses			
Hall hire		2,138	2,138
Musicians		7,746	7,746
Other expenses		1,028	1,028
Printing		153	153
Publicity		371	371
Accompanist		60	60
Admin - Transaction fees		17	17
Music hire & purchase		246	246
Expenses - TOTAL		11,759	11,759
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES		(4,239)	(4,239)
OVERALL TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	2,086	(22,547)	(20,460)



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Ipswich Choral Society

**On accounts for the year
ended**

28 February 2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

278866

Set out on pages

1 to 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 28 February 2025.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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

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

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

Signed:

Date:

5/4/15

Name:

Lisa Taylor

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

ACA

Address:

Baytree House, Manningtree Road

Stutton

Ipswich IP9 2SR

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.