



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

ASHFORD (KENT) CHORAL SOCIETY

On accounts for the year
ended

31/05/2023

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 **31/05/2023**

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:

Keith Ford

Date:

5/10/2023

Name:

KEITH ROBERT FORD.

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

N/A

Address:

BROOK HOUSE, MAIN STREET,
BECKLEY, N. RYE,
EAST SUSSEX. TN31 6RL.

Section B

Disclosure

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 (KENT) CHORAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 01.06.22 TO 31.05.23

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.

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 two charities 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 £1222 in 2022-23.

SECTION B – ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE 2022-23

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.

Although Covid and the associated lockdowns continue to affect both membership numbers and audience numbers we count the season a great success. In November 2022 we performed Handel *Samson*, there was a Carol Concert in December; in March 2023 the concert in Wye Church featured Fauré *Requiem* and Vierne *Messe Solennelle* and in May 2023, postponed from 2020, we performed Haydn's *Creation* at the University of Kent.

SECTION C – FINANCIAL REVIEW, INCLUDING RESERVES POLICY

The basic figures for the year ended 31.05.23 are:

INCOME	29168		NET ASSETS AT YEAR-END	
EXPENDITURE	31593		(Current account +	11231
OPERATING DEFICIT	2425		Deposit Account + cash)	

The financial position is best described as 'satisfactory but unsustainable', and the annual subscription by members is being raised substantially for the season 2023-2024. The general reaction to this move seems to be that membership nevertheless represents extraordinary value-for-money.

The Society operates a deposit account which is drawn upon for each major concert. The Trustees have decided that a separate reserves fund is inappropriate. They consider that the Society is vulnerable to fluctuation in receipts 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 Music Director, 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 ONA

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
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
Timothy Whorlow		Elected by full membership of the Society at AGM 2022

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 2023-24 is well underway. A concert in November 2023 will feature Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, there will be a Carol Concert in December; in April 2024 there will be a concert of shorter pieces by Schubert, Mozart, Rheinberger and Durante.

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	D E URAND
POSITION	Chairman
DATE	10/10/23

END OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

ASHFORD CHORAL SOCIETY - TREASURER'S REPORT (SUMMARY)
TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

INCOME	NOV	DEC	MARCH	MAY	GENERAL	TOTAL^A
Ticket Income	3107.56	731.99	2334.34	4958.20		11132.09
Programme Sales	199.00		182.88	174.00		555.88
Music Hire	105.00	137.06	254.93	63.50		560.49
Members' subscriptions					9633.46	9633.46
Friends' subscriptions					1765.00	1765.00
Fund-raising: Raffle					1259.20	1259.20
Fund-raising: Sale of Produce					422.00	422.00
Advertisements					480.00	480.00
Private Purchase					280.41	280.41
Gift Aid					2090.17	2090.17
Donations/bequests	41.97	-	-	173.00	723.88	938.85
Bank and other Interest					50.71	50.71
TOTAL	3453.53	869.05	2772.15	5368.70	16704.83	29168.26

EXPENDITURE	NOV	DEC	MARCH	MAY	GENERAL	TOTAL^A
Soloists' Fees & Expenses	1600.00	-	150.00	1500.00		3250.00
Performers' Fees (excl soloists)	3500.00	-	120.00	5980.00		9600.00
Conductors' fees and expenses	605.00	210.00	500.00	605.00	3360.00	5280.00
Accompanist Fees	-	195.00	350.00		2725.00	3270.00
Hire of vocal scores	176.14	-	176.00	84.00		436.14
Hire of orchestral parts	277.05	-	-	284.05		561.10
Venue Hire	1047.70	150.00	1190.00	960.00	1080.00	4427.70
Hire of instruments	310.00		-	-		310.00
Upfront Payment	-		-	1524.00		1524.00
Box Office Fees	-		-	483.55		483.55
Printing programmes	85.00	40.00	110.00	130.00		365.00
Advertising/posters	38.00	19.00	36.00	65.00		158.00
Print scores					390.00	390.00
Administration	-	-	16.00	-	1205.56	1221.56
NAC/Insurance					162.60	162.60
Bank charges (HSBC)					153.40	153.40
TOTAL	7638.89	614.00	2648.00	11615.60	9076.56	31593.05

OPERATING SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-4185.36	+255.05	+124.15	-6246.90	+7628.27	-2424.79^B
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	31.5.22	31.5.23	DIFFERENCE
HSBC Current	2904.73	2052.71	(852.02)
HSBC Deposit	8280.98	6598.59	(1682.39)
Cash	200.00	100.00	(100.00)
SUB-TOTAL	11385.71	8751.30	(2634.41)
add Gift Aid Refund (arrives after fye)	2048.25	2090.17	41.92
s/t	13433.96	10841.47	(2592.49)
add prepayment	650.00	324.50	(325.50)
add debtor (orch scores refund)		135.00	135.00
subtract accruals from 21-22	(428.20)	(70.00)	358.20
NET ASSETS	13655.76	11230.97	(2424.79)^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:

Afford

Date: 5/10/2023