



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

ASHFORD (KENT) CHORAL SOCIETY

On accounts for the year  
ended

31/05/2024

Charity no  
(if any)

1041943

Set out on pages

1-7

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/05/2024

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:

8-10-24

Name:

KEITH ROBERT FORD.

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

N/A

Address:

BROOK HOUSE, MAIN STREET,  
BECKLEY, Nr. 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  
CHARITY NO. 1041943**

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024**

# ASHFORD (KENT) CHORAL SOCIETY

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 01/06/23 TO 31/05/24

### 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, members under 25 and/or in full-time education benefit from the waiving of the subscription; 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 £753 in 2023-24.

### SECTION B – ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE 2023-24

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.

In November 2023 we performed Rossini *Petite Messe Solennelle*, there was a Carol Concert in December, and in April 2024 we performed a concert of shorter pieces by Schubert, Mozart, Rheinberger and Durante.

## SECTION C – FINANCIAL REVIEW, INCLUDING RESERVES POLICY

The basic figures for the year ended 31/05/24 are:

INCOME	40897		NET ASSETS AT YEAR-END	
EXPENDITURE	26413		(Current account +	25715
OPERATING SURPLUS	14484		Deposit Account + cash)	

Due to the financial pressures from prior seasons and the continued increase of costs in all areas of operating as a Choral Society, it was decided that the annual subscription was to increase substantially in an effort to maintain the sustainability of the Society. The general reaction to this move seems to be that membership nevertheless represents extraordinary value-for-money. This year the Society also received funding grants from the Kent Community Foundation Award and the Ashford Federation of the Arts, which have been allocated towards the November 2023 concert costs and the purchasing of new carol music as capital expenditure respectively.

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 T Whorlow, 4 The Saddlers, Main Road, Sellindge, Ashford TN25 6BZ

**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
Timothy Whorlow	Treasurer	Elected by full membership of the Society at AGM 2023
Eleanor Bartram	Friends Secretary	Elected by full membership of the Society at AGM 2023
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
Emanuèle Maindron		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
Julia Blackwell		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 2024-25 is well underway. A concert in November 2024 will feature CPE Bach's *Magnificat* & Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, there will be a Carol Concert in December; in March 2025 a concert of Vaughan Williams *Five Mystical Songs* and other shorter pieces, and finally a concert in May 2025 to perform Poulenc *Gloria* and Beethoven *Mass in C*.

## 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	Dominic Urand
POSITION	Choir
DATE	8/10/24

END OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

**ASHFORD CHORAL SOCIETY**  
**TREASURER'S REPORT ( SUMMARY)**  
**TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>MAY (APR)</b>	<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>TOTAL A</b>
Ticket Income (gross)	3,067.00	674.00		4,901.00		8,642.00
Programme Sales	218.50			225.00		443.50
Music Hire	130.00	224.60		525.00		879.60
Members subscriptions					14,421.00	14,421.00
Friends subscriptions					1,862.00	1,862.00
Fundraising: Raffle					1,128.25	1,128.25
Fundraising: Sale of Produce					420.00	420.00
Fundraising: Bags					190.00	190.00
Fundraising: Other fundraising activities					1,193.00	1,193.00
Advertisements					345.00	345.00
Fundraising: Fees and Grants	2,500.00				300.00	2,800.00
Gift Aid					3,002.26	3,002.26
Donations/bequests	30.00	16.00			5,184.04	5,230.04
Other income					40.00	40.00
Bank and other Interest					300.11	300.11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,945.50</b>	<b>914.60</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,651.00</b>	<b>28,385.66</b>	<b>40,896.76</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>MAY (APR)</b>	<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>TOTAL A</b>
Soloists' Fees & Expenses	2,050.00	-		1,600.00		3,650.00
Performers' Fees (excl soloists)	780.00	-		3,040.00		3,820.00
Conductors' fees and expenses	500.00	210.00		605.00	3,297.76	4,612.76
Accompanist Fees	450.00	195.00		200.00	2,805.00	3,650.00
Hire of vocal scores	91.50	-		1,309.79	143.25	1,544.54
Hire of orchestral parts		-		97.49		97.49
Purchase of keyboard						-
Venue Hire	300.00			1,050.00	1,210.50	2,560.50
Staging & Equipment	1,007.60					1,007.60
Hire of instruments	750.00			660.00	370.00	1,780.00
Box Office Commission / Ticket fees				496.22		496.22
Upfront payment for tickets				1,524.00		1,524.00
Printing programmes	145.00	57.00		180.00		382.00
Advertising/posters	55.00	45.00		40.00		140.00
Administration					753.11	753.11
NAC/Insurance					147.08	147.08
PRS				111.99	-	111.99
Bank charges (HSBC & Sumup)					135.73	135.73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,129.10</b>	<b>507.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,914.49</b>	<b>8,862.43</b>	<b>26,413.02</b>

<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>- 183.60</b>	<b>407.60</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 5,263.49</b>	<b>19,523.23</b>	<b>14,483.74</b>
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<b>Other Fundraising activities:</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>GA Uplift</b>	<b>Costs</b>	<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>
Singing day 2023	457.60	114.40	644.01	- 72.01
Quiz night 2024	778.00		81.75	696.25
ACS Bags (received so far)	190.00		634.43	

In addition to the figures here, the society raised £1270 for charity during the year.

Included within donations is the very generous bequest from Charles Dawes' Estate

Ashford (Kent) Choral Society  
Balance Sheet & Statement of Profit or Loss  
Year ended 31/05/24

<b>Profit and Loss Statement</b>		
For the year to 31 May	May-24	May-23
<b>Income</b>		
Grants	2,800.00	-
Ticket Income	8,642.00	11,132.09
Programme Sales	443.50	555.88
Music Hire	879.60	560.49
Members Subscriptions	14,421.00	9,633.46
Friends Subscriptions	1,862.00	1,765.00
Fundraising: Raffle	1,128.25	1,259.20
Fundraising: Sale of Produce	420.00	422.00
Fundraising: Bags	190.00	-
Fundraising: Other fundraising activities	1,193.00	-
Advertisements	345.00	480.00
Gift Aid	3,002.26	2,090.17
Donations / Bequests	5,230.04	938.85
Other	40.00	280.41
Bank and other Interest	300.11	50.71
Suspense & data to move out of P&L		
	40,896.76	29,168.26
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>40,896.76</b>	<b>29,168.26</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Soloists' Fees & Expenses	3,650.00	3,250.00
Performers' Fees (excl soloists)	3,820.00	9,600.00
Conductors' fees and expenses	4,612.76	5,280.00
Accompanist Fees	3,650.00	3,270.00
Hire of vocal scores	1,544.54	436.14
Hire of orchestral parts	97.49	561.10
Purchase of keyboard	-	-
Venue Hire	2,560.50	4,427.70
Staging & Equipment	1,007.60	-
Hire of instruments	1,780.00	310.00
Box Office Commission / Ticket fees	496.22	483.55
Upfront payment for tickets	1,524.00	1,524.00
Printing programmes	382.00	365.00
Advertising/posters	140.00	158.00
Administration	753.11	1,611.56
NAC/Insurance	147.08	162.60
PRS	111.99	-
Bank charges (HSBC & Sumup)	135.73	153.40
	26,413.02	31,593.05
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>26,413.02</b>	<b>31,593.05</b>
	<b>14,483.74</b>	<b>- 2,424.79</b>

**Balance Sheet**


For the year to 31 May

	May-24	May-23
<b>Assets:</b>		
Debtors	72.00	135.00
Other Debtors (Gift aid)	3,002.26	2,090.17
Prepayments	-	324.50
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>3,074.26</b>	<b>2,549.67</b>
<b>Bank balances:</b>		
HSBC Current a/c 0100 7513	4,421.40	2,052.71
HSBC Deposit a/c 4302 3486	18,560.40	6,598.59
Cash in Hand	18.65	-
Float	100.00	100.00
<b>Total Bank balances</b>	<b>23,100.45</b>	<b>8,751.30</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>26,174.71</b>	<b>11,300.97</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Creditors	370.00	-
Other Creditors	-	-
Accruals	-	70.00
Deferred Income	90.00	-
Sub-total	460.00	70.00
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>25,714.71</b>	<b>11,230.97</b>
Reserves	11,230.97	13,655.76
Current year earnings	14,483.74	- 2,424.79
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>25,714.71</b>	<b>11,230.97</b>

- - 0.00

<b>Notable results</b>		
November Concert	- 183.60	- 4,185.36
December Concert	407.60	255.05
March Concert	-	124.15
May Concert (April this year)	- 5,263.49	- 6,246.90
<b>Other fundraising activities:</b>		
Bags, produce & Raffle	1,738.25	1,681.20
Singing day (2023)	- 72.01	-
Quiz (May 2024)	696.25	-

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: 8-10-24

Summary figures for past seasons

Season	Income	Expenditure	Deficit/Surplus	Assets at fye
2012-2013	27,621	24,047	3,574	20,838
2013-2014	26,100	30,927	- 4,826	16,011
2014-2015	36,154	41,412	- 5,257	10,753
2015-2016	35,331	35,412	- 81	10,673
2016-2017	35,709	36,456	- 747	9,787
2017-2018	40,625	38,520	2,105	11,892
2018-2019	36,980	39,732	- 2,752	9,140
2019-2020	27,189	24,044	3,145	12,285
2020-2021	8,617	3,748	4,870	17,155
2021-2022	25,754	29,253	- 3,499	13,656
2022-2023	29,168	31,593	- 2,425	11,231
2023-2024	40,897	26,413	14,484	25,715