

ASHFORD (KENT) CHORAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 01.06.21 TO 31.05.22

SECTION A – OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVES OF THE CHARITY

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 for the general purposes of such charitable bodies or for such purposes as shall be exclusively charitable as the Executive Committee may decide from time to time.

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN RELATION TO THESE OBJECTS:

The trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidelines on public benefit and are satisfied that the Society meets the requirements both in its objectives and in actuality. The Society is proud of its contribution to the cultural life of Ashford and the surrounding area, of the opportunities it offers to hear live music of a high standard with full orchestra and of the membership and ticket-pricing policies which allow wide access to all members of society.

The Society rehearses weekly and performs three or four public concerts in the year for the ticket-buying public. These tickets are heavily subsidised by the members through the membership subscription, through donations and through self-help fundraising activities. A number of complimentary tickets have been offered to local schools.

One of the concerts each year is a 'Carol Concert' at which a retiring collection is made for charities. In addition a number of members do carol-singing sessions, the proceeds of which also go to charities. Each year, following consultation with the full membership and subject to significant funding, the committee nominates one national charity and one local charity to benefit from these activities.

Members of the Society periodically make themselves available to sing at weddings and funerals at a suitable rate of remuneration.

Slightly more abstract (though there is now increasing research on this) are the physical, social and therapeutic benefits of singing for the 110 members themselves, a good number of whom are retired and might otherwise experience some of the isolation or other problems associated with that age group.

At the other end of the age spectrum several members benefit from the waiving of the subscription for those under 25 and/or in full-time education; further, as a point of principle, special arrangements are made for job-seekers and other hardship cases, whose subscription rate is negotiated individually.

Public benefit is significantly enhanced by the open-access policy: there is no formal audition and no age limit (we have had members singing well into their nineties).

ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF ACTIVITIES:

The Society could not operate without the hundreds of hours of work done by the officers, the members of the full Committee and by several others. Although this is an organisation with a significant turnover, no remuneration is given except to professional musicians. General expenses and administration amounted to just £316 in 2021-22.

SECTION B – ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE 2021-22

It is the policy of the Society to perform at the very highest standard possible and to this end we employ a professional conductor, accompanist, soloists and instrumentalists for rehearsals and concerts.

It was with relief and joy that we resumed rehearsing and performing in September 2021. In a suitably celebratory concert in November 2021 we performed Handel *Zadok the Priest* and *The King Shall Rejoice*, Pergolesi *Magnificat*, and Haydn *Nelson Mass*. We held a Carol Concert in Ashford Parish Church in December and in May 2022 we performed Rutter *Requiem* and Puccini *Messa di Gloria*.

SECTION C – FINANCIAL REVIEW, INCLUDING RESERVES POLICY

The basic figures for the year ended 31.05.22 are:

INCOME	25754	NET ASSETS AT YEAR-END (Current account + Deposit Account + cash)	13656
EXPENDITURE	29253		
OPERATING DEFICIT	3499		

The financial position remains 'satisfactory', but the Trustees have decided that a separate reserves fund or account is inappropriate. They consider that the Society is vulnerable to fluctuation in receipts (a recent concert made a deficit of nearly £9700) and recent events have shown that money may be necessary for contingencies and risks.

The trustees monitor the figures regularly and are prepared to set up a separate reserves fund should the financial climate improve.

SECTION D – STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

This organisation is a Society governed by a Constitution (adopted 1994, amended 1997 and 2012). Trustees are elected by and out of the Society's membership at the Annual General Meeting; they hold office for one year and are eligible for re-election. Full Committee meetings take place three times a year and the AGM follows one of the rehearsals every October. The Conductor, the Assistant Conductor and the Accompanist are invited to attend Executive Committee meetings as non-trustee ex officio members.

SECTION E – REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

ASHFORD (KENT) CHORAL SOCIETY 1041943

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS: Mr H Cooper, Little Coombe, Pilgrims' Way, Charing, Ashford TN27 0NA

TRUSTEES WHO MANAGE THE CHARITY:

Dominic Urand	Chairman	Elected by full membership of the Society at AGM 2021
Jane Miller	Vice-Chairman	Elected by full membership of the Society at AGM 2021
Virginia Brown	Secretary	Elected by full membership of the Society at AGM 2021
Hugh Cooper	Treasurer	Elected by full membership of the Society at AGM 2021
Emanuèle Maindron	Patrons Secretary	Elected by full membership of the Society at AGM 2021
Mike House		Elected by full membership of the Society at AGM 2021
Penny Town		Elected by full membership of the Society at AGM 2021
Beryl Walker		Elected by full membership of the Society at AGM 2021
Mary Waite		Elected by full membership of the Society at AGM 2021
Julia Blackwell		Elected by full membership of the Society at AGM 2021
Rachel Cook		Elected by full membership of the Society at AGM 2021
Paul Bitcheno		Elected by full membership of the Society at AGM 2021

ADVISERS AND AGENTS:

Mr Keith Ford	Independent Examiner
HSBC plc	Bankers

SECTION F - EXEMPTIONS FROM DISCLOSURE

This section is not applicable to our organisation.

SECTION G - FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

This section is not applicable to our organisation.

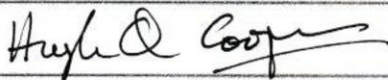
SECTION H – OTHER OPTIONAL INFORMATION

Organisation for the season 2022-23 is well underway. A concert in November 2022 will feature Handel's *Samson*, there will be a Carol Concert in December; in 2023 there will be a concert in March (Fauré *Requiem* and Vierne *Messe Solennelle*) and the May concert will be Haydn's *Creation*, which we had hoped to put on in 2020.

SECTION J – DECLARATION

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

SIGNATURE	
FULL NAME	HUGH QUINTIN COOPER
POSITION	HON. TREASURER
DATE	11th October 2022

END OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

ASHFORD (KENT) CHORAL SOCIETY

On accounts for the year ended

31/05/2022

Charity no (if any)

1041943

Set out on pages

1-5

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/05/2022

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

[Signature]

Date:

25/10/22

Name:

KEITH ROBERT FORB.

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

n/a

Address:

BROOK HOUSE, MAIN STREET,
BECKLEY, Nr. RYE,
EAST SUSSEX. TN 31 6RL.

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

N/A

ASHFORD CHORAL SOCIETY - TREASURER'S REPORT (SUMMARY)

TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

INCOME	NOV	DEC	MAY	GENERAL	TOTAL ^A
Ticket Income (gross)	4626.00	334.00	4166.51		9126.51
Programme Sales	208.00		145.97		353.97
Music Hire	249.00	123.50	400.00		772.50
Members' subscriptions				8937.00	8937.00
Patrons' subscriptions				1466.00	1466.00
Fund-raising: Raffle				1192.45	1192.45
Fund-raising: Sale of Produce				355.00	355.00
Advertisements				322.50	322.50
Fund-raising: Fees and Grants				500.00	500.00
Gift Aid				2048.25	2048.25
Donations/bequests	40.00	-	40.00	596.83	676.83
Bank and other Interest				2.63	2.63
TOTAL	5123.00	457.50	4752.48	15420.66	25753.64

EXPENDITURE	NOV	DEC	MAY	GENERAL	TOTAL ^A
Soloists' Fees & Expenses	1800.00	-	1250.00		3050.00
Performers' Fees (excl soloists)	3840.00	-	5105.00		8945.00
Conductors' fees and expenses	575.00	200.00	575.00	3100.00	4450.00
Accompanist Fees	200.00	185.00		2480.00	2865.00
Hire of vocal scores	69.00	-	219.00		288.00
Hire of orchestral parts	194.65	-	572.70		767.35
Purchase of keyboard				534.00	534.00
Venue Hire	960.00	120.00	960.00	820.00	2860.00
Hire of instruments	530.00		-		530.00
Box Office Commission	440.64		404.92		845.56
Upfront payment for tickets	1504.00		1504.00		3008.00
Printing programmes	88.00	72.00	220.00		380.00
Advertising/posters	53.00	15.00	38.00		106.00
Administration	32.00		-	283.90	315.90
NAC/Insurance				111.85	111.85
PRS			118.10	-	118.10
Bank charges (HSBC)				77.90	77.90
TOTAL	10286.29	592.00	10966.72	7407.65	29252.66

OPERATING SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-5163.29	-134.50	-6214.24	+8013.01	-3499.02^B
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	31.5.21	31.5.22	DIFFERENCE
HSBC Current	5293.27	2904.73	(2388.54)
HSBC Deposit	10089.26	8280.98	(1808.28)
Cash	200.00	200.00	-
SUB-TOTAL	15582.53	11385.71	(4196.82)
add Gift Aid Refund (arrives after fye)	1372.25	2048.25	676.00
s/t	16954.78	13433.96	(3520.82)
add prepayment (450 - venue hire 22-23)	200.00	650.00	450.00
subtract accruals from 21-22		(428.20)	(428.20)
NET ASSETS	17154.78	13655.76	(3499.02)^B

This report is an accurate summary of the financial transactions for the year, as declared separately (and in different format) to the Charity Commission.

Signed by Independent Examiner:



Date: 25/10/22