

Wetherby Choral Society AGM Chairman's Report

21 October 2024 :

During our 23-24 season we celebrated our 50th anniversary with four great concerts, and many delightful fundraising and social events. I'm sure John will give an in depth review of our concerts, but I'd like to chip in to say that our performance of Vaughan Williams' *Sea Symphony* was monumental! Huge thanks to John for his herculean effort in directing the choir, orchestra and soloists to achieve a magnificent and memorable performance of this tricky but wonderful piece of music. Our collaborative working with the RNLI in celebration of their 200th anniversary also added a poignancy to the concert as we reflected on the sea in all its power and mystery. Following on from this success, we were honoured to be asked by the music charity *Making Music* to write a blog for their website, plus an article for their magazine, in celebration of our work with another charity – a great way to promote our choir to a wider audience!

Our fundraising and social events have helped us to bond as a choir, and make our choir community not only a fun place to be, but also to support those having tough times. Naturally, we want to continue with this over the 24-25 season. We have plans to continue the success of the Autumn Produce event with a mini festive social gathering of wine and mince pies at the end of our rehearsal on Tuesday 16th December, together with the BIG Christmas raffle. Anne Sweet and her team's famous Quiz will be as popular as ever in the Spring term, and a repeat of the enjoyable sponsored walk will be led by Graham Reed and his team in the Summer term. A very special evening farewell dinner has also been arranged for Monday 23rd June at Wetherby Golf Club, and we hope as many of you as possible will come to give John a great send-off!

So, what has the Committee been up to during the last season? Well, we have continued to support John through the many and significant facets of being our Music Director – which involves planning rehearsals, organising publicity, preparing for and delivering concerts of high quality. We continue to have a good relationship with St James' Church, and in November I was delighted to represent the choir at the inauguration of the new vicar, the Reverend Canon Matthew Peat. We have also been busy with the appointment of several accompanists over 2024, and share your delight that we now benefit from the musical prowess of William Campbell. Our efforts to modernise have continued, and a small dedicated team have been beaver away all year to develop a new website. I do hope you have managed to look at this because it's terrific! The website has been written for the benefit of three audiences. It provides information for current members, offers potential new members a background to who we are and what we do, and provides easy access to those wishing to purchase tickets online. Part of the process of modernising the website has involved the appointment of a graphic designer to create posters, flyers and concert programme covers, I hope you agree that her designs are stunning! I'd like to thank Chris Bishop in recognition of his kindness and expertise in running our website through the past, present and future. On your behalf I'd also like to applaud everyone on the Committee for making a willing and happy team which has achieved so much.

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. You really are wonderful, and very much appreciated! We now need new members on the Committee to keep the show going, and would love to welcome you into the team. In particular, both myself and Kathy Hart are retiring from the Committee in October 2025. Both of these are key roles, and as such it makes sense for interested new members to have a year to 'shadow' the activities carried out. Please step up – we need you!

Looking forward to our 24-25 season brings mixed feelings. I am sure that we are all very much looking forward to our concerts, culminating in what should be a memorable joint concert with Ripon Choral Society in Ripon Cathedral. However, I daresay that, like me, you are gutted by the news of John's impending retirement in Summer 2025. He has been our Music Director for an extraordinary period of 32 years! Throughout this time, we have enjoyed his fantastic vocal tuition and the spine-tingling thrill of being part of numerous amazing concerts with quality orchestras and soloists competently led by John. We should all take immense pride that a small town like Wetherby is able to enjoy listening to four concerts a year with orchestra and soloists, and this is down to John's remarkable abilities and willingness to do a lot of background work for us in organising orchestral players, adapting orchestral scores together with seeking out and promoting soloists in their career. His leadership of our choir community represents an incredible legacy for which we will always be grateful, AND the high standards he has set means that whoever takes on the role of our new Music Director is going to need 'big boots'! To this end, the Committee are focusing on the process of finding a successor worthy of the prestigious choir which John has moulded. Please also be reassured that we will do our absolute best to involve you in the process, and will be seeking your feedback throughout. I've worked on the committee for about a decade now, and it's opened my eyes to the myriad other roles which John has willingly carried out on our behalf. So the Committee are extremely grateful that John has offered to support and advise us through the process of finding a suitable successor.

We are moving into a new era with the appointment of a new Music Director, so your continuing involvement and support is vital for us to maintain and develop John's legacy with Wetherby Choral Society. Onwards and upwards!

Heather Marsh

Wetherby Choral Society Approved Accounts - 1st May August 2023 to 31st July2024

Income	2023/24	2022/2023	2021/2022	2020/2021
		£	£	£
Subscriptions	19,575	15,311	14,468	0
Tickets and sales	15,282	11,927	6,637	0
Donations	1065	917	183	2,907
Gift Aid	3,803	9,210	0	0
Fund Raising	6,145	7,069	2,606	0
Sundries	0	0	255	0
Gratuity collection	0	1261		
Social	1885	0	0	0
Sponsors	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,250
Total Income	48,755	46,695	25,149	4,157
Expenditure				
Concerts	27,974	19,303	16,942	0
Accompanist fees	3,960	4,100	3,300	2,925
Musical Director fees	6,710	6,370	5,725	5,825
Room and Music hire	2,744	2,419	1,623	0
Sundries	0	38	0	0
Gratuity payment	0	1261		
Social	1885	0	0	0
Insurance	675	634	622	523
Administration	962	519	598	444
Performing Rights	386	372	0	0
Fund Raising Costs	629	189	50	0
Total Expenditure	45,925	35,205	28,860	9,717
(Deficit)/Surplus	2,830	11,490	-3,711	-5,560
Deduct prepaid concert costs	285			
Cashflow 23/24	2,545			
Statement of Assets as at 31st July	2024	2023	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Cash in Hand	0	0	0	0
Nat West Bank Account	15,913	13,369	11,097	13,590
Less unrepresented cheques/ uncleared income	0	0	-1,218	0
Nat West Account Total	15,913	13,369	9,879	
COIF Deposit	18,497	10,137	10,130	10,117
Interest	885	360	7	13
Transfer from Nat West Acc		8000		
CCLA Funds Total	19,382	18,497	10,137	10,130
Total Assets	35,295	31,866	20,016	23,719

Notes relating to current year

1. The current year is 3 terms in comparison with the 4 term/15month previous year
2. Four concerts were held during the period
3. The Society had no liabilities as at 31/07/24
4. The Charity's policy is to have 6 months cash reserves
5. Subscription income includes £180 fees paid in advance for 2024/2025 year



kathy hart <kathy.hart5@gmail.com>

Fwd: Examiners Report

1 message

kathy hart <kathy.hart5@gmail.com>

To: Malcolm Smith <mdsmith55@gmail.com>

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jon Hart <jhart.jon@gmail.com>

Date: 22 October 2024 at 17:39:35 BST

To: Kathy Hart <kathy.hart5@gmail.com>

Subject: Examiners Report

See attached

Independent examiner's report to the trustees

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Society (the Society) for the 12 months ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

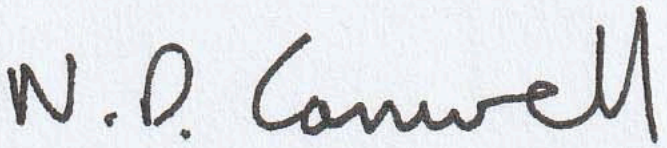
As the charity trustees of the Society, you are responsible for preparing the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. I report in respect of my examination of the accounts in accordance with section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my duties in accordance with the Directions given by the Charity Commission.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I have no concerns and have come to a conclusion in connection with the examination in respect of:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with the Charities Act; or
 2. the accounts do not accord with the information provided to me.
- I have no concerns and have come to a conclusion in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn.

understanding of the accounts to be

Signed: 

Name: Neil Canwell

Relevant professional qualification o

Address: 15 Gledhow Wood Avenue,

Date: 22 August 2024

