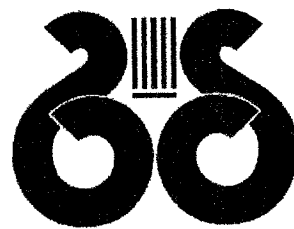


Charity No. 508282



THE SUTTON COLDFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2025

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **Period start date** Day 1 Month Jun Year 2024 **To** **Period end date** Day 31 Month May Year 2025

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

The Sutton Coldfield Choral Society

Other names charity is known by

Sutton Choral (working name)

Registered charity number (if any)

508282

Charity's principal address

Rectory Cottage

Acton Beauchamp

Worcester

Postcode WR6 5AG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	David Ratcliff	Vice-Chair		Members
2	Sue Brazier			Members
3	Andrew Mealey	Treasurer		Members
4	Ceri Corfield		Until 21/10/2024	Members
5	Bob Kirk			Members
6	Cathy Peckett	Secretary		Members
7	Nigel Conner			Members
8	Andrea Ferguson			Members
9	Celia Goldstein	Chair	From 21/10/2024	Members
10	Gill Buck		From 5/11/2024	Trustees (co-opted)
11	Richard Mason	Music Director		Trustees
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
None	

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
None		

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

Constitution adopted on 3rd July 1978 as amended on 8th October 2006

How the charity is constituted

Unincorporated association

Trustee selection methods

All elected by members at the Annual General Meeting or co-opted by the committee, except the Music Director who is a trustee *ex-officio* appointed by the other trustees.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Wider network. The Society is a member of Making Music (Reg. Charity No. 249219), the recognised umbrella body representing amateur music societies.

Managing risk. The Music Director is a trustee of the charity and also receives payments for taking rehearsals, conducting concerts and managing orchestral players. The first two of these payment categories are authorised by a clause in the Society's constitution. Potential conflicts of interest are managed by a written agreement which limits the amount of such payments and provides for the exclusion of the Music Director from all discussion and decision making which relates to them.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

Promotion of choral singing and other musical activities in the Sutton Coldfield district, which shall include the public performance of at least one choral work annually.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Society performs two, sometimes three, public concerts of classical choral music each year in the Sutton Coldfield area, providing a high-quality cultural experience that would not otherwise be available in this community. The majority of these concerts are currently supported financially by the Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust (Reg. Charity No. 218627), and tickets are priced as low as possible consistent with the need to employ relatively expensive professional musicians in order to maintain standards. Concessions are available to those under 25 years of age in full-time education.

The choir consists of approximately 50 members drawn from the area of benefit who receive training in the art of choral singing. The only restriction on membership is a minimum standard of musical ability. A membership fee is charged in order to cover costs but this is reduced or waived in cases of agreed hardship. Members under 25 years of age in full-time education are not required to pay a fee.

The trustees have complied with the statutory duty to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Volunteers. The members are all volunteers in so far as they donate their time and musical abilities without financial reward to further the aims and objects of the charity. Apart from this, a few volunteers are regularly used for providing front-of-house roles and, occasionally, interval refreshments at concerts. They are generally relatives or friends of singing members.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Choir members attended 29 rehearsals during the year covered by this report and performed three public concerts in compliance with the stated objects in the Society's constitution.

The first of the concerts took place on 16th November 2024. The programme was chosen to celebrate the centenary of the death of Gabriel Fauré and included his well-known *'Requiem'* and *'Cantique de Jean Racine'*. Schubert's *'Mass in G'* was also performed. Approximately 150 people attended. This was closely followed on 12th December by a performance of Handel's *'Messiah'*, a joint venture with the Sutton Coldfield Chamber Choir which it is hoped to repeat in future years. The Society's president, the Rt .Hon. Sir Andrew Mitchell M P, was present along with an audience of around 175. The Chamber Choir paid a share of the expenses of the concert itself and the necessary extra rehearsals by obtaining a grant from the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council. The final concert of the season was performed on 10th May 2025 and consisted of John Rutter's *'Requiem'* and Mozart's *'Coronation Mass'*. Between the two main works was Mozart's *'Laudate Dominum'* with the solo part taken by one of the choir members, sung in memory of Mrs. Jean Jones, a former member and generous donor. Members of her family were present and presented the Society with a substantial donation from the Owen Highway Trust (Reg. Charity No. 251974). There were approximately 145 people in the audience. The concerts were each accompanied by a professional orchestra and soloists and conducted by the Society's Music Director, Richard Mason. They were all held at Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green.

Due in part to some unexpected donations and increased support from the Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust, the Society is currently in a good financial position and at last showing strong signs of recovery from the setbacks associated with the COVID pandemic. Choir numbers are gradually returning to the optimum figure of 55 and more enquiries are being received from prospective new members. Concert audience figures have also been noticeably higher in the past year, a trend that seems set to continue. One or two concerns still remain, particularly the difficulty in recruiting younger singers, but the general picture suggests that the future of the Society is looking bright.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Present policy is to maintain reserves at least equal to the typical expenditure on an orchestral concert. This would enable the Society to continue operating for long enough to re-plan its activities in the event of an unforeseen concert cancellation not covered by insurance or the non-renewal of important grant funding. The funds currently available are sufficient to meet this objective. Policy last reviewed Oct. 2019.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Sources of funds. In a typical recent year the Society's income was derived from the following sources:

Members' subscriptions	29%
Ticket and programme sales	25%
Official and charitable grants	17%
Patrons and donors	17%
Self-help fundraising	8%
Miscellaneous	4%

The percentages for grants and donors are subject to considerable fluctuation from year to year as income from these sources is often received on a non-recurring basis.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	Celia Goldstein	
Full name(s)	Celia Jean Goldstein	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	

Date 17th August 2025

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE SUTTON COLDFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 May 2025 set out on pages two to six.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- 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 the independent examiner's report

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 statements below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John T Smart

54 Stirling Road,
Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands,
B73 6PS

Dated: 28 July 2025

THE SUTTON COLDFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY


BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31ST MAY 2025

	<u>2025</u>		<u>2024</u>
	£		£
Current Assets			
Bank Accounts			
Current account	5,158	355	
Deposit account	2,103	3,045	
Lottery account	104	24	
	<u>7,365</u>		3,424
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	3,006		2,867
Debtors and prepayments			
Charitable Trust grant	1,747	-	
Income tax recoverable	1,542	726	
Prepayments	83	83	
	<u>3,372</u>		809
	<u>13,743</u>		<u>7,100</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accruals	428		24
	<u>428</u>		<u>24</u>
Net Current Assets	<u>13,315</u>		<u>7,076</u>
Represented by:			
Accumulated fund balance 1 st June 2024	7,076		4,505
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	6,239		2,571
Accumulated fund balance 31st May 2025	<u>13,315</u>		<u>7,076</u>

Approved by

Chairman: 

Treasurer:  Dated: 17th August 2025.

THE SUTTON COLDFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2025

	<u>2025</u>		<u>2024</u>	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Concert Income				
- Ticket and Programme Sales	7,829		3,651	
- Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust Grant	5,000		2,500	
- Other Specific Grants and Donations	2,250		1,500	
	_____	15,079	_____	7,651
Subscription Income - (see note 2)		6,011		5,324
Other Donations - (see note 3)		3,545		15
Lottery income – (see note 6)		444		396
Other self-help income - (see note 5)		1,225		1,256
Interest received		197		172
		_____		_____
TOTAL INCOME		26,501		14,814
		_____		_____
EXPENDITURE				
Concert Expenditure – (see note 1)		15,157		7,725
Rehearsal Costs				
- Music Director	1,750		1,500	
- Absence cover	-----		70	
- Accompanists	1,300		1,100	
- Room hire	997		750	
	_____	4,047	_____	3,420
Vocal music hire and purchase		101		152
Subscriptions and insurance		337		259
Bursary payments		150		250
Administration		45		36
Website maintenance		99		100
Lottery expenses – (see note 6)		245		223
Bank charges (other than lottery)		81		78
		_____		_____
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		20,262		12,243
		_____		_____
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year		6,239		2,571
		_____		_____

THE SUTTON COLDFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MAY 2025

<u>NOTE 1</u>	Schubert and Fauré	Handel Messiah	Rutter and Mozart	Total
	£	£	£	£
CONCERT INCOME				
Ticket sales	2,256	3,064	2,147	7,467
Programme sales	136	76	150	362
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	2,392	3,140	2,297	7,829
	-----	-----	-----	-----
CONCERT EXPENDITURE				
Conductor	675	375	675	1,725
Soloists	650	1,050	850	2,550
Orchestra	3,490	1,970	2,580	8,040
Keyboard players	150	150	200	500
Venue hire	150	150	150	450
Orchestral music	76	31	213	320
Ticket and programme printing	87	74	91	252
Publicity	195	205	116	516
Orchestra management	349	197	258	804
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	5,822	4,202	5,133	15,157
	-----	-----	-----	-----
GROSS DEFICIT	(3,430)	(1,062)	(2,836)	(7,328)
S C Charitable Trust grant	2,500	-----	2,500	5,000
Sutton Coldfield Chamber Choir	-----	1,000	-----	1,000
Donations	-----	1,000	-----	1,000
Tax recoverable	-----	250	-----	250
	-----	-----	-----	-----
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(930)	1,188	(336)	(78)
	-----	-----	-----	-----

THE SUTTON COLDFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2025

	<u>2025</u>		<u>2024</u>	
	£	£	£	£
<u>NOTE 2</u>				
<u>Subscription Income</u>				
Members' subscriptions				
- Gift Aid	2,430		2,112	
- Other	1,830		1,690	
- Tax recoverable	607		528	
	-----		-----	
		4,867		4,330
Patrons' subscriptions				
- Gift Aid	515		595	
- Other	500		250	
- Tax recoverable	129		149	
	-----		-----	
		1,144		994
		-----		-----
Total Subscription Income		6,011		5,324
		-----		-----

NOTE 3

Unrestricted Donations

Gift Aid	2,022		11	
Other	1,018		1	
Tax recoverable	505		3	
	-----		-----	
		3,545		15
		-----		-----

NOTE 4

Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits

During the period covered by these accounts, Richard Mason, a trustee, was paid a total of £3,475 for professional services as provided for in the Society's governing document. He was also paid an additional sum of £344 for orchestra management under a written agreement compliant with the Charities Act 2011, s.185. No other trustee or connected person received any payment except reimbursements supported by receipts and invoices for goods or services purchased.

THE SUTTON COLDFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2025

	<u>2025</u>		<u>2024</u>	
	£	£	£	£
<u>NOTE 5</u>				
<u>Self-help Income</u> (net of expenditure)				
Programme advertisements	85		100	
Smartie tubes	43		54	
Sale of cakes and drinks	195		151	
Social events	165		304	
Concert programme sponsors	175		190	
'Famous Musicals' card	---		40	
Moor Hall carols	300		200	
Hire of music	188		132	
Cartridge recycling	23		39	
Tax recoverable	51		46	
		1,225		1,256
<u>NOTE 6</u>				
<u>Lottery</u>				
INCOME				
Subscriptions		444		396
EXPENDITURE				
Prizes	163		141	
Registration/renewal fee	20		20	
Bank charges	62		62	
		245		223
Transferred to SCCS funds		199		173