

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON 23RD OCTOBER 2024

This report meets the requirements of our own constitution (dated 21st October 2015) to report to the Annual General Meeting and the legal requirements upon charities to produce and make available a Trustees' Annual Report.

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers

The charity's name and registration number are set out at the head of this report.

The contact address ('principal office') of the charity is the home of the Chairperson, namely 9 Ovington Terrace, Llandaff, Cardiff, CF5 1GF.

The Trustees, elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 25th October 2023, are as follows:

Chairperson: Steve Bowkett

Vice-Chairperson: Richard Tebboth

Treasurer: Neil Schofield-Hughes

Secretary: Anna Brazier

Additional Trustee: Margot Henery.

All Trustees have declared their willingness to remain in post, subject to election at the Annual General Meeting scheduled to be held on 23rd October 2024.

Structure, governance and management

The governing document of the Choir is the constitution approved at the Annual General Meeting held on 21st October 2015.

The management of Canton Chorus ("the Choir") is in the hands of the Trustees, who are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. The Trustees are assisted by an Advisory Committee, currently comprising a representative of each of the four voice parts: Sara Hayes (soprano), Jane Tooby (alto), Margot Henery (tenor - who is also a Trustee in her own right) and Gareth Jones (bass); the Librarian, Jane Brown, the Publicity Lead, John Davies (until March 2024), Phil Hawkins (who recently joined as web-site lead) and Lesley Jones as an additional member.

Meetings of the Trustees, with Advisory Committee, (known as the planning group) have been held on the following dates (all in 2024): 12th January, 8th March, 12th April, 21st June, 17th July and 20th September. From September, a record of these meetings will be available on the website.

Membership of the choir is open to any person interested in furthering its objects, without audition or other musical test. The membership varies through the year. In June 2024 there were about 40 subscribing members, compared with 52 at the same time in the previous year.

Financial review

The accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024 are available as a separate document. A simplified format approved will be used for submission to the Charity Commission. The latter is subject to independent examination before being signed off by the Trustees. Figures are shown to the nearest pound.

The accounts show that our total income for the year was £9935. The end of year balance, including the balance of £9039 brought forward from last year, was £2980. Gift Aid amounted to £1069 (£771 last year), constituting over 10% of total receipts. We received £36 this year (£31 last year) from Amazon as a result of members' purchases from them made via a link on our website and from an Easy Fundraising scheme.

Expenditure this year was £15994, compared to £12086 last year.

No loans are outstanding.

The Choir does not hold any funds as custodian trustee on behalf of any other body.

Overall, the accounts show a drop in income, notably in membership subscriptions, and a substantial increase in expenditure, mainly in fees for conductor and accompanist during the absence of our Musical Director. In order to maintain financial stability, the Trustees have agreed a lessening of expenditure for the planned winter concert and have mounted a drive to recruit new members.

Financial controls

Charity Commission guidance requires the Trustees to review financial controls each year. The Trustees have drawn up a document for this purpose.

Data protection

In accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation of the European Parliament and Council, the privacy policy drawn up by the Trustees was formally adopted at the Annual General Meeting held on 17th October 2018. Trustees have been reviewing the information held to ensure it is updated or deleted as appropriate.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the Choir are as follows:

1. to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art of choral singing and associated musical activity, through any means the Trustees see fit, including the provision of rehearsals under skilled guidance and public performance;
2. to further such charitable purpose or purposes as the Trustees in their absolute discretion shall think fit, in relation to the practice of choral singing.

The activities undertaken in pursuance of those objects are outlined below. The continuing Coronavirus pandemic and associated restrictions continued to affect our activities and

ability to plan for the future. Nonetheless, it has over the year become gradually possible to return to more normal activities and to plan with greater confidence.

Indoor rehearsals

In-person rehearsals at Canton Uniting Church continued as normal during the past year. The choir has again been pleased to welcome a number of new members. Numbers attending have, however, not yet reached the levels of years before the Covid epidemic.

Concerts

Two concerts have been held during the year. In January 2024 the choir, with professional soloists and orchestra, performed works by Samuel Coleridge Taylor, Felix Mendelssohn and Francis Poulenc. In July 2024 the choir, with soloists and accompanists, performed works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Johannes Brahms and Howard Goodall.

Musical direction

Our Principal Accompanist, Ben Teague, continued to act as Musical Director for our Winter Concert. The Trustees remain very grateful to him for his support to the Choir and his excellent musicianship. For the Summer Concert, the Choir was delighted to welcome back our founding Musical Director, John Abraham, following successful treatment for his illness.

Christmas singing

Choir members held a Christmas singing event at Pritchard Court, a supported living complex in Llandaff, which was well appreciated.

Fun event

Thanks to a generous donation from a member, the Choir was able to hold a 'fun event' social evening in April 2024 at Insole Court, with entertainment provided by Choir members and friends. It was much enjoyed by those present.

Participation in other activities

Several members of the choir benefitted from participating invitation in further performances of 'Shoulder to Shoulder' by Swansea City Opera, a project which we hope to re-join in 2025.

Publicity

Thanks to our new publicity sub-group we have spread the word about our choir and have attracted new members.

Future plans

The choir is currently rehearsing works Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* and Brahms' *German Requiem* for a concert planned to take place in January 2025 at St John's Church, Canton. Christmas singing events are expected to be organised in response to invitations.

Achievements and performance

The Choir has now fully returned to its normal level of activity following the disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic, and has been pleased to welcome back its founding Musical Director. Its main challenge now is to recruit and retain new members to secure a successful future.

Signed by the Trustees:

Steve Bowkett

Anna Brazier

Margot Henery

Neil Schofield-Hughes

Richard Tebboth

Date: October 2024