WALTHAM SINGERS – Charity number 1153650
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Administrative details

Waltham Singers is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with charity registration number 1153650. The principal address of the charity is currently 69 Maltese Rd. Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 2PB.

During the year to 31 March 2026, and up to the date that this report was approved, the trustees of Waltham Singers were Christine Eason, Geoff Jenkinson, Jane Jenkinson, Jemma Parker, Kate Hanson, Sarah Moran, Sabine Nussey, Jill Readings, Stephen Readings, and Mike Wall.

We pay for the professional services of our Musical Director, Andrew Fardell, and our Deputy Director and Rehearsal Accompanist, Jonathan Lilley.

Waltham Singers is affiliated to Making Music.

Governance

Waltham Singers is governed by a constitution last amended on 24 October 2013.

Trustees are elected from the membership at each Annual General Meeting. Trustees serve until the following Annual General Meeting when they retire and are eligible for re-election. The current trustees were elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 19th June 2025.

The trustees have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission when exercising their powers or duties.

Objectives

To promote, improve, develop and maintain high standards of music, particularly singing, through the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by such other means as the trustees determine from time to time.

Activities

As a departure from our normal cycle of three self-promoted concerts per year, in the 2025/26 season we staged two ourselves and took part in a third as a collaboration with Brentwood and Ingatestone Choral Society (BICS). These are detailed below. We have recruited a number of new singers during the year, but inevitably we have

lost some others, so overall numbers are steady, but lower than we have had historically.

In June 2025 we presented 'Welcome to the Dance'. This concert featured music related to Dance including works by Franc, Britten, Brahms, Salieri and Cole Porter.

Piano accompaniment was provided by Jonathan Lilley and Alfred Fardell.

In November 2025 we performed Mendelsohn's St Paul in Chelmsford Cathedral with The Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra and soloists Natalka Pasicznyk ~ Soprano, Tom Law ~ Tenor and Alex Bower-Brown~ Bass. Jonathan Lilley played the organ.

We were joined in this performance by singers from BICS who made a significant and welcome enhancement to the choir and the overall performance.

In March 2026 we reciprocated our collaboration with BICS by joining them for their performance of the Argentinian composer Martin Palmeri's Magnificat, which is a setting of the familiar words in a South American style. The concert took place at Brentwood School and the composer himself was at the piano.

The concert was very well received, and the Waltham Singers' contribution was welcomed by BICS.

We will continue to discuss the possibility of future collaboration with BICS as it facilitates both choirs taking on larger works and larger venues than they might otherwise be able to manage on their own.

Although a successful season overall, we encountered a number of challenges during the year which have needed to be proactively addressed. The two greatest concerns were significant increases in the cost of our rehearsal and larger concert venues, and a reduction in the number of choir members willing and able to commit to taking part in the Summer concert in June.

This led us to carry out a full review of our activities including surveying our members, consultation and discussions leading up to an Extraordinary General Meeting held in November 2025.

It was concluded that from the 2026/7 season Waltham Singers would move to a pattern of two concerts a year, in the Autumn and the Spring. The Spring concert would become the main one in a large venue (subject to availability), such as Chelmsford Cathedral, and move to early May to allow more time for rehearsal.

Financial summary

- Total Receipts were £27,696 including Gift Aid repayments from HMRC for 2024/2025 of £2,080
- Total Payments were £26,355.
- Total choir funds at 1st April 2025 £6,779
- Total choir funds at 31st March 2026 £8120
- We have a 'reserves policy' that we should retain at least sufficient funds to cover the cost of a concert if it had to be cancelled for any reason. We remain compliant to the policy.

Future activities

- Our June 2026 concert will feature a reprise of Alan Bullard's "Endless Song", which Waltham Singers commissioned and premiered three years ago for the choir's fiftieth anniversary, along with Bob Chilcott's Jazz Mass.
- We will be performing Britten's St Nicolas in Chelmsford Cathedral in November 2026 and Handel's Messiah in November 2027.
- Our recruitment campaign will continue, largely by social media and word of mouth, to encourage new members to join us. This is yielding positive results, and we look forward to attracting more members in September.

Steve Readings (Chair, Waltham Singers)
20 May 2026

WALTHAM SINGERS

CIO Registered in England and Wales: Charity No. 1153650

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2025 TO 31ST MARCH 2026

Receipts		
Concerts	7,795.50	note 1
Other Events & Fundraising	2,041.42	note 2
Subscriptions	13,079.96	
Member Donations	1,030.00	
Gift Aid	2,081.44	
50:50 Club	0.00	
Friends	1,265.00	
Music Lending	50.50	
Programme advertising	0.00	
Other Receipts	351.79	note 3
Total Receipts	27,695.61	
Payments		
Concerts	13,829.73	note 1
Other Events	76.57	note 2
Musical Director	8,077.00	
Accompanists	2,128.00	
Rehearsal Facility	1,110.00	
Music Library	0.00	
Making Music (NFMS)	479.99	
Publicity	100.00	
Administration	97.20	
Other Payments	0.00	note 4
Payments for last year	457.00	note 5
Payments for next year	0.00	
Total Payments	26,355.49	
Surplus/ deficit for this period	1,340.12	
Opening bank balances	6,779.03	
Closing bank balances	8,119.15	

Accounts prepared by M J Wall

Treasurer and approved by

R Bearman

Independent Examiner

WALTHAM SINGERS

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of "Waltham Singers" Trust

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st March 2026 which are set out on pages 1, 2 and 3.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The CIO's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The CIO's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act);

to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and

to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the CIO and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

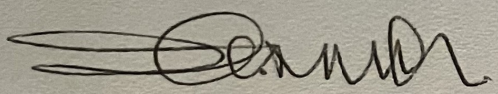
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met, or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed 

Name: Roger Bearman

Address: WOODSTOCK, CHURCH LANE
FORD END CHELMSFORD
CM3 1LH.

Date: 13/05/2026