



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From September 1st 2023 To August 31st 2024

Charity name: Congleton Choral Society

Charity registration number: 515851

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY SHALL BE TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN THE ARTS AND SCIENCES, AND IN PARTICULAR THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC, IN THE PROMOTION OF CONCERTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	<p>The Trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.</p> <p>Membership of the choral society is open to any singer, subject to passing an audition by the Music Director. Rehearsals are then directed towards 4 public concerts per year. We believe that our activities benefit both singers and audience; for participants learning music, developing sight reading skill and vocal technique, and singing as a group.</p> <p>For our audience the enjoyment of hearing (and at Christmas participating in) a variety of musical styles, often involving professional soloists and instrumentalists. Tickets are competitively priced to attract a wide audience with both concession and children's tickets available. All full time students and under 26 year olds benefit from a reduced membership subscription rate. In addition, any member with financial difficulties can privately discuss a special reduced subscription arrangement with the Membership Secretary. We also hold choral workshops, which are open to all singers, and offer the chance to learn a variety of choral works with famous and local conductors concluding with an informal sing through. The Community choir was established for new non auditioned singers to experience both singing and music sight reading and taking part in performances. Many of these singers then move on to join the main choir.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	The trustees have complied with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

In September 2023 we began our third choir year with Music Director Tom Newall and with Rachel Fright now as accompanist we have the start of a period of stability for the Choral Society. Tom's choice of music with the agreement of the planning group, continue to be both challenging and inspiring.

Tom & Rachel led and accompanied our annual Singing Day with Puccini's youthful Gloria. This was held in our usual rehearsal venue, Trinity Methodist Church, with over 100 singers. We also offered non-CCS singers the chance to join the choir for a performance of the work at our Spring Concert. And we gained a couple of new members.

In November we gave a performance of Rossini's Petit Messe Solenelle and a Palestrina piece in the town hall with Rachel on piano, Tom Pieczora on harmonium and four operatic soloists. We trialled running an identical programme with Salford Choral Society, allowing members to sing in both concerts if they wished which was very successful.

In December, our Christmas Concert was held in the Daneside Theatre as the Town Hall was unavailable. This was an 'interesting' experience with different acoustics, lighting and staging. There was only room for our digital piano in a corner and Tom had to stand halfway up the central aisle of the audience for us to be able to see him. Expenditure was kept to a minimum, because of the cost of the venue, but we had a sizeable audience and made a small profit.

We had another booking from Foden's Brass Band to sing with them at various hotels on Christmas Eve, which raised a sizeable sum which went towards choir funds.

In January 2024 we started rehearsals for Puccini's Gloria and Elgar's The Music Makers to be accompanied by the National Festival Orchestra. In them we have found an orchestral partner of high quality but at affordable rates.

The new Mayor's ceremonial service this time was held in the Town Hall with musical contributions from her family and the choir. We performed the Music Makers and our efforts were very much appreciated by the town.

Our summer concert featured Bob Chilcott's Songs My Heart has Taught Me and Creation Song which we sang with the composer at our 2022 Singing Day. Followed loosely by a theme of the environment, there was lots of new and challenging music and a warm reaction by the audience to pieces they had never heard before.

The community choir has flourished in number and in vocal strength across the 2023/24 season. They sang at the cricket club at Christmas, collaborated with Biddulph Male Voice choir for a joint concert at the town hall and gave a summer concert at St Mary's Astbury alongside their regular one at Trinity.

Our website is now using the Making Music platform. It is so much more informative and Phil has ably helped members to make the most of its resources.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	<p>The funds at 1st September 2023 were £27,229.56 and at 31st August 2024, £33,402.23. £2000 of this was due to the increase in membership.</p> <p>Although keeping to our plan for 2 orchestral concerts and 2 with piano accompaniment a year, expenditure was double that of our income for 4 concerts. Audience numbers are still varying but concert expenses are increasing.</p> <p>We hope the increase in subscriptions from September 2024 to £180 per year will enable us to have more flexibility when choosing venues and accompaniments for concerts.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	<p>As most of the society's energies are directed to the preparation and staging of four choral concerts each year and that we cannot rely solely on audience numbers to cover our costs, reserves should therefore reflect the amounts needed to provide these objectives. Based on costs over previous years the society believes that it is prudent to maintain reserves of €20,000, based on two orchestral and two keyboard concerts, which will be reviewed annually at the first meeting of the Executive Committee after the Annual General Meeting.</p>
Amount of reserves held	£20,000
Details of fund materially in deficit	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	

Additional information (optional)

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	<p>Members subscriptions Profit from Concerts and Singing Days. Fundraising such as raffles, carol singing, garden trail, socials.</p>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	<p>We had moved our bank accounts from HSBC to the Co-operative bank in 2022 and this year we also moved our reserves from Virgin Money to the Skipton Building Society to gain a better rate of interest.</p>
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	
Type of governing document	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Society

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Congleton Choral Society
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	515851
Charity's principal address	68 Fence Avenue Macclesfield SK10 1LT

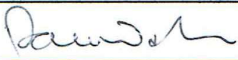
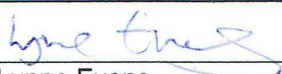
Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Lynne Evans	Chair		
2	Tony Bartley	Vice Chair		
3	Cathy Evans	Secretary		
4	Pam Upchurch	Treasurer		
5	Phil Edwards	Membership Secretary		
6	Margaret Gartside	Librarian		
7	Sandie Boynton	Publicity		
8	Patti Pinto	Wardrobe		
9	Kirsty Edwards	Concert Co-ordinator		
10	Suzan Moore	Soprano rep		
11	Shirley Jones	Alto rep		
12	Ian Pickford	Tenor/Bass rep		

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Pamela Upchurch	Lynne Evans
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	Chair

Date 27.11.24

Congleton Choral Society **Income and Expenditure accounts for year ending 31st August 2024**

		RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS
<u>Concert Income</u>			<u>Concert expenses</u>		
Autumn Concert	£1,603.89		Autumn Concert	£2,955.20	
Christmas Concert	£1,676.50		Christmas Concert	£1,102.68	
Spring Concert	£2,767.48		Spring Concert	£7,556.41	
Summer Concert	£1,524.53		Summer Concert	£2,410.48	
		£7,572.40			£14,024.77
<u>Bank interest</u>			<u>Running Costs</u>		
Virgin Money	£37.73		NFMS subscription/Insuran	£543.00	
Skipton Buiding Society	£0.00		Musical Director	£5,915.00	
			Accompanist	£3,656.00	
<u>Subscriptions</u>	£15,640.30		Hall Hire	£1,680.00	
			Website	£181.60	
<u>Fundraising</u>	£1,375.40				£11,975.60
<u>HMRC Gift Aid</u>	£3,814.49		<u>Deposits</u>	£613.50	
<u>Music loans and sales</u>	£885.10		<u>Music Hire and purchase</u>	£3,047.50	
<u>Sale of uniforms</u>	£149.00		<u>Uniform</u>	£168.00	
<u>Donations</u>	£3,010.15		<u>Sundries</u>	£308.49	
<u>Community Choir</u>	£10,085.00		<u>Community Choir</u>	£7,028.43	
<u>Puccini Singing Day 23</u>	£837.07		<u>Puccini Singing Day 23</u>	£903.83	
<u>Armed Man Singing Day 24</u>	£840.71		<u>Armed Man Singing Day 24</u>	£4.56	
		£36,674.95			£12,074.31
Total Income	£44,247.35		Total Expenditure	£38,074.68	
			Profit for Year	£6,172.67	
Total	£44,247.35		Total	£44,247.35	
Reserves brought forward	£27,229.56		Reserves carried forward	£33,402.23	
Represented by:- <u>Opening balances at 1st September 2023</u>			Represented by:- <u>Closing balances at 31st August 2024</u>		
Co-op Current account	£701.49		Co-op Current account	£3,337.61	
Co-op Membership account	£8,505.03		Co-op Membership account	£8,435.22	
Co-op Community choir account	£3,361.69		Co-op Community Choir account	£6,929.32	
Virgin Charities account	£14,661.35		Skipton B S Charities account	£14,700.08	
		£27,229.56			£33,402.23

Auditor's report

I have examined the receipts, books and accounts of Congleton Choral Society for the year ending 31st August 2024. I hereby verify that in my opinion the financial statements, which have been prepared on an income and expenditure basis using historical cost convention, give a true and fair view of the financial affairs as at 31st August, 2024.

Signed by: -



Pam Upchurch (Honorary Treasurer)

Signed by: -



John Tudor (Auditor)

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