

THE ROYAL FREE SINGERS

England & Wales · Charity number 292972

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1986-01-28

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

Contact

Address 4 Prince Consort Cottages
Windsor
Berkshire
SL4 1JA

Phone 01753866067

Email frances.stringer@btinternet.com

Website www.royalfreesingers.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN AND APPRECIATION OF THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC IN ALL ITS ASPECTS BY THE PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC CONCERTS, FOR THE GENERAL PURPOSE OF SUCH CHARITABLE BODIES OR FOR SUCH OTHER PURPOSES AS SHALL BE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE AS THE COMMITTEE MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DECIDE.

Activities: Choral performances, concerts and events to provide musical education and enjoyment to the public.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Windsor And Maidenhead

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£42,715	£41,238	-	-
2024-07-31	£32,558	£32,296	-	-
2023-07-31	£28,213	£27,474	-	-
2022-07-31	£23,311	£33,318	-	-
2021-07-31	£7,465	£5,716	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Robert James TAVINOR	Chair	2024-11-15
FRANCES ELIZABETH STRINGER		2012-03-11
Helen Joanna Archibald		2015-11-11
Linda Diane Chanan		2015-11-11
MARIA LESLEY CRAWFORD-SMITH		2014-11-05
Maarten de Vries		2023-11-08
Raymond Bowyer		2023-11-08
Rosamond Ann MIDDLETON		2016-11-09

THE ROYAL FREE SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 292972

Accounts

Royal Free Singers

Objects

The Society, a registered charity (No 292972), is governed by Rules of its Constitution which state:

The object of the Society shall be to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects, by the presentation of public concerts.

Address

The registered address of the Charity is:

5 Hearne Drive, Holyport, SL6 2HZ which is the address of the person currently as the Charity's correspondent with the Charity Commission

Membership Affiliation

The Charity is affiliated to Making Music

Trustees

The trustees of the Charity are members of the Committee, which consists of 3 officers and ordinary members, all of whom are elected by the Society at the Annual General Meeting held in November each year.

The following were the Trustees during this year.:

Bob Taviner (Chair), Maria Crawford-Smith (Secretary), Ray Bowyer (Treasurer),
Helen Archibald (Concert Secretary), Ros Middleton (Marketing),
Linda Chanan (Membership/subscription secretary/admin),
Frankie Stringer (Rehearsals/Events/Refreshments), Chris Shepherd (DataBase),
Martin de Vries (Webmaster)

Management

The Society is administered and managed by the Committee of Trustees.

There were seven Committee members during the year. The AGM was held on 6th November 2025

Finance

The Charity's bank account is held by CAF Bank Ltd. 25 King's Hill Avenue, King's Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JW

Independent examination of the accounts has been carried out by Mr John Seymour, Bray
For the financial year 1st August 2024 - 31st July 2025 the income was £42,715, the Expenditure was £41,238

Reserves Policy: the Committee has agreed to maintain a Reserve Fund to cover liabilities incurred in the unlikely event of concerts not taking place or not earning any income. The sum in the Reserve Fund is equal to the average annual expenditure for three main concerts. The Reserve Fund currently stands at £28,543

The Charity's Activities

The first rehearsal in September was an open evening, giving prospective members a chance to try us out, at no cost and hopefully gain a few new members.

Concerts

Autumn Concert: Windsor Parish Church

Handel Messiah, a favourite of many people, which helped swell the audience attendance

Carol Concert at United Reform Church, Windsor

This is an annual FOC event, with a retiring collection made for a charity which the church supports.

2025

February, a workshop was held with our Patron Composer, Jonathan Wilcocks, to work through his, O Joyful Soul.

Spring Concert: Windsor Parish Church

Haydn: Nelson Mass, a lovely piece and always enjoyable to listen to

Willcocks: O Joyful Soul, a specially commissioned piece set to psalms and poems, which is both celebratory and prayerful

Summer Concert: Windsor Parish Church

RFS/Chiltern Concert Band, launching the church NEXT200 Project

This was a marvellous mix of choir and band music, which the audience really appreciated. And to top it off on a nice summer evening, a glass of bubbles and a few nibbles were enjoyed afterwards outside.

Social and fundraising events:

New Year Party, book sales, raffle and 100 Club

Summer outing to visit Wallingford and concert in Ewelme Church

Membership:

There were 101 members during the year, including 4 people with life membership

Volunteers and Tasks:

In addition to the Committee, many members took part in running the choir and Related events. This included Membership Secretary, Music Librarian, Front of House Team, Friends of RFS and Box Office Team

Conductor and Accompanist: Ben Gunner was our conductor and Musical Director.

John Chantrey was our Accompanist. And on occasions, locums were brought to help out.

Bob Taviner, Chair Royal Free Singers

THE ROYAL FREE SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 292972

Accounts



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Royal Free Singers

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 July 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

292972

Set out on pages

1

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/07/2024.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

13/25

Name:

John Seymour

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

Charity Director and Trustee

Address:

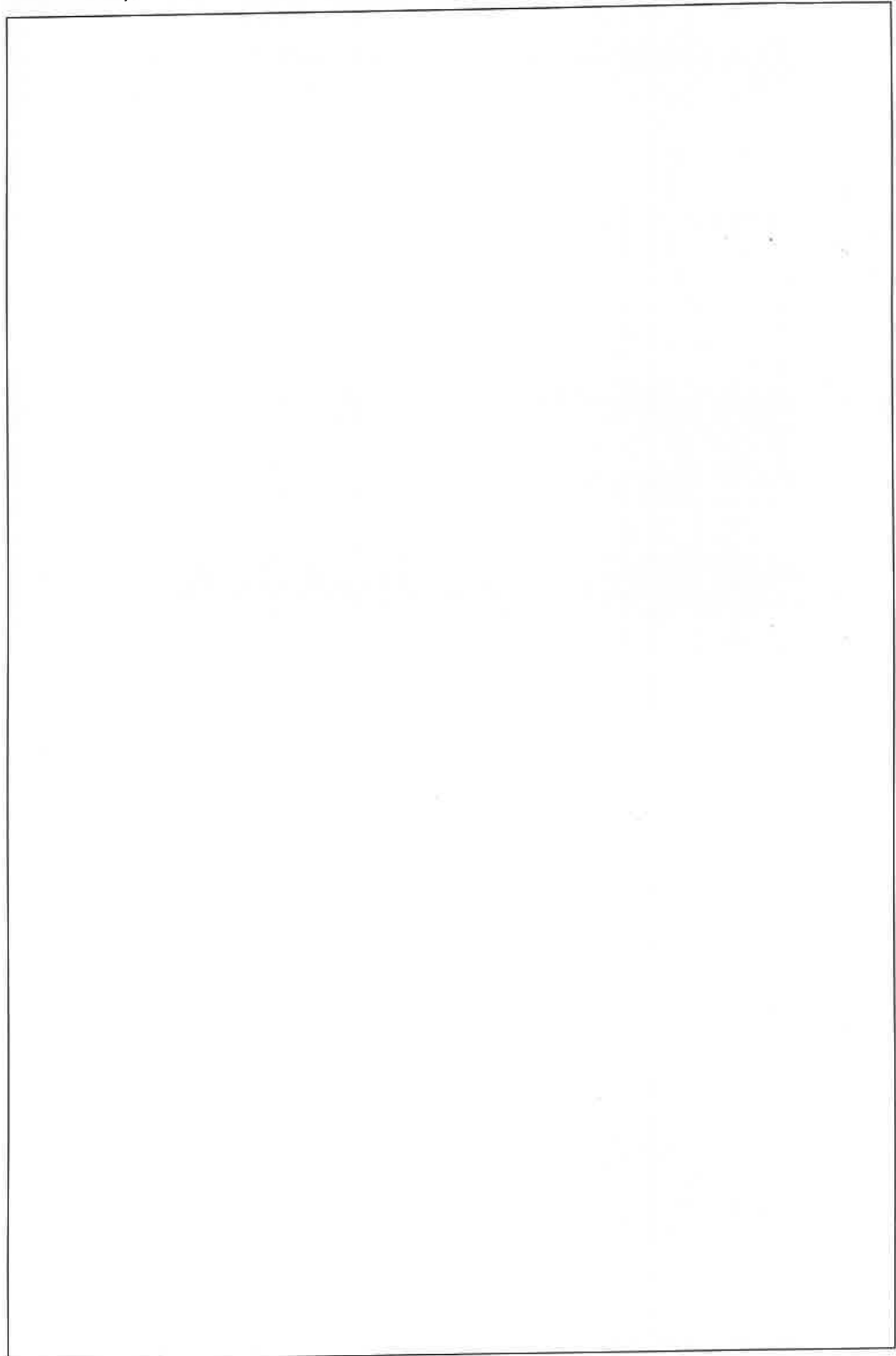
7 The Rushes

Bray, Maidenhead

Berks, SL6 1UW

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.



**Royal Free Singers
Income and Expenditure Account
Year ended 31 July 2024**

INCOME	Actual	
Subscriptions	14,070	
Gift Aid	2,800	
Friends of RFS	350	
Donations	251	
Scores	1,029	
Bank Interest	838	
100 Club	930	
Fundraising	743	
Concerts	11,547	
Total Income		32,558
EXPENDITURE		
Direct costs		
Accompanists	3,430	
Rehearsal rooms	2,977	
Conductors honorarium	2,500	
Scores	262	
100 Club	465	
Fundraising	345	
Locum conductors/accompnsts	700	
Concerts	19,882	
Total Expenditure		30,561
Gross Profit/(Loss)		1,997
OVERHEADS		
Insurance	581	
Publicity - general	156	
Bank charges	83	
Sundry	915	1,735
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		<u>262</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2024

CURRENT ASSETS		
Caf current	140	
Caf deposit	25,259	
Debtors	2,800	28,199
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	1,133	1,133
Current Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>27,066</u>
CAPITAL & RESERVES		
Accumulated fund	26,804	
Profit and loss account	262	<u>27,066</u>

THE ROYAL FREE SINGERS

England & Wales - Charity number 292972

Accounts

Royal Free Singers

Objects

The Society, a registered charity (No. 292972), is governed by Rules of its Constitution which state:

The object of the Society shall be to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts.

Address

The registered address of the Charity is:

4 Prince Consort Cottages Windsor SL4 1JA which is the address of the person currently acting as the Charity's correspondent with the Charity Commission.

Membership Affiliation

The Charity is affiliated to Making Music

Trustees

The trustees of the Charity are the members of the Committee which consists of 3 Officers and ordinary members, all of whom are elected by the Society at the Annual General Meeting held in November each year. All Trustees are volunteers who receive no payment for their service.

The following were the Trustees during this year:

Frances Stringer (Chair), Maria Crawford-Smith (Secretary), Mike O'Shaughnessy (Treasurer), Linda Ballhatchet (Concert Secretary), Peter Carey (Posters and Programmes), Helen Archibald (Ticketing), Ros Middleton (Marketing), Linda Chanan (Budgeting and membership contact), Gill Tucker (Events), Robert Tavinor (Staging)

Management

The Society is administered and managed by the Committee of Trustees.

There were eight Committee meetings during the year . The AGM was held in November 2022. .

Finance

The Charity's bank account is held with CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent examination of the accounts has been carried out by Mrs Frances Watts. 35 Rampton Road, Willingham CB24 5JG

For the financial year 1st August 2022 – 31st July 2023 the Income was £28,213, the Expenditure was £27,474

Reserves Policy: the Committee has agreed to maintain a Reserves fund to cover liabilities incurred in the unlikely event of concerts not taking place or not earning any income. The sum in the Reserve Fund is equal to the average annual expenditure for three main concerts. The Reserve Fund currently stands at £26,804.

The Charity's Activities

The first rehearsal in September was an open evening, giving prospective choir members a chance to try us out, at no cost. This annual event has been particularly important post-COVID to attract new members.

Concerts

Autumn Concert: - Windsor Parish Church
Brahms: Requiem

Carol Concert at United Reform Church, Windsor

An annual free-entry event. A retiring collection is made for a charity which the church is supporting.

And into 2023.... Our 50th Anniversary year!

Spring Concert: Windsor Parish Church
Mendelsohn: Elijah with the Orchestra of London

April : Weekend trip to Wells in Somerset

About 50 choir members went on the coach trip. We spent Saturday morning in Wells then travelled to Wedmore where we gave a concert in the Church. On Sunday we returned to Windsor stopping in Avebury en route.

Summer Concert: Windsor Parish Church
SummerTime.

An enthusiastic audience and choir enjoyed an uplifting program of music from Gershwin, Porter, etc, which was followed by Prosecco and Birthday cake served in the church garden, as part of our Anniversary celebrations.

Social and fundraising events:

During the year we have enjoyed social evenings and fundraising activities. These included: a New Year Party, Cake & Produce and book sales, Raffles, and the 100 Club.

Membership:

There were 95 members during the year, including 3 people with Life Membership.

Volunteers & Tasks:

In addition to the Committee, many members took an active part in the running of the organisation and related events. The tasks included Membership Secretary; Subscriptions Secretary; Music Librarian; Front of House team; Stage Manager and set up team; Friends of RFS secretary; Box Office team, Marketing Group - all unpaid volunteers.

Conductor and Accompanist: Ben Gunner was our Conductor and Musical Director. John Chantrey was our accompanist. Occasionally, during the year, we had the services of locums, when required. All brought their considerable skills and enthusiasms.

Frances Stringer, Chair, Royal Free Singers



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees [Charity Name] ROYAL FREE SINGERS WINDSOR.

On accounts for the year ended 31 JULY 2023 Charity no (if any) 292972

Set out on pages 1 and 2 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: FM WATTS Date: 29/11/2023

Name: FRANCES WATTS

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body RETIRED ACCOUNTANT

(if any):

--

Address:

35 RAMPTON ROAD
WILLINGHAM
CAMBRIDGE SHIRE CB24 5JG

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.

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ROYAL FREE SINGERS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2023

	<u>£-p</u>	<u>£-p</u>
Income		
SUBSCRIPTIONS	13180.00	
FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL FREE SINGERS	650.00	
DONATIONS	770.20	
MUSIC SALES NET	255.10	
SUNDRY INCOME	315.35	
INCOME TAX RECOVERED	2636.82	
BANK INTEREST RECEIVED	354.53	
100 CLUB INCOME	490.00	
SOCIAL EVENTS	480.00	
AUTUMN CONCERT INCOME	1927.63	
SPRING CONCERT INCOME	4079.12	
SUMMER CONCERT INCOME	3074.08	
		28212.83
Concerts		
Direct Expenses		
REHEARSAL ROOM HIRE	2624.00	
LOCUM CONDUCTORS/ACCOMPANISTS	375.00	
ACCOMPANISTS	3150.00	
CONDUCTORS HONORARIA	2500.00	
AUTUMN CONCERT EXPENSES	3785.63	
SPRING CONCERT EXPENSES	10867.72	
SUMMER CONCERT EXPENSES	2708.00	
		26010.35
Gross Profit/(Loss):		2202.48
Overheads		
PRINTING AND STATIONERY	0.00	
PUBLICITY GENERAL	448.31	
SUNDRY EXPENSES	393.36	
INSURANCE NFMS	544.00	
BANK CHARGES	78.30	
		1463.97
SURPLUS FOR YEAR		738.51

Royal Free Singers

Balance Sheet as at 31st July 2023

	<u>£-p</u>	<u>£-p</u>
Current Assets		
CAFGOLD	27454.93	
CAF BANK CURRENT ACCOUNT	1849.70	
SUNDRY DEBTORS	41.00	
		29345.63
Current Liabilities		
RECEIPTS IN ADVANCE	1000.00	
SUNDRY CREDITORS	1541.86	
		2541.86
Current Assets less Current Liabilities:		26803.77
Total Assets less Total Liabilities:		26803.77
Capital & Reserves		
ACCUMULATED FUND	26065.26	
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT	738.51	
		26803.77



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees Charity Name
ROYAL FREE SINGERS WINDSOR.

On accounts for the year ended 31 JULY 2023 Charity no (if any) 292972

Set out on pages 1 and 2 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

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[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

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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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: FM WATTS

Date: 29/11/2023

Name: FRANCES WATTS

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

RETIRED ACCOUNTANT

(if any):

--

Address:

35 RAMPTON ROAD
WILLINGHAM
CAMBRIDGE SHIRE CB24 5JG

Section B

Disclosure

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ROYAL FREE SINGERS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2023

	<u>£-p</u>	<u>£-p</u>
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SUBSCRIPTIONS	13180.00	
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SURPLUS FOR YEAR		738.51

Royal Free Singers

Balance Sheet as at 31st July 2023

	<u>£-p</u>	<u>£-p</u>
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ACCUMULATED FUND	26065.26	
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		26803.77