

Charity Registration Number 801961

## East Grinstead Choral Society

Annual report of the Trustees for the period

1st August 2023 to 31st July 2024

### Part A - Matters that all charities must report

#### A1 Reference and administrative details, trustees and advisers

Registered name	East Grinstead Choral Society
Charity Registration Number	801961
Principal Address	29A Alders View Drive
Current Trustees	Ms Janet Cole (Chair) Ms Sheila Walsh (Treasurer) Ms Judi De Lang (Secretary) Mrs Penelope Austin Mrs Kate Draper

Trustees were elected/re-elected at the AGM on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

#### A2 Structure, governance and management

##### Structure

Trustees	Elected officers as listed above
Management Committee	Trustees and appointed officers fulfil administrative duties, head sub-committees or working parties.
Members	Paid-up members of the Society who pay subscriptions to sing at rehearsals and in performances.
Music Director	A self-employed professional musician, paid part-time to lead rehearsals, conduct performances, recommend the choice of repertoire, soloists and instrumentalists and provide expert musical advice.
Accompanist	A self-employed professional musician, paid part-time to accompany the choir during rehearsals and in performances and to deputise for the Music Director when necessary.

##### Governance

The Society is an unincorporated association, governed by the Constitution and rules, which were updated in February 2000, reviewed in July 2013 and updated again in July 2015.

The Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer), who are ex-officio Trustees and up to two Independent Trustees, are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. The Trustees may appoint two additional co-opted Trustees.

All the Trustees are Members of the Society.

### **Management**

The Society is managed by the Trustees with the assistance of the Management Committee.

## **A3 Financial Review**

The Receipts and Payments schedule for the 12-month period from 1st August 2023 to 31st July 2024 is appended to this Report together with the External Scrutiny report.

The financial out-turn for the year to 31 July 2024 was similar to that for July 2023, but within the figures there were quite a few ups and downs. The Trustees started the year aiming broadly to break-even and the main reason for ending with a surplus was because a lot of people joined to sing Messiah, and it was pleasing that many of the newcomers continued into the spring term. The total deficit on the year's concerts was much as expected, helped by large audiences for both Messiah and the opera concert.

The Trustees have decided to keep subscriptions at their present level for the year 2024-25.

The Society does not hold any assets as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

The next financial review will cover a period of 12 months, from 1st August 2024 to 31st July 2025.

## **A5 Public Benefit**

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charities Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

The Trustees have sought to educate the public in the art and science of music by providing opportunities for singers to participate in, and audiences to listen to, choral works performed in the East Grinstead area. Efforts are continually made to achieve an interesting and varied repertoire performed to a good amateur standard, at a cost which is affordable to both singers and audience.

## **Part B — Matters that smaller charities, not subject to statutory audit, must also report**

### **B1 Objectives and Activities**

The objectives of the Society are stated in the Constitution and Rules as being 'to educate the public in the art and science of music, by the presentation of concerts and other relevant activities.'

Membership is open to all sections of the community with no requirement for previous experience or auditions.

Typically, three concerts are held each year, of which at least one will involve engaging a number of professional soloists and orchestral players for a major choral work, and the others will involve a smaller number of professionals in order to perform an interesting repertoire on an affordable budget. Each concert requires a period of preparation at weekly rehearsals led by the Musical Director. The Society seeks to involve local school children whenever this is appropriate.

The costs of staging a concert usually exceed ticket sales, the deficit being met from other income, principally subscriptions. The Society also engages in other activities relevant to its objectives, such as voice training and choral workshops, and in diverse forms of social and fund-raising activities.

The Friends of East Grinstead Choral Society continue to support particular projects; the money raised this season contributed to the cost of four professional soloists for our *Petite Messe Solennelle* concert.

The Society is an active member of Making Music.

Applications are occasionally made for grants from local and national bodies, but the Society does not rely on such receipts, which would not have a material effect on the Society's finances.

## B2 Achievements and performance

2023-2024 was a challenging, but enjoyable and successful season during which we saw a significant increase in membership and an appreciative and growing audience. We held three major concerts: in December we performed Handel's *Messiah* to a full church and, a week later, invited the local community to attend a very well-received "Come and Sing Carols" event. In April we performed Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* to a smaller, but nonetheless appreciative audience. Our final concert of the year was a sell-out performance of popular opera choruses, staged as part of the St Swithun's Festival of the Arts and including the children's choir from St Mary's C of E Primary School. We also extended our outreach by singing carols at Standen (National Trust), allowing us to connect with the local community, and performing in Barefoot Opera's production of *La Cenerentola*.

In January 2024 Laurence Williams, our MD, expressed a wish to take a sabbatical during the autumn term 2024, returning in Spring 2025. We appointed both an Interim MD and a new Assistant MD for the 2024 – 2025 season.

### The programme for the coming season 2024- 2025

Three concerts are planned: in early December we will perform Vivaldi's *Gloria* with an orchestra led by local professional violinist George Clifford. This will be followed in March by Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem* and in July we will stage a concert performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore* at our local theatre, Chequer Mead.

Joelle	Trustee	27.02.25
Sheila M Walker	Trustee	27/2/2025



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

East Grinstead Choral Society

801961

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

01/08/23

To

31/07/24

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Members	19,243	-	-	19,243	16,470
Friends	1,675	-	-	1,675	2,603
Gift Aid reclaims	3,927	-	-	3,927	4,775
Concerts	12,302	-	-	12,302	13,457
Interest	696	-	-	696	231
Miscellaneous	133	-	-	133	964
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>37,976</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>37,976</b>	<b>38,500</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>37,976</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>37,976</b>	<b>38,500</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Rehearsals	20,424	-	-	20,424	19,752
Concerts	10,850	-	-	10,850	9,748
Administration	2,185	-	-	2,185	2,950
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>33,459</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,459</b>	<b>32,450</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	270
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>270</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>33,459</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,459</b>	<b>32,720</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>4,517</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,517</b>	<b>5,780</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>25,125</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,125</b>	<b>19,345</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>29,642</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29,642</b>	<b>25,125</b>

# Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Current account	392	-	-
	Deposit account	29,055	-	-
	Cash in hand	195	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>29,642</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))				

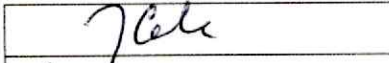

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Portable speaker	Unrestricted funds	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	JANET COLE	27.02.25
	SHEILA WALSH	27/2/25



**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

East Grinstead Choral Society

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31 July 2024

**Charity no  
(if any)**

801961

**Set out on pages**

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 July 2024.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 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 (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

**Signed:**

*J Unsworth*

**Date:**

28/02/2025

**Name:**

Joanna Unsworth

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

FCCA

**Address:**

39 Stockwell Road

East Grinstead

West Sussex, RH19 4BD

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.**

