

## **Wetherby Choral Society AGM 23 June 2023: Chairman's Report**

Looking back at my report last year, I can sense the Committee's anxiety at that time about the future for the choir post-COVID. What would be the impact on the health of our members? Would people return to singing? How would our finances cope with fewer subscriptions and audience numbers? As it turned out, we are a resilient bunch, and I'm thrilled to report how well we are doing!

During our 22-23 season, our membership has continued to increase with both former members returning and new members joining each term. The mood of the choir is a happy one, with everyone doing their best to be inclusive and make our choir community a friendly and fun place to be. Our thanks to you all for supporting a wide range of fundraising activities. Our thanks to you also for a huge effort to sell concert tickets - hasn't it been brilliant to sing to sell-out audiences for pretty much the whole of last year! And thanks to Kathy, our Treasurer, for spending many days getting to grips with Gift Aid, and submitting four years of claims to HMRC. All of these factors mean that the choir is now in a far healthier position, both mentally and financially.

Over the last year, the Committee has worked hard to update our paperwork, and I'm so grateful. Thanks to a herculean effort by Malcolm, our secretary, we have rewritten our Constitution and Members Handbook, and propose this for your approval at this AGM. We've also been modernising our approach to publicity with attractive posters (thank you Chris Bishop) and by widening our digital network for promoting concerts. We've reviewed local parish and church magazine contacts adding digital posters where Facebook pages are available, expanded our 'Friends of WCS' email group, and opened an Instagram account, which is also linked to our own Facebook page. Purchasing a card reader has also brought us into the modern age, and aided ticket sales, and we are currently in the throes of upgrading our website with the support of the music charity 'Making Music'.

So, now we are at the beginning of our 50<sup>th</sup> season, and it's all very exciting! To get us in the mood, we are planning to hold a mini festive social gathering with wine, beer and mince pies at the end of our rehearsal on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 9-9.30pm, together with the BIG Christmas raffle! You'll hear more about our fabulous Spring concert from John, but it's going to be spectacular! We've plans to involve the RNLI in this sea-themed concert with a pop-up stall, and we plan to make a big SPLASH (sorry!) with a special 50<sup>th</sup> souvenir programme. For those of you who have photographs or funny stories from the past 50 years, we would love to hear from you so we can include these in the souvenir programme. Anne and her team's famous Quiz will be as popular as ever in the Spring term, and a repeat of John's inspirational organ recital together with a York river cruise are all being planned as part of our 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations.

Every single one of us is reliant on someone else doing their bit to help run the choir. There are so many of you involved, so please can I extend a huge thanks to each one of you. I'd also like to appeal to all members (well, not literally!) to ask you to consider 'what can I do for my choir'? Some of you will have skills which would be oh so helpful on the Committee, so please don't hold back as we'd love to welcome you on board. Fundamentally, the role of the Committee is to balance the books and promote activities which contribute towards concert expenses. Traditionally, we have made a loss of approximately £3,000 on every concert, but with your help in selling more tickets over the last year this loss has reduced significantly - hooray! Many of you have also kindly donated extra money above the subscription fee, and we thank you for this generosity. This is also the time to say if any of you would like to sponsor an orchestra member, or

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are considering leaving a legacy in your will, please feel free to approach the Committee.

And finally, I must thank John for working his magic with us every week. You brighten our lives with your love of music and your talents as a teacher, and we are blessed by your energy, enthusiasm, and yes, even your sarcasm! And for willingly undertaking all the myriad of hidden but hugely appreciated back-room jobs we are forever grateful. A million thanks to you!

Heather Marsh

**Wetherby Choral Approved Society Accounts - 1st May 2022 to 31 July 2023**

<b>Income</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>
	£	£	£	£
Subscriptions	15,311	14,468	0	14,465
Tickets and sales	11,927	6,637	0	9,762
Donations	917	183	2,907	1,622
Gift Aid	9,210	0	0	5,334
Fund Raising	7,069	2,606	0	3,797
Sundries	0	255	0	92
Gratuity collection	1261			
Dinner	0	0	0	950
Sponsors	1,000	1,000	1,250	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>46,695</b>	<b>25,149</b>	<b>4,157</b>	<b>36,022</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Concerts	19,303	16,942	0	15,553
Accompanist fees	4,100	3,300	2,925	3,550
Musical Director fees	6,370	5,725	5,825	4,831
Room and Music hire	2,419	1,623	0	1,190
Sundries	38	0	0	18
Gratuity payment	1261			
Dinner	0	0	0	950
Insurance	634	622	523	613
Administration	519	598	444	345
Performing Rights	372	0	0	426
Fund Raising Costs	189	50	0	165
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>35,205</b>	<b>28,860</b>	<b>9,717</b>	<b>27,641</b>
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus</b>	<b>11,490</b>	<b>-3,711</b>	<b>-5,560</b>	<b>8,381</b>
<b>Statement of Assets as at 30th April</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	£	£	£	£
Cash in Hand	0	0	0	208
Nat West Bank Account	13,369	11,097	13,590	19,426
Nat West Bank Account Total	13,369	11,097	13,590	19,634
Less unrepresented cheques/ uncleared income	0	-1,218	0	-48
<b>Nat West Account Total</b>	<b>13,369</b>	<b>9,879</b>	<b>13,590</b>	<b>19,586</b>
COIF Deposit	10,137	10,130	10,117	10,056
Interest	360	7	13	61
Transfer from Nat West Acc	8000			
<b>CCLA Funds Total</b>	<b>18,497</b>	<b>10,137</b>	<b>10,130</b>	<b>10,117</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>31,866</b>	<b>20,016</b>	<b>23,719</b>	<b>29,703</b>

**Notes relating to current year**

- 1.15 month year due to change of financial year
2. Four concerts were held during the period
3. £8000 transferred from current account to deposit account
4. The Society had no liabilities as at 31/07/23
5. The Charity's policy is to have 6 months cash reserves

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Wetherby Choral Society**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Wetherby Choral Society (the Society) for the 15 months ended 31 July 2023.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Society 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 Society'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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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: 

Name: Neil Canwell

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies: ACMA

Address: 15 Gledhow Wood Avenue, Leeds. LS8 1NY

Date: 18 August 2023