

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS

England & Wales - Charity number 517127

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1986-02-17

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

Contact

Address 1 Westdale Gardens
Pudsey
West Yorkshire
LS28 7HU

Phone 07905900986

Email secretary@leedsfestivalchorus.co.uk

Website www.leedsfestivalchorus.co.uk

Activities

Objects: The objects of the Charity 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 any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public events.

Activities: Promoting public education and appreciation of music by performing in and promoting concerts and supporting young singers through a youth choir

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£55,529	£58,136	-	-
2024-07-31	£58,476	£50,458	-	-
2023-07-31	£53,741	£40,887	-	-
2022-07-31	£39,522	£49,641	-	-
2021-07-31	£35,785	£26,573	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Kenneth Charles Smith		2024-10-16
Caroline Stanyard		2024-08-07
Christopher Mark Foren		2022-10-19
Dr James William David Moxon		2021-10-06
Elizabeth Alexandra Palmer		2022-10-19
Emma Frances Elgie		2018-06-20
FIONA KIRKBY		
Peter Huw Coltman		2024-12-12

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS

England & Wales - Charity number 517127

Accounts

Leeds Festival Chorus

Annual Report
2024/25 Season

**Annual Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements for the
Year ended 31 July 2025
For
LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS**

Registered Charity 517127

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year ended 31 July 2025

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LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Trustees' Annual Report for the Year ended 31 July 2025

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is an unincorporated body governed by its constitution and guidelines issued by the Charity Commission.

Trustees (Executive Committee)

Elected Officers:

Elizabeth Palmer
Andrew Smith
James Moxon
Fiona Kirkby

Administrative Secretary
Treasurer
Concerts Organiser
Choir Coordinator

Other trustees in the year were as follows:

Will Clarke (resigned October 2024)
Peter Coltman (appointed December 2024)
Emma Elgie
Chris Foren
Margaret Mara (resigned March 2025)
Judith Scott (resigned October 2024)
Caroline Stanyard
Ruth Swanwick (resigned October 2024)

Appointment and recruitment of Trustees

The executive committee works with the Artistic Advisor (the conductor) to run Leeds Festival Chorus in accordance with the Constitution. The full committee are elected on a three yearly basis at the Annual General Meeting. All Chorus members are encouraged to consider standing.

Legal and Administrative Information

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission Number 517127.

The charity's address is:-

c/o Mrs E A Palmer
1 Westdale Gardens
Pudsey
Leeds
LS28 7HU

The charity's bankers are:-

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue,
Kings Hill, West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

The charity's independent examiner is:-

Andrew Wilkinson FCA
Malcolm Jones & Co Limited
Accountants and Business Advisors
West Hill House
Allerton Hill
Chapel Allerton
Leeds LS7 3QB

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Trustees' Annual Report for the Year ended 31 July 2025 (cont)

Objects

The objects of the charity are to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public events.

Review of Activities and Achievements

The charity achieved its aims in the period under review by continuing to promote and deliver choral concerts. The closure of Leeds Town Hall for refurbishment continued to have a significant effect on concerts. There seems no longer to be any significant effect of Covid on audience sizes. We have performed 5 concerts and 1 other event.

Reserves Policy

The charity's policy on reserves is to ensure that sufficient unrestricted net current assets (liquid reserves) are maintained to enable the charity to continue for at least the next twelve months in the event that there is an unpredicted and/or significant drop in income levels. The Trustees consider that the current level of liquid reserves (£49,153) is lower than 12 months worth of unrestricted ordinary expenditure (£56,833), but roughly equal to the expected expenditure of £48,000 to £52,000 in 2025/26. Accordingly the Trustees will continue to monitor the situation.

Risk management

The Trustees examine the major risks that the charity faces each financial year when considering their plans and annual budgets. The charity has controls in place to control these risks and mitigate any impact they may have on the charity's future.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit.

Financial Review

The reserves of the charity are both restricted and unrestricted in nature. As noted in the Reserves policy above, the Trustees are of the opinion that the levels of reserves may not be adequate in exceptional circumstances to meet future expenditure and to fulfil the charity's ongoing aims and objectives. There is a deficit on ordinary activities for the year of £2,607 (2024 surplus - £8,018) which has been deducted from reserves. The total reserves at the year end amount to £73,848 (2024 - £76,455) of which £8,757 (2024 - £10,060) are restricted.

On behalf of the Trustees

.....
Elizabeth Palmer, Acting Chair

8 October 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 July 2025 which are set out on pages 4 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanation from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andrew Wilkinson FCA
Malcolm Jones & Co Limited
Accountants & Business Advisors
West Hill House
Allerton Hill
Chapel Allerton
Leeds
LS7 3QB

8 October 2025

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year ended 31 July 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
				£	£
Incoming resources:					
Voluntary income	6	35,430	-	35,430	44,166
Activities for generating funds	8	16,641	-	16,641	10,366
Investment income	9	1,524	-	1,524	1,822
Incoming resources from charitable activities	10	1,934	-	1,934	2,122
Total incoming resources:		55,529	-	55,529	58,476
Resources expended:					
Costs of generating voluntary income	11	795	-	795	492
Fundraising & trading costs	12	50,723	-	50,723	42,135
Charitable activities	13	35	1,303	1,338	1,474
Governance costs	14	5,280	-	5,280	6,357
Total resources expended		56,833	1,303	58,136	50,458
Net (outgoing) resources on ordinary activities for the year		(1,304)	(1,303)	(2,607)	8,018
Exceptional item		-	-	-	-
Net (outgoing) resources for the year		(1,304)	(1,303)	(2,607)	8,018
Total charity funds brought forward		66,395	10,060	76,455	68,437
Total charity funds carried forward		65,091	8,757	73,848	76,455

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these accounts.

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	2		15,938		17,709
Current Assets					
Other debtors	3		345		318
Cash at bank and in hand		64,975		64,414	
		<u>65,320</u>		<u>64,732</u>	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors & accrued expenses	4	<u>7,410</u>		<u>5,986</u>	
Net current assets			57,910		58,746
Net assets			<u>73,848</u>		<u>76,455</u>
Represented by:					
FUNDS					
Restricted income funds:					
Balance at 1 August 2024			10,060		6,079
Net incoming resources for the year			<u>(1,303)</u>		<u>3,981</u>
			8,757		10,060
Unrestricted income funds:					
Balance at 1 August 2024		66,395		62,358	
Net incoming resources for the year		<u>(1,304)</u>		<u>4,037</u>	
			65,091		66,395
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	5		<u>73,848</u>		<u>76,455</u>

Approved by the Trustees

.....
Elizabeth Palmer, Acting Chair

For and on behalf of the Trustees

8 October 2025

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these accounts.

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2025

1. Accounting Policies

General

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Incoming Resources

All income is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), when it becomes receivable.

Resources Expended

All resources expended are recognised on an accruals basis, in the period in which they are incurred.

Grants Payable

Grants payable are included in the SOFA when agreed by the Trustees.

Funds Structure Policy

Funds comprise unrestricted income funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the charity's objectives, and restricted funds which are dealt with and presented in accordance with the terms attaching to each separate restricted fund.

Tangible Assets

Tangible assets are capitalised at cost including any incidental expenses of Acquisition. A wear and tear allowance is provided at 10% on a reducing balance basis in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life and reflects the wish of the trustees to account for losses/damage etc. to its music library.

2. Tangible Assets

	Music Library £
At valuation	
At 1 August 2024	17,709
Additions in the year	-
Wear and tear provision (10%)	(1,771)
At 31 July 2025	15,938

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2025 (cont)

3. Other debtors		2025	2024
		£	£
Prepayments		345	318
		<u>345</u>	<u>318</u>
4. Creditors		2025	2024
		£	£
Accrued expenses		7,410	5,986
		<u>7,410</u>	<u>5,986</u>
5. Funds			
	2024	Movement	2025
	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds			
Music Library	17,709	(1,771)	15,938
General Fund	48,686	467	49,153
	<u>66,395</u>	<u>(1,304)</u>	<u>65,091</u>
Restricted Funds			
Chorus Master Scholarship Monies	1,303	(1,303)	-
Music to my Ears	4,608	-	4,608
Future Developments Fund	4,149	-	4,149
	<u>10,060</u>	<u>(1,303)</u>	<u>8,757</u>
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	<u>76,455</u>	<u>(2,607)</u>	<u>73,848</u>
6. Voluntary Income			
	Note	2025	2024
		£	£
Members' subscriptions		21,094	21,903
Friends' subscriptions		1,389	1,034
Tax refund on covenanted subscriptions		5,216	6,410
Fundraising and social group		3,531	4,354
Grants, donations and sponsorship	7	3,200	8,771
Legacies	7	1,000	1,694
		<u>35,430</u>	<u>44,166</u>

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2025 (cont)

7. Grants, donations, sponsorship, patrons and legacies	2025	2024
	£	£
Miscellaneous donations	1,290	600
Carol Sponsorship	-	630
Ticket Donations	-	909
Anonymous donation re Future Development Fund	-	5,000
J Apps	-	150
Olav Arnold Charitable Trust	-	1,000
M Beer	300	300
J Moody	300	-
Liz Arnold	1,000	-
Anon	10	-
L Davies	-	92
I Hall	-	30
Janet Taylor in memory of Steve Taylor	300	-
E Walker	-	60
	<u>3,200</u>	<u>8,771</u>
Legacies		
J Usher	-	1,694
Olav Arnold	1,000	-
	<u>4,200</u>	<u>10,465</u>
8. Activities for generating funds	2025	2024
	£	£
Concerts and recitals	<u>16,641</u>	<u>10,366</u>
9. Investment income	2025	2024
	£	£
Bank interest received	<u>1,524</u>	<u>1,822</u>
10. Incoming resources from charitable activities	2025	2024
	£	£
Library income	<u>1,934</u>	<u>2,122</u>

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2025 (cont)

11. Costs of generating voluntary income		
	2025	2024
	£	£
Publicity programmes, brochures and advertising	795	492
12. Fundraising & trading costs		
	2025	2024
	£	£
Hire of music	741	997
Concert costs	24,844	17,378
Rehearsal costs	25,138	23,760
	50,723	42,135
13. Charitable activities		
	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations	35	1,474
14. Governance costs		
	2025	2024
	£	£
Subscriptions and insurance	902	788
Accountancy and Independent Examiner's fee	1,492	1,440
Sundry expenses	245	462
Away day for Future Developments	-	851
Website costs and design	16	-
Library expenses	755	684
Music wear and tear allowance	1,771	1,968
Bank charges	99	164
	5,280	6,357
15. Trustees Remuneration		
No Trustees or any persons connected with them have received remuneration (2024 – nil).		
16. Trustees Expenses		
Three trustees (2024 – three) have been reimbursed £997 (2024 - £916) for out of pocket expenses.		
17. Staff Costs and Emoluments		
There were no employees with emoluments in the year (2024 – nil).		
18. Cost of Independent Examination		
Preparation of accounts and associated costs were £1,492 (2024 - £1,440).		

Publicity and Marketing Report 2024-2025

Elizabeth Palmer, Chair of Marketing Group September 2025

The Marketing Team continues to play a vital role in supporting the work of Leeds Festival Chorus. Our members are currently: Andrew Smith, Christine Hamill, Emma Elgie, Elizabeth Palmer, Mac Burnell, Mary Magorrian, Richard Wilcocks, and Sally Brown. We are also grateful for the technical expertise of Irene Hall, who looks after the website and email systems.

Our primary objectives continue to be:

- publicising and promoting our concerts and events,
- the public profile of the Chorus,
- communicating and engaging with Chorus members,
- attracting new members.

Reaching audiences

In 2024-2025, we promoted our concerts in Beverley and Leeds, resulting in the sale of around 620 tickets, excluding Patrons, comps, and donated tickets.

- A Choral Soirée (Beverley) - 103
- Carols at Christmas - 231
- Messiah - 194
- A Choral Journey - 92

Christmas is still our best-selling concert which is unsurprising. It remains challenging to promote concerts with lesser-known repertoire and those outside of Leeds, so we will continue to look for ways of framing these concerts to give potential audiences an idea of the experience they'll receive.

Word-of-mouth (often through Chorus members) remains our biggest driver of sales. Thank you to everyone who has invited people to attend our concerts, distributed flyers, and shared our social media posts. It does pay off!

We trialled collecting audience feedback after the *Messiah* concert. It was incredibly positive, including these quotes:

"Quality was professional and in fact, better than many professional Messiah's we've seen."

"The most uplifting and inspiring performance of Messiah that we have ever attended"

We are also aiming to include more detail on our webpages about our events, including information on accessibility, parking, and timings. We hope this will encourage and enable more people to attend.

Building our profile

We continue raising our profile through:

- social media promotion on Facebook and Instagram,
- production and distribution of brochures and flyers,
- regular email marketing to our mailing list, which we continue to grow by asking audience members to sign-up,
- articles published in the Yorkshire Bylines,
- contact with other local music groups and organisations, including Opera North and Leeds International Concert Series.

We would like to experiment with more innovative social media in the coming year, and plan to explore how we can make more use of video and audio to reach wider audiences. However, time to experiment with different formats remains the largest challenge in this area.

Communicating with members and Friends

Communication with Chorus members remains a priority. We continue to distribute the weekly email with updates, and the launch of the new members' area in late 2024 now provides a central hub of information.

We also write and distribute the quarterly newsletter for the Friends of LFC. Thank you to Sally Brown who does a great job of thinking of content ideas and writing the newsletter.

How you can help

There are lots of ways you can support the Marketing Team, including:

- following our social media accounts and sharing our posts,
 - Facebook (/LeedsFestivalChorus), Instagram (@leedsfestivalchorus), X (@LFChorus)
- distributing flyers for concerts
- inviting friends and family as audience members, or to try out a rehearsal
- letting us know about any ideas you have for places to advertise or people we should be in contact with.

You're welcome to get in touch with a member of the team, or email marketing@leedsfestivalchorus.co.uk.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the Marketing Team for their commitment, ideas and attention to detail throughout the year. Publicity is a large task, so it is a real benefit to have a good team of people working hard at it.

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS – ANNUAL REPORT FROM LIBRARIAN, 2024-25

Scores for LFC rehearsals and concerts

About 3,600 scores were issued for our rehearsals and performances during the year ended July 2025. About 2,200 of these were hired copies, the remainder being owned by the Chorus. Our own scores included three pieces printed for the Christmas concert: two arrangements by Simon Wright – *A Christmas Wassail* and *I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas* – and Phyllida Barker's carol *Hush, My Little Baby*. The printing costs of all those three (£415) were very generously met by Simon, and we are extremely grateful for that. The number of non-returns was only seven (0.2% of 3,600). Where possible and reasonable the cost to the Chorus of these non-returns has been recovered.

Leeds Music Library was again by far the major provider of hire copies. Other hires during the year were from Ampleforth College (again at no charge through Simon's good offices, so with grateful thanks), Bach Choir (London), Cantores (Cirencester), Community & Youth Music Library (London), Dumfries Choral Society, Inverness Choral Society, Lea Singers (St Albans), Leeds Guild of Singers, London Philharmonic Choir and Wimbleton Choral Society.

Thanks are also due to those who have helped at busy times during the year, or when I have not been available, in issuing, moving and/or sorting scores.

Hiring out scores to other choirs

This task has been carried out entirely by Will Clarke, and I am extremely grateful to him for doing so. Will soon has to give up this role owing to other pressures, and a replacement is needed. Members are asked to consider whether they could help in this important task of bringing in income.

Will reports on the last year as follows:

In the year to the end of July, we hired out 39 sets of scores for a total net income of £1,355. We sent 1,739 scores from our library to groups across the country, from the Jersey Festival Choir to the St Andrews Chorus. This is on a par with the previous year, when we arranged 32 hires of 1,300 scores. The average value of each hire was £35, with the highest being £248.

The largest earners were substantial single works like *Israel in Egypt* or Mozart's *Mass in C Minor*. These scores are hired on a higher per-copy-per month rate, are sung by larger choirs who need more copies, and take longer to learn and perform resulting in longer hire periods.

It is worth noting that a small proportion of the library accounts for most of the revenue. Poulenc, Vaughan Williams and Handel are requested consistently and account for almost half our hire income. MacMillan's *O Radiant Dawn* was requested five times last year - the most of any single work - and has been requested 11 times for the 2025 Christmas term. This means that we need to keep a close eye on the condition of such frequently requested works so that we can maintain both proper standards for hiring out and our potential future income. The current clean-up project (see below) is an important part of this.

Clean-up project

This project to erase the pencil markings from our most-used scores continued throughout the year. Some 600 scores were improved in this way by a total of 16 members. I am grateful to all 16, with Avril Brown and Peter Bloodworth again heading the pack. Every single contribution is welcomed, small or large. The task continues in the 2025-26 season, and further volunteers are always +very welcome, usually without deadlines!

Further thanks

As ever, I am grateful to the many members who sign the sign-up sheets legibly, on the correct line, and return scores promptly. The latter is particularly important when I have to return hired scores within deadlines which are often tight in order to minimise costs. Do please continue.

Mike Croft
Librarian

CHOIR MEMBERSHIP

We started this new season with 107 members. Over the course of this past year the following have left the choir.

Sopranos	Altos	Tenor	Bass
Sonja Langfeld	Debbie Clarke	Kurt Langfeld	Michael Clark
	Siân Lomax		Desmond Quinn

Although not with us for long Sonja and Kurt very quickly became involved in all parts of choir life – Leeds’s loss is Sydney’s gain – hope they are enjoying all the sunshine! Debbie Clarke and Michael Clark were both long standing and committed members of the choir – in addition Michael was a past treasurer. Desmond was part of the programme suggestion group and Siân an active member of FRASC. I hope those who are still in Leeds will support the choir by coming to concerts.

RECRUITMENT

It has been good to see some new younger people joining the choir this year and I hope that this trend will continue.

Our open evening last season was on September 25th. It was a wild and windy night and we had a rather select group attending – only 6 people in all. Two had attended the ‘Come and Sing’. However over the year we have had approaches from 12 potential members and of the 9 who came forward for audition and 8 were successful. We hope that they enjoy singing with LFC. Their names are below.

SOPRANO	ALTO	TENOR	BASS
Chloe Adam	Andrea Dykxhoorn		Trevor ApSimon
Becky Clark	Lucy O’Hanlon		Loz Barker
Ellie Klouda			Charlie Terry

CONCERTS

October 2024 Beverley	85/109	78%
December 2024 Leeds	87/107	81%
April 2025 Leeds	88/108.	81%
July 2025 Leeds	65/111	58%

Concert participation has been steady except for the July concert, which despite a slight increase in membership, showed a big decrease. Scheduled later than many of our summer concerts it clashed with holidays for many members.

REHEARSALS and VENUES

Rehearsals have been held as usual in St.Chad's and St. Columba's churches. When there were problems with St Chad's we appreciated being able to use the Parish Centre. We have had 46 rehearsals this year in these two locations.

AND FINALLY

I am always grateful for the support I receive from choir members – it would be very difficult to do my job without it particularly this season which I have had a number of medical issues! I thank also Simon and Rebecca. They are both helpful and courteous – we are all very privileged to work with them.

Fiona Kirkby - LFC Choir Co-ordinator



Friends Report September 2025

The Friends are a group of people who have been members of the Chorus or are relations/friends of present and past members. They support us largely through attending our concerts and provide a small income to the Chorus.

Level	Number	Subs Rate	Comments
Honorary	1	0	Previous Friends' Coordinator
Complimentary	2	0	Those who have recently left the Chorus are offered Complimentary 'Friendship' for twelve months
One	13	£12-20	Those unable to attend concerts for reasons of age, distance or infirmity
Two Single	9	£35	Usually attend concerts and take advantage of benefits
Two Double	6	£60	As above
Totals	31	£659	31 total members in 24/25

In addition, many Friends donated extra amounting to a total of £340.

The way the Friends have been managed has undergone some changes this year, with the Publicity Committee taking over responsibility for the newsletters, but the collection of subs moving to Finance. This is the first period where it's happening this way, so we'll be able to report on how it went once this year's subscription period is completed.

We have also simplified the Friends subscription model, so it better reflects what we are able to offer at the moment. Instead of two tiers of membership, from September 2025 there will be one Friends subscription of £25 per Friend which includes a regular newsletter, invitations to sit in on rehearsals, and invitations to social events hosted by the Chorus.

We are working on refining this system so that I can send out packs to departing choir members, giving them a year's free Friends membership. I have requested that I be sent contact details for this when a member leaves & am waiting for confirmation that this meets with member privacy.

I took over the newsletters in the spring of last year and have begun including profiles on members of the chorus marking special events, such as long anniversaries with the chorus, where we've been able to highlight past concerts that the Friends may remember. I've also included short interviews with soloists, and photographs and accounts of activities the chorus does outside our concerts. Some of these have been shared with the chorus and have had hugely positive feedback. This year we have Simon's anniversary to cover & I am expanding the profiles to include one of the new members discussing what her first year with the chorus was like.

As a member of the Publicity Committee, I have been developing a relationship with Yorkshire Bylines, which published my first newsletter with features on the soloists for the *Messiah*, reaching 438 online viewers, plus hardcopy and downloads. I hope to continue this relationship so that we can use it for further publicity.

Sally M. Brown

Concert Organisers Report for AGM 15/10/25

Last year was another difficult one for concert planning due to the continued uncertainties re the Town Hall re-opening. We are now aware that the earliest we are likely to be able to get in, to be part of a concert, will be Autumn 2026 but there is a possibility of another 6 month delay from the contractors which would mean early 2027 or even later depending on what happens in the next 12 months.

We started the 2024/5 season with a very enjoyable, if rather cold, trip to **Beverley** in October for 'A Choral Soirée' featuring **Durufié Requiem** with a first half of motets and other short pieces from **Durufié, Messiaen** and **Poulenc**. Sadly tickets proved very difficult to sell due to a competing concert in Beverley on the same evening, but despite that the concert went well and feedback was good.

The **Christmas Concert** at St.Edmund's included contributions from Seb Williman on trumpet. This proved a popular concert again with a near sell out generating a modest and much needed surplus.

Our planned trip to sing carols in the Cellarium at Fountains Abbey on 21/12/24 was sadly cancelled at short notice due to safety concerns caused by high winds. They are fully booked this year but we are aiming to try again at Christmas next year.

We were hoping to have joined the Cambridge University Symphony Chorus in March to sing Vaughan Williams' Sea Symphony but sadly the negotiations proved difficult and couldn't be concluded satisfactorily in time to fit this into our existing calendar.

In April we sang **Handel's Messiah** with a small orchestra selected from the ranks of the York Guildhall Orchestra and four young soloists from the Royal Northern College of Music. I hope you will agree that the extra expense of hiring the orchestra was worthwhile. The audience feedback was excellent and with a near sell out of tickets we managed to keep losses to a manageable level.

For our Summer Concert '**Elgar, Schubert & Barber – Choral journeys**' on 12th July at St.Edmund's we had another late change of soloist, eventually being joined by Jane Burnell who had sung soprano in the Messiah for us in April. We benefitted from a small grant from the Elgar Society and sang a varied and challenging programme including Elgar's set of six songs '**From the Bavarian Highlands**', along with **Bartok's Four Slovak Folk Songs**, the magnificent, modernistic quirkiness of **Ligeti's** a cappella '**Night and Morning**' - bells, cock-a-doodle-do's, kazoos and all, the evocative battle cry and biblical narrative of **Schubert's 'Song of Miriam'** and the peaceful serenity of **Barber's 'Agnus dei'**. Audience numbers were down, perhaps more to do with the timing of the concert in school holidays, but there were many appreciative comments from them about the programme itself.

Most recently in September we had another successful **Heritage Open Day Come and Sing** event at St.George's Church, learning and singing '**Choruses from Brahms' German Requiem**' with Simon leading rehearsals and conducting and Martin Pickard and Tony Kraus playing the piano duet. After a few last minute dropouts due to inclement weather and illness we had 46 visiting singers and 48 from LFC who worked hard in rehearsals and gave an informal performance to a small but enthusiastic audience. We had this message from Meryll, our HOD co-ordinator at the Leeds Civic Trust – '*Your event was obviously very popular and I have to say all the singers looked full of joy – it was very uplifting to watch and listen.*'

Looking ahead we have an exciting and varied range of concerts for you with a mixture of old favourites and lots of new music to keep you on your toes!

We will be joined by organist Lee Ward, percussionist Janet Fulton and harpist Megan Humphries for our **Autumn Concert** in November at St.Edmund's, featuring **Bernstein - 'Chichester Psalms'** with Alexander Wright – treble, along with **Kodaly – 'Missa Brevis'**, **Bach – Lobet den Herrn** for chorus and '**Toccata and Fugue in D minor**' for organ, and Megan will play the **Britten 'Suite for Harp'**.

Our **Christmas Concert** programme for December, also at St.Edmund's, is taking shape with the music interspersed with seasonal readings and tenor solos from Dan Marles.

In March we have a concert for voices and brass at St.Edmund's '**A Spring Fanfare**' with choral works by **Gabrieli, Lotti, Croce, Purcell, Bruckner, Schütz, Parry and Finzi** interspersed with pieces for brass by Gabrieli and Viadana.

In June we will be joining forces with the **Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus** at Sheffield City Hall to sing **Mendelssohn's *Elijah***, with the **Halle Orchestra** and Matthew Hamilton conducting.

Beyond that our schedule will be very much dependent on developments at the Town Hall and we will keep you informed as soon as we know anything more.

My personal thanks go to all those who have helped this year with every aspect of concert planning and production, and in particular to Siân whose attention to detail ensures that all the plans we put into place are fine-tuned and run as smoothly as possible.

James Moxon
Concert Organiser
29/09/25

FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE (FRASC) REPORT October 2025

FRASC's activities has changed somewhat in the last couple of years, with the current focus on supporting the choir through pop-up bars and raffles, with occasional bigger fund raisers and social events. This year we have raised approximately £3,800.

We kicked off with the traditional post-rehearsal **Christmas Bring and Buy sale**. With post-sale purchases inside and outside the chorus, we made around £1,200. Thanks to everyone who baked, bottled and donated lovely Christmas gifts, with special thanks to Fiona Kirkby for her Christmas puddings (always a long list of requests for these!) and Simon for his ginormous side of home-smoked salmon. Shout outs also for the 2nd hand bookshop (Andrew Smith), sales and bar teams, and those that set up their own stalls. In some cases, stall holders generously donated all their proceeds, which was very much appreciated (thank you John Dickinson, Irene and David Hall and Julia Tomlinson amongst others!).

There will be a repeat performance this year on Wednesday 26th November, so please dust down your mixing bowls and jam pans and get your baking and making hats on.....and if you have friends or family that would like a stall, let me know.

Other fundraising and social activities have quietly continued through the year. The FRASC **weekly raffle** so efficiently managed by Margaret Whaley raises a considerable sum. We held an extra raffle at the Christmas concert, which raised an amazing £600, helped considerably by the excellent range of prizes including no less than two hampers.

Wine evenings (pop-up bars) after rehearsals at St Chad's have continued with some this year hosted by people celebrating milestone birthdays or chorus membership anniversaries. Celebrating these has proved very popular with everyone! It would be great if more people could help us with these pop-up bars, so if you think two or three of you could band together and run a wine evening, please let me or any of FRASC know. It's very easy and a great way to meet other chorus members. The next wine evening will be following the AGM on 15th October.

FRASC and an excellent team of “clapping section” volunteers also run the **interval bar at the St Edmund’s concerts**, allowing us to raise between £200 and £600 each time.

In April, we re-instigated our “**Walk and Tea**” series, with a very well attended walk around the **Roundhay Park geology trail** (I even managed to show off some fossil finds from one of the exposures!) before a scrumptious afternoon tea of scones (thank you Fiona!) and cakes.

As I mentioned in last year’s report, FRASC’s activities have been somewhat limited. This is because active FRASC members are comparatively few in number and partly because we perceive there to be limited interest from the choir in social events outside rehearsals. If this isn’t the case and you have some great ideas for social events (or fundraisers) and would be happy to help us organise them, then please let us know.

In any case, we would love for more people to join the team. Our occasional meetings are usually fun (nothing to do with the chat, drinks and good food, of course!). If you would like to join us, helping to raise funds for the chorus and maybe get back to organising social events, then please have a chat with me or anyone in FRASC: Fiona Kirkby (executive chef), Margaret Whaley (long-suffering treasurer), Heather Newton and Julie Tomkins.

Harriet Carlyle
FRASC Chair

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS

England & Wales - Charity number 517127

Accounts

Leeds Festival Chorus

**Annual Report
2023/24 Season**

**Annual Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements for the
Year ended 31 July 2024
For
LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS**

Registered Charity 517127

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 July 2024

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Report of the Independent Examiner	3
Statement of Financial Activities	4
Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Accounts	6

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Trustees' Annual Report for the Year ended 31 July 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is an unincorporated body governed by its constitution and guidelines issued by the Charity Commission.

Trustees (Executive Committee)

Elected Officers:

Elizabeth Palmer	Acting chair
John Apps (resigned May 2024)	Chairman/Treasurer
James Moxon	Concerts Organiser
Fiona Kirkby	Choir Coordinator

Other trustees in the year were as follows:

Emma Elgie
Chris Foren
Margaret Mara
Judith Scott

The following were appointed as trustees after the year end but before the date of this report:
Will Clarke, Caroline Hedges and Ruth Swanwick.

Appointment and recruitment of Trustees

The executive committee works with the Artistic Advisor (the conductor) to run Leeds Festival Chorus in accordance with the Constitution. The full committee are elected on a three yearly basis at the Annual General Meeting. All Chorus members are encouraged to consider standing.

Legal and Administrative Information

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission Number 517127.

The charity's address is:-
c/o Dr J M Apps
Foxhill Cottage
Weetwood Lane
Leeds
LS16 5PJ

The charity's bankers are:-
CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue,
Kings Hill, West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

The charity's independent examiner is:-
Andrew Wilkinson FCA
Malcolm Jones & Co Limited
Accountants and Business Advisors
West Hill House
Allerton Hill
Chapel Allerton
Leeds LS7 3QB

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Trustees' Annual Report for the Year ended 31 July 2024 (cont)

Objects

The objects of the charity are to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public events.

Review of Activities and Achievements

The charity achieved its aims in the period under review by continuing to promote and deliver choral concerts. The closure of Leeds Town Hall for refurbishment continued to have a significant effect on concert income. It was noticeable that audience sizes were larger than last year as people were less reluctant to come to public events. We have performed 8 concerts and 1 other event with improved audience sizes.

Reserves Policy

The charity's policy on reserves is to ensure that sufficient unrestricted net current assets (liquid reserves) are maintained to enable the charity to continue for at least the next twelve months in the event that there is an unpredicted and/or significant drop in income levels. The Trustees consider that the current level of liquid reserves (£48,686) is slightly less than 12 months worth of unrestricted ordinary expenditure (£49,439), but roughly equal to the expected expenditure of £46,000 to £50,000 in 2024/25. Accordingly the Trustees will continue to monitor the situation.

Risk management

The Trustees examine the major risks that the charity faces each financial year when considering their plans and annual budgets. The charity has controls in place to control these risks and mitigate any impact they may have on the charity's future.

Public Benefit


The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit.

Financial Review

The reserves of the charity are both restricted and unrestricted in nature.

As noted in the Reserves policy above, the Trustees are of the opinion that the levels of reserves may not be adequate in exceptional circumstances to meet future expenditure and to fulfil the charity's ongoing aims and objectives. There is a surplus on ordinary activities for the year of £8,018 (2023 - £12,854) which has been added to reserves. The total reserves at the year end amount to £76,455 (2023 - £68,437) of which £10,060 (2023 - £6,079) are restricted.

On behalf of the Trustees


.....
Elizabeth Palmer, Acting Chair

15 October 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 July 2024 which are set out on pages 4 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanation from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andrew Wilkinson FCA
Malcolm Jones & Co Limited
Accountants & Business Advisors
West Hill House
Allerton Hill
Chapel Allerton
Leeds
LS7 3QB

15 October 2024

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year ended 31 July 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
				£	£
Incoming resources:					
Voluntary income	6	39,166	5,000	44,166	41,692
Activities for generating funds	8	10,366	-	10,366	9,310
Investment income	9	1,822	-	1,822	537
Incoming resources from charitable activities	10	2,122	-	2,122	2,202
Total incoming resources:		53,476	5,000	58,476	53,741
Resources expended:					
Costs of generating voluntary income	11	492	-	492	266
Fundraising & trading costs	12	42,135	-	42,135	34,017
Charitable activities	13	1,306	168	1,474	1,100
Governance costs	14	5,506	851	6,357	5,504
Total resources expended		49,439	1,019	50,458	40,887
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources on ordinary activities for the year		4,037	3,981	8,018	12,854
Exceptional item		-	-	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year		4,037	3,981	8,018	12,854
Total charity funds brought forward		62,358	6,079	68,437	55,583
Total charity funds carried forward		66,395	10,060	76,455	68,437

The notes on pages 6 to 10 form part of these accounts.

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2024

	Notes	2024	2023	
		£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets	2	17,709		19,677
Current Assets				
Other debtors	3	318	264	
Cash at bank and in hand		64,414	68,011	
		64,732	68,275	
Current Liabilities				
Creditors & accrued expenses	4	5,986	19,515	
Net current assets		58,746		48,760
Net assets		76,455	68,437	
Represented by:				
FUNDS				
Restricted income funds:				
Balance at 1 August 2023		6,079		6,079
Net incoming resources for the year		3,981	-	-
		10,060		6,079
Unrestricted income funds:				
Balance at 1 August 2023		62,358	49,504	
Net incoming resources for the year		4,037	12,854	
		66,395	62,358	62,358
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	5	76,455	68,437	

Approved by the Trustees

.....
Elizabeth Palmer, Acting Chair

For and on behalf of the Trustees

15 October 2024

The notes on pages 6 to 10 form part of these accounts.

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2024

1. Accounting Policies

General

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Incoming Resources

All income is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), when it becomes receivable.

Resources Expended

All resources expended are recognised on an accruals basis, in the period in which they are incurred.

Grants Payable

Grants payable are included in the SOFA when agreed by the Trustees.

Funds Structure Policy

Funds comprise unrestricted income funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the charity's objectives, and restricted funds which are dealt with and presented in accordance with the terms attaching to each separate restricted fund.

Tangible Assets

Tangible assets are capitalised at cost including any incidental expenses of Acquisition. A wear and tear allowance is provided at 10% on a reducing balance basis in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life and reflects the wish of the trustees to account for losses/damage etc. to its music library.

2. Tangible Assets

	Music Library
	£
At valuation	
At 1 August 2023	19,677
Additions in the year	-
Wear and tear provision (10%)	(1,968)
At 31 July 2024	<hr/> <hr/> 17,709

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2024 (cont)

3. Other debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments	318	264
	318	264

4. Creditors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accrued expenses	5,986	19,515
	5,986	19,515

5. Funds

	2023	Movement	2024
	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds			
Music Library	19,677	(1,968)	17,709
General Fund	42,681	6,005	48,686
	62,358	4,037	66,395
Restricted Funds			
Chorus Master Scholarship Monies	1,471	(168)	1,303
Music to my Ears	4,608	-	4,608
Future Developments Fund	-	4,149	4,149
	6,079	3,981	10,060
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	68,437	8,018	76,455

6. Voluntary Income

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Members' subscriptions		21,903	21,049
Friends' subscriptions		1,034	1,256
Tax refund on covenanted subscriptions		6,410	6,135
Fundraising and social group		4,354	5,676
Grants, donations and sponsorship	7	8,771	7,076
Legacies	7	1,694	500
		44,166	41,692

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2024 (cont)

7. Grants, donations, sponsorship, patrons and legacies	2024	2023
	£	£
Miscellaneous donations	600	488
Carol Sponsorship	630	1,290
Ticket Donations	909	664
Anonymous donation re Future Development Fund	5,000	-
J Apps	150	150
Olav Arnold Charitable Trust	1,000	1,000
M Beer	300	300
B Brickles	-	50
D Brickles in memory of B Brickles	-	500
J Hartigan in memory of T Hartigan	-	500
N Jones	-	300
L Davies	92	-
I Hall	30	-
J Moxon	-	267
A Smith	-	130
E Walker	60	60
Maurice Wilson in memory of Muriel Wilson	-	1,000
Rev M Winbolt-Lewis	-	300
S Winbolt-Lewis	-	50
S Wright	-	27
	<u>8,771</u>	<u>7,076</u>
Legacies		
J Usher	1,694	-
	<u>10,465</u>	<u>6,857</u>
8. Activities for generating funds	2024	2023
	£	£
Concerts and recitals	<u>10,366</u>	<u>9,310</u>
9. Investment income	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank interest received	<u>1,822</u>	<u>537</u>
10. Incoming resources from charitable activities	2024	2023
	£	£
Library income	<u>2,122</u>	<u>2,202</u>

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2024 (cont)

11. Costs of generating voluntary income	2024	2023
	£	£
Publicity programmes, brochures and advertising	<u>492</u>	<u>266</u>
12. Fundraising & trading costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Hire of music	997	1,039
Concert costs	17,378	10,632
Rehearsal costs	23,760	22,632
	<u>42,135</u>	<u>34,017</u>
13. Charitable activities	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations	<u>1,474</u>	<u>1,100</u>
14. Governance costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Subscriptions and insurance	788	629
Accountancy and Independent Examiner's fee	1,440	1,450
Friends' and patrons' expenses	-	43
Sundry expenses	462	300
Away day for Future Developments	851	-
Website costs and design	-	15
Zoom costs	-	144
Library expenses	684	673
Music storage	-	-
Music wear and tear allowance	1,968	2,186
Bank charges	164	64
	<u>6,357</u>	<u>5,504</u>
15. Trustees Remuneration		
No Trustees or any persons connected with them have received remuneration (2023 – nil).		
16. Trustees Expenses		
Three Trustees (2023 – one) have been reimbursed out of pocket expenses totalling £916 (2023 - £266).		

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2024 (cont)

17. Staff Costs and Emoluments

There were no employees with emoluments in the year (2023 – nil).

18. Cost of Independent Examination

Preparation of accounts and associated costs were £1,450 (2023 - £1,410).

Publicity and Marketing Report 2023-2024

Elizabeth Palmer, Chair of Marketing Group September 2024

Members of the marketing team are: Andrew Smith, Christine Hamill, Emma Elgie, Elizabeth Palmer, Mac Burnell, Mary Magorrian, Richard Wilcocks, and Sally Brown. We are supported by Irene Hall who focuses on the technical side of the website and emails.

Our primary roles and objectives are:

- Publicising and promoting concerts and other events
- Increasing the public profile of the Chorus
- Communicating and engaging with Chorus members
- Attracting new members

What we did in 2023-2024

Publicising and promoting concerts and other events

- Around 450 tickets sold for concerts at St Edmund's Roundhay (figures rounded to nearest 10, excluding Patrons, comps, and donated tickets).
 - Brahms - 100
 - Christmas - 160
 - Rossini - 190
- Used social media (Facebook and Instagram) to publicise events.
- Updating the website to ensure that it remains current and has information on our concerts.
- Produced physical promotional material and distributed across Leeds: annual brochure and flyers for our own concerts.
- Emails to our external mailing list and continued to grow this by asking audience members to sign up when they buy a ticket.

Increasing the public profile of the Chorus

- Building relationships and reciprocal marketing with other musical organisations in Leeds – notably reviving contact with Opera North and Leeds International Concert Series.

Communicating and engaging with Chorus members

- Weekly emails to Chorus members with news and updates.
- Supported with an updated members area to improve the one introduced in 2022 (aiming to launch in October 2024). More detail below.

Attracting new members:

- Developed a recruitment presentation that is displayed at concerts.
- Review of the 'Join Us' page – updated copy to make it more friendly.

Other:

- Started gathering data on how audience members heard about our concerts – chorus members and word of mouth are currently the largest.
- Took on the production of the quarterly newsletters for Friends of LFC.
- Administration of ticket sales through TryBooking.

Updated Members Area - Making Music Platform

We have been working on an updated version of the Members Area to our website using Making Music's Platform service. This will have more features than our current one, and combines several of our current administration areas into one place. Some examples of the features are:

- Events calendar integrated into the website, with the ability to share your availability for concerts and other events. We'll be able to update this if things change, and add information as it becomes available (e.g. dress codes for concerts, or travel arrangements).
- A place for documents and notices.
- Finances - we will be able to take payments for subscriptions through the website.
- Updated member database, making the administration of chorus members' details easier. You'll be able to update your own contact information through the website.

We hope to start using this later this term and will provide more information soon. Thank you to Irene for her hard work on this over the past few months.

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone in the marketing team for their hard work, creative ideas and the time they've given up over this year to make this happen. Also, thank you to everyone in the Chorus who have sold tickets, encouraged people to come, and shared information about our events. If you have any ideas or suggestions about our publicity and marketing, please get in touch with a member of the team or email marketing@leedsfestivalchorus.co.uk.

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS – ANNUAL REPORT FROM LIBRARIAN, 2023-24

Scores for LFC rehearsals and concerts

About 3,700 scores were issued for our rehearsals and performances during the year ended July 2024. About 1,100 of these were hired copies, the remainder being owned by the Chorus. Our own scores included two arrangements by Simon Wright – *The Virgin Mary* and *The Carol Singers* – added with thanks to our stock during the year. The number of non-returns was 14 (0.4% of 3,700). Where possible the cost to the Chorus of these non-returns has been recovered.

Leeds Music Library was again by far the major provider of hire copies. Other hires during the year were from Ampleforth College (again at no charge through Simon's good offices, so with grateful thanks), Bedford Choral Society, Epsom Choral Society, Preston Cecilian Choral Society, and the Wooburn Singers.

Thanks are also due to Peter Bloodworth, Will Clarke and Lloyd Davies who have helped at busy times during the year, or when I have not been available, in issuing, moving and/or sorting scores.

Hiring out scores to other choirs

From December 2023, this part of the Librarian's job has been carried out by Will Clarke. Many thanks are due to him for volunteering and for carrying out this task. It is a task which is very much unseen by members, amounting to half the Librarian's job. It continues to bring in extremely useful income to the Chorus.

32 sets of scores, involving a total of about 1,300 individual scores from our stock of 30,000 or more, were hired out to various choirs nation-wide in the 12 months to July 2024. As last year, on the rare occasions when full sets have not been returned, full recompense or replacement copies have been provided by the hirer. My favourite composers for this year in order of hire-out value are (1) Handel, (2) Poulenc, (3) Rossini.

Clean-up project

In September 2023, I initiated a project to erase the pencil markings that numerous scores in our stock have accumulated over the years. Some 1,100 of the most used scores have had this welcome treatment up to July 2024. The contributions of Peter Bloodworth and Avril Brown, whose labours between them accounted for over half of the 1,100, are particularly appreciated. But every single contribution is welcomed, small or large. The task continues in the 2024-25 season, and further volunteers will be very welcome (usually without deadlines!).

Further thanks

As ever, I am grateful to the many members who sign the sign-up sheets legibly, on the correct line, and return scores promptly. The latter is particularly important when I have to return hired scores within deadlines which are often tight in order to minimise costs. Do please continue.

Mike Croft
Librarian

An innovation this year is that we have put in place voice section representatives in the four main parts of the choir. They are at present Michèle Jackson – soprano, Judy Farnill – alto, Peter Coltman – tenor, David Hall – bass. They should be the first port of call for any queries you have about rehearsals and concerts and importantly are the first contact point for newly auditioned members. They are also happy to receive feedback from members to pass on to the trustees.

CHOIR MEMBERSHIP

We started this new season with 109 members. Over the course of this past year the following have left the choir.

Sopranos	Altos	Tenor	Bass
Harriet Chauhan	Catherine Dickinson	Steve Clarke	Stuart Archbold
Shona Emmett		Tim Swanwick	Lloyd Davies
Emma Mitchell			Steve Maxwell
Nicki Spencer			
Helen Whale			

Whether they have been with us two or twenty years they have all made a contribution to the choir. In particular Steve Maxwell has served as Treasurer, Lloyd Davies has regularly helped Mike Croft with the library, and Stuart Archbold has worked hard and effectively with raising sponsorship for the choir as well as being a generous benefactor himself. We thank them for their contribution to our musical activities and wish them all the best. I hope that we shall see those still living locally, at future concerts.

RECRUITMENT

Our open evening last season was on September 27th. It very much benefitted from the Come and Sing Fauré Requiem held earlier in the month which boosted the numbers of people coming to try us out. This year most new members were recruited either as a result of the open evening or at the start of 2024 – the Christmas concert at St Edmund's also bringing some singers in. Over the year we have had approaches from 19 potential members and all 13 that came forward for audition were successful. Not all have been able to stay with us but those who have are named below.

SOPRANO	ALTO	TENOR	BASS
Monta Drozdova	Judy Farnill	Martin Kettlewell	Sam Boobier
Helen Kettlewell	Deirdre Thackray		Will Clarke
Amber Stamford			David Hargreaves

TRIENNIAL AUDITIONS

These took place in July of this year. Thank you to everyone who came. There were a few members who had to come in September but they have all now completed their auditions leaving only a couple whose health issues preclude them from auditioning at the moment. Thank you to everyone who helped make the auditions run smoothly particularly members who acted as stewards and those who provided half-time catering!

CONCERTS

October 2023 Leeds	69%	79/114
November 2023 Glasgow	67%	76/114
December 2032 Leeds	78%	89/114
February 2023 York	68%	78/114
May 2023 Leeds	80%	92/115
May/June 2023 Spain	47%	53/112

Concert participation has been very variable with the highest number being for the very well received Rossini concert in May. Perhaps understandably concerts away from Leeds show lesser participation.

REHEARSALS and VENUES

St Chad's and St Columba's have, as previously, been our usual venues and we appreciate the use of these places. We have had 42 rehearsals this year in these two venues and in the main they have been well attended. We do encourage members to come to rehearsals for all concerts even those that they are not able to sing as it is good to learn the repertoire and keep voices in trim.

AND FINALLY

As many of you know this has been a rather difficult year for me personally and so I have really appreciated the help, concern and support given to me. It is a testament to the sort of organisation we are. Thank you to you all but in particular Andrew Smith for taking on duties at the church and Siân Moxon who has undertaken extra duties at concerts and rehearsals when I have been absent.

Thank you to Simon and Rebecca as always but definitely in this audition year for their unfailing courtesy and professionalism. It is much appreciated.

Fiona Kirkby - LFC Choir Co-ordinator

Friends of Leeds Festival Chorus

Report 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024

This is the last report I will be writing as Friends Coordinator as I am relinquishing the post after the 2024 AGM.

I took on the role in March 2020 after the untimely death of Rowena Macdonald. At that time, we had around 65 Friends on the books although I am not sure how many were active. In October 2023 there were still 55 listed but only 35 actually paid a subscription. Many of these also made an extra contribution for which we are most grateful. In all we received around £1100 in contributions from Friends in the 2023-24 season. The Friends also form our largest group of supporters, and many do attend our concerts.

Why have numbers fallen? This has been a trend for some time. In 2016 the Coordinator then, Geoff Smith, noted we had 100 Friends. In 2019, we had around 65. I'm sure Covid Lockdown and closure of the Town Hall have contributed to this further decline.

Since I became Coordinator, I have not had the opportunity to meet Friends regularly at concerts. Our concert in March 2020, Elijah, was cancelled at short notice and apart from the Mahler concert in October 2021 we have not sung in the Town Hall. Thus, most of the benefits of being a Friend of LFC have disappeared. Attempts at setting up a separate 'Chairman's Bar' in St Edmund's or the York Barbican have not succeeded because of lack of appropriate space; there are no complimentary drinks or programmes; there are no benefits for ticket purchase. It is not surprising therefore that numbers have fallen and fewer ex members are becoming Friends. The same applies to Patrons, who's numbers have also fallen. I hope my successor can reverse this trend in the near future when we return to the Town Hall.

It may also be that Friends and Patrons are no longer attracted by what we offer. Some have expressed their dislike of the present venues, some of the programming. We should consider surveying them to ask what they would like from us.

The Friends continue to receive a quarterly newsletter giving information about concerts and LFC events. I am most grateful to Sally Brown and other members of the Marketing team for taking over production of the

Newsletter recently. A big improvement on my efforts. Recently the letter has contained a reflection on membership of the Chorus from a distinguished longstanding member. Others are to follow and I hope you can access these on the Chorus website.

I wish my successor best wishes in the role of Coordinator and I will be happy to assist in the handover.

John Apps

Friends' Coordinator.

friends@leedsfestivalchorus.co.uk

Concert Organiser's Report 2023-24

We began the year at St.Edmund's in October singing the **Brahms Requiem** (with 2 pianists) and the **Liebeslieder Waltzes**. The music was beautiful but sadly audience numbers were down, hampered partly by the stormy weather (storm Babet) and a clash with the Rugby World Cup semi-final.

In November we travelled to Glasgow for a successful collaboration with the City of Glasgow Chorus and the Scottish Opera Orchestra singing the **Verdi Requiem** to great acclaim in the magnificent Glasgow Royal Concert Hall under the baton of Paul Keohone.

This was followed by another well attended **Christmas Concert** at St.Edmund's where we were joined again by Naomi Simon as soloist and also by The Leeds Youth Singers.

In February we returned to the Barbican in York for another collaboration with the York Guildhall Orchestra, conducted by Simon, where we sang **Parry's Blest Pair of Sirens** and **Mendelssohn's Die Erste Valpurgisnacht** in a programme also including Elgar's Enigma Variations. This was also the first time we had sung in a concert there on a Sunday afternoon. Audience numbers were reasonable though a little lower than hoped for.

On May 11th we returned to St.Edmund's and had an excellent audience for our **Rossini Petite Messe Solennelle** with piano (Rebecca Taylor) and accordion (Ben De Souza) and four fabulous soloists. Feedback following the concert was exceptionally good, even the soloists unanimously commenting on how good the chorus had sounded. In part this may have been due to the longer run up to this concert which allowed Simon to spend more time on the detail and left many members commenting on how well prepared they felt which seems to have been reflected well in our performance. A good lesson to take forward.

Tour to Spain

At the end of May those who could set off to Northern Spain for a very successful and enjoyable Tour to Burgos, Salamanca and Valladolid. The venues were all spectacular and well supported by appreciative local audiences. With a trip to Avila, a selection of walking tours and a visit to a winery among the other attractions there was much to appreciate. Special thanks to Harriet Carlyle for her persistence and forbearance over several years in making this happen, to Emma Hammond for bravely and expertly introducing our concerts in fluent Spanish and to Simon and Rebecca for preparing, guiding and playing for us with their usual exemplary professionalism.

2024-5 Season

On 7th September we hosted a Come and Sing '**Choruses from Mendelssohn's *Elijah***' event at Leeds Art Gallery. More than 50 guest singers joined approximately 45 LFC members to (re)learn and sing, under Simon's patient and skilful tutelage, a selection of choruses from this epic work in the famous 'Tiled Hall' Café as part of the Leeds Heritage Open Days. Many thanks to Margaret Mara for arranging and organising what was a challenging event, particularly due to a late change in venue, and for everyone who helped on the day.

On 12th October we travel to Beverley Minster for a 'Choral Soirée' featuring the **Durufié *Requiem*, Gregorien *Motets* and Notre Père, Poulenc's *Penitential Motets* and Messiaen's *O sacrum convivium*.**

On 14th December we return to St.Edmund's for another **Christmas Concert** with Simon conducting and this time featuring Bernard Robertson on organ and piano and Sebastian Williman on trumpet. We have invited the Leeds Youth Singers to join us again (not yet confirmed).

On 21st December we will be singing a selection of **Carols** at **Fountains Abbey** from 2-3pm.

Due to the ongoing difficulties with finding suitable venues while the Town Hall remains closed, the schedule for 2025 is not yet confirmed. However, we are working on several exciting options and hope to be able to confirm more events in the near future.

Please accept my apologies for the uncertainty around next year's programme but hopefully it will be worth the wait.

The latest news on the Town Hall is that the contract for works on the Leeds Town Hall refurbishment project is due to finish in January 2026. That is, of course, no guarantee that it will be open for concerts immediately afterwards but it is at least a step in the right direction.

My particular thanks this year go again to Siân M for managing our St.Edmund's concerts with her usual efficiency and skill and for all the help and guidance she gives me through the year and also to Margaret Mara for continuing her work to provide exciting new opportunities for the chorus.

James Moxon
Concert Organiser

FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE (FRASC) REPORT September 2024

FRASC has taken a bit of a back seat this year in favour of all the organisation required around the summer tour to Spain. Nonetheless, some fundraising activities have taken place throughout the year, thanks to the brilliant FRASC team, and we have donated around **£3,400** to the chorus.

We kicked off with the traditional post-rehearsal **Christmas Bring and Buy sale**. With post-sale purchases inside and outside the chorus, we made over £1,000! Thanks to everyone who baked, bottled and donated lovely Christmas gifts, with special thanks to Fiona Kirkby, who raised around £160 from her Christmas puddings (and homemade mincemeat) alone. Shout outs also for the 2nd hand bookshop, sales and bar teams, and those that set up their own stalls. Particular thanks to Irene Hall, who generously donated all the proceeds of her tablet stall to the chorus. This was the first time that I had been away for the Bring and Buy sale for many years, but Siân Lomax ably stepped as chief coordinator on the day. Thank you, Siân!

There will be a repeat performance this year on Wednesday 27th November, so please dust down your mixing bowls and jam pans and get your baking and making hats on.....and if you have friends or family that would like a stall, let me know.

Other fundraising and social activities have quietly continued through the year. The FRASC **weekly raffle** so efficiently managed by Margaret Whaley has raised just over £900, whilst Chris Short's occasional music sales have also added to the coffers.

In June, Ken and Judith Beaty **opened their stunning garden** just outside Rawdon to the chorus and their friends and families. A beautiful garden on a beautiful day with a delicious afternoon tea organised by Margaret Mara and June Apps – what a great way to spend a summer's afternoon! Not only that, but Margaret's ticket sales raised a fantastic £780 for the chorus.

Wine evenings (pop-up bar) after rehearsals at St Chad's have continued with some this year at the request of people celebrating milestone birthdays or chorus membership anniversaries. Celebrating these has proved very popular with everyone! Thanks also to Simon for buying a (very large) round at the end of term! It would be great if more people could help us with these pop-up bars, so if you think two or three of you could band together and run a wine evening, please let me or any of FRASC know. It's very easy and a great way to meet other chorus members.

FRASC and an excellent team of "clapping section" volunteers also run the **interval bar at the St Edmund's concerts**, allowing us to raise between £200 and £400 each time.

Finally, to **Spain**. Although the intention was for the tour to break even, income was greater than expected as more people joined the tour than had been anticipated when the budget was set. The surplus was used to pay Simon and Rebecca's fees and allowances whilst on tour, which would otherwise have been underwritten by the chorus. So, fundraising of a sort and perhaps making up for not having a big summer fund raiser this year.

Also on the subject of Spain, a huge thank to Emma Hammond (Slater) for her fabulous series of pre-rehearsal **Spanish lessons**. We all enjoyed them enormously and I for one will never forget how to order a black tea with hot water and cold milk on the side!! Not only that, but Emma raised £400 for chorus funds in the process.

Siân Lomax also contributed to the coffers by organising **tour T-shirts and polo shirts**, which were enthusiastically taken up by those travelling to Spain. She will be arranging LFC hoodies and sweatshirts this term, so watch out for announcements from Siân!

As I mentioned in last year's report, FRASC's focus has been on fundraising rather than social events. This is because active FRASC members are comparatively few in number and partly because we perceive there to be limited interest from the choir in social events outside rehearsals. If this isn't the case and you have some great ideas for social events (or fundraisers) and would be happy to help us organise them, then please let us know.

In any case, we would love for more people to join the team. Our meetings are usually fun (nothing to do with the chat, drinks and good food, of course!). If you would like to join us, helping to raise funds for the chorus and maybe get back to organising social events, then please have a chat with me or anyone in the brilliant FRASC team: Fiona Kirkby (executive chef), Margaret Whaley (long-suffering treasurer), Siân Lomax, Heather Newton and Julie Tomkins.

Harriet Carlyle

FRASC Chair

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS

England & Wales - Charity number 517127

Accounts

Leeds Festival Chorus

**Annual Report
2022/23 Season**

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS

**Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year ended 31 July 2023**

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Registered Charity 517127		

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is an unincorporated body governed by its constitution and guidelines issued by the Charity Commission.

Trustees (Executive Committee)

Elected Officers:

John Apps	Chairman/Treasurer
Andrew Smith (resigned 19.10.22)	Administrative Secretary/Treasurer
Peter Coltman (resigned 19.10.22)	Concerts Organiser
Fiona Kirkby	Choir Coordinator

Other trustees in the year were as follows:

Emma Elgie	Elizabeth Palmer (appointed 19.10.22)
Chris Foren (appointed 19.10.22)	Anna Pitt (resigned 19.10.22)
Margaret Mara	Gillian Riley (resigned 19.10.22)
James Moxon	Judith Scott

Appointment and recruitment of Trustees

The executive committee works with the Artistic Advisor (the conductor) to run Leeds Festival Chorus in accordance with the Constitution. The full committee are elected on a three yearly basis at the Annual General Meeting. All Chorus members are encouraged to consider standing.

Legal and Administrative Information

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission Number 517127.

The charity's address is:-

c/o Dr J M Apps
Foxhill Cottage
Weetwood Lane
Leeds
LS16 5PJ

The charity's bankers are:-

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue,
Kings Hill, West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

The charity's independent examiner is:-

Andrew Wilkinson FCA
Malcolm Jones & Co Limited
Accountants and Business Advisors
West Hill House
Allerton Hill
Chapel Allerton
Leeds LS7 3QB

Objects

The objects of the charity are to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public events.

Review of Activities and Achievements

The charity achieved its aims in the period under review by continuing to promote and deliver choral concerts. The closure of Leeds Town Hall for refurbishment continued to have a significant effect on concert income. It was noticeable that audience sizes were larger than last year as people were less reluctant to come to public events. We have performed 6 concerts with improved audience sizes.

Reserves Policy

The charity's policy on reserves is to ensure that sufficient unrestricted net current assets (liquid reserves) are maintained to enable the charity to continue for at least the next twelve months in the event that there is an unpredicted and/or significant drop in income levels. The Trustees consider that the current level of liquid reserves (£42,681) is greater than 12 months worth of unrestricted ordinary expenditure (£40,887), but is less than the expected expenditure of £46,000 to £50,000 in 2023/24. Accordingly the Trustees will continue to monitor the situation.

Risk management

The Trustees examine the major risks that the charity faces each financial year when considering their plans and annual budgets. The charity has controls in place to control these risks and mitigate any impact they may have on the charity's future.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit.

Financial Review

The reserves of the charity are both restricted and unrestricted in nature. As noted in the Reserves policy above, the Trustees are of the opinion that the levels of reserves may not be adequate in exceptional circumstances to meet future expenditure and to fulfil the charity's ongoing aims and objectives. There is a surplus on ordinary activities for the year of £12,854 (2022 - £10,119 deficit) which has been added to reserves. The total reserves at the year end amount to £68,437 (2022 - £55,583) of which £6,079 (2022 - £6,079) are restricted.

On behalf of the Trustees

.....
John Apps, Chairman

26 September 2023

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS**

**LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year ended 31 July 2023**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 July 2023 which are set out on pages 4 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanation from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andrew Wilkinson FCA
Malcolm Jones & Co Limited
Accountants & Business Advisors
West Hill House
Allerton Hill
Chapel Allerton
Leeds
LS7 3QB

26 September 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 31.07.23	Total Funds 31.07.22
				£	£
Incoming resources:					
Voluntary income	6	41,692	-	41,692	34,693
Activities for generating funds	8	9,310	-	9,310	2,784
Investment income	9	537	-	537	31
Incoming resources from charitable activities	10	2,202	-	2,202	2,014
Total incoming resources:		53,741	-	53,741	39,522
Resources expended:					
Costs of generating voluntary income	11	266	-	266	316
Fundraising & trading costs	12	34,017	-	34,017	41,654
Charitable activities	13	1,100	-	1,100	1,100
Governance costs	14	5,504	-	5,504	6,571
Total resources expended		40,887	-	40,887	49,641
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources on ordinary activities for the year		12,854	-	12,854	(10,119)
Exceptional item	15	-	-	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year		12,854	-	12,854	(10,119)
Total charity funds brought forward		49,504	6,079	55,583	65,702
Total charity funds carried forward		62,358	6,079	68,437	55,583

The notes on pages 6 to 10 form part of these accounts.

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	2	19,677	19,731
Current Assets			
Other debtors	3	264	434
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>68,011</u>	<u>43,951</u>
		68,275	44,385
Current Liabilities			
Creditors & accrued expenses	4	<u>19,515</u>	<u>8,533</u>
Net current assets		48,760	35,852
Net assets		<u>68,437</u>	<u>55,583</u>
Represented by:			
FUNDS			
Restricted income funds:			
Balance at 1 August 2022		6,079	6,079
Net incoming resources for the year		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		6,079	6,079
Unrestricted income funds:			
Balance at 1 August 2022		49,504	59,623
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year		<u>12,854</u>	<u>(10,119)</u>
		62,358	49,504
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	5	<u>68,437</u>	<u>55,583</u>

Approved by the Trustees

.....
 John Apps, Chairman

For and on behalf of the Trustees

26 September 2023

The notes on pages 6 to 10 form part of these accounts.

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2023

1. Accounting Policies

General

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Incoming Resources

All income is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), when it becomes receivable.

Resources Expended

All resources expended are recognised on an accruals basis, in the period in which they are incurred.

Grants Payable

Grants payable are included in the SOFA when agreed by the Trustees.

Funds Structure Policy

Funds comprise unrestricted income funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the charity's objectives, and restricted funds which are dealt with and presented in accordance with the terms attaching to each separate restricted fund.

Tangible Assets

Tangible assets are capitalised at cost including any incidental expenses of Acquisition. A wear and tear allowance is provided at 10% on a reducing balance basis in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life and reflects the wish of the trustees to account for losses/damage etc. to its music library.

2. Tangible Assets

	Music Library
	£
At valuation	
At 1 August 2022	19,731
Additions in the year	2,132
Wear and tear provision (10%)	(2,186)
	<u>19,677</u>
At 31 July 2023	<u>19,677</u>

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2023 (cont)

3. Other debtors	2023		2022
	£		£
Prepayments	264		434
Corporate sponsors	-		-
	<u>264</u>		<u>434</u>
4. Creditors	2023		2022
	£		£
Accrued expenses	<u>19,515</u>		<u>8,533</u>
5. Funds	2022	Movement	2023
	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds			
Music Library	19,731	(54)	19,677
General Fund	29,773	12,908	42,681
	<u>49,504</u>	<u>12,854</u>	<u>62,358</u>
Restricted Funds			
Chorus Master Scholarship Monies	1,471	-	1,471
Music to my Ears	4,608	-	4,608
	<u>6,079</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,079</u>
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	<u>55,583</u>	<u>12,854</u>	<u>68,437</u>
6. Voluntary Income	Note	31.07.23	31.07.22
		£	£
Members' subscriptions		21,049	20,027
Friends' subscriptions		1,256	1,375
Tax refund on covenanted subscriptions		6,135	4,684
Fundraising and social group		5,676	1,750
Grants, donations and sponsorship	7	7,076	6,857
Legacies	7	500	-
		<u>41,692</u>	<u>34,693</u>

Grants, donations, sponsorship, patrons and legacies

	31.07.23	31.07.22
	£	£
Miscellaneous donations	488	3,904
Carol Sponsorship	1,290	-
Ticket Donations	664	-
J Apps	150	175
S Archbold	-	35
Olav Arnold Charitable Trust	1,000	1,000
M Beer	300	300
B Brickles	50	-
D Brickles in memory of B Brickles	500	-
J Hartigan in memory of T Hartigan	500	-
N Jones	300	300
M Kirkby	-	160
T Lusty	-	20
W Mordy	-	300
J Moxon	267	-
A Smith	130	12
M Stanyard	-	156
D Strachan	-	175
E Walker	60	-
Maurice Wilson in memory of Muriel Wilson	1,000	-
Rev M Winbolt-Lewis	300	300
S Winbolt-Lewis	50	-
S Wright	27	20
	<u>7,076</u>	<u>6,857</u>
Legacies		
Muriel Wilson	500	-
	<u>7,576</u>	<u>6,857</u>
Activities for generating funds		
	31.07.23	31.07.22
	£	£
Concerts and recitals	<u>9,310</u>	<u>2,784</u>
Investment income		
	31.07.23	31.07.22
	£	£
Bank interest received	<u>537</u>	<u>31</u>
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
	31.07.23	31.07.22
	£	£
Library income	<u>2,202</u>	<u>2,014</u>

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2023 (cont)

11. Costs of generating voluntary income	31.07.23 £	31.07.22 £
Publicity programmes, brochures and advertising	266	316
12. Fundraising & trading costs	31.07.23 £	31.07.22 £
Hire of music	1,039	1,053
Concert costs	10,346	17,767
Rehearsal costs	22,632	22,834
	34,017	41,654
13. Charitable activities	31.07.23 £	31.07.22 £
Donations	1,100	1,100
14. Governance costs	31.07.23 £	31.07.22 £
Subscriptions and insurance	629	618
Accountancy and Independent Examiner's fee	1,450	1,509
Friends' and patrons' expenses	43	401
Sundry expenses	300	184
Consultancy fees	-	-
Website costs and design	15	500
Zoom costs	144	144
Library expenses	673	503
Music storage	-	390
Music wear and tear allowance	2,186	2,193
Bank charges	64	129
	5,504	6,571
15. Trustees Remuneration		
No Trustees or any persons connected with them have received remuneration (2022 – nil).		
16. Trustees Expenses		
One Trustee (2022 – four) has been reimbursed out of pocket expenses totalling £266 (2022 - £371).		

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2023 (cont)

17. Staff Costs and Emoluments

There were no employees with emoluments in the year (2022 – nil).

18. Cost of Independent Examination

Preparation of accounts and associated costs were £1,450 (2022 - £1,509).

Treasurer's Report 2022-23

This was a busy year for the choir, with a significant improvement in the size of audiences, and in the choir's finances.

Once again we have been affected by the closure of Leeds Town Hall for refurbishment, as reopening has been delayed considerably. This has the effect of saving us money, as concerts there are more expensive than our other concerts. But it also has not allowed us to perform in large scale concerts in Leeds, and we haven't had the opportunity to perform to large audiences here.

We have continued to gain by the generosity of members and friends, particularly for the Christmas concert where sponsorship of the music raised £1270. But we have no sponsors now for our concerts, and only 5 patrons (down to 4 patrons in 2023/24, as one patron died during the year.)

I would like to draw your attention to the following

1. Page 4: Statement of Financial Activities.
 - You can see that total income rose substantially from £39.5k to £53.7k.
 - Voluntary income (note 6 - which includes FRASC – see page 7) rose from £34.7k to £41.7k, with donations etc (which is included in this figure) increasing by £719.
 - Note 8 - The income from generating funds (concerts etc) was £9,310, a big increase on £2,784 the previous year. However it is still low compared to the year ending 2021 when it was £25k.
 - Library income was £2202, compared to £2014 last year – thanks to Mike Croft for his work in handling this.
2. Resources expended on ordinary activities decreased from £49.6k to £40.9k, with fundraising and trading costs falling from £41.6k to £34k.
3. Governance costs have also fallen in the year, from £6571 to £5404.
4. Our funds show a surplus over the year of £12854, compared to a deficit of £10,119 the previous year. That is a considerable improvement and will help us when we are able to resume concerts in Leeds Town Hall.
5. Page 6: Tangible Assets. The balance sheet shows a small increase in the value of the music library. The main purchase was 100 new copies of Belshazzar's Feast, we also spent money on printing the 2 Catalan Songs that were given to us by Roderick Williams, and purchased copies of Sally Beamish's Good Wish.
6. Page 7: Debtors have fallen, it varies from year to year. Creditors have also increased significantly because we received £14,200 in deposits for the Spanish trip. Cash at bank rose from £54.8k to £68.4k, but this includes deposits for Spain, so would be £54.2K without them. This leaves the Chorus with net assets at the year end of £68.4k up from £55.6 the previous year.

It is worth noting here that if we subtract the Spanish deposits from the money in the bank then we have £54.2k, which is 1% less than at the end of last year. While it is good that this has not gone down significantly, recent levels of inflation mean that the effect is greater. The inflation rate for August was 6.3%, so that money will buy 6.3% less than it did a year previously.
7. Page 7: A few years ago, we started to make a provision in the accounts for the re-auditions each year, rather than it being a hit every 3 years. This figure is in section 4 page 7 (this also includes the Spain deposits paid). We have not added to that figure this year as we have not yet restarted re-auditions.

The standard Chorus subscription has been increased to £185, effective from September 2023. This money is used to cover the rehearsals costs.

Most of the proceeds from the Grand Raffle that was held in June and July are included in this year's accounts. The Fund Raising and Social Committee (FRASC) have a separate bank account, which received the money paid for raffle tickets. Nearly £3000 has been transferred to the main bank account by the end of our financial year. About £250 will be transferred when all the proceeds and costs have been assessed.

Finally, over recent years we have received from money left to us in the wills of members and former members. If you are making or changing your will, please think about adding Leeds Festival Chorus to the beneficiaries.

Richard Thomson (Treasurer)

Marketing Group Report

Prepared by Elizabeth Palmer, September 2023

Our primary roles and objectives are:

- Communicating and engaging with Chorus members
- Publicising and promoting concerts
- Increasing the public profile of the Chorus
- Attracting new members

What we did last year

Communicating and engaging with Chorus members

- Established a weekly email to go out to Chorus members so that all updates come in the same email, rather than sporadically.
- Launched the members' area on the website as a space to store information for members.

Website

- Added events and news items to the website.
- Technical website maintenance.

Social media

- Posted about rehearsals and concerts.
- Interacted with other groups on social media e.g. liking, sharing, commenting.
- Paid Facebook advertising for concerts and open rehearsal.
- Started a Leeds Festival Chorus Instagram account (@leedsfestivalchorus).

Flyers and Programmes

- Content and design for our own concerts (Christmas and Summer Wishes).
- Annual LFC brochure.
- Delivered flyers across Leeds.

Other - Publicising and promoting concerts/Attracting new members

- Writing and sending out emails to our external mailing list.
- We advertised joining our mailing list when people booked tickets for the Summer Wishes concert and this resulted in 16 people joining the mailing list.
- Listing events on Leeds Inspired, which was pulled through to other local events listings.
- Promoting our events to members of other musical groups in Leeds.

We also manage the selling of tickets for our concerts at St Edmund's Church. This is led by **Andrew Smith**, who produces the ticket maps on TryBooking and organises the sale of tickets on the door of the concert.

Members of the marketing team are Andrew Smith, Christine Hamill, Emma Elgie, Elizabeth Palmer, Mac Burnell, Mary Magorrian, Richard Wilcocks and Sally Brown.

We are also supported by Irene Hall, who focuses on the technical side of the website and emails.

Goals for 2023-24

Our goals for the upcoming year include:

- Improving the consistency of our social media posts and use of the website.
- Chorus member recruitment - we are currently developing a recruitment presentation to encourage new members to join.
- Strengthen relationships with other musical groups in Leeds.
- Grow our external mailing list.
- Ensure that the team is future-proofed.
- Build our numbers of good-quality images of the Chorus.

How can you help?

We are always happy to receive help and support from members of the Chorus, even if you do not want to join the Marketing group. Some ways you can help us are:

- Sharing physical flyers or social media posts.
- Sending us content such as photos of Chorus events, or news items for the website.
- Letting us know if you spot a good opportunity for promotion.
- Sharing any photos of our concerts and rehearsals that you have.

If there is another opportunity you have spotted please do let us know. You can contact the Marketing group at marketing@leedsfestivalchorus.co.uk, or speak to one of the team at a rehearsal.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the members of the Marketing group for their hard work this year.

Scores for our rehearsals and concerts

About 4,600 scores were issued for rehearsals and our performances during the year ended July 2023. Nearly 2,000 of these were for a single concert - our concert of largely British music at St Edmund's Roundhay in May 2023.

A substantial proportion of the scores issued were already owned by LFC, and these included our first use of scores from the Ian McCrorie Collection, the purchase of which I reported a year ago. Hires were very conveniently made of several sets of scores from Leeds Music Library, with other hires during the year from Ampleforth College (at no charge through Simon's good offices, so with grateful thanks), the Community and Youth Music Library in London, Congleton Choral Society, Glasgow Chamber Choir, and the Phoenix Singers of Shrewsbury. Purchases of new scores for our use during the year (and for our subsequent own use and for potential hire-outs) included *Sally Beamish: Good Wish*, several arrangements / editions by Simon (including *Sibelius: Finlandia* and *Wood: Full fathom five*) and prints from the online International Music Score Library Project (*Fauré: Pavane* and *Beethoven: Chor der Engel / Hallelujah Chorus* from *Christus am Ölberge*).

Of the 4,600 or so scores issued during the year, only three have not been returned at the time of writing this report. LFC has received full recompense for one of these, and discussions are proceeding regarding the other two.

Hiring out scores

28 sets of scores, involving a total of over 1,400 individual scores from our stock of 30,000 or more, were hired out to various choirs nation-wide in the year to July 2023. These included several hires from the Ian McCrorie Collection. On the rare occasions when full sets have not been returned, full recompense or replacement copies have been provided by the hirer. My favourite composers for this year in order of hire-out value are (1) Vaughan Williams, (2) Rutter (ed), (3) Delius.

Thanks

As ever, I am grateful to the many members who sign the sign-up sheets legibly, on the correct line, and return scores promptly. The latter is particularly important when I have to return hired scores within tight deadlines. Do please continue.

I referred in last year's report to the move of the library store from one unit to another at Croydon House, Holbeck, but the move actually took place in the year to July 2023, so it is worth mentioning again with my grateful thanks to Lloyd Davies, Chris Foren and David Hall for helping with the hard labour involved – over 30,000 scores weigh a lot of kilograms, not to mention the shelving!

Last but by no means least, Lloyd Davies has been very ready at various times during the year to help with issuing scores at busy times and when I have been absent. Peter Bloodworth and John Dickinson have also helped with this. I am extremely grateful to them all for that invaluable assistance.

Looking ahead

I have been Librarian for five years now and I ran the hire-out operation for nearly three years before that for my predecessor. I am happy to continue, but I am equally happy to step down if another member wishes to take over. If anyone wants to talk that over with me, please do so. The getting-scores-in and the hiring-out parts of the job can be done almost 100% independently, and doing one of those jobs (as I did) would be an easy way in.

Mike Croft
Librarian

Slowly but surely rehearsals have returned to how they were pre-pandemic and it is good to see this. The choir is smaller than it was but there are signs that people are returning to singing once more. Do encourage musical friends to come along and give LFC a try.

CHOIR MEMBERSHIP

We started the new season with 111 members. Over the course of this year the following have left the choir.

Sopranos	Altos	Tenor	Bass
Ailie Kerrane		Andrew Pearson	Anthony Picton
Stephanie Peay		David Williams	Mark Savege
Sue Winbolt-Lewis			Jeff Trigg

All of the above have given sterling service to the choir and it has been much appreciated. In particular, Sue Winbolt-Lewis supported the choir through her many years as concerts organiser – a job requiring much tact, patience and hard work! Mark Savege has been a soloist for us on numerous occasions acquitting himself in an excellent manner. Both Stephanie and Andrew together with other more recent members of the choir have said how important the choir has been to them and how much they have enjoyed the music and friendship which has come with membership. We thank them for their contribution to our musical activities and wish them all the best. I hope that we shall see those still living locally, at future concerts.

RECRUITMENT

For the first time for two years we had an Open Evening. Held on September 28th - the attendance was rather sparse with 6 potential singers attending with 3 coming forward for audition. Over the remainder of the season we have had a further 10 people sitting in. However, it is not necessarily how many people come forward to audition but how many are successful that is important. Including those from the open evening we have auditioned 13 people of whom 11 were successful. It has been particularly good to see some singers who were previously members return to LFC. Successful singers names are below.

SOPRANO	ALTO	TENOR	BASS
Harriet Chauhan	Griet Beyaerts	Kurt Langfeld	Desmond Quinn
Sonja Langfeld	Phoebe Grange	Nick Salmon	
Emma Mitchell		David Williams	
Rachel Sykes			
Rebecca Yeadon			

Friends of Leeds Festival Chorus

Report 1st October 2022 to 30th September 2023

TRIENNIAL AUDITIONS

These are due to take place in summer 2024.

CONCERTS

October 2022 York	62%	62/111
December 2022 Leeds	86%	99/115
February 2023 York	72%	82/114
May 2023 Leeds	73%	85/116
June 2023 Sheffield	79%	93/118

It is good to report that participation in concerts has improved from last year.

REHEARSALS and VENUES

St Chad's and St Columba's have, as previously, been our usual venues and we appreciate the use of these places. We have had 48 rehearsals this year in total and in the main they have been well attended. We do encourage members to come to rehearsals for concerts that they are not able to sing as it is good to learn the repertoire and keep voices in trim.

AND FINALLY

The choir is always a great support but I would particularly like to thank all those who have helped me at various concerts this year. Peter Coltman, Becky Lacey, Katie Turner and Siân Moxon have provided much appreciated help and assistance on numerous occasions – thank you all. Simon and Rebecca continue to make rehearsals both an educational and enjoyable experience and that always makes Wednesday evenings something to look forward to. As always our thanks go to them.

Fiona Kirkby - LFC Choir Co-ordinator

As I predicted in last year's report, the number of Friends has fallen again. As at 1st October 2022, 36 had paid subs for the year. In addition we had 3 Complementary and 2 Honorary Friends. Several Friends made extra donations in addition to their subscriptions of either £20, £35 or £60.

We received £770 in subscriptions and £290 in donations making a total income of £1060 for the chorus.

Sadly, during the year four friends, who were also former members of the chorus, have died. The Chorus was well represented at their funerals and life celebrating events and were delighted to be able to sing on those occasions.

We are very grateful that their families made most generous donations and along with a legacy from one former Friend, we received a further £2,500.

The Friends continue to receive a quarterly newsletter from me, including details of upcoming concerts. Several attended our Christmas concert and the Coronation Celebration in May, but I suspect many were reluctant to travel to York and Sheffield.

Please encourage your relatives and friends to become 'Friends' of LFC. They can contact me on-

friends@leedsfestivalchorus.co.uk

John Apps

Friends' Coordinator.

Concert Organiser's Report 2022-23

Team changes – Peter Coltman had indicated last year that he intended to step down but has kindly continued in a very active 'caretaker' role while handing duties over gradually during the year. He will be stepping back fully from the role after the AGM and we must extend a huge vote of thanks for all that he has done in this role for the Chorus over the last few years. Thank you Peter!

Becky Lacey also indicated her intention to step down but, after the success of the concert in February 2023 has kindly agreed to support the Concert Organising team with the York Barbican concert in February 2024.

Siân Moxon took over as concert organiser for the St. Edmund's concerts for last year's Christmas concert and our 'Summer wishes' concert in May and has settled into her new role with great aplomb.

James Moxon has been acting as liaison between the Committee and the Concert Organising team since last year's AGM and will be standing for election as Concert Organiser at the AGM.

This has been a very busy year!

In October 2022 about 50 singers attended a very successful weekend at Giggleswick School organised by Margaret Mara. Simon introduced us to some of the repertoire we would be using in May and there was a very enjoyable vocal training workshop and question and answer session with internationally acclaimed soprano Lynne Dawson. There was also time for some exploration of the area including a guided walk and there was much good LFC social activity including a bar and Quiz night.

In November we were invited to sing the **Fauré Requiem** at St. Bartholomew's. Although the congregation, sadly was quite small on the day it was an enjoyable experience for those taking part to sing the Requiem in its intended liturgical setting.

In December we were at St. Edmund's for a **Christmas Concert** featuring Naomi Simon who had just been confirmed as the BBC Young Chorister of the Year. This was a great success with all the tickets sold and made a significant profit for chorus funds. Much credit must go to Siân Moxon, in her first concert as chief organiser, for pulling everything together so well.

In February 2023 we were back at the York Barbican with Simon conducting the York Guildhall Orchestra in an 'All Beethoven' concert. We sang the Angels Hallelujah Chorus (**Welten singen dank und ehre**) from Christ on the Mount of Olives and **'Meeresstille und Glückliche Fahrt'** sandwiched between the Egmont overture and the overture to Fidelio and then finished with the mighty **Beethoven's 9th Symphony**. Many thanks to Becky Lacey for all her work in pulling this together.

In May we sang a programme entitled 'Summer Wishes' with a mainly English programme including a new piece by Sally Beamish, **'Good Wish'** and a world première of our patron Roderick Williams' **'Two Catalan Songs'**. This also drew an excellent audience and resulted in only a very small loss.

In June a trip to Sheffield to sing the **Verdi Requiem** with the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus and the Hallé Orchestra under the baton of Sofi Jeannin was well supported and feedback from the chorus and from Sheffield was very positive.

Most recently in September 50 or so chorus members were led by Rebecca Taylor in a 'Come and Sing' event at Leeds Minster and were joined by a similar number of non-LFC members from various parts of the country to learn and present the **Fauré Requiem** with two excellent young soloists. Well done, and many thanks to Rebecca for taking on that challenge so successfully and for Margaret Mara for seamlessly organising this event as part of Leeds Heritage Open Days scheme.

Leeds Town Hall

Looking ahead I think it is very important that the Chorus is fully aware of the uncertainty around the re-opening of Leeds Town Hall following the extensive refurbishments which are currently still ongoing. The latest updates we have had have been very vague but seem to suggest that it is unlikely the Town Hall will be ready for any concerts before the Autumn of 2025 at the very earliest.

From a concert planning and organising point of view this has made it extremely difficult to make any concrete plans for larger concerts in Leeds and I would ask the Chorus to be patient with us while negotiate the next couple of seasons. Rest assured that we are looking at providing an interesting and varied programme of events while we await an anticipated return to our more usual concert structure in due course.

As our External Opportunities Officer, Margaret Mara has been beavering away looking for new and exciting openings for us to show off our skills and the Programme Suggestion Group (PSG) has recently met again to move the planning forward using the repertoire suggestions gathered from the Chorus last year and further ideas from our professionals and the PSG members. We will keep you informed as and when plans become settled.

2023/24 season

We look forward to presenting the **Brahms Requiem** (with 2 pianists) and **Liebeslieder Waltzes** at St. Edmunds in October, **Verdi Requiem** with the Scottish Opera Orchestra in Glasgow under Paul Keohone in November and our own **Christmas Concert** at St. Edmund's on 16th December when we see a return of Naomi Simon, who sang so beautifully last year, as our soloist.

On Sunday 11th February at 3.30pm we will be hosted again by the York Guildhall Orchestra at the York Barbican to sing Parry's **Blest Pair of Sirens** and Mendelssohn's **Die Erste Walpurgisnacht** in a programme that also includes Elgar's Enigma Variations.

On 11th May we are back at St. Edmund's for Rossini's **Petite Messe Solennelle** with piano and accordion.

26th May – 1st June **Spanish Tour** to Salamanca

2024/25 season

Details are still to be confirmed but we are looking to start with a trip to a new venue for us at **Beverley Minster** in October 2024, then a return to St.Edmund's for another Christmas Concert on 14th December and a visit to **Fountains Abbey** to sing carols on 21st December

Peter Coltman
Becky Lacey
Siân Moxon
Lloyd Davies
James Moxon (committee liaison)

FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE (FRASC) REPORT September 2023

The clue is in the title. FRASC's role is not only to organise events to ensure that the chorus is a sociable as well as a musical organisation, but also to complement external fundraising activities by raising money through harnessing the chorus's many talents. Wherever possible, we try and satisfy both our remits by making fundraising a fun activity involving chorus members, and their families and friends.

FRASC's focus this year has been on getting fund raising activities going again rather than on social events. This is in part due to FRASC being comparatively limited in number since committee members retired during the Covid years and partly because we perceive there to be limited interest from the choir in social events outside rehearsals. If this isn't the case and you have some great ideas for social events (or fundraisers) and would be happy to help us organise them, then please let us know!

In the last year, we have raised just over **£6,000**, of which around **£5,000** has been donated to the chorus to date.

Fund raising activities kicked off with the pre-Covid tradition of a post-rehearsal **Christmas Bring and Buy sale**. With post-sale purchases inside and outside the chorus, we raised an almost record-breaking £1,310! Thanks to everyone who baked, bottled and donated lovely Christmas gifts, with special thanks to Fiona Kirkby, who raised over £200 from her Christmas puddings alone. Shout outs also for John Dickinson, who continued to raise money for the chorus from his beautiful wood-turning and now-retired LFC tenor, Chris Short for his 2nd hand bookshop. There will be a repeat performance this year on 29th November, so please dust down your mixing bowls and get your baking and making hats on.....and if you have friends or family that would like a stall, let me know.

Our other big fundraiser of the year was the **Grand Summer Raffle**, which raised an amazing £3,240. Nearly everyone in the chorus (at least, it felt that way!) either donated a prize themselves or clubbed together to buy a group prize. It meant that we had a fantastic prize list that included a holiday cottage stay and dinner in a Michelin starred restaurant, vouchers for Betty's and Grantley Hall, Rudding Park, John Lewis, an RHS membership, and theatre and book tokens. Not to mention cases of wine and fizz, vintage whisky, home-smoked salmon, a delux chocolate cake, a Fitbit watch and some original art. Nobody could resist!! A huge thank you to everyone for helping to make such a success of the raffle but particularly to those who donated and/or co-ordinated such a great set of prizes.

Sandwiched in between, the **weekly raffle** managed by Margaret Whaley has raised over £840 this year, whilst Chris Short's **music sales** have also added to the coffers.

Wine evenings (pop-up bar) after rehearsals at St Chad's have restarted, though on a rather ad-hoc basis than previously. Thanks to those who have celebrated personal or chorus milestones by buying a round of drinks – it is very generous of you! It would be great if more people could help us with these, so if you think three or four of you could band together and run a wine evening, please let me or any of FRASC know. It's very easy and a great way to meet other chorus members.

FRASC and an excellent team of “clapping section” volunteers also run the interval bar at the St Edmund’s concerts, allowing us to raise between £200 and £400 each time.

If you would like to join us, helping to raise funds for the chorus and maybe get back to organising social events, then please have a chat with me or anyone in the brilliant FRASC team: Fiona Kirkby (executive chef), Margaret Whaley (long-suffering treasurer), Heather Newton, Siân Lomax and Julie Tomkins.

Harriet Carlyle

FRASC Chair

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS

England & Wales - Charity number 517127

Accounts

Leeds Festival Chorus

Annual Report
2021/22 Season

**Annual Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements for the
Year ended 31 July 2022
For
LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS**

Registered Charity 517127

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 July 2022

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LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Trustees' Annual Report for the Year ended 31 July 2022

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is an unincorporated body governed by its constitution and guidelines issued by the Charity Commission.

Trustees (Executive Committee)

Elected Officers:

John Apps	Chairman
Andrew Smith	Administrative Secretary/Treasurer
Peter Coltman	Concerts Organiser
Fiona Kirkby	Choir Coordinator

Other trustees in the year were as follows:

Emma Bates	Margaret Mara
Mac Burnell (resigned 06.10.21)	James Moxon (appointed 06.10.21)
Harriet Carlyle (resigned 06.10.21)	Anna Pitt (appointed 06.10.21)
Michael Croft (resigned 06.10.21)	Gillian Riley (appointed 06.10.21)
Mary Crothers (resigned 06.10.21)	Judith Scott (appointed 06.10.21)
Jonathan Lacey (resigned 18.02.22)	

Appointment and recruitment of Trustees

The executive committee works with the Artistic Advisor (the conductor) to run Leeds Festival Chorus in accordance with the Constitution. The full committee are elected on an annual basis at the Annual General Meeting. All Chorus members are encouraged to consider standing.

Legal and Administrative Information

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission Number 517127.

The charity's address is:-

c/o Dr A Smith
28 Boroughbridge Road
Knaresborough
HG5 0NJ

The charity's bankers are:-

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue,
Kings Hill, West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

The charity's independent examiner is:-

Andrew Wilkinson FCA
Malcolm Jones & Co Limited
Accountants and Business Advisors
West Hill House
Allerton Hill
Chapel Allerton
Leeds LS7 3QB

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Trustees' Annual Report for the Year ended 31 July 2022 (cont)

Objects

The objects of the charity are to promote, 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 and recitals and in such other ways as the charity through its Executive Committee shall determine from time to time.

Review of Activities and Achievements

The charity achieved its aims in the period under review by continuing to promote and deliver choral concerts. Two factors had a significant effect on concert income during the year – the closure of Leeds Town Hall for refurbishment, and the reluctance of people to attend concerts in the Covid era. We have performed 5 concerts, and all of the audiences have been considerably smaller than at pre-pandemic concerts.

Reserves Policy

The charity's policy on reserves is to ensure that sufficient unrestricted net current assets (liquid reserves) are maintained to enable the charity to continue for at least the next twelve months in the event that there is an unpredicted and/or significant drop in income levels. The Trustees consider that the current level of liquid reserves (£28,048) is less than 12 months worth of unrestricted ordinary expenditure (£51,366) and therefore does not meet the requirements of this policy. Accordingly the committee is undertaking steps to rectify this issue.

Risk management

The Trustees examine the major risks that the charity faces each financial year when considering their plans and annual budgets. The charity has controls in place to control these risks and mitigate any impact they may have on the charity's future.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit.

Financial Review

The reserves of the charity are both restricted and unrestricted in nature.

As noted in the Reserves policy above, the Trustees are of the opinion that the levels of reserves may not be adequate in exceptional circumstances to meet future expenditure and to fulfil the charity's ongoing aims and objectives. There is a deficit on ordinary activities for the year of £10,119 (2021 - £9,212 surplus) which has been taken from reserves. The total reserves at the year end amount to £55,583 (2021 - £65,702) of which £6,079 (2021 - £6,079) are restricted.

On behalf of the Trustees

.....
John Apps, Chairman

19 October 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 July 2022 which are set out on pages 4 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanation from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andrew Wilkinson FCA
Malcolm Jones & Co Limited
Accountants & Business Advisors
West Hill House
Allerton Hill
Chapel Allerton
Leeds LS7 3QB

19 October 2022

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year ended 31 July 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 31.07.22	Total Funds 31.07.21
				£	£
Incoming resources:					
Voluntary income	6	34,693	-	34,693	35,503
Activities for generating funds	8	2,784	-	2,784	-
Investment income	9	31	-	31	5
Incoming resources from charitable activities	10	2,014	-	2,014	277
Total incoming resources:		39,522	-	39,522	35,785
Resources expended:					
Costs of generating voluntary income	11	316	-	316	-
Fundraising & trading costs	12	41,654	-	41,654	15,188
Charitable activities	13	1,100	-	1,100	550
Governance costs	14	6,571	-	6,571	10,835
Total resources expended		49,641	-	49,641	26,573
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources on ordinary activities for the year		(10,119)	-	(10,119)	9,212
Exceptional item	15	-	-	-	-
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year		(10,119)	-	(10,119)	9,212
Total charity funds brought forward		59,623	6,079	65,702	56,490
Total charity funds carried forward		49,504	6,079	55,583	65,702

The notes on pages 6 to 10 form part of these accounts.

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2022

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	2		19,731		19,104
Current Assets					
Other debtors	3	434		255	
Cash at bank and in hand		43,951		54,548	
		<u>44,385</u>		<u>54,803</u>	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors & accrued expenses	4	<u>8,533</u>		<u>8,205</u>	
Net current assets			35,852		46,598
Net assets			<u>55,583</u>		<u>65,702</u>
Represented by:					
FUNDS					
Restricted income funds:					
Balance at 1 August 2021			6,079		6,079
Net incoming resources for the year			<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
			6,079		6,079
Unrestricted income funds:					
Balance at 1 August 2021		59,623		50,411	
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year		<u>(10,119)</u>		<u>9,212</u>	
			49,504		59,623
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	5		<u>55,583</u>		<u>65,702</u>

Approved by the Trustees

.....
 John Apps, Chairman

For and on behalf of the Trustees

19 October 2022

The notes on pages 6 to 10 form part of these accounts.

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2022

1. Accounting Policies

General

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Incoming Resources

All income is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), when it becomes receivable.

Resources Expended

All resources expended are recognised on an accruals basis, in the period in which they are incurred.

Grants Payable

Grants payable are included in the SOFA when agreed by the Trustees.

Funds Structure Policy

Funds comprise unrestricted income funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the charity's objectives, and restricted funds which are dealt with and presented in accordance with the terms attaching to each separate restricted fund.

Tangible Assets

Tangible assets are capitalised at cost including any incidental expenses of Acquisition. A wear and tear allowance is provided at 10% on a reducing balance basis in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life and reflects the wish of the trustees to account for losses/damage etc. to its music library.

2. Tangible Assets

	Music Library
	£
At valuation	
At 1 August 2021	19,104
Additions in the year	2,820
Wear and tear provision (10%)	(2,193)
At 31 July 2022	<hr/> <hr/> 19,731

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2022 (cont)

3. Other debtors		2022	2021
		£	£
Prepayments		434	255
Corporate sponsors		-	-
		<hr/> 434	<hr/> 255
4. Creditors		2022	2021
		£	£
Accrued expenses		<hr/> 8,533	<hr/> 8,205
5. Funds			
	2021	Movement	2022
	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds			
Music Library	19,104	627	19,731
General Fund	40,519	(10,746)	29,773
	<hr/> 59,623	<hr/> (10,119)	<hr/> 49,504
Restricted Funds			
Chorus Master Scholarship Monies	1,471	-	1,471
Music to my Ears	4,608	-	4,608
	<hr/> 6,079	<hr/> -	<hr/> 6,079
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	<hr/> 65,702	<hr/> (10,119)	<hr/> 55,583
6. Voluntary Income			
	Note	31.07.22	31.07.21
		£	£
Members' subscriptions		20,027	19,086
Friends' subscriptions		1,375	1,492
Tax refund on covenanted subscriptions		4,684	4,927
Fundraising and social group		1,750	1,370
Grants, donations and sponsorship	7	6,857	5,826
Legacies		-	2,802
		<hr/> 34,693	<hr/> 35,503

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2022 (cont)

7. Grants, donations, sponsorship and patrons	31.07.22	31.07.21
	£	£
Miscellaneous donations	3,904	3,901
J Apps	175	150
S Archbold	35	-
Olav Arnold Charitable Trust	1,000	1,000
M Beer	300	300
N Jones	300	-
M Kirkby	160	-
T Lusty	20	-
W Mordy	300	-
A Smith	12	-
M Stanyard	156	-
D Strachan	175	175
Rev M Winbolt-Lewis	300	300
S Wright	20	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,857	5,826
8. Activities for generating funds	31.07.22	31.07.21
	£	£
Concerts and recitals	2,784	-
Christmas CD income	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,784	-
9. Investment income	31.07.22	31.07.21
	£	£
Bank interest received	31	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>
10. Incoming resources from charitable activities	31.07.22	31.07.21
	£	£
Library income	2,014	277
	<hr/>	<hr/>
11. Costs of generating voluntary income	31.07.22	31.07.21
	£	£
Publicity programmes, brochures and advertising	316	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2022 (cont)

12. Fundraising & trading costs

	31.07.22	31.07.21
	£	£
Hire of music	1,053	388
Online recording	-	1,000
Concert costs	17,767	-
Rehearsal costs	22,834	13,800
Auditions	-	-
	41,654	15,188

13. Charitable activities

	31.07.22	31.07.21
	£	£
Donations	1,100	550

14. Governance costs

	31.07.22	31.07.21
	£	£
Subscriptions and insurance	618	613
Printing, postage, stationery and administrative expenses	-	413
Accountancy and Independent Examiner's fee	1,509	1,280
Friends' and patrons' expenses	401	394
Sundry expenses	184	35
Consultancy fees	-	4,750
Website costs and design	500	-
Zoom costs	144	528
Library expenses	503	439
Music storage	390	325
Music wear and tear allowance	2,193	2,122
Scholar costs re restricted funds	-	-
Bank charges	129	146
	6,571	10,835

15. Trustees Remuneration

No Trustees or any persons connected with them have received remuneration (2021 – nil).

16. Trustees Expenses

Four Trustees (2021 – three) have been reimbursed out of pocket expenses totalling £371 (2021 - £1,371).

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2022 (cont)

17. Staff Costs and Emoluments

There were no employees with emoluments in the year (2021 – nil).

18. Cost of Independent Examination

Preparation of accounts and associated costs were £1,509 (2021 - £1,320).

Treasurer's Report 2021-22

This has been a busy year for the choir, all the more unusual because it followed the Covid pandemic and lockdown.

Two factors have had a significant effect on our concert income during the year – the closure of Leeds Town Hall for refurbishment, and the reluctance of people to attend concerts in the Covid era. We have performed 5 concerts (and cancelled the Christmas concert), unfortunately none of them have attracted an audience of a similar size to pre-pandemic concerts.

I would like to draw your attention to the following

1. Page 4: Statement of Financial Activities. You can see that total income rose slightly from £35,785 to £39,522.
 - Voluntary income (note 6 - which includes FRASC – see page 7) dropped slightly from £35.5k to £34.7k, with donations etc (which is included in this figure) increasing by £1,031.
 - Note 8 - The income from generating funds (concerts etc) was £2,784 (last year nothing, but compare it with the year before when it was £25K).
 - Library income was £2014, compared to £277 last year, and that is significantly more than £1340 the previous year..
2. Page 4: Resources expended on ordinary activities increased from £26,573 to £49,641, with fundraising and trading costs increasing from £15k to £41.6k.
3. Page 9: Governance costs have fallen in the year, as we did not have the one-off consultancy fees of £4,750 from the previous year. Other significant changes were that we paid nothing in printing, postage etc, and had a one-off cost of £500 for website redesign. The other items within Governance remained similar to the previous year.
4. Page 7: Our funds show a deficit over the year of £10,119, compared to a surplus of £9.2k the previous year. (Which was exceptional mainly because we had no venue costs for zoom rehearsals).
5. Page 6: Assets. The balance sheet shows a small increase in the value of the music library, the acquisition of the McCrorie collection being almost offset by the wear and tear allowance. However the library is now significantly larger.
6. Page 7: Debtors have increased slightly, it varies from year to year. Creditors have also increased slightly. Cash at bank fell from £54.8k to £44.4k. This leaves the Chorus with net assets at the year end of £55,583, down from £65,702 the previous year.
7. Page 7: A few years ago, we started to make a provision in the accounts for the re-auditions each year, rather than it being a hit every 3 years. This figure is in section 4 page 7 (this also includes the Winchester pre-payment/deposits paid). It was decided not to add to that figure this year as we have missed 1 or possibly 2 years of re-auditions and adding to it would have increased this provision beyond its intended purpose.

The Chorus subscriptions have been increased to £170, effective from September 2022. These are to cover the rehearsals costs. The main reason for the increase is the expected increase in rent at St Chads and St Columbas, as fuel costs have risen significantly.

This new singing year will continue to be a challenge financially. We hope that audiences will return to pre-pandemic levels. We still lack Sponsors and have only 8 Patrons.

We have budgeted for a deficit of £1000 for concerts at St Edmund's in Leeds, and for a deficit of £4,000 for concerts in York

During the year we were made aware of the availability of the McCrorie collection of scores and we purchased it for £2000 due to a very generous donation of £3000 (plus Gift Aid) by a choir member.

The remaining money will be used in the next Financial year to purchase 100 new copies of Belshazzar's Feast for the Library.

Finally, at last year's AGM Jonathan Lacey announced that he would not be standing for election as Treasurer. As nobody else stood for election he continued to perform the role. In the New Year I was asked if I would be willing to take over, and after some thought I said I would perform the book-keeping parts of the role, but would not serve in an elected role as a Trustee. So Jonathan handed over the Treasurer's work to me in March 2022. Since then I have been known as Treasurer (although I should probably be called Deputy Treasurer) and Andrew Smith has taken on the role of Treasurer within the Trustees. I am happy to continue with this arrangement.

Richard Thomson (Treasurer)

Marketing Group Report

Our primary roles and objectives are:

- Communicating and engaging with Chorus members
- Publicising and promoting concerts
- Increasing the public profile of the Chorus
- Attracting new members
- Providing marketing assistance to other Chorus groups

What we did last year

Communicating and engaging with Chorus members

- Sent out emails
- Created page on website to list links to all emails
- Established technical side of members area on website. This could be used as a base for useful information such as concert dress, available volunteer roles, schedules and concert resources like playlist. This could also help reduce the amount of email traffic (help needed to get it in use, more later in the report)

Website

- Added events and news items to the website
- Updated the website e.g. safeguarding policy
- Moved to a free hosting provider - saving £250 per year on hosting costs
- Technical website maintenance

Social media

- Posted about rehearsals and concerts
- Interacted with other groups on social media e.g. liking, sharing, commenting
- Paid Facebook advertising for concerts and open rehearsal

Flyers and Programmes

- Content and design, for our own promotion concerts
- Annual LFC brochure

Other - Publicising and promoting concerts/Attracting new members

- Writing and sending out emails to our externals mailing list
- Listing events on e.g. Leeds Inspired, which was pulled through to other local events listings

Providing marketing assistance to other Chorus groups

- Sent out Friends newsletters

We also have a stand-alone **ticketing team** which is supported by Avril Brown but needs someone to lead. The role of this team is to organise the tickets for own-promotion concerts, for example producing ticket maps on TryBooking and organising the sale of tickets on the door at the concert.

Members of the marketing team are Mary Magorrian, Emma Bates, Richard Wilcocks, Nicky Rowbottom, Mac Burnell, Sally Brown and Elizabeth Wells.

Changes to the team

This year Francis Watson stepped down from the team. He was a long standing supporter of the chorus who set up the previous Chorus website and was heavily involved in the development of the new website, as well as the email system and so on. We are heavily indebted to Francis for the fantastic work he has done over the years and the dedication he has shown to the Chorus.

We have been lucky to have Irene Hall join us as an allied member of the team, focusing on the technical side of the website and emails.

Sally Brown has joined us with skills in creative writing and audience development.

After a period of two years without a Marketing Chair, we are happy to welcome Elizabeth Wells who has very recently joined us as Chair.

Goals

As we have only just gained a Chair we are still developing our goals but some areas of focus will likely be:

- Getting the members' area of the website in use
- Improve the consistency of our existing activities such as adding news items to the website and posting on social media
- Increase social media presence and start a Leeds Festival Chorus Instagram account
- Chorus member recruitment
- Strengthen relationships with other working groups in the Chorus

How can you help?

We are always appreciative of the support of members, whether in a formal or informal role. Most of the Marketing group are in full time employment so more hands are always helpful to allow us to develop more initiatives as well as our existing day to day work. You can help us by:

- Joining the Marketing group or offering your help without being in the group
- Sharing physical flyers or social media posts
- Sending us content such as photos of Chorus events, or news items for the website

We know from the recent Chorus-wide appeal for volunteers that some members would like more specific details about potential roles. Here are some ideas for specific roles:

- Taking photos at rehearsals and events so we have recent good quality images to use on the website/social media/flyers/online listings and so on. Also volunteering family members or acquaintances who could do this!
- Leading the introduction of the members area of the website - getting members set up, adding a base of useful information to the website and thinking about how to keep information up to date (technical support provided)

Proof checking programmes and flyers including dates, names of pieces, names of professionals

Contributing news items, for example do you have some interesting thoughts on a piece of music we're doing, or would like to share your experience of a chorus event like the weekend away

Helping to drive forward social media, establishing a schedule of posts etc. as well as our more ad hoc postings

Organising location-specific flyer posting/delivery for local concerts

Also as mentioned earlier there is a need for someone to join the ticketing team so that we can set up the Trybooking and sell tickets for our own promotion concerts.

There is also certainly scope for members who have noticed another need or opportunity to join the group and take the lead on that particular area.

If you'd like to know more about joining the Marketing group or about helping out on a more informal basis, please contact marketing@leedsfestivalchorus.co.uk, send a Facebook message to the Leeds Festival Chorus page, or speak to one of our members at rehearsals.

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS – ANNUAL REPORT FROM LIBRARIAN, 2021-22

Scores for our rehearsals and concerts

For the first two of what we thought were post-pandemic concerts in October 2021 (*A Night at the Opera* at York Barbican and *Mahler 2* in Leeds Town Hall), most of the scores used were ones that we already owned. That was also true of the Roundhay concert in December 2021, with the exception of Simon's new arrangement of *Buxtehude: Das neugeborne Kindelein* – but that unfortunately became another concert-that-never-was with a last-minute cancellation because of Covid-19's late flourish.

For the Winchester Cathedral concert in April 2022 copies of the new work *Blackford: Pietà* were hired from the publisher. Copies of *Fauré: Requiem* were also hired for the same concert. We hired copies of *Elgar: The Music Makers* and *Walton: Belshazzar's Feast* for our last two concerts of the 2021-22 season (York Barbican in May and Sheffield City Hall in June).

On the "mechanics" of issuing scores to members, I now try to have two "issue stations" when there are lots of scores to issue at one time. I also bundle collections of short scores together so that fewer signatures from members are required. I am always ready to receive suggestions about how the library service can be improved for members.

Hiring out scores

I reported a year ago that sets of scores started to be hired out to other choirs again in August 2021 after the worst of the pandemic. 26 sets of scores were hired out nation-wide in the year to July 2022. That is the highest number since hiring out LFC scores came to me in 2016. My favourite composers for this year in order of hire-out value are (1) Britten, (2) Handel, (3) Vaughan Williams.

Thanks

My thanks – and I am sure the whole chorus joins me in this – are due to a member of the chorus for a substantial and very generous financial donation made during the year to achieve two great benefits. The first benefit has been the purchase of the Ian McCrorie Collection of about 2,300 music scores in 51 sets. Ian McCrorie was a leading choral music specialist in Scotland who died in 2019. These scores are a great addition to our stock. The second benefit from the donation has been the purchase of a set of *Walton: Belshazzar's Feast* scores. Leeds Festival Chorus is particularly associated with this work through having given its first performance in 1931, and the donation has helped fill a very obvious gap in our stock.

I am grateful to the Music Department of Ampleforth College (very helpfully through Simon) for providing hire copies at no charge.

I am grateful for the help I have received from Lloyd Davies on various occasions during the year, especially at times when large numbers of scores have been on the move. My thanks are due to three "muscle-men" – Lloyd again, plus Chris Foren and David Hall – who recently helped me move the library store from one unit to another at Croydon House, Holbeck. Croydon House is a warehouse block owned by Leeds City Council, and the move was required by the Council to achieve some rationalisation of the use of the space it occupies itself.

Finally, I thank all the many members who sign the sign-up sheets legibly, on the correct line, and return their scores promptly. The latter is particularly important when I have to return hired scores within tight deadlines. Do please continue.

Mike Croft
Librarian

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS - Choir Co-ordinator Report 2021 - 2022

The start of the season brought a return to live rehearsals but for some in the choir there was still unease about what risks this might entail. To help members take part remotely we were able to set up 'live streaming' so that if for whatever reason you were not at choir you could still take part. Whilst obviously not the same as being in the church it was useful to many and our thanks to Andrew Smith for setting up.

Choir Membership

Whilst starting last season with 125 members as of the beginning of this season we have 110 members. Again as last year we have lost a significant number of members. Several of those who did not return to live rehearsals have found other responsibilities and interests or have decided that this is the time to retire from LFC and others moved house and jobs.

Sopranos	Altos	Tenor	Bass
Rebecca Clark	Barbara Brickles	Chris Baker	Stuart Archbold
Pippa Lodge	Rosemary Ellis	David Hough	Rikki Biedka
Julia Morgan	Sue Pemsel	Chris Short	Stewart Reid
Katie Taylor	Eleri Pound		Lindsay Robertshaw
Sue Whiteley	Gill Riley		
	Patricia Swann		
	Emma Whisker		

All of those above have been valued members of the choir. Some however have gone the extra mile in supporting the choir. We particularly thank Barbara Brickles, a past committee member and member of the EFC, Pippa Lodge for handling ticket sales, Becky Clark for being on the committee and a past Librarian. Both Gill Riley and Chris Short have been long standing members of FRASC with Chris as the treasurer. Gill was also, until her move south, a member of the committee. We wish them all well and particularly hope that they will maintain their association with the choir through the 'Friends of LFC'. Although Stuart is no longer a singing member he continues to support the choir by being a non-singing member.

RECRUITMENT

Again this has been a year when we did not have an open evening but two people who came to our on-line rehearsals have joined and we had three more people auditioning two of whom were successful. We welcome Carol Molloy (S2), Julie Tomkins (A1), Heather Newton (A2) and Anthony Picton (B2). As I write this after a two year absence the Open Evening is once more taking place on September 28th and we will hope for a good attendance.

TRIENNIAL AUDITIONS

These took place, for the majority of members, at the end of June/beginning of July. They took the form of simple voice assessments with the opportunity to discuss with Simon

any issues arising from lack of singing practice or having had Covid. Inevitably Covid struck during this time and some members have had to come in September. The process all went very well and Simon reports that he was pleased with what he heard. He was also clear that members appreciated the opportunity of talking to him directly and also the ability to discuss any technical issues with Rebecca. Thanks are due to all who helped with the stewarding.

CONCERTS

October 2021 York	60%	70/117
October 2021 Leeds	69%	81/117
March 2022 Leeds	73%	85/116
April 2022 Winchester	54%	63/116*
May 2022 York	70%	81/115
June 2022 Sheffield	54%	62/115**

*This was a Friday concert.

**Originally 85 signed up for this concert but Covid outbreaks in several sections of the choir reduced numbers considerably.

Looking at the percentages of concert participation pre-Covid they are very little different to those given above. The Sheffield and Winchester were the exceptions but in each case there were particular circumstances affecting these which are indicated above.

VENUES

St Chad's and St Columba's have as previously been our usual venues and we appreciate the use of these places.

AND FINALLY

I will finish by saying that we are really lucky to have such excellent professionals in Simon and Rebecca. These are still difficult times but with Simon's encouragement and Rebecca's voice training I hope we will emerge stronger and more confident singers. Thank you to them and to all of you.

Fiona Kirkby - LFC Choir Co-ordinator

Friends of Leeds Festival Chorus

Report 1st October 2021 to 30th September 2022

The 'Friends of Leeds Festival Chorus' has been a long-established group mainly consisting of ex-members and friends/relatives of present or former members. Prior to Covid and the closure of Leeds Town Hall, they were invited to the Chairman's bar before concerts where they received a programme and complimentary drinks and again in the interval. They were also invited attend rehearsals. During our Zoomed rehearsals of the lockdown period, some Friends joined us on screen.

When I became Friends' Coordinator in March 2020 there were 87 Friends on the books. In autumn 2020 this had reduced to 64.

At that time, in addition to our Honorary and Complimentary Friends, we had two categories of paying Friends: Full (those living close to Leeds able to regularly attend concerts); Country (those living a distance from Leeds).

In 2021 these categories were changed to Level One Friends (those who wished to keep in touch and support the chorus but were unable to attend concerts) and Level 2 Friends (those who could attend concerts).

In October 2021 18 people became Level 1 Friends and 25 became Level 2 Friends. We also have two Honorary Friends and four Complimentary Friends (recent retirees from the chorus), making a total of 49. The only new recruits over the last year have been the four ex-members. Only two Friends told me they did not wish to renew, and I have had no contact with the other thirteen despite my efforts.

I have had little opportunity to meet Friends at concerts. All Friends receive a quarterly newsletter from me, including details of upcoming concerts, but I suspect many are reluctant to travel to York and it is difficult for us to provide the usual benefits to those that do. Neither is there a space in St Edmund's for us to host Friends and Patrons. Until we return to singing in the Town Hall it is likely the numbers of Friends will continue to shrink.

As well as subscriptions from Friends, many also made a donation to LFC funds. With subs and donations we received approximately £1300 from them in the last year. This is obviously of value to the chorus and has been one of our few extra sources of income over the year.

While the financial benefits are small, the Friends are important to us in 'normal' times, for their presence at our concerts. I will continue to keep in touch with them and we should plan a recruitment drive for 2024.

The role of Friends' Coordinator is not onerous. It involves keeping the Data base up to date, producing newsletters and asking for subscriptions annually. It is also an opportunity to meet former members of the chorus, but as mentioned above, this has not been possible during the last two years.

I am happy to speak to any of you who would like to assist me or even take over this role.

John Apps

Friends' Coordinator.

23/9/2022

Concert Organisers' Report

In the Autumn of 2021, we at last started to sing together after a two year gap caused by the pandemic. In October 2021, we joined with the York Guildhall Orchestra to mount a concert at the Barbican York of popular opera pieces. This was much enjoyed by an audience which was disappointingly small. Fears of Covid still limited the numbers of those prepared to attend public events and, indeed, Covid caused the cancellation of our Christmas concert at St. Edmund's Church, Roundhay, in December.

However, we did mount a concert at St. Edmund's in March, 2022 with the theme of 'Crowning Glory'. It was bookmarked by two of Handel's **Coronation Anthems** and included a number of other pieces associated with coronations. We were fortunate to have Beth Moxon's lovely mezzo voice singing Mendelssohn's **Drei Geistliches Lied** with us as well as solo pieces by Wagner and Mahler.

In May, we joined the York Guildhall Orchestra again to sing Elgar's **The Music Makers** and in June we were invited by the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus to sing Walton's **Belshazzar's Feast** in the Sheffield City Hall, with the Hallé Orchestra.

We are sorry that Katie Turner has had to step down from the Concert Organisers' team but are grateful to Sïan Moxon who has tentatively agreed to replace her. Plans for the 2022-23 season are in place but not beyond that, though the Programme Suggestions Group met in September 2022 to list its preferences for the following three seasons. These are subject to negotiation either with LICS or with the YGO. Peter Coltman will not be standing for re-election in the coming year and Rebecca Lacey has also said that she will be leaving the team at the end of the coming season.

Peter Coltman
Lloyd Davies
Rebecca Lacey
Sïan Moxon
Katie Turner

FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE (FRASC) REPORT October 2022

The clue is in the title. FRASC's role is not only to organise events to ensure that the chorus is a sociable as well as a musical organisation, but also to complement the External Fundraising Committee by raising money through harnessing the chorus's many talents. Wherever possible, we try and satisfy both our remits by making fundraising a fun activity involving chorus members, and their families and friends.

With social distancing in place in one form or another and then a busy season of concerts, FRASC has not really had an opportunity to get going this year. Nonetheless, we have been able to donate **£1,200** to the chorus as a result of some successful fundraising activities and ad-hoc donations.

In the absence of the traditional Christmas Bring and Buy sale, Fiona Kirkby organised an **online Christmas shop** to ensure that her regular Christmas pudding and mincemeat customers would not be disappointed (they weren't!). We also managed to squeeze in some end of term Christmas carols with wine and mince pies, which together with Fiona's goodies raised over £350.

Chris Short's excellent **quizzes, plus second-hand book and choir music sales** raised a further £240, while the **weekly raffle**, recently restarted by Margaret Whaley, has already raised over £200.

FRASC also runs the bar at St Edmund's concerts with the help of our regular group of bar staff friends.

Unfortunately, the St Chad's monthly **wine evenings** and weekly **tuck shop** both had to be temporarily mothballed during the social distancing years, but we would love to restart one or both of these if volunteers can be found.

Normal service is resuming now, and we plan to hold a **Christmas Bring and Buy sale** after rehearsal on Wednesday 30th November. It would be fantastic if this could match up to previous years where we have managed to raise over £1000 for the chorus in little more than an hour! So, if you can make, bake or bottle some Christmas goodies, and then bring friends and family along to the sale itself, it would be brilliant.

Our excellent long-standing (and long-suffering!) treasurer, Chris Short, retired from the chorus in the Summer and although he is still managing our finances, he would really appreciate someone taking over the reins. We would also be incredibly grateful if someone would be prepared to take on Chris's book and music sales department.

Alternatively, why not just join FRASC to bring fresh ideas for fundraising and social events? If you are interested, just talk to Harriet or any of the FRASC team: Fiona Kirkby (executive chef), Liz Whitaker, Margaret Whaley, Heather Newton and Sian Lomax.

Harriet Carlyle

FRASC Chair

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS

England & Wales - Charity number 517127

Accounts

Leeds Festival Chorus

Annual Report
2020/21 Season

**Annual Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements for the
Year ended 31 July 2021
For
LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS**

Registered Charity 517127

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS

**Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year ended 31 July 2021**

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LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Trustees' Annual Report for the Year ended 31 July 2021

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is an unincorporated body governed by its constitution and guidelines issued by the Charity Commission.

Trustees (Executive Committee)

Elected Officers:

Andrew Kitchingman (to 30.06.21)	Chairman
John Apps (from 06.07.21)	Chairman
Andrew Smith	Administrative Secretary
Jonathan Lacey	Treasurer
Peter Coltman	Concerts Organiser
Fiona Kirkby	Choir Coordinator

Other trustees in the year were as follows:

Emma Bates	Mary Crothers (from 21.10.20)
Mac Burnell	Mary Margorrian (resigned 21.10.20)
Harriet Carlyle (from 21.10.20)	Margaret Mara
Michael Croft	Margaret Whaley (resigned 21.10.20)

Appointment and recruitment of Trustees

The executive committee works with the Artistic Advisor (the conductor) to run Leeds Festival Chorus in accordance with the Constitution. The full committee are elected on an annual basis at the Annual General Meeting. All Chorus members are encouraged to consider standing.

Legal and Administrative Information

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission Number 517127.

The charity's address is:-

c/o Dr A Smith
28 Boroughbridge Road
Knaresborough
HG5 0NJ

The charity's bankers are:-

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue,
Kings Hill, West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

The charity's independent examiner is:-

Martin Smith FCCA
Malcolm Jones & Co LLP
Accountants and Business Advisors
West Hill House
Allerton Hill
Chapel Allerton
Leeds LS7 3QB

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Trustees' Annual Report for the Year ended 31 July 2021 (cont)

Objects

The objects of the charity are to promote, 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 and recitals and in such other ways as the charity through its Executive Committee shall determine from time to time.

Review of Activities and Achievements

The Coronavirus pandemic has made it difficult to achieve the objects stated above during the year, so the charity delivered its objects through regular online rehearsals and a variety of online concerts with a small online audience of Friends/Patrons together with an online recording of part of Purcell's "Come ye Sons of Art".

Reserves Policy

The charity's policy on reserves is to ensure that sufficient unrestricted net current assets (liquid reserves) are maintained to enable the charity to continue for at least the next twelve months in the event that there is an unpredicted and/or significant drop in income levels. The Trustees consider that the current level of liquid reserves (£40,519) is less than 12 months worth of unrestricted ordinary expenditure (£70,068 last year as this years figures are not representative) and therefore does not meet the requirements of this policy. Accordingly the committee is undertaking steps to rectify this issue.

Risk management

The Trustees examine the major risks that the charity faces each financial year when considering their plans and annual budgets. The charity has controls in place to control these risks and mitigate any impact they may have on the charity's future.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit.

Financial Review

The reserves of the charity are both restricted and unrestricted in nature. As noted in the Reserves policy above, the Trustees are of the opinion that the levels of reserves may not be adequate in exceptional circumstances to meet future expenditure and to fulfil the charity's ongoing aims and objectives. There is a surplus for the year of £9,212, compared to a surplus on ordinary activities last year of £4,826 and a deficit after exceptional items last year of £19,018, which has been taken to reserves. The total reserves at the year end amount to £65,702 (2020 - £56,490) of which £6,079 (2020 - £6,079) are restricted.

On behalf of the Trustees

.....
John Apps, Chairman

28 September 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 July 2021 which are set out on pages 4 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanation from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Martin Smith FCCA
Malcolm Jones & Co LLP
Accountants & Business Advisors
West Hill House
Allerton Hill
Chapel Allerton
Leeds LS7 3QB

28 September 2021

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year ended 31 July 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 31.07.21	Total Funds 31.07.20
				£	£
Incoming resources:					
Voluntary income	6	35,503	-	35,503	49,111
Activities for generating funds	8	-	-	-	25,071
Investment income	9	5	-	5	122
Incoming resources from charitable activities	10	277	-	277	1,340
Total incoming resources:		<u>35,785</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,785</u>	<u>75,644</u>
Resources expended:					
Costs of generating voluntary income	11	-	-	-	1,310
Fundraising & trading costs	12	15,188	-	15,188	60,994
Charitable activities	13	550	-	550	550
Governance costs	14	10,835	-	10,835	7,964
Total resources expended		<u>26,573</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,573</u>	<u>70,818</u>
Net incoming resources on ordinary activities for the year					
		9,212	-	9,212	4,826
Exceptional item	15	-	-	-	(23,844)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year		<u>9,212</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,212</u>	<u>(19,018)</u>
Total charity funds brought forward		50,411	6,079	56,490	75,508
Total charity funds carried forward		<u>59,623</u>	<u>6,079</u>	<u>65,702</u>	<u>56,490</u>

The notes on pages 6 to 10 form part of these accounts.

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2021

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	2		19,104		21,067
Current Assets					
Other debtors	3	255		255	
Cash at bank and in hand		54,548		43,343	
		<u>54,803</u>		<u>43,598</u>	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors & accrued expenses	4		<u>8,205</u>		<u>8,175</u>
Net current assets			46,598		35,423
Net assets			<u>65,702</u>		<u>56,490</u>
Represented by:					
FUNDS					
Restricted income funds:					
Balance at 1 August 2020			6,079		4,329
Net incoming resources for the year			<u>-</u>		<u>1,750</u>
			6,079		6,079
Unrestricted income funds:					
Balance at 1 August 2020		50,411		71,179	
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year		<u>9,212</u>		<u>(20,768)</u>	
			59,623		50,411
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	5		<u>65,702</u>		<u>56,490</u>

Approved by the Trustees

.....
 John Apps, Chairman

For and on behalf of the Trustees

28 September 2021

The notes on pages 6 to 10 form part of these accounts.

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2021

1. Accounting Policies

General

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Incoming Resources

All income is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), when it becomes receivable.

Resources Expended

All resources expended are recognised on an accruals basis, in the period in which they are incurred.

Grants Payable

Grants payable are included in the SOFA when agreed by the Trustees.

Funds Structure Policy

Funds comprise unrestricted income funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the charity's objectives, and restricted funds which are dealt with and presented in accordance with the terms attaching to each separate restricted fund.

Tangible Assets

Tangible assets are capitalised at cost including any incidental expenses of Acquisition. A wear and tear allowance is provided at 10% on a reducing balance basis in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life and reflects the wish of the trustees to account for losses/damage etc. to its music library.

2. Tangible Assets

	Music Library £
At valuation	
At 1 August 2020	21,067
Additions in the year	159
Wear and tear provision (10%)	(2,122)
At 31 July 2021	19,104

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2021 (cont)

3. Other debtors		2021	2020
		£	£
Prepayments		255	255
Corporate sponsors		-	-
		<u>255</u>	<u>255</u>
4. Creditors		2021	2020
		£	£
Accrued expenses		<u>8,205</u>	<u>8,175</u>
5. Funds			
	2020	Movement	2021
	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds			
Music Library	21,067	(1,963)	19,104
General Fund	29,344	11,175	40,519
	<u>50,411</u>	<u>9,212</u>	<u>59,623</u>
Restricted Funds			
Chorus Master Scholarship Monies	1,471	-	1,471
Music to my Ears	4,608	-	4,608
	<u>6,079</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,079</u>
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	<u>56,490</u>	<u>9,212</u>	<u>65,702</u>
6. Voluntary Income			
	Note	31.07.21	31.07.20
		£	£
Members' subscriptions		19,086	21,135
Friends' subscriptions		1,492	1,528
Tax refund on covenanted subscriptions		4,927	4,898
Fundraising and social group		1,370	6,950
Grants, donations and sponsorship	7	5,826	14,600
Legacies		2,802	-
Other income		-	-
		<u>35,503</u>	<u>49,111</u>

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2021 (cont)

7. Grants, donations, sponsorship and patrons

	31.07.21	31.07.20
	£	£
Miscellaneous donations	3,901	675
Donations for Dove Commission	-	2,000
J Apps	150	175
Olav Arnold Charitable Trust	1,000	1,000
M Beer	300	300
The Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation	-	2,500
Brewin Dolphin Ltd	-	2,000
M Clark	-	25
Dr M L Cooke	-	300
Genesis Labels	-	1,000
J Hill	-	175
Investec	-	2,000
Mr N H & Mrs T H Jones	-	300
A Kitchingman	-	200
J Lacey	-	50
R MacDonald	-	175
Mr W H Mordy	-	400
Spooner Charitable Trust	-	175
M Stanyard	-	175
D Strachan	175	175
B Tee	-	300
Rev M Winbolt-Lewis	300	300
S Wright	-	200
	<u>5,826</u>	<u>14,600</u>

8. Activities for generating funds

	31.07.21	31.07.20
	£	£
Concerts and recitals	-	25,071
Christmas CD income	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>25,071</u>

9. Investment income

	31.07.21	31.07.20
	£	£
Bank interest received	<u>5</u>	<u>122</u>

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2021 (cont)

10. Incoming resources from charitable activities	31.07.21 £	31.07.20 £
Library income	277	1,340
11. Costs of generating voluntary income	31.07.21 £	31.07.20 £
Publicity programmes, brochures and advertising	-	1,310
12. Fundraising & trading costs	31.07.21 £	31.07.20 £
Hire of music	388	944
Online recording	1,000	2,500
Concert costs	-	33,057
Rehearsal costs	13,800	21,481
Auditions	-	3,012
	15,188	60,994
13. Charitable activities	31.07.21 £	31.07.20 £
Donations	550	550

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS
Notes to the Accounts
for the Year ended 31 July 2021 (cont)

14. Governance costs	31.07.21	31.07.20
	£	£
Subscriptions and insurance	613	470
Printing, postage, stationery and administrative expenses	413	838
Accountancy and Independent Examiner's fee	1,320	1,280
Friends' and patrons' expenses	144	394
Sundry expenses	35	35
Consultancy fees	4,750	-
Website costs and design	-	850
Zoom costs	528	-
Library expenses	439	561
Music storage	325	325
Music wear and tear allowance	2,122	2,341
Scholar costs re restricted funds	-	750
Bank charges	146	120
	10,835	7,964
15. Exceptional item	31.07.21	31.07.20
	£	£
Dove Commission	-	23,844
16. Trustees Remuneration		
No Trustees or any persons connected with them have received remuneration (2020 – nil).		
17. Trustees Expenses		
Three Trustees (2020 – four) have been reimbursed out of pocket expenses totalling £1,371 (2020 - £1,517).		
18. Staff Costs and Emoluments		
There were no employees with emoluments in the year (2020 – nil).		
19. Cost of Independent Examination		
Preparation of accounts and associated costs were £1,320 (2020 - £1,280).		

Treasurer's Report 2020-21

It has been an unusual year – with no concerts, and with many of our income streams totally drying up or certainly being much reduced.

I would like to draw your attention to the following.

1. You will see from the Statement of Financial Activities on *page 4*, that total income fell from £75,644 to £35,785. Voluntary income (*note 6 - which includes FRASC – see page 7*) dropped by £14k to £35.5k, with donations etc (which is included in this figure) falling by £8,774. *Note 8* - There was no income from generating funds (last year £25k) and library income was also down.
2. *Page 4* - Resources expended on ordinary activities fell from £70,818 to £26,573, with fundraising and trading costs dropping from £61k to £15k.
3. Governance costs (*page 10*) have increased in the year, due mainly to consultancy fees of £4,750, the costs of which were almost all covered by donations (+ Gift aid on those donations)
4. There was no exceptional item this year, so this means there is a **surplus for the year of £9,212 compared to an overall loss of £19,018 last year**. We had the legacy of £2802 and no venue rehearsal costs (which are factored into our subscriptions) which both helped to create this surplus (*section 6 page 7*).
5. *Note 2, page 5* - The balance sheet shows a drop in the value of the music library, due to the 10% wear & tear allowance being applied.
6. Debtors remain the same and there is an increase in cash at bank to £54,548. There is a marginal increase in creditors, which leaves the Chorus with net assets at the year-end of £65,702 (*page 7*). This is represented by restricted funds of £6,079 and unrestricted funds of £59,623.
7. A few years ago, we started to make a provision in the accounts for the re-auditions each year, rather than it being a hit every 3 years. This figure is in *section 4 page 7* (this also includes the Winchester pre-payment/deposits paid). It was decided not to add to that figure this year as we have missed 1 or possibly 2 years of re-auditions and adding to it would have increased this provision beyond it's intended purpose.

The Chorus subscriptions have been increased to £159. These are to cover the rehearsals costs. It is largely the reduction in membership that has led to the need for this increase, without which it is estimated that we would have a shortfall of around £3000 for our rehearsals.

The new singing year may well be a challenge, financially (and probably in other ways too!). We do not know the effect Covid will have on our concerts or rehearsals and who will support us this year. The last few years have seen a steady decline in our Corporate Sponsors (none paid last year) and only 3 Patrons paid.

The 2 York concerts have been budgeted to replace the LICs concerts (which normally cost us £4000 each) and we have budgets for the Roundhay concerts (we can use previous concerts there as a basis for these). I do not have any potential figures for the Winchester concert.

Jonathan Lacey (Treasurer)

Covid-19 Group

When the UK first went into lockdown in March 2020 we, like many other organisations, started off not quite knowing what to do. The Committee very quickly decided that we should carry on paying Simon and Rebecca, and that we should ask them to prepare some online resources that would keep members musically occupied.

Simon and Rebecca started off by putting audition material online, including some German tuition from Elizabeth Rusteberg. But the first real step forward occurred when Chris Short suggested that we might make a recording. *Bogoródtise Ďevo* was a great success, despite many Chorus members finding the experience of listening to their own voice rather disconcerting. It was broadcast on Radio 3, and also prompted the first online rehearsal.

By this time (May 2020), it was becoming evident that we would not be able to rehearse live for a considerable time and that, even when it was possible, we would need to be very careful. The Committee therefore decided to set up a small sub-committee to assess and recommend when and how we might resume live rehearsals. Joining me on this group were Fiona, Simon, John Apps to provide medical expertise, and Mary Magorrian to represent younger Members. We were later joined by Rebecca, who brought much valuable knowledge from other choirs, and Peter Coltman.

There was little the group could do at first, other than gather information. But in August, a clarification of Government advice indicated that live rehearsals would be possible, subject to various conditions. These included:

- Limiting numbers to 30 people;
- A survey of members to find out who was willing to attend;
- A risk assessment, which would have to be agreed with the venue
- Procedures and seating plans.

Unfortunately, by the time we had everything in place, Covid cases were shooting up again, the country went into lockdown, and we had to suspend our plans. During the long months of winter lockdown and the “roadmap”, we refined the plans in the expectation that we would be able to start live rehearsals after the relaxation of rules scheduled for 17th May. On 18th May, DCMS published guidelines that limited amateur choirs to six people, and we resigned ourselves to waiting until September.

Even now, with Government restrictions lifted in July, we have decided to resume rehearsals cautiously. The group will continue to monitor the situation and we hope that at some time we shall be able to relax our own restrictions. Meanwhile, many thanks to my colleagues on the group for all the hours that they have put into getting us back singing, and particularly to Simon and Rebecca, who have also been devising interesting and entertaining programmes for the online rehearsals. We are truly fortunate to have two such gifted and dedicated professionals.

Andrew Smith

Marketing Group Report

Our primary roles and objectives are:

- Communicating and engaging with Chorus members
- Publicising and promoting concerts
- Increasing the public profile of the Chorus
- Attracting new members
- Providing marketing assistance to other Chorus groups

What we did during the pandemic

During the lockdown was a quieter time in terms of concerts but marketing was still busy! Our aim was to maintain and promote the profile of the Chorus, as well as keeping members in the loop:

- Emailing out weekly rehearsal information and links to resources provided by Rebecca Taylor, as well as other emails
- Updating the website with news of our activities
- Posting regularly on Twitter and Facebook and interacting with other organisations on social media
- Producing material for a local magazine

What we are starting to do now

We are still doing much of what we did during the lockdown, and in addition:

- Focusing even more on keeping the website up to date with news items and banners for concerts, and content submitted by other Chorus groups. This is important so that visitors get a sense of the Chorus as an active and fun group to be a part of, and so that the information is accurate
- Sending emails to our external mailing list - currently with 180 subscribers
- Producing flyers and organising printing
- Liaising with marketing at other organisations
- Producing material for local media
- Producing the programme booklet for concerts and organising printing
- Other ad hoc tasks such as collating the reports booklet for the AGM

We also have a stand-alone **ticketing team** whose members are Pippa Lodge and Avril Brown. The role of this team is to organise the tickets for own-promotion concerts, for example producing ticket maps and organising the sale of tickets on the door at the concert.

We are very grateful as always to Francis Watson, who is not a Chorus member but an honorary patron, for supporting us in many roles for a number of years, including the website, emails and programme production.

The other members of the marketing team are Mary Magorrian, Emma Bates, Richard Wilcocks, Nicky Rowbottom and Mac Burnell

Changes to the team

This year as well as our new ticketing team members we were joined by Nicky Rowbottom as part of the Digital Communications working group. Her experience in digital media and marketing has been very helpful to the team. We have already had some great interactions in the social media sphere from her engaging posts.

In the **Digital Communications** working group we discussed how we would raise the digital profile of the Chorus. Short term action points included:

- Posting more frequently on social media and with a wider range of content (as opposed to just posting about our upcoming concerts)
- Emphasising our links with other organisations on social media to widen our reach
- Showcasing the social aspect of the choir in our communications
- Regularly posting news items on the website

We are working on these action points within the full Marketing team.

How can you help?

We are always appreciative of the support of members, whether in a formal or informal role. You can help us by

- Joining the Marketing group to take on a variety of roles such as producing the programme, writing news articles for the website, acting as a backup for emails to members, or supporting the ticketing team
- Sharing physical flyers or social media posts
- Sending us content such as photos of Chorus events, or news items for the website

If you'd like to know more about joining the Marketing group or about helping out on a more informal basis, please contact marketing@leedsfestivalchorus.co.uk, send a Facebook message to the Leeds Festival Chorus page, or speak to one of our members at rehearsals.

We are also still on the lookout for a Chair for the group. We're an enthusiastic group with a really important role to play in the Chorus so would benefit from some leadership to ensure we're on track!

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS – ANNUAL REPORT FROM LIBRARIAN, 2020-21

Scores for our rehearsals and concerts

As we all know, no concerts could be held during the 2020-21 year because of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, in order to assist with online (Zoom) rehearsals and for preparation for concerts early in the 2021-22 season, scores of the following music were made available on several occasions during the year for collection from boxes placed at suitably located members' houses (in line with Covid-19 restrictions in force at the time):

J S Bach: Magnificat in D (Novello).

Dunkerley: Plural Absurdity.

Handel: Four Coronation Anthems (OUP).

Handel: Zadok the Priest (Novello).

Mahler (ed Simon Wright): Symphony No 2) (for 31 October concert).

Mendelssohn (ed Simon Wright): Drei Geistliche Lieder.

Rossini: Petite Messe Solonnelle (Ricordi).

Bundle of seven opera items (for 16 October concert).

Scores were also returned during the year using the same system. I am very grateful to Becky Clark, Lloyd Davies, John and Sue Dickinson, Jonathan and Becky Lacey, and Andrew Smith for having boxes during the year. And I am grateful to members generally for using the box system. Use of the box system has minimised postage costs for LFC.

Printing costs were incurred during the year for *Mendelssohn: Drei Geistliche Lieder* and for *Verdi: Gli arredi festivi* (one of the seven opera items). These copies are now available for hire to other choirs, therefore having the potential for recouping costs in the future. Hire costs were incurred during the year for *J S Bach: Magnificat in D*, *Handel: Four Coronation Anthems* and *Rossini: Petite Messe Solonnelle*. In the case of the *Bach* and *Rossini*, there was no expenditure in cash flow terms, with the hire cost being set against the credit which Leeds Music Library kindly granted to us in the early stages of the pandemic and on which I reported last year. Other scores used during the year were LFC's own copies.

Hiring out scores

I reported a year ago that, as a result of the pandemic, no scores had been hired out since March 2020. That position continued throughout the year ending July 2021. Sets of scores started to be hired out again in August 2021, as something approaching normal rehearsals by other choirs started to resume.

A number of score sets were with individual members of other choirs when lockdown suddenly came in March 2020. I have been engaged in a good deal of "chasing" of librarians of other choirs to gather these scores together and return them to me. I am pleased to say that, with the exception of two sets of scores, all such scores have now been returned, or payments made for replacements that were "pandemic-lost". I am taking steps to achieve full recovery of the remaining sets, in one case with increasing pressure.

Other matters

I reported last year that Lloyd Davies kindly agreed to deputise for me should I suddenly become stricken, and incapable, with anything nasty. Happily, being careful but no doubt with some luck, I have remained unstricken. Whether I am (in)capable is not entirely for me to judge ...

My work continues on the backlog of updating the master record of the scores that LFC owns and checking consistency with the corresponding records on the two websites from which nearly all of our hire-out enquiries originate.

LEEDS FESTIVAL CHORUS

Choir Co-ordinator Report 2020 - 2021

This year's report will be much briefer than previously as so many of the things that I normally report on have not taken place. Whilst we have now resumed live rehearsals things are very far from being back to normal.

Choir Membership

Whilst we have been pleased to welcome several people to online rehearsals it has not been possible to hold any auditions so we have not been able to maintain choir numbers. Whilst starting the year with 141 members at the present time we have 125 members.

A much greater number of members have retired or left the choir this year than is normally the case. The pandemic has caused us all to reassess what we are doing and for some this has meant a move away from Leeds, increased family responsibilities and work pressures or a realisation that this is the time to retire. I hope that as things improve we may see some of our friends again. But for now those who are no longer in the choir at the start of this season are as follows:

Sopranos	Altos	Tenor	Bass
Hannah Chamberlain	Cathy Kitchingman	Tony Hartigan	Terence Gausson
Jordan Chapman	Susie White		Phil Higgins
Tara Evans			Tom Lusty
Ruth Fitton			
Rebecca Garrud			
Clare Gordon			
Janet Higgins			
Sue Higgins			
Hannah Waters			
Rebecca Yeadon			

We wish them all well and particularly hope that those who are retiring will maintain their association with the choir through the 'Friends of LFC'.

RECRUITMENT

As I indicated in my last report this is the year when the effect of the pandemic has really been felt. We have not been able to have open evenings but have welcomed quite a lot of people from far and wide to on-line rehearsals.

We do have 4 potential members sitting in on live rehearsals - 2 of whom joined us on-line and we shall be organising auditions for them in due course.

REHEARSALS AND ATTENDANCE

All last seasons' rehearsals were held on-line. Despite the best efforts of the Covid Group in trying to set up live rehearsals, visiting possible venues, preparing risk assessments and assessing the possibilities of streaming rehearsals, we have been unable to start 'live' until this season. We have, however, had 40 on-line rehearsals with varying attendance. The more severe the lockdown the more members have joined in on-line, ranging from 100 to 60 as the summer progressed and restrictions on activities were relaxed.

TRIENNIAL AUDITIONS

The important thing we have to do as we return to live singing is to bring our voices back to somewhere where they were pre-pandemic. There will therefore be no auditions until 2022. The actual time will be decided as we see how our singing progresses. Please note that these will also not be full auditions but voice assessments so that all members can receive feedback on anything they might need to work on to improve their singing voices.

VENUES

We remain grateful to St Chad's Church and the Parish Centre who have worked with us in trying to get venues ready for the live rehearsals that alas never materialised.

AND FINALLY

Although not everyone has been able to join in our on-line rehearsals the two people who are there, week in week out, are Simon and Rebecca. Their commitment to the choir in finding interesting pieces for us to sing and their unflinching good humour through our online rehearsals is hugely appreciated by us all. Many of our guests have commented on this and the fact that they have joined in so many rehearsals bears this out. Thank you so much to both of them.

EXTERNAL FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE – REPORT FOR THE AGM ON 6/10/21

The EFC is tasked with raising funds from corporate sponsors, charitable trusts, patrons and friends. In its current form it has raised, over recent years, almost £16,000 from charitable trusts to fund our Chorus Master and Composer Scholarships and provide subsidised tickets and also secured up to six corporate patrons paying us between £1,000 and £2,000pa each. Many of these successes came from personal contacts of Committee members.

Covid has changed all of that. We have not approached our corporate sponsors this year as we have had nothing to offer them. Nor have we made any applications to charitable trusts as they have had far more pressing calls on their funds. Our usual activities have therefore been on hold.

The Committee has therefore used the last 18 months to examine new avenues of funding, profile raising and recruitment with the help of Rebecca Wade, a post grad student from Leeds University whose input has been extremely helpful and stimulated some excellent ideas. Through her, Andrew K and David Strachan have made contacts within the University music department which may provide a useful source of recruits going forward. There have been outline discussions about choral scholarships for students, especially tenors, and this will need to be followed up.

We have also explored ideas such as Come and Sing and crowd funding and have put a great deal of time and thought into the latter. In large part the challenge is one of finding people with the time and energy who are willing to take on and develop these ideas into meaningful and sustained initiatives.

As we gradually return to normality we need to review our targets for external fundraising. The days of the major Leeds professional firms paying us an annual retainer have probably gone as marketing budgets have been cut and, if reinstated, may in future be directed elsewhere. Attracting sponsorship for individual concerts will depend on us providing events which are commercially attractive and sufficiently prestigious in terms of both venue and content to give sponsors opportunity to entertain their clients and contacts.

For the next couple of years we are constrained by the LTH closure for refurbishment. There are still Covid concerns for both audiences and choir members and it would be counterproductive to “relaunch” to potential sponsors until we are more confident in what we can offer them.

Sadly we have lost both our chairman (Andrew K) and our secretary (Barbara Brickles) both of whom made a fantastic contribution and will be difficult to replace. We are in need of fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

Would you be interested in joining the EFC??

Friends of Leeds Festival Chorus

Report 1st October 2020 to 30th September 2021

The last year has been as an unusual one for the Friends as it has for the chorus. There have been no live events for them to attend although a few of the Friends have joined us for on-line rehearsals. I wait to see how many Friends renew their subscription this year.

In October 2020 we had the following numbers of friends renewing:

Full Single -----	18
Country Single -----	10
Full Joint -----	24
Country Joint -----	10
Honorary -----	2
Total -----	64

During the year, we have gained two new Friends. One wished to join in rehearsals but couldn't audition to become a member. The other is a (complimentary) ex-member.

Total amount paid in subscriptions=£754.

There were also £423 worth of donations ranging from £2 to £138.

There were 87 Friends on the original list I inherited in March 2020 although I had not been able to verify that they were all 'active' until October 2020.

Several friends informed me they did not wish to continue being members of the Friends, mainly due to illness or incapacity in themselves or a relative.

There were no expressions of unwillingness to renew because we had little to offer this year.

Sadly, I was informed of the death of Brian Sleeman earlier this year. Brian had been a long time member and very supportive friend of the chorus. He was able to join in some of the Zoom rehearsals until his final illness. His son informed me that he found these rehearsals a great comfort. I have sent my condolences to his family on behalf of the Friends. Part of Parry's 'Invocation to Music', in a recording made by the chorus, was played at his funeral.

In July the Committee agreed to my proposal to simplify the Friends structure. There are now two levels of Friends:

Level One for those unable to attend concerts but wish to keep in touch with the Chorus;

Level Two for those attending concerts and are invited to the Chairman's Bar where they receive complimentary programmes and refreshments and the chance to meet former singing colleagues. They are also invited to attend social events and sit in on rehearsals.

Subscription rates had not changed for some years so these too have been simplified and increased.

Level One-£20 per household

Level Two-£35 single, £60 double

Although this is a considerable rise, it is still less than many other choruses charge and is set at a level which covers our costs.

I am looking forward to at last meeting our Friends face to face. Please encourage your friends and relatives to become Friends and attend our concerts.

Could I also remind you that on leaving the chorus, all members are offered complimentary participation in the Friends.

John Apps

Friends coordinator

25/9/2021

Report
from
The Concert Organising Team
2020-21

In the past year, we have been unable to mount any public concerts. However, we built on the idea of an on-line concert at Christmas to run a series of three further concerts marking St. Valentine's Day, Easter, and the arrival of Spring. These were

- Music for Valentine's
- Easter Journey
- Now is the Month of Maying

They comprised a range of pieces which we had previously rehearsed on-line and which we then sang to the accompaniment of professional recordings, along with a number of spoken contributions of prose and poetry contributed by various members of the chorus. The concerts were attended by a small on-line audience which expressed its warm appreciation. The participants themselves felt the concerts were immensely enjoyable providing a focus for on-line rehearsal work which might otherwise have become drudgery.

We would like to express our particular thanks to Rebecca Taylor whose technical organisation made this possible and to Simon Wright whose customary ebullience never flagged, even though he was conducting a chorus whom he could not hear!

Katie Turner
Rebecca Lacey
Lloyd Davies
Peter Coltman

25th September 2021

FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE (FRASC) REPORT October 2021

The clue is in the title. FRASC's role is not only to organise events to ensure that the chorus is a sociable as well as a musical organisation, but also to complement the External Fundraising Committee by raising money through harnessing the chorus's many talents. Wherever possible, we try and satisfy both our remits by making fundraising a fun activity involving chorus members, and their families and friends.

With everything being online this year, it has obviously been almost impossible for FRASC to operate as it usually does. Nonetheless, we have been able to donate **£1,250** to the chorus as a result of some successful fundraising activities.

The first of these was a wonderful **LFC calendar** based on chorus members' photos and artwork. Co-ordinated by Mary Crothers in time for Christmas and with the assistance of a talented graphic designer friend, the calendars raised almost £1,300, of which 10% was donated to a very grateful St Gemma's. Thanks are also due to June Apps, who made a very generous donation towards the production costs, and to the FRASC team who organised online payments and deliveries.

In the absence of the traditional Christmas Bring and Buy sale, Fiona Kirkby organised an **online Christmas shop** to ensure that her regular Christmas pudding and mincemeat customers would not be disappointed (they weren't!) and raised over £200 in the process.

Last but not least, Chris Short's excellent **quizzes and second-hand book sales** raised £50.

With the various lockdowns and social distancing measures in place, it has not been possible to organise any social events and it is likely to be 2022 before we can start again.

Similarly, the St Chad's monthly **wine evenings** managed by Liz and John Whittaker and the **tuck shop** run by Emma Walker and Sian Moxon have both had to be temporarily mothballed. Remaining tuck shop stocks were donated to North Leeds food bank.

In any other year, we would also organise ad-hoc gatherings such as pre-concert potluck picnics. We love it when as many people as possible participate, so we hope that you will join in when normal service resumes! And if you have any ideas for social and/or fundraising events, or perhaps the next in our ever-popular **Walk and Tea** series, then please let us know.

During this strange, online year, we lost some of the team, including Gill Riley, Sian Moxon and Mary Crothers. They deserve a huge vote of thanks for all their input over the last few years, and we are very grateful for everything that they have done for FRASC.

We would love to have some new members who can bring fresh ideas! If you are interested, just talk to Harriet or any of the FRASC team: Fiona Kirkby (executive chef), Chris Short (treasurer), Liz Whitaker, Margaret Whaley, Catherine Dickinson, Fiona Miller and Caroline Bailey.

Harriet Carlyle

FRASC Chair