

Chairman's report 2019-20

I started last year's report by saying that the season had been a bit of a roller coaster. Little did we know what was coming!

It is challenging to summarise this season, which has taken more unexpected turns than we could have imagined. The autumn term proceeded as normal, Chris knocked us back into shape after the summer break, and with the help of some excellent soloists we performed a baroque ensemble, headlined by Bach's glorious *Magnificat*, in November (see Chris' own report for a more critical summary). Then, in early January, a few days before we were due to resume rehearsals we received the devastating news of Chris' stroke. Mercifully, thanks to excellent medical care, an intensive rehabilitation programme and a great deal of hard work by Chris, he continues to make good progress.

In these circumstances we were very fortunate that Anita was working at the time with Richard Laing, who was free, amazingly, on the date of our March concert and readily agreed to step into the breach, despite a round trip to Wallingford of about 150 miles. We are enormously grateful to him for helping us out at a difficult time. I think those of us that took part in the magnificent performance of *A Sea Symphony* on 14 March, along with Anita's wonderful performance of *Grieg's Piano Concerto* will remember it for a long time to come; not least how lucky we were to be able to go ahead in the nick of time before such events were rendered impossible. We also managed to hold a Saturday workshop for the *Sea Symphony* in early February at the Oratory School. Our thanks to Sarah Latto for directing that, and for the several other rehearsals she took when Richard was not available.

And so to lockdown, and a whole new vocabulary to go with it. The March concert turned out to be the last time we were together as rehearsals had to be discontinued and the June concert cancelled. I know we have all missed our weekly rehearsals and I hope that it will not be too long before we may be able to resume in some format. The committee is working hard on possible plans and considering options that would allow us to do so in a covid-secure way.

Regrettably, but understandably, Chris decided to retire after 45 years with BCS. The circumstances that lead to this would not be how any of us wanted his long and dedicated tenure to end, but I am sure I speak for us all in wishing him and Gloria a long and happy retirement. On a personal level, I will miss him enormously for his tremendous support, his humour and his straightforwardness. He is a hard act to follow for sure. We tried our best to convince Richard that he needed another choir to add to the three he directs already (amongst many other commitments!) but unsurprisingly he felt he could not take us on permanently. We advertised for a new Director of Music in March and received applications from some excellent candidates. A selection panel comprising Kevin, Roger, Richard, Anita, Simon Salisbury from the Elgar Orchestra and me interviewed a number of applicants via zoom in July and we have four very experienced, eager candidates waiting in the wings to audition with us when that is possible.

The much anticipated garden party, which this year was also to be a celebration and farewell to Chris, has not been possible either, and we await circumstances when we can get together for this. Unfortunately it does not seem as if it will be anytime soon.

The committee has convened rather more frequently than in a normal year, the only upside being that finding a date was easy as everyone's diaries were empty! I would like to thank my fellow Officers, Kevin Lawson, Secretary and Martin Mellor, Treasurer for all their hard work and support during these unprecedented times. Grateful thanks also to all of the Committee – Bea Earland, Adrian Smyly, Stephanie Martin, Celia Barnshaw, Mary Braithwaite, Tony Winters, Anita D'Attellis and Roger Morgan for their active and committed participation and help. And to the many others who contribute and help to make BCS such a thriving society.

I hope we can look forward to a more certain future before too long.

Charlotte Kerr, Chairman
September 2020

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 August 2020

OVERVIEW

Although we mounted two highly successful concerts this year, it has been rather disappointing being overshadowed by the Covid-19 pandemic, which forced us to cancel the rehearsals for the Summer concert and of course the concert itself. Paradoxically, however, this has resulted in a very good year for the Society's finances – a projected deficit has been turned into a surplus of £978 even after taking into account exceptional expenditure of £480 for advertising for a new Musical Director. Not only have we saved the loss, which we normally incur on staging a concert, but also the substantial expenditure we would have incurred relating to rehearsals.

Therefore, although in disappointing circumstances, the finances of the Society have improved over the year and remain in a healthy position.

Because of the uncertainties that confront us the Committee have elected to defer a decision on Members' Subscriptions for 2020/21 until the way forward can be determined.

REVIEWER

A big thank you is due to Eileen Watts who reviewed the 2018/19 Accounts and has agreed to continue in her role and review these accounts.

ACCOUNTS

Please see the Notes on Page 4 of the Accounts for supporting information.

In summary general points are as follows:

Income and Expenditure Account

Income

Total income decreased by £965 compared with 2018/2019.

Income from Subscriptions, Gift Aid and Friends decreased by £655 to £16,861 compared with 2018/19 reflecting a small reduction in paying members offset by an increase in Gift Aid of £158 which is based the larger membership in the previous year.

Expenditure

Total expenditure decreased by £2,542 to £16,783, including the exceptional cost of advertising amounting to £480, which apart from the latter reflects the fact that we staged two concerts instead of three

Concerts

Page 3 of the Accounts shows an analysis of Income and Expenditure for each Concert.

Balance Sheet

The Surplus of £978 for the year shown on the Income and Expenditure Account served to increase the Accumulated Fund to £18,863 that represents the net Assets of the Society as at 31 August 2020.

Martin Mellor, Treasurer

22 September 2020

BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY
ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Registered Charity No: 1001958

BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY

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BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

2019			2020	
£	£		£	£
INCOME				
	14,193	Subscriptions	13,380.00	
	2,623	Gift Aid	2,780.81	
17,516	700	Friends	700.20	16,861.01
449		Rehearsal Refreshments		352.77
360		Staging & Score Hire		289.00
5		Profit on Sale of Scores		92.25
396		Garden Party		-
		Profit on Workshop		165.69
18,726				17,760.72
EXPENDITURE				
<u>General</u>				
	3,096	Conductor's Fees	1,716.00	
	2,852	Accompanist's Fees	2,162.00	
	1,604	Guest Conductor	2,415.02	
7,736	184	Guest Accompanist	-	6,293.02
1,262		Hire of Rehearsal Venues	-	1,017.25
568		Subscriptions & Insurance		642.44
90		Membership Guides		30.00
16		Printing, Stationery & Postage		9.42
353		Website		243.00
63		Gifts		-
		Advertising		480.00
113		Sundry Expenses		102.16
<u>Concerts</u>				
	1,001	Loss on Winter Concert	2,566.52	
	4,689	Loss on Spring Concert	5,323.90	
9,124	3,434	Loss on Summer Concert	75.00	7,965.42
19,325				16,782.71
(599)		Surplus / (Deficit) for the year		978.01

BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

2019 £			2020 £
	ASSETS		
15	Cash in hand	<i>Note 4</i>	36.77
17,451	Balance at Bank		20,218.88
591	Debtors and Payments in Advance	<i>Note 5</i>	380.50
	Stock of Scores		19.62
18,057			20,655.77
172	Less Creditors	<i>Note 6</i>	1,792.54
17,885			18,863.23
	REPRESENTED BY:		
	Accumulated Fund		
18,484	Balance at 1 September 2019		17,885.22
(599)	Surplus / (Deficit) for the year		978.01
17,885			18,863.23

I have reviewed the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the Year Ended 31st August 2020 and can confirm that they accurately reflect the financial records for the period under review and the assets and liabilities at the Balance Sheet date.

Eileen Watts
Independent Reviewer
Date

M H Mellor
Hon Treasurer
Date

BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY
CONCERT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2020

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS			
2019	2020	2019	2020		
£	£p	£	£p		
Autumn (Bach <i>Magnificat</i>, Handel <i>Chandos Anthem No 9</i>, Vivaldi <i>Beatus Vir RV598</i>, <i>Concerto for Strings RV157</i>)					
5,099	Ticket Receipts	4,265.46	3,230	Orchestra	2,890.00
111	Profit on Music Hire	112.50	674	Conductor's Fee	646.00
130	Profit on Programmes	125.57	700	Soloists	2,000.00
236	Profit on Interval Drinks	249.25	306	Orchestral Scores	351.99
			950	Venue & Facilities Hire	1,050.00
			480	Organ Hire	51.50
			110	Printing & Advertising	135.82
			47	Gifts	133.99
			80	Staging Dismantlement	60.00
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5,576	Total Receipts	4,752.78	6,577	Total Payments	7,319.30
1,001	Loss on Concert	2,566.52			
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6,577		7,319.30	6,577		7,319.30
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Spring (Vaughan Williams *Sea Symphony*, Grieg *Piano Concerto in A Minor*)

4,053	Ticket Receipts	4,130.49	4,900	Orchestra	5,355.00
133	Profit on Music Hire	23.00	635	Conductor's Fee	718.00
127	Profit on Programmes	40.90	2,060	Soloists	1,650.00
282	Profit on Bar and Catering	170.45	395	Orchestral Scores	707.41
			370	Venue & Facilities Hire	950.50
			688	Staging	60.00
			138	Printing & Advertising	135.83
			98	Gifts	112.00
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4,595	Total Receipts	4,364.84	9,284	Total Payments	9,688.74
4,689	Loss on Concert	5,323.90			
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9,284		9,688.74	9,284		9,688.74
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Summer (CANCELLED)

3,192	Ticket Receipts	-	4,130	Orchestra	-
236	Profit on Music Hire	-	635	Conductor's Fee	-
82	Profit on Programmes	-	400	Soloists	-
156	Profit on Interval Drinks	-	605	Orchestral Scores	-
			1,050	Venue & Facilities Hire	75.00
				Hire of Piano and Tuning	-
			162	Printing & Advertising	-
			58	Gifts	-
			60	Staging Dismantlement	-
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3,666	Total Receipts	-	7,100	Total Payments	75.00
3,434	Loss on Concert	75.00			
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7,100		75.00	7,100		75.00
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>

BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY

NOTES ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 **Conductor's and Accompanist Fees**

Fees for rehearsals amount to £6,293 compared with £7,736 in 2018/19 reflecting the cancellation of the Summer Concert because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Hire of Rehearsal Venues

For the same reason the cost of Hire of Rehearsal Venues is less than 2018/19

2 **Advertising**

This is the cost of advertising for a new Musical Director

3 **Concerts**

The overall loss on Concerts fell by £1,159 to £7,965 because the Summer Concert was cancelled. The loss of £75 recorded for the Summer Concert is the non-refundable deposit for hire of the concert venue, Dorchester Abbey
(See Page 4 of these Accounts for details of each concert)

4 **Cash in Hand**

This is the float for rehearsal coffee and refreshments

5 **Debtors and Payments in Advance**

Credit with Oxfordshire County Library	155.50
Dorchester Abbey - Deposits for venue for 2020/21 Concerts	225.00
	380.50

6 **Creditors**

Balance the retirement fund donated by the members, due to our Musical Director, Chris Walker	1,292.54
Ex gratia payment to Guest Conductor	500.00
	1,792.54

BENSON CHORAL SOCIETY

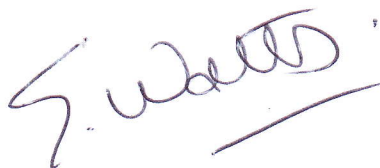
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

2019 £			2020 £
ASSETS			
15	Cash in hand	Note 4	36.77
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Eileen Watts
Independent Reviewer

Date 09/06/2021



M H Mellor
Hon Treasurer

Date 29 September 2020

