



ANNUAL REPORT

**To be presented at the Annual General Meeting
10 November 2022**

8pm

**St Michael and All Angels Church, Lonsdale Road,
Summertown,
Oxford OX2 7ES**

1. Legal and Administrative Information

<i>Registered charity number</i>	900317
<i>Principal address</i>	118 Coopers Gate Banbury OX16 2WD
<i>Trustees and Officers</i>	Philip Booth (Chair) Keith Young (Secretary) Kirsten Smith (Treasurer) Diana Chandler (Membership Secretary) Catrin Roberts (Concert Manager) Sue Palmer (Social Secretary) Simon Wratten (Librarian) Jean-Louis Metzger (Webmaster)
<i>Music Director</i>	Duncan Saunderson
<i>Accompanist</i>	Julian Littlewood
<i>Governing document</i>	The Constitution of Summertown Choral Society 2021
<i>Bankers</i>	Nat West Bank, Oxford COIF Charities Deposit Fund 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4ET
<i>Independent examiner</i>	Jacqueline Bowman 2B Sandfield Road Headington Oxford OX3 7RG

Objects (from clause 2 of the Constitution)

The objects of the Society shall be to educate the public in the Art and Science of Music by the rehearsal of choral music, the presentation of public concerts and other charitable activities.

2. Treasurer's report

I should have been careful what I wished for last year...hoping for a harder task with the preparation of the accounts after the trials of the pandemic. It certainly was a more arduous procedure but what a year it has been! Back to normal with two concerts and a very healthy membership.

The sell-out concert we had to welcome normality, the ever-exhilarating Messiah, pulled in the crowds, but despite that, we made a loss, mainly due to the expensive orchestra, but to have reliable professionals really makes a difference, and the overall finances of that first concert were much as expected. Ticket prices were raised to a much easier £15. That did not deter the audience. Our summer concert was likewise a loss maker but that is factored into the subscription charge. These were raised to cover our higher costs, which included a higher expenditure on venue hire at St Andrew's, with more space required due to Covid measures, and there was a further shortfall of revenue from the sale of drinks and programmes. We have cut down on the costs of publicity and that seems to have no adverse impact on attendance.

A major development has been the purchase of a card reader for the sale of tickets to choir members. This has cut down on the hefty commission we have been paying to Tickets at Oxford, although we still keep them on board for the wider market they can achieve.

The slightly higher subs enabled us to celebrate in fine style Duncan's 25 years with the choir and a great party was held at the end of the term with no additional financial burden on attendees.

We have marginally increased our cash in hand, which is still healthy, although not up to previous heights. There is a cushion we may need in the event of a repeat of the last couple of years and costs of course will go up. However, in summary, a pleasing financial situation to be in, after the rigours of 2020.

Thanks are due to our Independent Examiner, Jacqueline Bowman, for again auditing our accounts this year.

Kirsten Smith
October 2022

SUMMERTOWN CHORAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2021-2022

	2020-21	2021-22	2020-21	2021-22	2020-21	2021-22
	TERM 1	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 2	TOTALS	TOTALS
RECEIPTS						
Subscriptions	3,140.00	8,925.00	2,490.00	7,477.50	5,630.00	16,402.50
Concert Tickets		3,121.60		2,251.33		5,372.93
Gift Aid			1,123.85	3,165.00	1,123.85	3,165.00
Bank Interest	2.43	0.91	0.72	20.57	3.15	21.48
Misc.	2.14	10.00		12.37	2.14	22.37
Total Receipts:	3,144.57	12,057.51	3,614.57	12,926.77	6,759.14	24,984.28
PAYMENTS						
<i>Rehearsal:</i>						
Professional Fees	3,624.00	4,265.00	3,542.50	3,880.00	7,166.50	8,145.00
Hire of Hall	140.00	809.60	140.00	490.00	280.00	1,299.60
Music Purchase/Hire/F	880.33	219.00		654.25	880.33	873.25
Total Rehearsal:	4,644.33	5,293.60	3,682.50	5,024.25	8,326.83	10,317.85
<i>Concerts:</i>						
Soloists and Instrumentalists		6,584.75		3,035.00		9,619.75
Hall and Staging		1,160.76		503.16		1,663.92
Refreshments, Gifts for soloists		209.95		133.79		343.74
Printing, publicity, programmes		218.79		443.37		662.16
Total Concert:	0.00	8,174.25	0.00	4,115.32	0.00	12,289.57
<i>Capital Purchases:</i>	1,146.30	50.04		82.80		132.84
Total Capital Purchases:	1,146.30	50.04		82.80	1,146.30	132.84
<i>One-offs (Duncan's Party, 25years)</i>						
Gifts, food and drink				453.28		
Hall hire and other costs				195.00		
Total One-offs:				648.28		648.28
<i>Administration:</i>						
Stationary, postage, photocopying		16.05				16.05
Additional/replacement music				19.98		19.98
Social		50.87				50.87
Retiring Committee gifts		124.50				124.50
Subscription N.A.C.	25.00	40.00			25.00	40.00
Insurance	137.35	137.35			137.35	137.35
John Fletcher	227.73	240.00			227.73	240.00
Sundry, Web	239.01	107.09	130.00	184.24	369.01	291.33
Total Administration:	629.09	715.86	130.00	204.22	759.09	920.08
Total Payments:	6,419.72	14,233.75	3,812.50	10,074.87	10,232.22	24,308.62
Net Surplus/Loss:	3,275.15	2,176.24	197.93	2,851.90	3,473.08	675.16

Cash Funds brought forward	16,050.48
Add Gift Aid from 2020	899.10
Less outstanding invoices 2020	366.02
Add Surplus	675.16
Cash funds brought forward	17,258.72

Statement of Assets and liabilities July 31st 2022

Cash funds	2020-21	2021-22
CCLA Account	13,194.70	8,216.00
NatWest Account	2,700.78	9,042.72
Cash	155.00	
Total Assets	16,050.48	17,258.72
Available Assets	16,050.48	<u>17,258.72</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the **Summertown Choral Society**

I report on the accounts of the Summertown Choral Society for the year ended 31 July 2022

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (The 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- *examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- *to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity;
- *to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

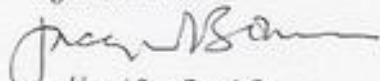
1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- * to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
- * to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act

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.

Signed and dated:


16.10.2022

3. Report from the Chair

First the music: the word I have heard most applied to our performance of [Handel's Messiah](#) in January this year is 'rousing', both for the audience and for those singing. This has been put down in part to the fact that it was our first live concert for two years (Bach's *B Minor Mass* in February 2020 being the last one before that). It was, of course, a delight to be accompanied by the inspiring *Instruments of Time and Truth* and our excellent soloists, some of whom are now becoming regulars. We also had a full house, although numbers still had to be kept down because of Covid.

The [summer concert, on 20 May 2022, of French music](#) was enjoyed just as much, if by a slightly smaller choir and audience (as is usual in the summer concert). A highlight for the choir was when the soloists were spread among them for the final Vierne choruses. The concert also saw Julian in great form on both the piano and organ; he had earlier delighted members with a performance of Chopin's *Ballade no.1 in G minor* at the end of one of our rehearsals.

A special mention should be made of the programme notes for these two concerts. The decision to save costs (and also avoid viral contamination) by not printing programmes meant they could be more extensive than usual and include illustrative pictures and links to website pages. The accompanying texts were also of a very high quality, and we are very grateful to [John Clarke](#) and [Valerie Worth](#) (soprano) respectively for these.

The choir year was rounded off on Saturday 25 May by a party for Duncan celebrating his 25 years as our Music Director. This was a great success, involving some singing, conducted by Duncan, of some of his favourite part-songs from a specially prepared booklet, a running slideshow of photos going back to 2007, speeches from the Chair and Duncan, and a presentation to him of some very nice wine. Lastly there was a scrumptious cake made by Sue Cavanna (alto) (photo [here](#)): this had small figures representing Duncan conducting some choir members in a rendition of Sullivan's *The long day closes* – almost a choir anthem – with a tiny, accurate (checked by Duncan!) copy of the score on the stand in front of the figure of Duncan. And there was of course some excellent food and drink provided by members, as per the normal summer party formula.

Thanks must go to the Committee for all the work they have put in very willingly and efficiently over the year. We are sorry to have to bid farewell to Simon Wratten (bass), our Librarian for the last five years, and Diana Chandler (alto), who has been Membership Secretary this last year. Our thanks also go to Sue Cavanna (alto – Secretary) and Diane Benfield (alto – Publicity and Front of House), who had to stand down earlier in the year. Fortunately others have stepped forward to offer their services in all these roles. We are also grateful to Martin Berry (bass) for volunteering to manage the staging at concerts.

Our thanks go too to the volunteers – members and partners of members – who have helped out at concerts: putting up and dismantling staging, working as Front of House, setting up and restoring the Church before and after the concerts, and providing teas and coffees for choir and orchestra at the May concert. We are also grateful to St Andrew's for hosting us and in particular to Tom Kempton (bass), who is our very reliable liaison person there.

An account of the year would not be complete without mention of the trip of the [Summertown Singers](#) to Porto in August. This trip had had to be cancelled, because of Covid, the previous two years. You have already seen the letter of thanks from St James' Anglican Church in Porto; a report of the trip, written by Sue Palmer (tenor and Social Secretary), will be appearing soon.

This term has got off to a good start, with an increase in members to 113, including a good number of new members and 'returnees'. We are looking forward to the concert on 21 January with the *Instruments of Time and Truth*, with whom we have built up a regular partnership. I am sure Duncan will lick us into shape by then (an unfortunate metaphor, I agree), as he has done consistently over

his long 'reign'. And the Choir should be aware that this year marks 25 years of Julian as our accompanist, which we will be recognising at some point during the coming year.

So we have now had a full year of being able to sing together live. We have been helped by the fact that the last winter was relatively mild and so temperatures inside the Church did not drop too severely, even with open doors. However, it is likely to be a question of open doors for some time and so a need to continue to wrap up warm. On the other hand, with the reduction in concessions to Covid now possible, we can look forward to more of the socialising, in various ways, that we have enjoyed in the past. Details are imminent!

Philip Booth
Chair