

COLCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY
(Registered Charity No 278894)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

30 JUNE 2025

COLCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY

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COLCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

The Committee presents this report and the financial statements of the Society for the year ended 30 June 2025, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

Establishment and objects

The Society is established as a registered charity under No. 278894. Its objects are to promote, improve, develop and maintain education in and appreciation of the art and science of music and in particular of choral music.

The Trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's published guidance on the Public Benefit requirement under the Charities Act 2011. The main activities undertaken to further the Society's purposes for the public benefit in the period were the promotion and performance of choral music as described in the review of developments, activities and achievements section.

Structure, governance and management

The Society is governed by its constitution adopted on 10 October 1979, revised on 6 October 2010 and is managed by an Executive Committee consisting of elected Officers and other members. The Officers are elected annually by ballot at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee meets regularly during the concert season.

The Officers during the year under review were as follows:

President	: Gordon Kuphal
Chairman	: Peter Bartlett (Trustee)*
Treasurer	: Jane Askew (Trustee)*
Secretary	: Susan Diddams (Trustee)*
Committee Member	: Nigel Humphreys (Trustee)*
Committee Member	: Lindsay Wilson (Trustee)*
Committee Member	: Caroline Faiers
Committee Member	: Ray Wilson
Committee Member	: Nora Williams
Committee Member	: Mary Davidson

* denotes Trustee in post at the balance sheet date.

The address for correspondence of the Charity is care of the Secretary at 146 Bourne Road, Colchester CO2 8RS.

Advisers

The Society banks with Lloyds Banking Group Plc.
Sanskriti Purohit, acts independent examiner under the Charities Act.

COLCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT - (continued)

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024-25

This year we are pleased to reflect on the 82nd Anniversary of Colchester Choral Society and once again I would like to thank all of our members and supporters for making this possible.

We started our 2024-25 concert season with our November performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah which was well presented especially given the absences and reduced numbers able to attend rehearsals. Kate Symmonds-Joy our alto soloist thanked us for 'an incredibly enjoyable Elijah' and thought the choir were superb, with a special mention to those from the choir who took on quartet parts. There were also many favourable comments from audience members and supporters.

Our thanks again go to Carla Hales, District Lead Tutor, who assisted with providing a Sing Up children's choir for the December Concert Here Comes Christmas, with Gillian Ward Russell on the organ and compered again by Liz Mullen of BBC Essex. A 'very well done' to the smaller choir who sang very well and the children who performed magnificently.

Our March concert started in an especially challenging way with many and prolonged difficulties in obtaining music, something we naturally take for granted for each concert. Our thanks go to our Librarian Mary for the determined and relentless efforts made to ensure we were able to sing despite the procurement delays. For this concert of Italian Baroque Music by Monteverdi, Bononcini, Carissimi & Vivaldi we are pleased to congratulate all the members of the choir who sang the solo parts with great confidence and assurance, resulting again in many favourable comments from the audience.

For our Summer Concert we travelled to Dedham's Assembly Rooms to perform English romantic songs, French songs and British folk songs. It was an incredibly hot day which made singing challenging, resulting in a performance that was spirited and expressive. It was also lovely to listen to Catherine Wood's flute playing which added another dimension to our concert. And the atmosphere and strawberries and cream were very enjoyable.

Other concerns that have been attended to by the Choir this year, and probably the most significant, has been the launch of a new website, moving from Making Music. The committee have also identified a requirement for a strategy shift to marketing, promotion of CCS, fund-raising & sponsorship. As part of this forward planning a Concert check list has been created to reduce time on discussing standard arrangements and enable us to consider the broader picture and the longer term needs of the Society.

The quote for rebranding and new web design was approved from Paul Hailes Design. The aims were to ensure clear concert details, marketing, choir ethos, ticket purchase confirmations and information updates on the new website, and subsequently remove the need for paper tickets to be posted out. In effect a clean clear modern website which is now up and running - our special thanks go to Mary and Ray who handled the bulk of this work with Paul.

We also decided on a more relaxed approach to Concert dress with men changing to black open necked shirts, with or without jackets, in line with current national trends.

We also have to report that the Independent Financial Examination is no longer a free audit and approval service going forward from Scrutton Bland. This was provided in memory of

COLCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT - (continued)

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

David Foster a previous choir member and Treasurer. We thank them for their support over many years.

We have expressed our concern to the Council over redevelopment plans for part of Britannia car park behind St Botolph's and the potential implications with the loss of this facility for concert goers.

We are grateful to Matthew for organising a Fund-raising quiz in May, and have introduced a very successful post-concert social gathering at the Purple Dog on the Wednesday following the concerts.

Finally I would like to conclude my report by thanking all of our members for their commitment and efforts made to perform with such passion and skill and to continue to deliver a very high performance level.

Financial review

These accounts present the receipts and payments for the financial year ended 30 June 2025, alongside the 2024 comparatives, as well as a statement of assets and liabilities. Overall income from concerts, including sponsorship for the 2025 financial year was £9,256 (2024: £7,793). We are grateful to the efforts of choir members for their efforts in increasing audience numbers for our concerts, which were above budget for both our November and June concerts.

Total costs of staging concerts in the year were £17,751 (2024: £19,161).

Subscriptions income includes both choir member's subscriptions and subscriptions from the Friends of the Society. In addition to subscriptions income, we were also incredibly grateful to receive general donations totaling £5,962 (2024: £691). This included a significant one-off donation from a supporter of the Society. We are able to recover gift aid on eligible donations and a portion of our subscription fees, which once claimed will generate us an additional £2,747 in 2025 (2024: £1,250). Other income sources in 2025 include contributions by corporate patrons and fundraising and other receipts. Total income for the year was £31,346 (2024: £22,008).

The general costs of running the Society this year are consistent in their nature to last year's costs and the increase is largely due to inflationary cost increases, though we made a saving in insurance costs due to our lower income levels which will not be repeated next year. The Society is incredibly grateful to all its members and friends who give their time voluntarily in order to help keep the society's costs to a minimum.

Reserves policy

The society aims to maintain the accumulated fund at a minimum balance of £5,000. This level of reserves, in conjunction with the Society's insurance policy, would ensure that the Society could cover any concert abandonment costs should the need arise.

COLCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT - (continued)

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Reserves at the end of June 2025 (total assets less total liabilities) were £14,711, as a result of the surplus in the year. Although this is above the minimum required reserves balance of £5,000, this surplus was only achieved through the support of generous donors and the assistance of various friends and members in fundraising activities and the Committee are mindful of the long term financial stability of the choir when considering future expenditure and membership subscription levels.

Financial statements

The statutory financial statements of the Society are attached. They comprise a statement of receipts and payments, setting out the cash receipts and payments for the year, both from concert activities and from the Society's general activities. This analysis shows how dependent the Society is on the efforts of its members in providing funds to finance the deficit, which invariably arises in mounting concerts. The financial statements conclude with a statement of assets and liabilities summarising the Society's financial position.

Signed on behalf of the Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Bartlett'.

Mr Peter Bartlett

Chairman

2 February 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF COLCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2025 which are set out on pages 6 to 7.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

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.

Sanskriti Purohit

Date:

Charity Examiners

117a St. John's Hill, Sevenoaks TN13 3PE

COLCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Receipts		
Ticket and programme sales	9,256	7,793
Subscriptions	8,487	8,600
Music	1,804	2,423
CD Sales and postage	-	-
Taxation recovered	2,717	-
Contributions by Corporate Patrons	840	480
Donations	5,962	691
Fundraising	2,057	1,854
Folder deposits and other receipts	218	163
Bank interest	4	5
Total income	31,346	22,008
Payments		
Orchestral fees	8,265	9,360
Fees of artistes	3,750	3,300
Venue hire	1,299	2,011
Stage and instrument hire, transport and repairs	1,114	516
Purchase of music and scores	1,769	2,482
Printing of tickets, posters and programmes	950	900
Advertising and other concert expenses	604	592
Rehearsal fees	1,800	1,800
Rehearsal venue hire	1,026	1,485
Making Music subscription and insurance	337	538
Website and other general costs	1,600	989
Total payments	22,514	23,972
Net of receipts/(payments)	8,832	(1,964)
Cash funds last year end	6,762	8,726
Cash funds this year end	£15,594	£6,762

COLCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT THE END OF THE PERIOD
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

	2025 £
Current assets	
Accrued income	4,200
Cash at bank	15,594
	<hr/>
Total current assets	19,794
 Deduct liabilities:	
Accrued costs	(5,083)
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Net assets	£14,711
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 Represented by:	
 Unrestricted funds	
General fund	14,711
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Accumulated fund at 30 June	£14,711
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Approved by the Committee on 2 February 2026

and signed on its behalf by:



Peter Bartlett - Chairman



Susan Diddams - Secretary