Farnham Youth Choir

Annual Report and Accounts

Financial Year ended 31st August 2025

Registered charity no. 1145358

1. Aims and Objectives

Farnham Youth Choir (FYC) is committed to promoting, improving and developing the musical education of young people in the Farnham area. This is pursued through the creation and maintenance of a youth choir of the highest standards. FYC's activities include the presentation of public concerts, tours both in the UK and abroad, the production of recordings and participation in choral competitions.

The public benefits of the organisation are threefold:

i. Young people in the Farnham area can participate in choral activities to a musical standard which may not be available to them within mainstream education. The ethos of FYC throughout its existence has been to ensure that no child is barred from accessing this opportunity purely on the grounds of affordability.

ii. As a community based choir, a significant proportion of FYC's public concerts are centred on the Farnham area, thus ensuring that the local population can benefit from attending youth choral concerts of the highest international standard.

iii. Both FYC members and the local community benefit from the fact that FYC makes Farnham a destination of choice for other leading youth choirs from around the world.

2. Financial Position

The FYC annual accounts for the year ending 31st August 2025 are presented on pages 5 to 6 of this report. In summary FYC returned a deficit in the year. This was mainly because of refund payments to parents for the New Zealand tour falling into this year.

In 2024-2025 there continued to be cost increases in many areas, not least the weekend residential in Wiltshire and we were obliged to increase subscriptions. The board has taken steps to reduce the cost of the weekend residential for 2026-2027. As a small charity, we rely mainly on subscriptions, our generous patrons, grant funding and other donors to fund our activities.

FYC currently has various separate funds, details of which are shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities below :

i. A general fund for the day to day operation of the choir;

ii. A fundraising and marketing fund to develop FYC's marketing proposition;
iii. A tour support fund, aimed at supporting individuals to participate in tours;
iv. A vocal coach fund;
v. A Bursary Fund which funds singers across all three choirs who are facing financial disadvantage;
vi. A schools' workshop fund.

3. Activities report from Artistic Director, Patrick Barrett

Activities report from Artistic Director, Patrick Barrett (Academic Year 2024-2025)

I am delighted to report that the 2024-2025 season has been another tremendous year of musical growth and outstanding achievements for Farnham Youth Choir. Following the excitement of our international travel last year, this season brought equally thrilling activities closer to home, culminating in extraordinary national performances.

Training and Junior Choirs:

Our younger choirs have had a stellar year. A major highlight was the Junior Choir's incredible success at the Barnardo's National Choir Competition in March 2025; they reached the finals at the Birmingham Symphony Hall and proudly took the runner-up position.

Our outreach and community efforts also continued to expand. Thanks to generous funding from Farnham Town Council, we successfully ran free summer singing workshops for children in school years 2-5 in August 2024. We were also thrilled to announce a new partnership with the Surrey Music Hub in February 2025. Furthermore, our Singing Spree initiative saw continued success, not only with our summer event at the Farnham Maltings but also expanding to Aldershot for the first time with great success in March.

Senior Choir:

The Senior Choir enjoyed a season packed with high-profile performances. We kicked off the academic year in October 2024 with a remarkable opportunity to perform alongside Marliya, Gondwana Voices, and the RSNO Youth Chorus at the Barbican, giving our young singers a rich cultural experience on one of London's great concert stages.

The festive season saw our choirs performing in the annual Civic Carol Service, as well as holding our Gala Christmas Concert in a fresh venue for us—the Medici Theatre at Weydon School. In the spring, the Senior Choir performed a beautiful Mother's Day concert at St Thomas-on-the-Bourne.

The summer of 2025 was truly exceptional for our senior singers. In July, they joined the Vivace Choral Society and the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra to perform Berlioz's epic *Te Deum* at the Royal Albert Hall. Shortly after, the Senior Choir joined the National Youth Orchestra's 'Beyond' tour to sing Holst's *The Planets*, performing at prestigious venues including the Birmingham Symphony Hall, Snape Maltings, and culminating in a performance at the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall.

Combined Choirs:

The season culminated in our spectacular Summer Concert, 'Take This Gift', at The Menuhin Hall in June 2025. The concert celebrated contemporary female composers and featured all three of our choirs. It was a privilege to be joined by acclaimed violist Stephen Upshaw to perform Caroline Shaw's *Its Motion Keeps*, and the Senior Choir gave the highly anticipated world premiere of *Lilies of the Field*, a commission generously funded by The Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust and written for FYC by Errollyn Wallen CBE, who was appointed Master of the King's Music shortly after writing the piece.

4. Future Plans

Future Plans (2025-2026):
The upcoming 2025-2026 season promises an array of exciting collaborations and international travel.
In November 2025, the Junior Choir will join Woking Choral Society for Britten's *St Nicolas*, while the Senior Choir will perform Rutter's *Mass of the Children* with Luminosa Voices.

In March 2026, the Senior Choir will host a joint concert with the renowned all-female a cappella quintet Papagena, featuring world premieres by Michael Higgins and Liz Dilnot Johnson.

June 2026 will bring a special 35th Anniversary collaboration concert with the Stadtorchester Andernach at the Farnham Maltings.

Looking further ahead, we are greatly anticipating taking the Senior Choir on tour to Vienna in July 2026 to participate in the 15th World Peace Choral Festival. This will lead perfectly into the launch of our new three-year strategy in September 2026, when we provide the chorus for the London premiere of Julia Wolfe's *Fire in My Mouth* at the Southbank Centre alongside the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Thank you to all our singers, staff, volunteers, parents, and patrons for your unwavering support in making this another extraordinary year for FYC.

5. Structure, Governance and Management

FYC is a registered charity and all activities are planned and implemented under the control of a Management Committee. This includes all arrangements for rehearsals, tours, concerts, recordings and control of finance and expenditure. The committee usually meets at least termly. It comprises a Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer and other trustees, supported by our employed Operations Manager and Community Engagement Officer. The Trustees are joined by management officers who are appointed to specific roles and who provide support and feedback to the Trustees. The Trustees are currently looking for two new members of the board to join them.

Independent examiners report to the trustees of FYC

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of FYC charity for the year ended 31st of August 2025

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the trust 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 at 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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: Jane F Nicole

Name: Jane F NICOLE

Professional membership: Previous Member of Institute of Certified Bookkeepers

Address: 20 Greenfields Avenue, Alton, GU34 2ED

Date: 15th August 2026

Statement of receipts and payments - year ended 31 August 2025

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	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Receipts				
Subscriptions	50,297		50,297	42,343
Gift Aid Receipts			0	2,140
Fundraising	193	1,500	1,693	39,512
Donations	3,664	5,506	9,170	16,231
Patrons	2,275		2,275	2,850
Concerts	12,988		12,988	7,325
Total Receipts	**69,417**	**7006**	**76,423**	**110,401**
Payments				
Fees	20,936	3,252	24,188	23,389
Singing Spree		2,135	2,135	1,601
Schools & summer workshops		605	605	2,454
Venue Hire	6,636		6,636	3,823
Concerts expenses	9,798		9798	
Storage Hire	1,715		1,715	
Uniforms	220		220	(536)
Bank charges	596		596	1,463
Administration	22,328	5,054	27,382	33,230
Music & commissions	814		814	4,922
Bursary Expense		6,453	6,453	
Marketing	36	19	55	19
Tours		21,480	21,480	29,564
Recording Project Costs		856	856	
Misc	159		159	431
Total Payments	**63,238**	**39,854**	**103,092**	**100,359**
Net receipts / (payments)	**6,180**	**(32,848)**	**(26,669)**	**10,042**

Note: Following the Independent Examiner's review of the 24/25 accounts, it was agreed that income and expenditure be reported as gross figures per standard accounting procedures for the 24/25 accounts. The 23-24 figures were reported as net figures which explains significant variation between 23-24 and 24-25.

Statement of assets and liabilities - year ended 31 August 2025

Total assets	**31 Aug 2025**	**31 Aug 2024**
Equipment	1,900	1,900
Music library	2,113	2,000
Cash at bank	45,404	67,719
	49,417	**71,619**
Current liabilities		
Tax liabilities	(4,466)	
Total Assets less Current liabilities	**44,950**	**71,619**
Unrestricted funds		
General fund	24,221	19,102
Restricted funds		
Marketing fund	0	4,783
Tour bursary fund (previously FFYC)	7,483	10,513
Vocal coach fund	0	2,468
Bursary fund	5,742	11,405
Alumni fund	0	13
Tour fund	5,244	11,890
NZ refunds	1,863	9,807
Schools workshops fund	129	1,369
Summer activities fund	269	269
	44,950	**71,619**

On behalf of FYC board of Trustees



Melanie Hancox

Chair of Trustees