



LOWER WINDRUSH CHORAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT For the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 August 2019. This report is to be presented at the Annual General Meeting to be held at Stanton Harcourt CE Primary School, Stanton Harcourt, Witney Oxon OX29 5RJ on Monday 16 December 2019 at 8.00 pm.

Section A: Reference and administration details

Charity name: Lower Windrush Choral Society

Registered charity number: 1152661

Charity's principal address: 5 Chalcroft Close
Ducklington
OX29 7TP

Trustees who have managed the charity during the year:

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted as Trustee, if not for whole year (1.9.18 – 31.8.19)
Jennifer Macdonald	Chairman	
Bellanne Lethbridge	Secretary	
Diana Gordon	Treasurer until AGM 26 November 2018	
Andrew Grainger		Resigned AGM 26 November 2018
Pamela Breeze		Resigned AGM 26 November 2018
Jane Dodds		Resigned 6 September 2018
Helen Feasey		Resigned AGM 26 November 2018
Jennifer Insch		
Susan Lakie		Resigned AGM 26 November 2018
Terence McNamara	Music Director	
Christopher Sawyers		
Elizabeth Jane Chapman		Appointed AGM 26 November 2018
Jonathan Harvey		Appointed AGM 26 November 2018
Phillip Morton		Appointed AGM 26 November 2018
Theresa Rees	Treasurer from AGM 26 November 2018	Appointed AGM 26 November 2018

Section B: Structure, governance and management

Governing document: Constitution of Lower Windrush Choral Society, March 2013

How the charity is constituted: As an Association

Trustee selection method: Election by members at the Annual General Meeting

Section C: Objectives and activities

Objects of the Society set out in its constitution:

The charity's objects are:

- (1) to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals;
- (2) to further such charitable purpose or purposes as the trustees in their absolute discretion shall think fit but in particular through the making of grants and donations.

Main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects:

Our main activity is the performance and promotion of choral music. In planning the Society's activities, the Trustees have kept in mind the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Section D: Achievements and performance

Concerts and performances

During the year 1 September to 31 August, the Society sang at the following events:

The chamber choir joined St Mary's Church Choir for a 'Concert for All-Souls-Tide' on Saturday 3 November 2018 to sing the Fauré Requiem and several other shorter pieces by Rutter, Tavener, Vaughan Williams and Brahms.

On 25 November 2018 the whole choir performed a celebration of music by Parry in the Methodist Church, to mark the centenary of his death. This included Hear my words ye people, My soul there is a country, Ode to the Nativity, Blest Pair of Sirens, I was glad, and the particularly well known Jerusalem. The audience were invited to join us for Jerusalem and this provided a wonderful swell of voices in the church. Aileen Thomson was the soprano soloist for the Ode, which was wonderful, and then she joined the ranks for I was glad and Jerusalem.

This year marks the 775th anniversary of St Mary's Church in Witney and the main choir joined the Church Choir again on 23 March 2019 to sing parts 2 and 3 of Handel's Messiah. The soloists were Sophie Dodds and Michael Powell. The church generously allowed us to share in the donations made by a packed and appreciative audience, for which we were very grateful. (Combat Stress also benefited from the donation pot.)

Other achievements and activities

Membership numbers of the main choir fluctuated between 46 and 48 (2018 – 46 and 52). During the year, members of the 'small choir' who did not belong to the main choir were brought more formally under the Society's umbrella by the creation of an 'affiliated' membership for them, and there were nine such members. (The small choir membership in total numbers about 25.)

The 'small choir' was renamed 'the chamber choir' and has continued to meet approximately monthly during 2018-19 at Cokethorpe School. They have a concert on 14 September 2019 shortly after the year end which will comprise 2 Bach Cantatas performed with the Harcourt Early Music Ensemble. More of that next year.

The main choir is busy working towards a 'Christmas Cracker' event in December and a concert in May next year of Bach's St John Passion.

'Summer Sings' have continued, with two sessions taking place at Northmoor during the summer break. We have tried to encourage new people to try us out at these sessions. We had three sopranos join us for the sessions but at the time of writing only one person has indicated that they may be able to join us. However notwithstanding any newcomers, the Summer Sings nevertheless provide a welcome opportunity for some members to meet up and sing new and different pieces, just for fun. One of our members has been working on a composition this year and he very generously allowed us to sing through a few sections.

Following the setup of our new website last year we have continued to run both the new and old during the year to ensure we do not lose any potential traffic to the site. The committee agreed to delete the old site shortly after the year end.

Thanks to newly-appointed Trustee Phil Morton, a review is being carried out of health and safety risks at our concert and rehearsal venues. This review has ensured that all risks are considered, itemised and recorded and appropriate actions taken.

On the social side, there was again a well-attended New Year party at the home of Jack & Diana Gordon, including what has become the customary light-hearted musical interlude. Our summer party this calendar year is being held in the garden (weather permitting) of Jenny Macdonald on 7 September, shortly after the Society's year end. The Trustees are most grateful to all party hosts.

Over the year our amazing music director has continued to coax and cajole some really quite lovely moments from his amateur choir. We could not manage without his knowledge, skill and patience and we are very grateful that Terry continues to persevere with us.

Roger continues to act as accompanist for our rehearsals and we are very grateful to him for doing so.

Once again, the Trustees would like to record their thanks to the many members of the Society (and to some of their family-members) who continue to help with the wide range of jobs that need doing, both as part of the

weekly cycle of rehearsals and as part of organising concerts. The list is long and it would be invidious to select examples, but we thank you all.

Section E: Financial review

LOWER WINDRUSH CHORAL SOCIETY RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1 SEPTEMBER 2018 TO 31 AUGUST 2019

Section A Receipts and payments									
	2018 - 19						2017 - 18		
	Main choir		Chamber choir		TOTAL		TOTAL		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	
Receipts									
Members' subscriptions		5,480.00		848.75		6,328.75		6,968.75	
Donations received - non-concert		190.00		795.00		985.00		142.80	
Gift Aid reclaimed		953.95		277.83		1,231.78		1,031.26	
Easyfundraising & GiveAsYou Live income		296.82		72.00		368.82		299.23	
Raffles - net income		155.50		-		155.50		75.00	
Concerts:									
Concert ticket sales		1,026.00		-		1,026.00		3,174.00	
Concert programme income		57.00		-		57.00		95.90	
Concert - bar/refreshment income		-		-		-		378.80	
Concert - donations & sponsorship to Society		503.73		-		503.73		1,240.00	
Payments									
Rehearsals:									
Professional fees & expenses	4,546.30		230.00		4,776.30		5,405.05		
Rehearsal venue hire	835.00		-		835.00		760.00		
Music hire/purchase - net cost after members' payments (note 1)	(24.95)		40.13		15.18		131.74		
Concerts:									
MD, soloists & instrumentalists - fees, expenses, gifts, scores	981.00		-		981.00		3,873.69		
Venue costs	160.00		-		160.00		346.00		
Instrument costs	-		-		-		455.00		
Programme costs	86.00		-		86.00		79.00		
Bar/refreshment costs	-		-		-		233.07		
Performing Rights Society fees	84.68		-		84.68		82.21		
Publicity	134.66		73.18		207.84		157.62		
Cancellation insurance	-		48.00		48.00		48.00		
Miscellaneous expenses	26.00		-		26.00		172.80		
Other expenses:									
Capital expenditure (note 2)	-		-		-		628.67		
Administrative expenses	60.68		-		60.68		48.22		
Website fees (note 3)	239.47		-		239.47		198.03		
Making Music subscription (note 4)	200.00		-		200.00		130.00		
Insurance (excl cancellation cover for concerts)	43.00		-		43.00		43.00		
Social expenses	177.43		-		177.43		237.77		
Total Receipts		8,663.00		1,993.58		10,656.58		13,405.74	
Total Payments	7,549.27		391.31		7,940.58		13,029.87		
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		1,113.73		1,602.27		2,716.00		375.87	
Notes:									
1. Surplus generated due to timing difference between music purchased last year and sold this year									
2. Costs of 'parcan' lights and stands for concerts, plus MD's music stand									
3. Have been running two sites, whilst new one under development									
4. Making Music sub based on Society income for the previous year, and LWCS moved into higher income bracket last financial year.									
Net reserves at beginning of year									
		£		£		£		£	
Net reserves at beginning of year		6,285.39		324.94		6,610.33		6,234.46	
Add surplus for year		1,113.73		1,602.27		2,716.00		375.87	
Net reserves as at 31 August 2019 / (2018)		7,399.12		1,927.21		9,326.33		6,610.33	
REPRESENTED BY:									
Assets									
Cash in hand		57.99		-		57.99		49.22	
Barclays Bank account		7,341.13		1,927.21		9,268.34		6,561.11	
AVAILABLE ASSETS		7,399.12		1,927.21		9,326.33		6,610.33	
All funds are unrestricted, the chamber choir is a designated fund.									

Commentary on financial statement:

The accounts show the finances of the society are in a healthy state at the year end with a surplus being generated in the year under review. However it should be noted that monies have been accumulated in the year in order to fund two major concerts which will take place next year.

The chamber choir, as already mentioned above, is performing in a Bach concert shortly after the year end. There will be number of instrumentalists and soloists performing with the choir which means that significant costs will be incurred. It is hoped that donations on the night and the proceeds from a small bar together with funds already generated this year will fully cover the event.

The main choir concert is Bach – St John Passion and like the chamber concert will need instrumentalists and soloists. The concert does not take place until May 2020 and efforts will be made to apply for grants, sponsorships and donations to help us fund this.

The Trustees are very grateful to all those individuals who have made donations to the Society during the year. Their contributions have made a real difference to the overall picture at the year end.

The trustees believe there is no need to increase subscription rates in the coming year.


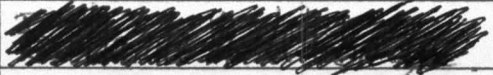
Reserves policy:

The policy of the Trustees is to maintain such a level of reserves as will ensure the long-term viability of the Society and enable it to continue to fulfil its objects for the foreseeable future. Over recent years, reserves have been successfully built up to cover approximately six months of non-concert related expenditure together with a significant contribution towards the costs of the next major event. This approach is felt by the trustees to fulfil their stated policy. No part of the reserves of the Society is restricted to any particular purpose.

Section F: Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees:

Signatures		
Name	Jennifer Macdonald	Bellanne Lethbridge
Position	Chairman	Secretary

Date 19.11.19.