Ipswich Choral Society

Trustees' Annual Report 2025-26

Charity registered number: 278866

Registered address: 39 Sidegate Avenue
Ipswich
IP4 4JH

Trustees		
	Philip Powditch	Chair
	Michael Robertson	Vice chair
	Pamela Sutton	Secretary
	Lionel Mackay	Treasurer
	Fenella Andrews	
	Jacqui Cant	
	Philip Hall	
	Paul Kearney	
	Christine Pearce	
	James Skellorn	

Structure The Society is managed by a committee which is elected annually by the members at the AGM. The duties of the committee include:

- Appointment of the Music Director
- Planning of rehearsals and concerts
- Setting subscriptions

Activities and Objectives

The purposes of Ipswich Choral Society are to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects through the presentation and/or performance of concerts and associated activities, subject to any legal restrictions that from time to time may be in force.

Public benefit

In pursuing our aims for public benefit, the choir believes it impacts on people's lives in two ways. First, for participants (young and old), we involve people in a creative, enjoyable and fulfilling educational activity, providing them with an opportunity to develop vocal technique and musical repertoire.

Second, for audiences, we present exciting, innovative and high-quality performances which should always be a pleasurable cultural experience but will sometimes challenge them and educate them by extending their musical knowledge.

In addition to the public educational benefits to participants and audiences mentioned above, the trustees are conscious that its activities must be affordable, so both membership subscriptions and audience ticket prices are regularly reviewed so as to be sustainable. Any

member with financial difficulties can privately discuss a special reduced subscription arrangement with the Treasurer.

Achievements and performance

2025 has seen the number of members grow for a fourth year in a row. An increase in membership furthers the objectives of the society 'to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects' by reaching a larger number of people.

During the year three main public concerts were performed.

April 2025: Bach's St Matthew Passion, in collaboration with Halifax Choral Society at Halifax Minster, again offering members of both choirs the opportunity to work together. Choristers from the Minster also sang in the performance. The work requires two choirs and orchestras meaning that a collaboration of this sort offers the audience as well as the performers a chance to experience a work that is less frequently performed.

June 2025: Charter 825 Ipswich Corn Exchange, The choir took part in a concert to celebrate 825 years since the granting of the Royal Charter by King John to Ipswich in the year 1200AD. The concert featured many local groups and culminated in a performance of many choral classic works along with a specially commissioned piece composed by a member of Ipswich Minster choir and featuring lyrics written by local school children. The choir performed alongside the choirs of Ipswich Minster.

November 2025: Elements in St Joseph's College Chapel. The concert featured a mix of modern and ancient music based on themes of the earth's elements. The venue was in an area of the town away from our normal venues offering the chance for a different audience to experience choral singing.

During the year we supported a local charity, Music in our Bones, who provide musical entertainment for residents in care homes and singing workshops for people with dementia and memory loss, stroke survivors, those with other neurological issues, people with anxiety and depression, and their carers. We did this by providing the facility for monetary collections at our concerts and events.

The choir sang during the laying of wreaths at the civic service of remembrance organised by Ipswich Borough Council and the Royal British Legion.

The choir also sang Christmas carols at Christchurch Mansion and performed at Ipswich Music Day.

Financial review

Overview

2025-26 saw a much reduced turnover that the previous year, due in large part to there only being one low budget ticketed concert. Despite the reduction in subscription rates (from £165 to £145 (for prompt payers paying annually) the increase in membership through the year resulted in an increase in the total received. The resulting surplus on operations

covered the loss on concerts, while the modest income from fund raising resulted in a surplus of £1,408.

Turnover

The turnover for the year was significantly lower than 2024-25, with receipts of £35,903 (2024-25 £79,742) and expenses of £34,785 (2024-25 £80,755). This was due mainly to:

- Much reduced turnover from concerts;
- Additional income in 2024-25 from the legacy of £10,000 and participation in the in the same year in celebration of the 550th anniversary of Cardinal Wolsey.

Operating income and expenses

Operating income reduced from £26,466 to £22,378. This was largely due to one-off changes in the timing of Gift Aid claims and interest receipts. Although the subscription charges to members for 2025-26 were reduced the increase in membership has resulted in a small increase in total subscriptions received.

Operating expenses increased from £14,597 to £16,884. This was due to:

- One-off expenses from previous years totalling £1,414;
- Conducting costs in the previous year were unusually low since Mark Blatchly was both conducting and accompanying our rehearsals for the whole of the autumn term.

Concerts

Both income and expenses were very much reduced; the accounts for 2024-25 include income (£31,828) and expenses (£60,678) for:

- Most of the income and expenses for the Christmas 2023 concert (2023-24 FY);
- All the income and expenses for the Snape concert in April 2024, the Messiah concert in December 2024 and accommodation costs and receipts for the concert in Halifax in April 2025 (2025-26 FY).
- The costs of the Wolsey 550 concert in June 2024.

For 2025-26 the income was £2,821; expenses were £9,573.

- Halifax concert travel and accommodation: income of £537 and expenses of £4,460;
- Charter 825 concert in July 2025: costs of £903;
- Elements concert in November 2025: income of £2,185 against costs of £3,126;
- Income for the Mozart Mass concert in April 2026 of £100 against advance costs of £674;
- Other costs £120;
- Final payments of £291 for the Wolsey 550 concert in June 2024.

Overall the loss on concerts during the year reduced from £26,141 to £6,752.

Fund raising and donations

Fund raising events contributed a surplus of £368 (2024-25 £1,523) and donations a further £710 (2024-25 £1,648). A retiring collection at the Elements concert raised £133 for Music In Our Bones.

Other events

During 2025-26 a barbecue for members was held which raised £456 against expenses of £106. The accounts also include initial receipts (£8,940) and payments (£8,203) for a tour to Arras planned for the end of May 2026.

Out-turn

The General Fund had a small surplus of £1,408 compared with a deficit in 2024-25 of £1,304. Adjusting for payments relating to previous years, and excluding fund raising for other charities, the surplus would have been £2,689.

The balance of the Wolsey 550 restricted fund reduced from £291 to nil.

Total funds held increased from £73,047 to £74,164. Of this, £10,000, representing the legacy received in 2024-25, has been set aside for a future concert at Snape.

Approved by the Committee on 27th April 2026 and signed on its behalf by Philip Powditch (Chair)



Ipswich Choral Society
Receipts and payments accounts
Year ending 28 February 2026

2024-25	RECEIPTS	General Fund 2025-26	Restricted Fund 2025-26	Notes	2024-25	PAYMENTS	General Fund 2025-26	Restricted Fund 2025-26
	Operating receipts					**Operating costs**		
16,305	Subscriptions	16,594	-		3,290	Hall hire	3,857	-
6,337	Gift Aid	3,147	-	1	5,631	Conductor	5,082	-
540	Music sales	20	-		1,748	Accompanist	2,349	-
3,174	Interest received	2,618	-	2	1,328	Music hire & purchase	3,699	-
110	Other income	-	-		152	Printing & publicity	25	-
26,466		**22,378**	**-**	4	1,377	Administration	1,806	-
	Concert receipts				1,072	Other expenses	66	-
24,404	Ticket sales	1,840	-	3, 4	**14,597**		**16,884**	**-**
291	Programme sales and adverts	194	-			**Concert expenses**		
-	Bar	251			7,545	Hall hire	400	-
300	Donations	-	-		1,856	Conductor	1,479	-
6,834	Travel & accomodation	537	-	5	33,589	Musicians	2,160	-
31,828		**2,821**	**-**	6	1,375	Music commissions	-	111
	Donations and fund raising				1,497	Printing & publicity	579	180
1,648	Donations	710	-		-	Bar	191	-
3,000	Grants	-	-	5	10,239	Travel & accomodation	4,141	-
2,332	Fund raising - ICS	388	-		4,577	Other expenses	333	-
316	Fund raising - Other charities	133	-	7 6	**60,678**		**9,282**	**291**
10,000	Legacies	-	-	8		**Fund raising expenses**		
17,296		**1,231**	**-**		809	ICS	20	-
					809		**20**	**-**
	Non-operating income					**Non-operating expenses**		
4,151	**Member events**	**9,472**		9	**4,672**	**Member events**	**8,309**	-
79,742	**Total income**	**35,903**	**-**		**80,755**	**Total expenses**	**34,495**	**291**
(1,013)	Net surplus/(deficit) for year	1,408	(291)	10				

	General Fund	Restricted Fund
2024-25		
Funds brought forward	74,060	-
Funds carried forward	**72,756**	**291**
2025-26		
Funds brought forward	72,756	291
Funds carried forward	**74,164**	**-**

Cash held at year end

	2024-25		2025-26
	14	Cash	54
	2,205	Current account	2,295
	50,184	Savings accounts	25,849
	20,644	1 year bonds	35,877
	-	2 year bond	10,090
	73,047		**74,164**

Approved by the Committee on 27th April 2026 and signed on it's behalf by Philip Powditch (Chair) and Lionel Mackay (Treasurer)

Notes to the accounts

1 Gift Aid claims cover:

2024-25	September 2023 - December 2024
2025-26	January 2025 - September 2025

Future years will cover October - September. On this basis the amounts would be:

2024-25	£3,702	2025-26	£3,993

2 Bank interest received in 2024-25 includes interest earned in 2023-24. Like for like figures are:

2024-25	£2,171	2025-26	£2,618

3 Operating costs for 2025-26 include £1,414 from previous years

4 Allowing for the above Notes 1 - 3 the Operating surpluses would be:

2024-25	£8,231	2025-26	£7,754

5 Concert travel and accommodation relates to the St Matthew Passion concert in Halifax on April 12th 2025.

6 An analysis of income and expenses for concerts during the last 2 years is shown on pages 4 -6.

7 Fund raising for other charities is for Music In Our Bones.

8 Legacy income represents a legacy from June Catling.

9 Member events' under non-operating income and expenses relates to:

200th Anniversary dinner in September 2024

Barbecue in August 2025

Visit to Arras in May 2026

An analysis of these events is shown on page 7

10 Allowing for the adjustments in Notes 1-3, and excluding Fund raising for other charities, Member events and the legacy, the net surpluses/(deficits would be:

2024-25	(£14,447)	2025-26	£2,372

Concert income and expenses

Snape Creation	**2023-24**	**2024-25**	**Total**
Income			
Donations	1,200	300	1,500
Programme sales	-	291	291
Ticket sales	1,628	13,319	14,947
Income - TOTAL	**2,828**	**13,910**	**16,738**
Expenses			
Accompanist	-	53	53
Conductor	-	1,121	1,121
Hall hire	1,143	3,579	4,721
Musicians	-	25,790	25,790
Other expenses	-	2,570	2,570
Printing	192	613	805
Publicity	-	164	164
Admin - Transaction fees	-	19	19
Expenses - TOTAL	**1,335**	**33,909**	**35,244**
Total Income - Expenses	**1,493**	**(19,999)**	**(18,506)**

Messiah 2024	**2024-25**	**2025-26**	**Total**
Income			
Ticket sales	7,520	-	7,520
Income - TOTAL	**7,520**		**7,520**
Expenses			
Hall hire	2,138	-	2,138
Musicians	7,746	-	7,746
Other expenses	1,028	-	1,028
Printing	153	-	153
Publicity	371	-	371
Accompanist	60	-	60
Admin - Transaction fees	17	-	17
Expenses - TOTAL	**11,513**	**-**	**11,513**
Total Income - Expenses	**(3,993)**	**-**	**(3,993)**

Halifax 2025	2024-25	2025-26	Total
Income			
Travel & accommodation	6,834	537	7,370
Income - TOTAL	**6,834**	**537**	**7,370**
Expenses			
Conductor	-	319	319
Travel & accommodation	10,239	4,141	14,380
Admin - Transaction fees	2	-	2
Expenses - TOTAL	**10,241**	**4,460**	**14,700**
Total Income - Expenses	**(3,407)**	**(3,923)**	**(7,330)**

Charter 825		2025-26	Total
Income			
-		-	-
Income - TOTAL			**-**
Expenses			
Accompanist		163	163
Conductor		610	610
Other expenses		130	130
Expenses - TOTAL		**903**	**903**
Total Income - Expenses		**(903)**	**(903)**

Elements 2025		2025-26	Total
Income			
Bar		251	251
Programme sales		194	194
Ticket sales		1,740	1,740
Income - TOTAL		**2,185**	**2,185**
Expenses			
Bar		191	191
Conductor		550	550
Hall hire		400	400
Musicians		1,497	1,497
Other expenses		83	83
Printing		83	83
Publicity		322	322
Expenses - TOTAL		**3,126**	**3,126**
Total Income - Expenses		**(941)**	**(941)**

Mozart C minor Mass April 2026	2025-26	Total
Income		
Ticket sales	100	100
Income - TOTAL	**100**	**100**
Expenses		
Musicians	500	500
Publicity	174	174
Expenses - TOTAL	**674**	**674**
Total Income - Expenses	**(574)**	**(574)**

General concert income and expense expenses	2025-26	Total
Income	**-**	**-**
Expenses		
Concert folders	120	120
Expenses - TOTAL	**120**	**120**
Total Income - Expenses	**(120)**	**(120)**

	2024-25	2025-26	Total
Overall Concert Income - Expenses	**(27,399)**	**(6,460)**	**(33,859)**

Member Events

200th Anniversary (September 2024)	
Income	4,151
Expenditure	5,612
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,461)

Barbecue 2025	
Income	532
Expenditure	106
Surplus/(Deficit)	426

Arras April 2026 (final outcome in 2026-27 accounts)	
Income	8,940
Expenditure	8,203
Surplus/(Deficit)	737

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name: Ipswich Choral Society

On accounts for the year ended: 28 February 2026

Charity no (if any): 278866

Set out on pages: 1 to 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 28 February 2025.

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: [signature] **Date:** 11/3/2026

Name: Lisa Taylor

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

Address: Baytree House, Manningtree Road
Stutton
Ipswich IP9 2SR

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.	