

Charity Registration Number 801961

East Grinstead Choral Society

Annual report of the Trustees for the period

1st August 2024 to 31st July 2025

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) Mrs Jayne Barry (Secretary); elected on 2 nd October 2025 Mrs Kate Draper Mrs Gillian Wilton |

(Current Trustees were elected/re-elected at the AGM on 2nd October 2025)

Other Trustees who served from 1st August 2024 to 31st July 2025

Mrs Judi De Lang (Secretary) (stepped down on 31st July 2025)
Mrs Penelope Austin (stepped down on 31st July 2025)

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 groups. |
| 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. |
| Assistant Music Director | 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, Secretary and Treasurer), who are ex-officio Trustees and up to three 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 Working Groups.

Financial Review

The Receipts and Payments schedule for the 12-month period from 1st August 2024 to 31st July 2025 is appended to this Report together with the External Scrutiny report.

Cash reserves increased by £2,596 at the year end; although the Trustees knew that the summer concert would be costly as it required a lot of soloists and was in an expensive venue, careful planning meant that we were able to balance it out with two concerts where the requirements were much less. We also started the redevelopment of our website this year, which has given us several benefits, not least, a Members' area. Other notable expenditure in the year related to the auditions and recruitment process for our new Musical Director, Phil Wilcox, who takes up his post on 1 September 2025.

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 2025 to 31st July 2026.

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.

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 Music Director or Assistant Music Director. The Society seeks to involve local school choirs 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 professional soloists for our Brahms *Ein deutsches Requiem* 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.

Achievements and performance

2024-2025 was a challenging, but enjoyable and successful season during which we once more saw a significant increase in membership and an appreciative and growing audience. We held three major concerts: in December we performed Vivaldi's *Gloria* to a full church and in March Brahms *Ein deutsches Requiem* to a smaller, but nonetheless extremely appreciative audience. Our final concert of the year was a sell-out performance of *HMS Pinafore* at our local Arts Centre. We also extended our outreach by singing carols at our local hospital (QVH), which allowed us to connect with the local community, and performing in Barefoot Opera's production of *La Traviata*.

2024 – 2025 was also challenging in terms of our professionals, as our MD, Laurence Williams had requested a sabbatical for the Autumn Term. We were delighted to appoint Ben Markovic as Interim MD and Craig Hudson as Assistant MD for the Autumn Term, then welcomed Laurence back for the Spring Term, before saying a permanent farewell to him after our Brahms concert in March. Craig Hudson took over the baton for *HMS Pinafore* during the Summer Term.

In February 2025 we held auditions for the post of Music Director and were delighted to be able to appoint Phil Wilcox as MD from September 2025 and retain Craig Hudson as Assistant Music Director.

The programme for the coming season 2025- 2026

We are planning three concerts: in early December we will perform Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* accompanied by an orchestra led by local professional violinist George Clifford. This will be followed in March by Fauré's *Requiem* and in June we will be performing a selection of music by British composers as part of the St Swithun's Festival of the Arts and inviting St Mary's Primary School Choir to perform with us.

Phil

05.03.2026

Shaile M. Walsh

5/3/26.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

East Grinstead Choral Society

801961

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/08/24

To

31/07/25

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 £ |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A1 Receipts | | | | | |
| Members' subscriptions | 19,260 | - | - | 19,260 | 19,243 |
| Friends | 1,300 | - | - | 1,300 | 1,675 |
| Gift Aid reclaims | 4,412 | - | - | 4,412 | 3,927 |
| Concerts | 14,580 | - | - | 14,580 | 12,302 |
| Interest | 768 | - | - | 768 | 696 |
| Miscellaneous | 705 | - | - | 705 | 133 |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total (Gross income for AR) | 41,025 | - | - | 41,025 | 37,976 |
| A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table). | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total receipts | 41,025 | - | - | 41,025 | 37,976 |
| A3 Payments | | | | | |
| Concerts | 19,739 | - | - | 19,739 | 18,005 |
| Rehearsals | 11,785 | - | - | 11,785 | 10,850 |
| Cost of scores, folders, scarves & ties | 2,156 | - | - | 2,156 | 2,420 |
| New website development | 1,855 | - | - | 1,855 | - |
| MD recruitment | 1,262 | - | - | 1,262 | - |
| Other administration | 1,632 | - | - | 1,632 | 2,185 |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | 38,429 | - | - | 38,429 | 33,459 |
| A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table) | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total payments | 38,429 | - | - | 38,429 | 33,459 |
| Net of receipts/(payments) | 2,596 | - | - | 2,596 | 4,517 |
| A5 Transfers between funds | - | - | - | - | - |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | 29,642 | - | - | 29,642 | 25,125 |
| Cash funds this year end | 32,238 | - | - | 32,238 | 29,642 |

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 £ |
|----------------------|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B1 Cash funds | Current account | 553 | - | - |
| | Deposit account | 31,318 | - | - |
| | Cash in hand | 366 | - | - |
| | Total cash funds | 32,238 | - | - |
| | <small>(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))</small> | | | |

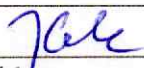
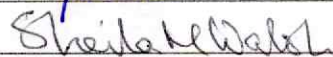
| Categories | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B2 Other monetary assets | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |

| Categories | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| B3 Investment assets | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |

| Categories | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|---|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |

| Categories | Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
|-----------------------|---------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| B5 Liabilities | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |

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

| Signature | Print Name | Date of approval |
|---|--------------|------------------|
|  | JANET COLE | 26/02/26 |
|  | SHEILA WALSH | 26/02/26 |



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

East Grinstead Choral Society

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 July 25

**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 2025.

**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 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.

Signed:

Joanna Unsworth

Date:

16/03/2026

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.