

# THE BILLINGSHURST CHORAL SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 801503

## Details

---

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 1989-05-08

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

## Contact

---

**Address** Penybank  
Oaklands  
Billingshurst  
West Sussex  
RH14 9RT

**Phone** 07989412997

**Email** [info@billingshurstchoralsociety.org](mailto:info@billingshurstchoralsociety.org)

**Website** [www.billingshurstchoralsociety.org](http://www.billingshurstchoralsociety.org)

## Activities

---

**Objects:** (I) TO PROMOTE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN AND APPRECIATION OF THE ART AND SCIENCE OF CHORAL MUSIC IN ALL ITS ASPECTS BY THE STUDY PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCE OF PUBLIC CHORAL WORKS AND BY SUCH OTHER MEANS AS THE SOCIETY SHALL FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE. (II) TO SUPPORT SUCH CHARITABLE PURPOSE OR PURPOSES OR SUCH CHARITABLE INSTITUTION OR INSTITUTIONS AS THE SOCIETY SHALL FROM TIME TO TIME DECIDE.

**Activities:** No change from previous reports= choral singing.

## Classification

---

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

## Geography

- West Sussex

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£26,272	£26,923	-	-
2024-07-31	£25,010	£24,295	-	-
2023-07-31	£23,785	£27,770	-	-
2022-07-31	£15,232	£16,321	-	-
2021-07-31	£2,025	£2,201	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Keith Paul	Chair	2020-09-08
Catherine Nye		2021-09-14
David Warwick		2025-09-29
Joyce Baggs		2016-06-21
Rachel Crisp		2025-09-09

**THE BILLINGSHURST CHORAL SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 801503

---

# Accounts

---

## BILLINGSHURST CHORAL SOCIETY

### HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT to the AGM on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025

#### INTRODUCTION

We recorded a better-than-budgeted deficit of £(651) in the year (2024 - £715 surplus). We therefore ended the year with £5,829 (2024 - £6,480) in the bank comprising HSBC £829 and Shawbrook 60-day deposit account £5,000.

#### GENERAL ACCOUNT

Subscriptions income of £7,945 was down from last year's £8,510 but only £15 below budget. The total comprised 41 full-year members, paying £170 each (= £6,970), and 12 part-year and joining members paying in total £975.

We have 5 (2024 - 6) patrons paying at £60 and 5 (2024 - 2) at £100, making total income of £800 (2024 - £560). There are several honorary patrons too.

We were very fortunate in the year to receive several substantial donations, including donated Trustee expenses and donated Tour refunds. The recorded total is £3,901 (2024 - £937).

There was a related boost to our Gift Aid reclaim from HMRC, which amounted to £2,527 (2024 - £2,244). Furthermore it is estimated that there is already over £300 of Gift Aid to be reclaimed next year from the donations received most recently.

Thanks to our librarian and her team, we have made £192 (2024 - £218) by hiring out some of our scores to other choirs. Our stock of music scores is estimated to have cost approximately £4,000 over many years, and it is good when they can be used to earn some income for our Society.

We achieved fund-raising income of £1,757 (2024 - £2,335). There are some notable variations from budget and from prior year. The income included: £915 from 9 fund-raising events, including £140 from car boot sale (average £102) (2024 - average £119 from 8 evenings); £502 from the joint BCS/BDS Quiz Night (2024 - £506); £201 from rehearsal interval refreshments (2024 - £235); AGM & faith supper £nil (2024 - £202); garden party at Bell Cottage £nil (to be held in August) (2024 - £253) and Christmas party £134 (2024 - £120). Thank you everyone – organisers, participants and purchasers - for achieving these important sources of funds for our Society.

Sundry income comprised: Utility Warehouse £122 (2024 - £226); Horsham Lottery £165 (2024 - £180) and £30 from the sale of BCS clothing.

There were two prior year income items: £80 from a late-paying advertiser and £235 from the Village Tweet which had charged VAT over many years at 20% rather than, we discovered, at the correct 0%.

Rehearsal start and finish times at BCCC were trimmed and one rehearsal was held on a free trial basis elsewhere at St Mary's in Billingshurst, thereby saving £88 in hall hire charges.

One rehearsal was, at very short notice, not attended by Marcio or by a stand-in, thus saving his £130 fee and related expenses.

The Society's income in these accounts is £17,872 (general) and £8,635 (concert), totalling therefore £26,507. This brought the Society above Making Music's £21,000 income threshold, whereby our membership fee rose to £313 (2024 - £219). This exceeded the unadjusted budget by £88. We were above that threshold last year too, but the fee is not retrospectively increased.

We adjusted our Society's insurance cover, saving £50.

We disposed of our keyboard at the end of May, thus eliminating any further BCCC storage charges beyond the £250 (2024 - £275) incurred in the year.

During the year we bought a second Sumup device at a cost of £95. As at year-end, we carry forward 74 Ticket Tailor credits (= £27) for use with next season's on-line ticket purchases.

There were two prior year costs: £66 of past Trustee expenses, all of which were donated back to the Society, and £66 of PRS fees on our G&S arrangement scores. There was a £32 offset from the use of brought forward Ticket Tailor credits.

## CONCERT ACCOUNT

Audience numbers were 96 at St Gabriel's (Advent) and at Horsham were 128 (spring) and 144 (summer). The plan is to grow these figures steadily beyond what we could realistically achieve in Billingshurst at either BCCC or St Gabriel's.

Whilst ticket sales exceeded budget by £420 at St Gabriel's, disappointingly the Horsham figures were in aggregate £(2,245) below budget (a budget that had been difficult to set given that it was a new location).

Our Advent concert at St Gabriel's entailed an unbudgeted extra £(300) of staging and lighting.

Our first concert at St Mary's was also a 'Come and Sing' which entailed paying a £(300) unbudgeted morning MD fee; this used up a large share of the £460 income gain.

Our spring concert entailed additional orchestra costs over what was budgeted. These were needed in order to provide the forces for Finlandia and the Peer Gynt Suite. But this was countered by a significant reduction in the orchestral costs in the summer such that in overall terms we saved £756 from budget.

There was a target of £1,000 grant income in the budget, but this was not achieved.

Thanks to excellent work by our marketing team - by tapping in to Horsham businesses and by securing advertisers on a three-concert package - we were able to achieve a £178 favourable variance on advertising revenue less printing costs. There is probably further potential here.

Macmillan benefited by £[redacted] from refreshment sales and donations, whereas we had budgeted £400 to bring this effort in-house.

## MAIN VARIANCES FROM BUDGET (favourable / (adverse))

TOTAL budgeted deficit	"A"	£(1,222)
------------------------	-----	----------

### General Account:

Donations / donated expenses	£ 2,600
Gift Aid	£ 450

Rehearsals (including free rehearsal at St Mary's)	£	302
Second Sumup device purchased	£	( 95)
Prior year VAT refund (Village Tweet adverts)	£	235
All other General Account, net	£	(70)
<b>TOTAL General Account variance from budget "B"</b>		<b>£ 3,668</b>
<b><u>Concert Account:</u></b>		
Ticket income	£	(1,825)
Come and Sing income (at one concert, not two)	£	( 540)
Grant income not achieved	£	(1,000)
Hall hire and staging (including £(300) at St Gabriel's)	£	( 399)
Orchestral players and accompanists	£	756
Refreshments not done in-house, but with Macmillan's again	£	( 400)
Advertising income net of programme and all printing costs	£	178
All other Concert Account, net (including £300 saving on soloists)	£	133
<b>TOTAL Concert Account variance from budget "C"</b>		<b>£(3,097)</b>
<b>TOTAL Society variance from budget "D" = "B + C"</b>		<b>£ 571</b>
<b>Year-End Result deficit</b>	<b>"A + D"</b>	<b>£ (651)</b>

## THE TOUR

The Tour to France was completely outside the scope of the Society's accounts. However it should be noted that nearly £20,000 flowed in and out of the Society's HSBC account on behalf of all the participating members from Billingshurst and Hastings. A tremendous amount of work was entailed in managing the arrangements and in balancing the books.

## HONORARY TREASURER AND INDEPENDENT EXAMINER ROLES

This is my ninth and last AGM report as Honorary Treasurer. I have enjoyed everyone's support in performing the role during my term. Thank you.

I wish our Society's new appointee(s) every success in the role and I am confident our Society's finances will be in safe hands. I have agreed to continue to handle the Society's Gift Aid reclaims and I will make myself available to assist during the handover process.

On behalf of our Society I would like to thank Chris Edwards for his excellent work on checking the accounts. An independent examination of our accounts is a legal requirement.

I would also particularly like to thank David Eckford and Keith Paul, the two Chairmen I have had the privilege to serve with during my nine years on the Management Committee. Their energy, skill, enthusiasm and dedication are amazing.

A full set of Accounts together with the Trustees' Report will be submitted shortly after the AGM to the Charity Commission as part of the Annual Return. Those accounts will be available to the general public and therefore to potential new members.

**Chris Kirk**  
Honorary Treasurer

4th August 2025

**THE BILLINGSHURST CHORAL SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 801503

---

# Accounts

---

**B**  **Billingshurst**  
**C** **S** **Choral Society**

Trustees' Report and Accounts  
for the year ended 31 July 2024

# **BILLINGSHURST CHORAL SOCIETY**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the YEAR ended 31 JULY 2024**

Billingshurst Choral Society is governed by a Constitution. The previous one dated 11 July 2017 was revised, mainly to streamline the composition of the Management Committee, and the new one was approved by Members at the AGM on 12 September 2023. The Charity is registered with the Charity Commissioners, no. 801503. The Charity's postal address is 27 Blackthorn Avenue, Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 9GW. The website address is [www.billingshurstchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.billingshurstchoralsociety.org.uk). The Trustees of the Charity are the officers and a number of elected ordinary members. All Trustees are elected or re-elected annually.

### **Management Committee**

During the year, the Management Committee was as follows:-

Keith Paul – Chairman  
David Lowe – Vice Chairman (resigned 12 September 2023)  
Julie Wilson – Honorary Secretary  
Christopher Kirk – Honorary Treasurer  
Joy Baggs  
Susan Cooper  
Catherine Nye  
Helen Pullen (resigned 12 September 2023)

The Independent Examiner is Christopher Edwards.

### **Objects, Organisation and Activities**

The Society has two objects: (1) to promote, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of choral music by the study, practice and performance of choral works and by such other means as the Society shall determine, and (2) to support such charitable purpose(s) or charitable institutions as the Society shall decide.

In furtherance of these aims, the Society rehearses from September to June and usually stages three, sometimes four, concerts each season for which it engages such professional soloists and orchestral players as are necessary. Members of the Society pay an annual subscription, and social events and other activities are held to help raise some additional funds. Non-performing memberships are offered to patrons and friends of the Society.

### **Review of Progress and Achievements**

Under the Society's Music Director, Marcio da Silva, there have been three concerts staged in the year, brief details of which are set out below. All three concerts were enjoyable to perform in and enjoyed by the increasing numbers in our audiences.

The Autumn concert, at St Gabriel's Church, comprised a performance of Rossini's Messe Solennelle, with piano and harmonium accompaniment.

The Society decided not to stage a Christmas concert, opting instead to involve various members in local carol singing events, thereby increasing the funds already raised at our concerts for Macmillan Midhurst Palliative Care.

The Spring concert was Mozart's Requiem and Te Deum, again performed in St Gabriel's Church in Billingshurst. The Requiem was marketed as a "Come and Sing" event, as a result of which we were joined by twenty-six non-members. Orchestral support came from the Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra, which also played Mozart's D major Serenade. For this concert, the Society was delighted to receive a grant of £1,500 from Billingshurst Parish Council.

The Summer concert was devoted entirely to chorus arrangements of works from Gilbert & Sullivan operettas and was staged at the Billingshurst Community Centre. It was an enjoyable concert performed to a full hall.

The financial result was a surplus of £715 in the year (2023 – deficit of £(3,985)), resulting in a bank balance of £6,480 (2023 - £5,765).

### **Policy on Reserves**

The Management Committee has worked hard in the post-COVID era to maintain financial stability in a time of increasing costs and a reduction in membership numbers. The Trustees consider it prudent to build on the current level of cash funds to ensure that the Society's objects can be met.

### **Bankers**

The Society's bankers are HSBC, 21 High Street, Storrington, West Sussex RH20 4DR.

Keith Paul  
Chairman  
On behalf of the Trustees of the Billingshurst Choral Society

Signed on 10 September 2024

BILLINGSHURST CHORAL SOCIETY  
Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 July 2024

	2024			2023		
	<u>General Account</u>	<u>Concert Account</u>	<u>Total £</u>	<u>General Account</u>	<u>Concert Account</u>	<u>Total £</u>
<b>Incoming Resources</b>						
Subscriptions – members	8,510	0	8,510	10,095	0	10,095
Gift Aid tax refund	2,244	0	2,244	2,188	0	2,188
Subscriptions – friends and patrons	560	0	560	500	0	500
Donations	937	0	937	276	0	276
Grants	0	1,500	1,500	0	0	0
Advertising revenue	0	1,490	1,490	0	1,070	1,070
Fund raising	2,335	0	2,335	1,665	0	1,665
Interest	78	0	78	100	0	100
Music sales and hire	218	0	218	93	0	93
Concert income – tickets	0	5,140	5,140	0	5,760	5,760
Other	447	1,551	1,998	615	929	1,544
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>£15,329</b>	<b>£9,681</b>	<b>£25,010</b>	<b>£15,532</b>	<b>£7,759</b>	<b>£23,291</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
<b>Direct Charitable Expenditure</b>						
Musical Director	3,800	1,500	5,300	3,690	1,900	5,590
Accompanist	2,263	800	3,063	2,044	953	2,997
Hall hire	1,323	1,632	2,955	1,503	1,519	3,022
Orchestra / instrument hire	0	4,505	4,505	0	5,688	5,688
Soloists	0	2,300	2,300	0	3,760	3,760
Storage	275	0	275	730	0	730
Printing, publicity	35	1,135	1,170	28	767	795
Music purchase and hire (Note 2)	0	765	765	564	859	1,423
Other	2,882	734	3,616	2,118	524	2,642
<b>Governance Costs</b>						
Administration	346	0	346	630	0	630
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£10,924</b>	<b>£13,371</b>	<b>£24,295</b>	<b>£11,307</b>	<b>£15,970</b>	<b>£27,277</b>
<b>Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources</b>	<b>£4,405</b>	<b>-£3,690</b>	<b>£715</b>	<b>£4,225</b>	<b>-£8,211</b>	<b>-£3,986</b>
<b>Total Cash brought forward at beginning of period</b>			<b>£5,765</b>			<b>£9,751</b>
<b>Total Cash carried forward at end of period</b>			<b>£6,480</b>			<b>£5,765</b>

BILLINGSHURST CHORAL SOCIETY  
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 July 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Cash funds	£6,480	£5,765
Other monetary assets		
Debtors	80	0
Gift Aid repayment claim	53	299
Other prepayments	311	280
	<u>£444</u>	<u>£579</u>
Investment assets	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>
Assets retained for the charity's own use		
At approximate historic cost (Note 4)	<u>£4,200</u>	<u>£4,200</u>
Liabilities		
Creditors due within one year	0	0
Accruals	50	250
	<u>£50</u>	<u>£250</u>

Signed on behalf of all the Trustees on 10 September 2024

.....  
Keith Paul, Chairman

.....  
Christopher Kirk, Honorary Treasurer

# BILLINGSHURST CHORAL SOCIETY

## Notes to the Accounts for the Year ended 31 July 2024

### 1. Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP2005) and the Charities Act 2011. The basis of preparation is 'receipts and payments' under the Charity Commission's Guidance Statement CC3.

### 2. Depreciation

The Charity does not account for depreciation, as the costs of assets which it holds are written off as expenditure in the year of purchase. Purchases of music scores made in the year amounted to £24 (2023 - £564).

### 3. Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses

No Trustees received any remuneration, payments or benefits for their volunteering services.

Trustees were reimbursed for expenses properly incurred on Charity business.

Two Trustees (2023 – one) were reimbursed £619 mileage incurred on Society business (2023 - £89). All such expenses were donated back to the Charity by those Trustees.

### 4. Assets

The Charity's assets, together with the year of purchase and the Trustees' estimates of their value, are as follows:

Musical scores, procured variously over the years (2023 - £4,000)	£4,000
Other assets (2023 - £200)	£200
Total estimate (2023 - £4,200)	£4,200

Other assets comprise an upright piano, a conductor's stand, over thirty music stands, music folders and banners.

### 5. Detailed Concert Analysis

The analysis of incoming resources and expenditure relating to concerts is attached at page 6, and forms part of these notes to the accounts.

BILLINGSHURST CHORAL SOCIETY  
Detailed Concert Analysis for the Year ended 31 July 2024 (Note 5 to the Accounts)

Incoming Resources	<u>2024</u> £	<u>Earlier</u> <u>concerts</u>	<u>Autumn</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>Christmas</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>Spring</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Summer</u> <u>2024</u>
Subscriptions – members	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gift Aid tax refund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subscriptions – friends and patrons	0	0	0	0	0	0
Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grants	1,500	0	0	0	1,500	0
Advertising revenue	1,490	0	650	0	420	420
Fund raising	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interest	0	0	0	0	0	0
Music sales and hire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Concert income – tickets	5,140	0	1,295	0	2,135	1,710
Other	1,551	0	309	0	875	367
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>£9,681</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£2,254</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£4,930</b>	<b>£2,497</b>
Prior year equivalent	£7,759	£0	£1,709	£808	£3,279	£1,963
<b>Expenditure</b>						
<b>Direct Charitable Expenditure</b>						
Musical Director	1,500	0	500	0	500	500
Accompanist	800	0	400	0	200	200
Hall hire	1,632	225	500	0	500	407
Orchestra / instrument hire	4,505	0	915	0	3,240	350
Soloists	2,300	0	1,200	0	900	200
Storage	0	0	0	0	0	0
Printing, publicity	1,135	0	356	0	413	366
Music hire	765	0	307	0	190	268
Other	734	25	180	0	266	263
<b>Governance Costs</b>						
Administration	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£13,371</b>	<b>£250</b>	<b>£4,358</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£6,209</b>	<b>£2,554</b>
Prior year equivalent	£16,062	£92	£4,092	£1,828	£6,842	£3,208
<b><u>Concert Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources</u></b>						
Year ended 31 July 2024	-£3,690	-£250	-£2,104	£0	-£1,279	-£57
Year ended 31 July 2023	-£8,303	-£92	-£2,383	-£1,020	-£3,563	-£1,245

# BILLINGSHURST CHORAL SOCIETY

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Billingshurst Choral Society

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 July 2024 which are set out on pages 1 to 6.

### 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 year 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 statement:

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 explanations from the Trustees concerning any 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 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.

Signed on 10 September 2024

Christopher Edwards  
Durbans  
Round Street Common  
Wisborough Green  
West Sussex  
RH14 0AR