

Bingham and District Choral Society

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended March 31st, 2023

Legal and administrative details

Charity registration number 503557

The charity was established on 14th February 1974

Address

Hill House Cottage
Burgage Lane
Southwell, Nottingham.
NG25 0ER

Trustees

The following officers of the Society shall act as joint Trustees of the Society:

Chair	Mrs C Warrington
Vice Chair	Vacant
Secretary	Mrs V Morgan
Treasurer	Dr B Poulson

Bankers	Lloyds Bank
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Independent Examiners	Dr David Morgan Mr Huw Cadwallader
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Objective

The objective of the Society (Charity) shall be to educate and interest the public in music, particularly choral music, by the presentation of concerts and other activities.

Review of the activities during the year.

With the worst of the pandemic now behind us we entered this new year with a greater optimism and the prospect (albeit slightly delayed) of celebrating our golden Jubilee year. Having decided to postpone from the previous year our flagship event, the Jubilee Prom, this now means that within the forthcoming year we will enjoy two major joint concerts at Southwell Minster, with our friends from Newark and Mansfield Choral Societies, and a reunion with old collaborators from Scunthorpe Choral Society for a lunchtime summer concert incorporating a celebration Jubilee lunch. Once again, our traditional Christmas Carol Concert will take place at St Mary's & All Saints Church in Bingham.

Our returning membership numbers mirror what we know has been the experience of many other choirs and has not reached its pre pandemic level. Although confidence is returning, we fear that for a number of ageing members the preference of avoiding risk, shielding of other family members, or relocation to live closer to family is unlikely to be reversed in the short run.

Concert Performances

Fifty years ago, our first public performance as a newly formed choir was Handel's Messiah, so it was fitting that we performed this magnificent piece again for our jubilee. We are grateful to our friends at Newark Choral Society for joining us in the endeavour, and it was a rousing evening getting to grips with this choral classic in the surrounds of Southwell Minster. Led by our Musical Director (Guy Turner), the soloists Amy Wood (Soprano), Judy Louie Brown (Alto), Joseph Doody (Tenor), and Geoff Williams (Bass) were magnificent, as were the BDCS Chamber Orchestra supported by our accompanist, Michael Overbury on continuo.

Continuing our Jubilee theme, it was appropriate that our second concert of the season celebrated the long association we have with Scunthorpe Choral Society. The link here being our founder, Neville Ward, who had also previously been Musical Director of Scunthorpe. This time a lunchtime 'Coronation Celebration' concert at St Mary Magdalene Church, Newark included coronation anthems from Handel, Elgar, Stanford, Vaughan Williams, Wesley and Parry, along with Walton's Crown Imperial played by our organist Michael Overbury. The concert was jointly conducted by Sue Hollingsworth and Guy Turner. It was also a great pleasure to follow the concert by inviting members of both choirs to a lunch to celebrate our jubilee and to make a presentation to Neville Ward without whom neither choirs would have existed. Special thanks to Claire Winser for organising the lunchtime celebration.

In November we were able to perform our rearranged Jubilee 'Last Night of the Proms' Concert. This was our long-awaited showcase event to celebrate our fifty-year history as a choral group. We are grateful to our long-term collaborators (Mansfield Choral Society) for joining us in this endeavour and for their financial contribution which deserves acknowledgement. We were joined for this musical extravaganza by Nottingham Symphony Orchestra, soloist Judy Louie Brown (Alto), and our Organist Michael Overbury. Southwell Minster was adorned with patriotic flags, and we will long remember the celebratory atmosphere created in this magnificent venue. This was also the premier of our Musical Director's (Guy Turner) 'Folk Song Sequence', commissioned specifically by the choir for this concert. Each choir member received a souvenir copy of the Folk Song Sequence music to mark the event.

To celebrate our Golden Jubilee year, we also produced a twenty-four page colour glossy A4 programme. This single programme covered our three Jubilee concerts with specific inserts added for each concert. A logistical nightmare for production and sales but it contributed to making our Jubilee Year special and provides a permanent souvenir of our special year. Special thanks to Judy Unell and Penny Prior.

We round off the concert season with the ever-popular Christmas carol concert which was held on Saturday 17th December 2022 at our spiritual home St Mary's & All Saints Church in Bingham. It was a pleasure to once again include the children of Carnarvon Primary School Choir, as well as Bingham Brass Group, led by Colin Smith. Guy Turner conducted, and Michael Overbury accompanied the choir from the organ. The now customary retiring collection in support of Framework (a local homeless charity), raised £268.00. BDCS would like to thank our audience and everyone who took part in the concert for their generosity in supporting this charity.

Other activities throughout the year included:

'Guy Goes North'

Our intrepid Musical Director (Guy Turner), embarked on a lifetime's adventure to walk from Lands End to John O'Groats and in doing so raised money for four charities, one of them Bingham Choral. Donations flooded in prior to his departure and he quickly surpassed his £10,000 target. Sadly, upon reaching Liverpool an injury forced Guy to suspend his adventure but not before raising £3,121.60 (including gift aid) for BDCS (£627.99 of that appearing in the 2021/22 financial year). Guy's magnificent effort provided a much-needed injection of funds post pandemic, and his blog provided great amusement along the way.

John Fletcher's Rehearsal Files

The choir has traditionally subscribed to John Fletcher's Rehearsal Files to allow members access to additional rehearsal material. As only a sub-set of members use the service this year, we covered the cost of membership by asking for a modest donation from those who do, which represents a small cost saving to the choir. Our thanks to Bob Middleton for arranging membership and donations.

Vaughan Williams Foundation

In 2023 we will be performing Vaughan Williams Sea Symphony with Southwell Choral Society. The concert coincides with the 150th anniversary of Vaughan Williams' birth and a successful grant application was made to the Vaughan Williams Charitable Trust for financial assistance in staging this concert. The Trustees have made a grant of £3,000 to defray the projected concert losses, and this was made available to us a few months prior to the concert so has appeared in this year's financial accounts. We are most grateful to the Trustees for their support.

Payment by Credit Card

This year we introduced the facility to make payments for events, concert tickets and choir paraphernalia by credit or debit card. Since acquiring the facility, we have transacted almost three thousand pounds of transactions on which we have paid a small commission of 1.69% (under £50). The machine has proved extremely popular since non-cash transactions have become much more commonplace post pandemic. The logistics for taking payment for tickets on the door at concerts has been greatly improved.

A new Musical Director – Dr Stephen Bullamore

At the start of the year we hadn't anticipated the announcement by Guy Turner of his plans to retire as our Musical Director (MD) following our Christmas concert. This meant that we faced the additional task of recruiting a replacement MD on top of what was shaping up to be a hectic year ahead. Guy had successfully followed Neville Ward, our founder and previous MD of 43 years, and had brought a renewed energy, enthusiasm, and extensive library of arranged and composed pieces that supplemented our repertoire. We are grateful to Guy for his musical guidance and friendship.

Pandemic concert rescheduling meant that Guy's successor would face the prospect of conducting yet another joint choral concert at Southwell Minster within only three months of their likely appointment. Clearly the Choral Gods were watching over us as we entered a recruitment and selection process from which emerged Dr Stephen Bullamore, an established musician and choral professional, who is also Director of Music (Master of the song school) at St Mary Magdalene Church, Newark, and has previously held posts at Guilford and Lincoln Cathedrals, Waltham Abbey, and North Herts Guild of Singers. Stephen is also Musical Director of the Leicester Philharmonic choir, and previously Musical Director of Barnet Choral Society.

We welcome Stephen (and Eva) and look forward to a new era of making music together.

Financial Summary

In summary, for this financial year (ending 31st March 2023) we made a financial loss of £270.30

Income

We broadly have three main areas of income: (i) Membership subscriptions (including gift aid thereon), (ii) Fundraising (comprising 100 club, singing workshops etc.), and (iii) Donations.

(i) Membership subscriptions: We have 68 enrolled members (61 full year, including 3 'Life Members', 7 half-year) including several new members joining us for the first time. In addition, 2 'Guest Singers' joined us for the Sea Symphony.

(ii) Fundraising: Our thanks to Terry Scholey for taking over the '100 club', and to all those that produced fiendish anagrams; made and sold Crab Apple Jelly; organised our participation in the Radcliffe Coffee morning; and tested our grey matter in one of Guy Turners' quiz nights, thank you.

(iii) Donations: These are totally unpredictable year on year, yet always very much appreciated. Donations this year experienced a significant boost from Guy Turner's Lands End to John O'Groats walk which raised £2,001.14 (plus Gift Aid) of the £2,081.14 received.

The income is inflated by the RVW Grant (£3000) received early, and ticket receipts already received in this year for a concert taking place on the first day of our new financial year.

Financial Results

The society had a net loss for the year of **£270.30**

On behalf of the Trustees

Christina Warrington, Chair

Date

Independent Examiners' Report to the Trustees of Bingham and District Choral Society

We report on the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31st March 2023, which are set out in the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiners

As the charity's Trustees, we are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; we consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply.

It is our responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of Examiners' Report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting record kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently we do not express an opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Examiners' Statement

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

- (i) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the act
- and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with accounting requirements of the Act have not been met;
- or
- (ii) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signatures



Dr David Morgan



Mr Huw Cadwallader

Addresses

7 Manvers Grove
Radcliffe-on-Trent
Nottingham
NG12 2FT

1 Browns Lane
East Bridgford
Nottingham
NG13 8PL

Date

3/5/23

26th April 2023

Expenditure

The timing of our next concert being the first day of our new financial year means that a significant outflow of funds will take place immediately following the concert, and by the time you are reading this report it is likely that we will have had to access our reserves to carry us over to our membership renewals in September. Notwithstanding it was our Jubilee year, and post pandemic schedule changes have disrupted the traditional pattern of concerts, our underlying expenditure on rehearsals typically exceeds the income from membership, and other fundraising unable to sustain the losses incurred on concerts.

Conclusion

Although the accounts show only a small deficit for the year, it masks an underlying financial performance that remains a significant challenge and will almost certainly require that we draw upon reserves to get us through to our next membership enrolment in September. While this was sustainable for the period of our Jubilee Year, and the unprecedented consequences of the Covid pandemic, we must now take action to ensure our ongoing income is sufficient (without drawing on reserves) to support our regular rehearsal schedule and our concert programme.

Bingham and District Choral Society

Accounting Policies

These accounts are prepared on the basis of historic cost accounting and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the recommendations contained in the statement of Recommended Practice No. 2 – Accounting by Charities.

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these accounts are as follows:

Fund Accounting

- (i) The General Fund is an unrestricted fund which may be used at the Trustees' discretion.
- (ii) The Designated Fund is also unrestricted, and the Trustees have designated the Reserve Fund to provide a financial reserve generating income in order that the charity may function on a daily basis.

Investment Income

Bank income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on receipt.

Expenditure and Depreciation

All expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis. The trustees consider it prudent to write off all equipment and capital items in the year of acquisition.

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Bingham and District Choral Society
Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31st March 2023

Income and Expenditure

Incoming Resources	Note	2023	2022	2021
Member's Subscriptions (68 members)	i	£6,850.00	£7,095.00	0.00
Income tax recovered from Gift Aid	ii	£1,647.47	£1,472.52	315.75
Fund Raising and social Events		£2,161.84	£1,383.87	39.00
Music Sales		£293.50	£210.00	0.00
Concert Income	iii	£13,295.25	£1,823.20	0.00
Bursary Prize and Concert		£0.00	£0.00	0.00
Interest on Bank Accounts & Investments		£63.35	£111.31	247.35
Miscellaneous		£23.96	£0.00	0.00
Donations		£2,081.14	£1,687.50	2,385.00
Grants & Bursaries	iv	£3,500.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Incoming Resources		£29,916.51	£13,783.40	£2,987.10
Resources Expended				
Direct Charitable expenditure		£24,777.12	£9,616.80	7,458.43
Fund Raising		£511.20	£762.32	0.00
Management and administration of the charity		£605.75	£782.64	502.62
Setting up and maintaining the web site		£448.00	£328.00	618.00
Bursary Prize and Concert		£0.00	£0.00	0.00
Other Items	v	£667.17	£511.43	510.00
Composition Competition		£0.00	£0.00	740.00
Golden Jubilee specific expenditure	vi	£3,177.57	£0.00	£0.00
Total Resources Expended		£30,186.81	£12,001.19	£9,829.05
Net deficit for the year		-£270.30		
Balance brought forward at 1st April 2022			£26,156.10	
Balance carried forward at 1st April 2023			£25,885.80	
Direct Charitable Expenditure	Note	2023	2022	2021
Director of Music Rehearsal Fees		£3,421.45	£2,513.00	£200.00
Accompanist Fees		£2,660.00	£1,964.00	£150.00
Hire of Rehearsal Hall		£1,540.45	£1,163.40	£0.00
Concert Costs		£16,609.86	£3,594.00	£2,257.78
Music Costs		£545.36	£382.40	£0.00
Distance Learning		£0.00	£0.00	£4,380.65
'BBC Bingham'		£0.00	£0.00	£470.00
Total		£24,777.12	£9,616.80	£7,458.43

Bingham and District Choral Society
Balance Sheet as of 31st March 2023

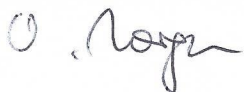
Current Assets	Note	2023	2022	2021
Virgin Money Charity Deposit Account		£370.75	£5,367.66	£5,360.55
Virgin Money Charity Notice Account		£18,076.09	£18,015.83	£17,911.63
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account		£7,276.89	£2,749.61	£1,046.71
Cash		£162.07	£23.00	£55.00
Total		£25,885.80	£26,156.10	£24,373.89
Current Liabilities				
Cheques not yet presented for payment		£0.00	£0.00	£55.00
Evensong Fee	vii	£240.00		
Net Assets		25,645.80	£26,156.10	£24,373.89

Funds			
	General Fund	Designated Reserve	Total
Balance at 31st March 2022	£11,156.61	£15,000.00	£26,156.10
Result for the year ending 31st March 2023	£10,645.80	£15,000.00	£25,645.80

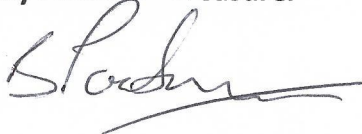
Approved by the committee on 12th April 2023

Mrs Christina Warrington - Chair

Mrs Valerie Morgan - Secretary



Dr Bradley Poulson - Treasurer



Concert Account

	Spring Concert	Summer Concert	Autumn Concert	Christmas Concert
Income	30 th April	18th June	26th Nov	17th Dec
Tickets	2,519.24	0.00	4,447.42	1,212.61
Programmes	578.76			0.00
Advertisements	380.00			0.00
Other	1,000.00	0.00	1,790.00	0.00
Total	3,519.24	0.00	6,237.42	1,212.61
Expenditure				
Artists	2,000.00		800.00	150.00
Orchestra	2,364.00		4,000.00	
MD/Organist/Accompanist	700.00	333.00	1,157.00	335.00
Hire Church/Hall	230.00		2,235.00	
Orchestral Scores			0.00	
Music			22.66	
Printing costs		42.00	196.00	105.00
Rehearsal costs			330.00	
PRS Fee			247.10	
Setting up staging etc.	400.00		150.00	
Other	18.00			64.10
Total	5,712.00	375.00	9,137.76	654.10
Net Loss	-2,192.76	-375.00	-2,900.34	
Net Profit				558.51
Cummulative Profit/Loss	-2,192.76	-2,567.76	-5,468.10	-4,909.59

FUNDRAISING

	Note	Income
Anagrams		£75.00
100 Club	viii	£500.00
Easy-Fundraising + Amazon Smile		£35.29
Quiz Night		£391.44
Choir Photograph prints		£39.06
Tea Money		£164.19
Jubilee Mugs		£286.88
Radcliffe Community Café		£271.00
Other(s)	ix	£398.98
TOTAL		£2,161.84
DONATIONS		
'Guy Goes North'		£2,001.14
Other		£80.00
TOTAL		£2,081.14

Bingham and District Choral Society

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

i Membership

There were 68 enrolled members (61 full year, including 3 'Life Members', 7 half-year) including several new members joining us for the first time. In addition, 2 'Guest Singers' joined us for the Sea Symphony.

ii Gift AID

Includes Gift Aid received from membership fees and donations made to 'Guy Goes North' sponsored walk.

iii Concert income

Concert income is inflated by Sea Symphony ticket sales of £1,867.32 received just prior to the concert on 1st April 2023.

iv Grants & Bursaries

We are most grateful to the Ralph Vaughan Williams Foundation for their generous grant of £3000 towards the Sea Symphony concert (In celebration of the 150th anniversary), and also to the Young Singers Bursary (Messiah concert arranged via Newark Choral).

v Other items

Trustees' Expenses (Dr Bradley Poulson): Stationery, postage, and sundries £12.95; Fees and costs (Room Hire, Accompanist, selection panel members) for recruiting a new Musical Director.

vi Golden Jubilee specific expenditure

Costs specific to the celebration of our Golden Jubilee including: Celebration lunch with Scunthorpe Choral Society; Photographers at concert events; additional printing and artwork for the Jubilee Souvenir Programme.

vii Evensong Fee (Liability)

Twelve members have each paid a fee of £20 towards costs to sing in an evensong service at Southwell Minster (total of £240). The service was cancelled due to Covid restrictions but is likely to be rescheduled at Lincoln Cathedral or Southwell Minster.

viii 100 Club

The net value of this initiative after prizes have been deducted is £260.00

ix Other Fundraising

This included the 'Perchance to Dream' concert which operated on a break-even basis.



Jubilee Logo designed by Linda Hunter

