The Athenaeum Singers

Registered Charity No 1197561

Report of the Trustees for the period from 1st September 2025 to 31st August 2026

Objectives

The purpose of the Charity is to promote, improve, develop, encourage and maintain the education and appreciation of choral singing and of music in all its aspects, by performance at public concerts, recitals, workshops and in other ways that the Charity through its Executive Committee deem appropriate.

Activities and Achievements

2025/26 was a very special year for the Athenaeum Singers as the decision was made to collaborate with another choir who shared the same musical director for our summer concert.

Rehearsals began in September for our winter concert which was held in November, Unfortunately this coincided with other local events which impacted on audience numbers, however the music was well received.

A group of singers visited local care homes in early December and on the same evening we held our annual Carol Concert. Generous audience donations from this event enabled us to give a substantial donation to a local charity.

Continuing our efforts to reach out to the men in our community and enable them to appreciate the benefits of choral singing, we held our first men's workshop. This took place in a local hostelry and over two days a group of 8 men led by our Musical Director rehearsed and performed a programme of Christmas carols.

From early January we began our rehearsals for our joint venture. Over the months leading up to the performance in May both choirs attended joint rehearsals and a full day's workshop, as well as the usual rehearsal schedule. The performance took place in Bath Abbey and the choirs were joined by professional soloists and accompanied by Bath Philharmonic Orchestra. It was a real success for all those involved and a wonderful culmination to a lot of hard work.

Through the continuous review of their Strategic Plan, the Executive Committee continue to plan for the long term future of the Charity, working on ways to retain and increase membership numbers as well as how to ensure and encourage increased audience

engagement through greater variation in concert programmes, as well as continuing to broaden what the Charity can offer the wider community through engagement with other choirs, schools and community organisations.

The choir continues to improve communication through their website www.athenaeumsingers.com and Facebook page and Instagram, as well as in the local community press and media.

Financial Review

The Receipts and Payments account for the period 1st September 2025 to 31st August 2026 shows an overall deficit of £462.55.

This year, due to increases in all areas and losses from both concerts, we have a deficit budget. However, a large sponsorship donation for the May concert allowed us to go ahead with the concert and limited the impact on our budget. Our financial plans for the coming year are looking to moving the budget into a surplus. We are planning for concerts and a Come and Sing Day, which can bring in larger audiences while scaling back on expenditure where possible.

Expenditure in the year totalled £16, 648.45, the Musical Director's and Accompanist's fees making up over half of this at £8,784.50. Music hire and church hire for rehearsals cost a further £1,608, less than the previous year. The remaining £3,034.15, a significant increase on the previous year, covered the cost of advertising, website maintenance, insurance and more ….

Policies Reserves and Risks

Our reserves are still a little over £7000. The Executive Committee remain conscious of the need to explore all avenues to further increase membership and concert attendance. They continue to look at finding other possible income sources including grant applications, as well as sponsorship and fundraising.

Sound financial controls are exercised by the setting of budgets and their stringent review.

Trustees

The Trustees are put forward from within the membership of the Athenaeum Singers based on their relevant skills; they form the Executive Committee who is elected annually.

The members elected at the last AGM

Mrs J Adams (Chair)

Mrs E Light (Vice Chair)

Mrs S Peachey (Meetings Secretary)

Mr I Bell (Fundraising)

Mrs C Mullins (Treasurer)

Mrs B Luscombe (Ticketing)

Mr I McManus (Communications Secretary)

Mrs P Allard (Membership)

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

Mrs J Adams (Chair)