

Annual Reports and Accounts

For the year ended 31st May 2026

Sussex Chorus

Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st May 2026

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Director of Music's Reports

I am delighted with the choir's continued journey towards better and more glorious music making.

For the summer I decided to give us a change of pace and gave our first concert of the year a theatrical bent with Gilbert & Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*. The choir worked extremely hard and the performance was truly spectacular, with some star turns from our professional soloists and several excellent solo cameos from members of the choir themselves. The audience loved it and I think it perfectly reflected the wonderful colour and character of Sussex Chorus.

Our second concert in November was *Carmina Burana* with Sussex Symphony Orchestra in combination with Burgess Hill Choral Society. I was very proud of the contribution of the Sussex Chorus to this fabulous concert, and it was thrilling to be at the front and hear such tremendous detail and richness come over from the orchestra and singers.

Christmas was a return to Sheffield Park, and we were once again enormously appreciated. Both performances were well sold, and the audience had a treat of carols and other Christmas music.

The spring concert was the magnificent *Petite Messe Solennelle* by Rossini. I knew that the choir would enjoy this glorious work and the rehearsals were joyous. The performance was wonderful and full of life, the pianist, harmonium and soloists were excellent. A disappointing audience number for this popular work did nothing to take the shine off a great evening.

We look forward to the exciting plans I have for 2026/27.

Well done all!

Stephen Anthony Brown
Director of Music
30 June 2026

Officer's Report

What a year it has been for Sussex Chorus. From the theatrical excitement of Pirates of Penzance to the grandeur of Carmina Burana and the intimacy of Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle, the 2025/26 season has showcased the choir at its very best - versatile, ambitious, and thoroughly enjoyable to be part of.

We opened the year with a sell-out performance of Pirates of Penzance at St Andrew's, Burgess Hill in June 2025. Gilbert and Sullivan is always a crowd-pleaser, but this production was something rather special. Our professional soloists (Simon Butteriss, Janet Cowley, David Menezes, Rachel Middle, and Steven Page) were outstanding, and it was a delight to see so many chorus members take to the stage in solo roles. The audience loved every moment, and the atmosphere was electric. Kent Sinfonia, as ever, were wonderful partners.

November brought a very different challenge: Carmina Burana at All Saints Church, Hove, performed in collaboration with Sussex Symphony Orchestra and Burgess Hill Choral Society. It was a privilege to share the stage with our neighbouring choral friends, and our Director of Music Stephen Brown excelled himself by performing 'Olim lacus colueram' - no small undertaking! The concert was well attended and the feedback was tremendous.

Once again we made the enjoyable trip to Sheffield Park for a couple of Christmas Carol concerts in mid-December, which remains a lovely reminder of the role choral music plays in the wider community.

Our spring concert at St Andrew's in March 2026 felt like a real high-water mark. Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle is a work that rewards a choir willing to invest in it, and the ensemble, completed by soloists Alex Aldren, Beth Moxon, Mark Saberton, and Daniella Sicari, and Jeremy Weaver and Peter Dutton on piano and harmonium respectively, delivered something genuinely moving. The warm reception from the audience said it all.

The accounts reflect a solid year: receipts of £29,825, payments of £24,404, and a surplus of £5,421 - an improvement on last year's £3,669. I would note that our partnership with Sussex Symphony Orchestra in November meant we did not bear the costs of running one concert ourselves, which flatters the figures somewhat. Nonetheless, the financial position is healthy and the committee remains vigilant in its stewardship.

I must make a particular and heartfelt acknowledgement to Neil Peskett, who stepped up as acting Chairman in January 2026. Neil brought calm and capable leadership at an important moment, and I am enormously grateful for the way he carried the responsibility. He has more than earned his role as Vice-Chairman, a position he formally took up at our AGM in September 2025.

As always, Sussex Chorus does not run itself. My sincere thanks go to Stephen Brown and Jeremy Weaver - their musicianship, patience, and good humour are the foundation on which everything else rests. Thanks also to all the committee members and volunteers who give so much of their time and energy behind the scenes. This choir is truly a collective endeavour.

So, onwards and upwards! Our ambition remains to grow our audiences, grow our membership, and continue making music that matters.

Andrew Fox
Chairman
14 July 2026

Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st May 2026

Sussex Chorus
Registered charity (in England and Wales) no: 271678

Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees

Kate Barker	
Wendy Barnaby	
Helen Cooper	
Andrew Fox	Chairman
Hazel Furber	Hon. Secretary
Jeremy Jalie	Hon. Treasurer
Richard Moon	
Neil Peskett	Vice-Chairman
Julia Roberts	
David Tettersell	
Christine Wilson	

Principal Office

c/o 5 St John's Avenue, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 8HJ

Independent Examiner

Mr S. Brentnall

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd - 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Trustees Report for the Year ended 31st May 2026

The Trustees present their Report for the year ended 31st May 2026.

Object of the Charity

The Charity's object is to provide, improve, develop, and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects.

Review of Activities

Sussex Chorus produced two (2) concerts of its own and took part in Christmas Carol concerts at Sheffield Park during FYE 2026. We also participate in a concert with Sussex Symphony Orchestra, meaning we were involved in four events in total. In June 2025 we undertook *Pirates of Penzance* to a sold-out audience at St Andrew's, Burgess Hill, which including brilliant theatrical turns from four professional soloists - Simon Butteriss, Janet Cowley, David Menezes, Rachel Middle, and Steven Page - and several members of the chorus itself - Kate Barker, Jackie Bishop, Rozz Lloyd-Bostock, Mark Pyle, and John Welch. We were delighted to be joined Kent Sinfonia. *Pirates* was extremely well-received by the audience and a lot of fun for everyone involved. In November 2025 we performed *Carmina Burana* at All Saints Church in Hove with Sussex Symphony Orchestra and Burgess Hill Choral Society. Our Director of Music, Stephen Brown, sang, performing the challenging 'Olim lacus colueram' aria. We started the evening with John Williams's *Hymn to the Fallen* (from Saving Private Ryan) and were treated to a rip-roaring performance of 'Mars' from *The Planets* (Holst) by the orchestra. The concert was well attended and it was great to collaborate with the other groups. In March 2026 we performed Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, again at St Andrew's, Burgess Hill. We were joined by four soloists – Alex Aldren, Beth Moxon, Mark Saberton, and Daniella Sicari - and delighted to have Jeremy Weaver (our accompanist) on piano and Peter Dutton on harmonium. It felt like the concert was one of our most accomplished performances. The choir has continued to be supported through generous grants and donations from local organisations during FYE 2026. In total we received £2,736 from Hayward Heath Town Council, the Phillips Family Charitable Trust, and Adelphi Holdings.

Trustees and Management

During the year, the Charity was managed by the Trustees listed below:

Kate Barker
Wendy Barnaby
Helen Cooper
Andrew Fox – Chairman
Hazel Furber – Hon. Secretary
Jeremy Jalie – Hon. Treasurer
Richard Moon
Neil Peskett – Vice Chairman — **Vice-Chairman from 22 September 2025**
Margaret Rea — *Retired 22 September 2025*
Julia Roberts
Paul Seddon — *Retired 22 September 2025*
David Tettersell
Christine Wilson – Vice Chairman — *Retired as Vice Chairman 22 September 2025* **Co-opted 07 October 2025**

Public Benefit

The Charity operates for the benefit of the public by the presentation of public choral concerts and recitals and by any other ways as far as the Society thinks fit.

Financial Review

The financial activities are detailed in the Accounts on page 8 and 9. Receipts for the year were £29,825 (FYE 2025: £34,885) and payments were £24,404 (FYE 2025: £31,216) generating a surplus of £5,421 (FYE 2025: £3,669). The choir's funds at 31st May 2026 amounted to £29,954 (FYE 2025: £24,533). Overall, the results reflect a good year where Sussex Chorus made a good surplus. We also benefitted from not having to bear the costs of running a concert in November 2025 due to our partnership with Sussex Symphony Orchestra, meaning our income and expenditure was commensurately lower. Overall, if we had run an additional concert, it feels like our income/expenditure would be very similar to FYE 2025, demonstrating stability. The choir's committee continually monitors the financial health of the choir and undertakes careful budgeting to ensure the financial position remains secure. It is grateful to the Music Director who also supports endeavours to keep concert costs tightly controlled. The charity's policy is to maintain cash reserves of at least £10,000 to cover the cost of mounting at least one concert in the following season (normally a summer concert in June). As a choir, we are increasingly relying on fundraising and grant income to support the ambitious programme we undertake and therefore holding a larger reserve at the beginning of the year is sensible as it protects us from fluctuations in fundraising income. We are extremely grateful to several members who undertake fundraising and grant applications on our behalf to sustain this vital income stream.



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Andrew Fox – Chairman
For and on behalf of the Trustees of Sussex Chorus
14 July 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
of SUSSEX CHORUS [Registered Charity No. 271678]

I report on the accounts of Sussex Chorus for the year ended 31st May 2026 which are set out on pages 8 and 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity'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.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is eligible for independent examination, 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 Commission 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 statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



……22 July 2026……
Steve Brentnall
1 Meadow View Cottages
Town Littleworth
LEWES
BN8 4TH

Receipts and Payments Accounts

For the year ended 31st May 2026

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total 2026**	**Total 2025**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**
INCOME RECEIPTS				
Receipts from Charitable Activities				
Concert receipts	6,003	-	**6,003**	**8,902**
Subscriptions	14,037	-	**14,037**	**15,073**
Income tax recovered under Gift Aid	3,308	-	**3,308**	**2,623**
Fundraising income	4,439	-	**4,439**	**6,603**
Music hire and sales	1,294	-	**1,294**	**423**
Friends	295	-	**295**	**759**
Investment Income				
Bank interest	449	-	**449**	**502**
Total receipts	29,825	-	**29,825**	**34,885**
DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE				
Concert expenses	10,912	-	**10,912**	**17,687**
Rehearsal fees – accompanist and conductor	7,190	-	**7,190**	**5,676**
Rehearsal fees – room hire	2,158	-	**2,158**	**2,215**
Publicity	2,070	-	**2,070**	**2,995**
Music purchase/hire	198	-	**198**	**658**
Administration and retirement gifts	537	-	**537**	**545**
Sundry costs	623	-	**623**	**740**
OTHER EXPENDITURE				
Making music subscription and other subscriptions	716	-	**716**	**700**
Total payments	24,404	-	**24,404**	**31,216**
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS) FOR THE YEAR	5,421	-	**5,421**	**3,669**
Bank balances at 1st June			**24,533**	**20,864**
Bank balances at 31st May			**29,954**	**24,533**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

At 31st May 2026

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	**Total 2026**	**Total 2025**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**
MONETARY ASSETS				
Bank balances:				
CAF Cash account	1,000	-	**1,000**	**1,000**
CAF Gold account	28,954	-	**28,954**	**23,533**
Bank balances	29,954	-	**29,954**	**24,533**

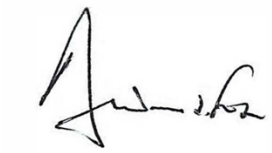
Notes to the Financial Statements

1. The financial statements have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis in accordance with section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

2. There are no staff employed by Sussex Chorus.

3. Restricted Funds – Sussex Chorus received no restricted donations or held any restricted funds in FYE 31st May 26.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



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Andrew Fox – Chairman
For and on behalf of the Trustees of Sussex Chorus
14 July 2026