INVERURIE CHORAL SOCIETY

28th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

23rd September 2026 7.30pm

St. Andrew's Church (Old Chapel)

Chair's Report

It has been a busy year for the choir with two Come & Sing events, our Christmas and summer concerts and participation in the Inverurie Big Sing in December. We moved to our new rehearsal venue at St. Andrew's in January and have worked on the development of a new website, soon to go live. The committee, our MD, James, and others have put in a lot of hard work behind the scenes to put on the events, ease the transitions of venue and website and ensure the smooth running of the choir.

Singing Events

We had our first autumn Come & Sing day on November 1st 2025. The *Fauré Requiem* was planned and executed in about 7 weeks from the initial idea after the choir picnic. It was successful artistically, financially and in creating interest in ICS that bought in new members.

The Big Sing community event took place the week before our Christmas concert. The date of our concert was changed to allow for this and to encourage greater participation from the choir. We performed some items from our Christmas programme as well as leading the community singing.

We joined again with the choir of Strathburn School for the Christmas concert in the Acorn Centre. The programme ranged from the familiar to more challenging music and featured the *Choral Suite from Frozen*, performed with the Strathburn choir - in Old Norse! A challenge indeed. Although there were some timing issues, it was another successful event for ICS.

The spring Come & Sing was Rutter's *Feel the Spirit,* held in St. Andrew's. Although it was well received by those who took part, a virus reduced the number of attendees significantly. We also had some IT glitches, now fixed for future events.

The Musical Postcards summer concert was another strong performance from the choir, travelling from Venice (Vivaldi's *Gloria*) to Stockholm (ABBA selection) via Penzance with a few Pirates thrown in to the mix. The addition of a stage manager helped things run more smoothly behind the scenes, but a non-singing person would be helpful in keeping front-of-house organised.

Overall, we have adjusted well to presenting concerts and Come & Sing events in St. Andrew's and continue to learn and improve on all fronts.

Other events

Over the year we have had social events, from a walk and picnic at Haughton Park to a visit to the Music Hall in Aberdeen to hear the National Youth Choir of Scotland. These social events, along with the tea break on Wednesday evenings, are important as they help choir members to get to know each other better. This can improve the coherence of the choir and help us sing better together (research here*, if you are interested).

The choir tour and voice workshop are still in planning but hopefully will come to fruition over the following months.

Membership

Our membership has fluctuated over the year, mostly due to illness of members or close family. Current active membership sits at around thirty so recruitment is a priority, especially tenors, as always, though the 2nd altos have been doing a stellar job filling in the tenor line - thank you. Recruitment is a task we can *all* take on and our new website is one avenue that could help with that if prospective new members are pointed in the right direction.

Finances

Our treasurer, Peggy Crossman, left the post at the end of July but has agreed to present her report tonight. I will leave the detail to her. Thank you, Peggy for all your hard work and for turning out to the AGM, above and beyond the call of duty. A thank you goes to Judy Leslie who has been keeping the financial side ticking over, but we must find a new treasurer without delay.

We have made a profit on our events this year but rehearsal costs exceed income from subscriptions. The shortfall will need to be addressed and the new committee will need to look into fundraising, whether from grants or other sources.

Committee and Governance

A big thank you to the members of the committee who organise events and keep the choir running. The committee has been affected by the same issues as the choir with illness, etc., reducing the number of members and requiring changes in personnel. Out of a possible fourteen, we have been working recently with only six, which has meant a lot of work for a few people.

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*Relationship Between Group Cohesion Among Singers During Choral Performance and the Quality of Performance; Yui Katada · Naomi Yoshida · Ichiro Kita Journal of Voice 11 Mar 2026

Although progress has been made with updating Policies and Procedures, there is still work to do as other priorites crop up constantly. We need these in place to comply with the law, which tends to change, just when you think you're up to date!

However, the new website is well on the way to going live and will provide a central point for information for prospective members and audiences; news about the choir and choir members; a members' area with rehearsal tracks, rehearsal schedules; and so on.

Thanks also to those who are not committee or choir members who have helped, especially at events, to set up, man the front of house, herd us to where we need to be, and all those other tasks that it is easy to overlook.

Let us look forward to an exciting and enjoyable year ahead with a strong committee (and other helpers) to take us forward.

Patricia Snowdon

Chair