

Chair's Report 2022 – 2023

(Including Concert Secretary and Membership reports)

What a season to reflect on and where to start!

People

A season of great change for the Society. Nick Thorpe bowed out as our conductor of 27 years at the turn of the year which was a huge decision for him and a big hole to fill for the Society. At the same time Brian Robins also decided to call time as our accompanist of even longer standing, another big hole to fill. We had a wonderful social evening on December 12, 2022 when we made presentations to both Nick and Brian, raised a glass and thanked them both for so much dedication to the Society. Nick then took us on a journey through his memories of concerts and times during his tenure, which we all thoroughly enjoyed and made a very appropriate end to our rehearsals in 2022 and that chapter in the Society's development.

The search for new people to enter into the life of the Society began in earnest in September 2022. We had 2 very highly qualified applicants for the MD role and following a 'Meet the Choir' session for each, the committee was extremely pleased to appoint Marcus Farnsworth to 'take over the baton' from January 2023. More of Marcus to follow!

After much discussion it was decided to offer the role of accompanist to George Balfour who was the organ scholar at the Minster at the time. He was very pleased to accept and, although he had to leave us at the end of the season to take up his scholarship position at Oxford, it was a delight to have had his contributions and expertise even for a short time. Two holes had been fixed!

Then, early in 2023, David Lumsden, our President since the Society was founded, sadly died so yet again there was a position to fill. However, this also gave us the impetus we needed to appoint our first ever Hon. Vice President in Peter Wood, the founder and first conductor of Southwell Choral Society. He was delighted to accept and we had a lovely presentation to him at the rehearsal on April 24 when he was able to attend.

Concerts

'*Festivo*' on December 3, 2022 was a celebration where we joined again with Derwent Brass for our second collaboration. There was a wide range of music and genres offered at a very high standard to a very large and appreciative audience. It is a delight to collaborate with such a prestigious brass band with an imaginative repertoire and who also love coming to join with us in the Minster. It was a fitting finale for Nick as his final concert as our conductor.

'*Sea Symphony*' was our extra concert as Bingham and District Choral Society had invited us to join with them on April 1, 2023 in the Minster. What an exciting and ambitious event it proved to be. The other performers were the Nottingham Symphony Orchestra and the soloists were none other than our own MD Marcus and his lovely wife Alison Rose and all were excellent throughout. The two choirs combined together very well and the whole evening was a resounding success.

'*Summer Serenade*' was our summer concert on July 15, 2023 and the first with Marcus as our MD on the night. The programme was a delightful mix of choral and solo items. Braimah and Konya Kanneh-Mason played, in two sections, exquisite violin and piano repertoire, including '*The Lark Ascending*' which was spell binding and linked seamlessly into the choir singing '*The Long Day Closes*', a very moving moment in a fabulous concert. There were also super solos from our 2023 Bursaries winner Ben Wilson and George Balfour our accompanist on the organ too. The choir rose to the challenge Marcus had set them – to sing the first two in the set of unaccompanied works from memory – and what an impact it had on the performance! Only goes to prove what heights can be achieved by the Society when challenged. The Festival Sinfonia

very ably and sensitively supported the choir in *'Sprig of Thyme'* and also in the final item, an arrangement of *'Over the Rainbow'* by Guy Turner with the instrumental accompaniment arranged by him specially for our performance. The concert ran through without an interval which enabled the excellent audience and all the performers to enjoy refreshments and socialising in the Crossing together afterwards on a truly special summer evening.

Extra Events

'Carols for Everyone' December 10, 2022 was Brian's final time leading us in this popular community event arranged by the Lion's, after generously giving his time and energy for many years to this great Southwell tradition and charity event. All was very well received.

'The John and Peggy Oldham Singing Day' on June 24, 2023 was the first singing day under this new title and Martin Bussey delivered a most enjoyable and instructive singing day leading up to the summer concert. **The David McIntosh Bursary and the John and Peggy Oldham Award** was again organised wonderfully by Thelma Clark and there was a high standard of applications. The winner of both awards by unanimous decision was Ben Wilson who delivered an outstanding application and was the first 'Musical Theatre' genre award winner of the bursaries.

Membership of the Society

Over the past season there has been a good increase in the membership of the Society from 100 paid up members at the end of the 2021-22 season, to 118 paid up members at the end of the 2022-23 season. This was made up of 45 sopranos, 35 altos, 13 tenors and 25 basses.

As the numbers have increased the upper limit of occupancy in the State Chamber, 112, has become a concern. Neil was asked to review the percentage attendance at rehearsals over a large part of the season to establish what might be the upper total limit for membership which would still mean we were within the State Chamber limit on rehearsal evenings. As the percentage rehearsal attendance range was from 57% to 79% it was agreed that the maximum paid up membership would be 140 which would still keep the rehearsal numbers in line with the State Chamber limits, but this does need to be monitored going forward. Thanks to Neil Parrott for all the work he has done on the membership duties week by week.

Going Forward

The committee continues, as part of the aims of the Society and its charitable status, to try and encourage young people to attend our concerts offering a free ticket to young people under 16 with an accompanying adult in any ticket section and I am pleased to report an increased take up of this offer. We also offer free membership of the Society to any student in full time education as we try to encourage young people to participate in this most beneficial and rewarding activity.

The committee has done a great amount of advanced planning for future concerts in the 2023-24 and 2024-25 seasons on your behalf, and we hope you will find the chosen works a challenge and a delight, well known and not so well known. Most importantly, we hope you will find them enjoyable and exciting to learn and perform. Marcus is an inspiring, challenging and very professional MD who will move us forward to ever higher standards of choral singing with our commitment and support. It can be challenging at times as we strive to achieve his desires, but oh, so worth the hard work when we do.

A personal thanks from me, and on your behalf, to the committee for their support and hard work throughout the season in keeping the planning and organisation on track. Sharing out the work does make it easier for everyone and all of the committee deserve our recognition and thanks for their dedication.

We are also very grateful to the many members of the Society who are not on the committee but undertake tasks vital to the success of our Society, thank you so much too.

The present committee members are all willing and able to stand for re-election this season, but we are looking to increase the committee to its full 12 members to enable new members to participate in the running of the Society before they might feel able to take on one of the Officer roles – Chair, Treasurer, Concert Secretary, Booking Secretary – at a future date. All the present nine committee members have either an Officer role, or a vital role which could continue to be done when no longer on the committee –

Membership and Website Secretary, Friends Secretary, Social Secretary, Librarian, Minuting Secretary – so we really need the additional support that three extra members could give.

Finally, we are extremely grateful to our new music director, Marcus Farnsworth, who has taken over where Nick left off in making very high demands of us, whilst having fun, and to George Balfour for his reliable support and good humour as accompanist. We now welcome Tim Selman from September 2023 as he takes over the role of accompanist for us and as the new organ scholar at the Minster. We look forward to making great music together at ever higher levels.

Thank you all for making Southwell Choral Society what it is today, here's to the future.

Jane Gamble, Chair.

Southwell Choral Society
Charity No. 500239

Annual Accounts

2022-23

Southwell Choral Society

Receipts & Payments Account for year ended 31 Aug 2023

	2022-23			2021-22
	Restricted Funds	General Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Subscriptions - Choir	-	13,580	13,580	12,030
Ticket & programme sales	-	10,685	10,685	8,183
Donations & sponsorship	-	4,230	4,230	205
Gift aid	-	2,948	2,948	2,874
Advertising Income	-	2,030	2,030	1,820
Music sale/hire	-	1,101	1,101	1,241
Subscriptions - Friends	-	625	625	530
Miscellaneous income	-	527	527	350
Interest	22	98	120	35
Rehearsal Days & Singing Events	-	25	25	-
Fund raising income	-	6	6	110
Legacy Income	-	-	-	21,393
David McIntosh Bursary Award donation	-	-	-	1,000
TOTAL INCOME	22	35,855	35,877	49,771
Expenditure				
Fees paid	-	6,050	6,050	4,425
Practice room hire	-	5,450	5,450	2,574
Minster hire	-	3,000	3,000	2,600
Musicians	-	2,691	2,691	5,351
Printing	-	1,800	1,800	1,233
Soloists	-	1,672	1,672	2,288
Transfer to Bingham District Choral Society (Note 3)	-	1,358	1,358	-
Misc. Expenses	-	1,288	1,288	759
Music hire & purchase	-	1,261	1,261	1,548
Bursary award	-	1,026	1,026	500
Insurance & 'Making Music' sub.	-	634	634	532
Rehearsal & Singing Events	-	514	514	-
Lighting	-	300	300	300
Vergers	-	200	200	-
Performing rights fees	-	198	198	478
Advertising	-	91	91	592
Tickets & Programmes	-	16	16	-
David McIntosh Bursary Award	-	-	-	500
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	-	27,547	27,547	23,679
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
FUND SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	22	8,308	8,329	26,092
Opening Fund Balances at 1st September 2022	4,266	51,777	56,043	29,951
Closing Fund Balance at 31st August 2023	4,287	60,085	64,372	56,043

Southwell Choral Society

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 Aug 2023

	2022-23			2021-22
	Restricted Funds	General Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Assets:				
NatWest - current a/c	-	34,825	34,825	27,074
Scottish Widows A/c	4,287	-	4,287	4,266
Virgin Charity Account	-	24,629	24,629	24,531
Cash in hand	-	631	631	172
	4,287	60,085	64,372	56,043
Represented by:				
General Fund	-	59,585	59,585	51,277
Designated Fund - D McIntosh Bursary	-	500	500	500
The Nick Thorpe Composition Award Fund	4,287	-	4,287	4,266
	4,287	60,085	64,372	56,043

Signed on behalf of the Board by:

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Jane Gamble
Chair

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Date

NOTE 1: ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Restricted funds are funds donated to the charity subject to restrictions as to their use. Currently comprising of the Nick Thorpe Composition Award Fund.

Designated funds are those General funds of the charity which have been separately earmarked by the trustees for a particular purpose.

NOTE 2: ANALYSIS OF CONCERT SURPLUS/DEFICITS

2022/23

	Festivo	Summer Serenade	Vaughan Williams	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Ticket & programme sales	3,994	5,149	1,034	10,177
Donations & Sponsorship	-	-	160	160
Advertising income	1,015	1,015	-	2,030
Sale & hire of music	550	102	450	1,101
Total income	5,558	6,266	1,644	13,468
Expenditure	£	£	£	£
Minster hire	1,500	1,500	-	3,000
Orchestra/Instrumentalists	753	1,938	-	2,691
Soloists	-	1,672	-	1,672
Music purchase/hire	434	295	396	1,126
Other printing	430	670	13	1,113
Misc. Expenses	132	87	81	300
Lighting	150	150	-	300
Ticket printing	-	106	106	213
Performing Rights	173	-	25	198
Advertising	60	31	-	91
Ticket & Programme Sales	-	16	-	16
Bingham transfer	-	-	1,358	1,358
Total expenditure	3,632	6,466	1,979	12,077
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,927	(200)	(336)	1,391

The above analysis excludes income and expenditure on these events arising in 2021/22



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Southwell Choral Society

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 August 2023

**Charity
no.**

500239

Set out on pages

1-3

(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 **31/08/2023**.

**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:

Phillips

Date:

26 / 9 / 2023

Name:

David Phillips

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

Fellow of the ICAEW.

Address:

3 Manor Fields

Halam

Newark NG22 8DU

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.

None