



BEARSDEN CHOIR

Trustees' Annual Report and
Accounts
for the year ended 31 August 2024

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2024

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the accounts and the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Reference & Administrative Information

Charity name
Bearsden Choir

Charity number
SC001117

Address

 Flat 2/2, 1 Arnwood Drive, Glasgow G12 0XY

Current trustees

 Chair
Secretary
Treasurer

Appointed May 2024

Structure Governance & Management

Constitution

The choir is a charitable unincorporated association and the purposes and administration arrangements are set out in our constitution. The choir was granted charitable status by OSCR on 1 April 1980.

Appointment of trustees

The choir's trustees are appointed or reappointed by the members at our annual general meeting, which is held around May each year. In exceptional circumstances trustees may be co-opted by the committee until such time as a general meeting may be called to appoint replacement trustees.

Management

The trustees are responsible for the management and governance of the choir whilst the strategic direction and musical content of the concerts is delegated to the choir's Musical Director subject to final agreement of the trustees.

Objectives & Activities

Charitable purposes

The objects of the Choir shall be to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of music in all aspects by any means the Trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public events, in Bearsden, Glasgow and surrounding area.

Activities

Our activities are all about bringing music that may not normally be available to a wider audience and giving members occasions to sing large works with orchestras and professional soloists and accompanists.

Achievements and performances

Following two changes of Chair in as many years, it was important to reestablish some stability in the choir, by establishing policies and procedures that would set us up for the future. After extensive consultations, both with the membership and OSCR, our 20-year-old constitution was updated and passed unanimously by EGM in May 2024. This document, alongside the more flexible Members' Manual, sets the parameters for the day-to-day running of the choir and will be reviewed at least annually. In addition, we now have policies in place covering areas such as safeguarding, GDPR, Health and Safety (with appropriate risk assessments) and EDI which will hopefully be useful when we apply to sponsors for funding in the future.

Membership has remained broadly stable, with a refreshing number of students continuing to be attracted to the choir as well as a reassuring number of older members who provide continuity and balance.

We undertook four events during the year, including two bigger concerts. In December, we performed the Brahms Requiem to a sell-out audience in The Glasgow Royal Concert Hall New Auditorium, a new and successful venue for us. In February the Choir performed the popular combination of Faure *Requiem* and Vivaldi *Gloria* to a packed church; this concert was designed to generate funds to support our larger scale concert in May.

Our May concert in The City Halls included a range of pieces from Puccini's well-known *Gloria* to the ethereal style of Avro Part's *Salve Regina*, performed alongside a new choir commission from a young local composer, George Swann. The Choir continues to receive four-star reviews from *The Herald*; the review from May included the comment "... a basket of choral confectionery that this choir clearly reveled in."

In addition, we were invited to perform at the Christmas and Easter services transmitted on BBC Scotland, which is important to maintain awareness of our name and as a reputable choir in central Scotland.

The achievements made this year, over and above the presentation of concerts, is thanks to our very hard-working committee, who have given their time freely, especially in getting the policies and constitution in place. The inspirational leadership of Music Director Andrew Nunn continues to drive the choir forward to sing at an exceptionally high standard and overall, Bearsden Choir is in a strong position for the future.

Financial Review

Our main source of funding continues to be fees charged to members. Concerts are funded by ticket sales, grants and various fundraising activities.

During the year no grants were received (2023: £400).

In previous years we have donated small amounts of the funds we raise to other charities. This year we donated £50 (2023: £nil).

Receipts on the unrestricted fund were £55,363 (2023: £55,395) largely due to subscriptions received from a continuing membership. Payments on the unrestricted fund for the year were £58,650 (2023: £48,051).

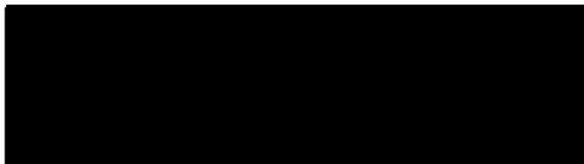
The resultant deficit for the year of £3,287 (2023: surplus £7,344) was deducted from reserves.

Reserves policy

The trustees' policy is to maintain reserves to cover the costs of the first two or three concerts of the following season and to cover any unexpected expenditure. Reserves at the end of the year were £32,933 (2023: £36,220), which is within the target range.

Future Plans

Looking forward, we hope to build on the strong foundations that the Trustees have laid, by exploring new and exciting development opportunities and collaborations as they arise. We aim to develop our outreach to young people through our continuing presence at Freshers' Fairs etc. merging the talents and experience of our older voices with the freshness and enthusiasm of the singers of the future. We are also planning to improve the social side of the choir in order to develop a strong community within Bearsden Choir's membership.



Independent Examiner's Report for the year ended 31 August 2024

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bearsden Choir

I report on the accounts of the charity (SC001117) for the year ended 31 August 2024, which are set out on pages 5 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

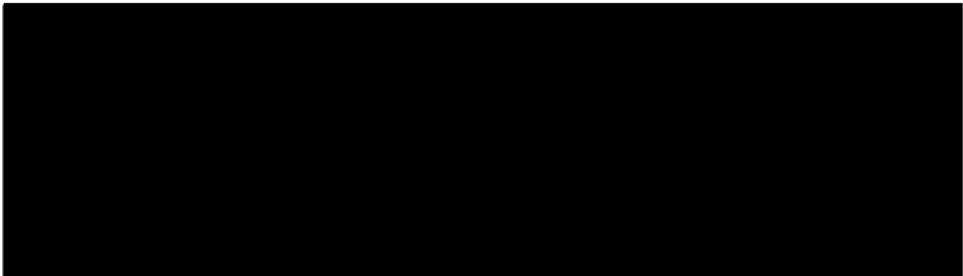
Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the year ended 31 August 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Receipts					
Voluntary receipts					
Donations		1,482	-	1,482	9,613
Grants	4	-	-	-	400
Sponsorship		-	2,000	2,000	2,000
Fund raising		2,989	-	2,989	3,083
Bank interest		457	-	457	184
Receipts from charitable activities					
Membership fees		25,813	-	25,813	20,791
Concert income		24,254	-	24,254	19,327
Music & equipment hire		368	-	368	515
Total receipts		55,363	2,000	57,363	55,913
Payments					
Cost of fund raising		-	-	-	22
Cost of charitable activities	5	57,319	2,000	59,319	46,757
Donations	6	50	-	50	-
Governance costs	7	1,028	-	1,028	634
Sub total		58,397	2,000	60,397	47,413
Purchase of music & equipment		253	-	253	1,156
Total payments		58,650	2,000	60,650	48,569
(Deficit)/surplus for year		(3,287)	-	(3,287)	7,344

The Notes on pages 7 and 8 form an integral part of these accounts.

**Statement of Balances
As at 31 August 2024**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Funds reconciliation				
Cash at bank & in hand -31 August 2023	36,220	-	36,220	28,876
(Deficit)/Surplus for year	(3,287)	-	(3,287)	7,344
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Cash at bank & in hand - 31 August 2024	32,933	-	32,933	36,220
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Bank & cash balances				
CAF Cash account			166	24,331
Treasurer's account			-	11,889
CAF Gold Deposit			10,500	-
Shawbrook Deposit			20,000	-
Accruals/prepayments			2,267	-
			-----	-----
			32,933	36,220
			=====	=====
Other assets (unrestricted fund)				
Music library			29,546	29,546
Staging equipment			11,156	11,156
Lighting equipment			2,100	2,100
Technological equipment			1,156	1,156
			-----	-----
			43,958	43,958
			=====	=====

All funds are unrestricted.

The Notes on pages 7 and 8 form an integral part of these accounts.

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024

1. Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

2. Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the purpose of the charity. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of the choir.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes. During the year the choir received sponsorship of £2,000 (2023: £2,050) and donations totalling £nil (2023: £118) towards the costs of specific concerts or recordings.

3. Related party transactions

The choir's insurance policy includes trustee indemnity insurance for all its trustees. No other remuneration was paid to the trustees or to any connected persons during the year (2023: £nil).

No travelling expenses were paid to trustees during the year (2023: £nil).

4. Grants received

No grants were received during the year (2023: £400).

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

5. Cost of charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Concert costs	27,525	2,000	29,525	21,395
Professional fees	17,764	-	17,764	15,940
Hall hire	8,690	-	8,690	7,643
Recruitment & general publicity	1,141	-	1,141	826
Stationery & sundry costs	2,139	-	2,139	889
Bank charges	60	-	60	63
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	57,319	2,000	59,319	46,757
	=====	=====	=====	=====

6. Donations

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
One	50	-	50	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	50	-	50	-
	=====	=====	=====	=====

7. Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Affiliation fees	366	-	366	365
Insurance	662	-	662	269
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	1,028	-	1,028	634
	====	=====	=====	=====

