



Trustees' Annual Report for the period



Period start date			Period end date				
From	Day 16	Month April	Year 2020	To	Day 15	Month April	Year 2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Wellington Choral Society

Other names charity is known by WCS

Registered charity number (if any) 1051501

Charity's principal address

Deepleigh	
Wiveliscombe	
Somerset	
Postcode	TA4 2UU

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Adrian Cross	Chairman		See Trustee selection methods below.
2	Lucy Watson	Secretary		
3	Odile Gayon	Treasurer		
4	Ann Holland	Publicity		
5	Rosemary Saunders	Concert Secretary		
6				
7				
8				
9				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Bank	HSBC	17 North St, Taunton TA1 1NA
Bank	Lloyds Bank	27 Fore St Wellington TA21 8AF

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

The Musical Director (MD) is a paid, part time, self-employed position. He is responsible for all the musical matters of the society in consultation with the Trustees,

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Association consisting of around 80 members
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are elected by members at the Annual General Meeting or the Trustees may themselves, at any time, appoint anyone who is willing to serve as Trustee.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

WCS is a member of Making Music (MM) which provides advice and guidance to associated organisations in the operation of music related charities, tailored insurance and liaises and represents them on legislative issues with the Charity Commission.

Management of the charity is delegated to the Committee which consists of the Trustees. The MD may attend committee meetings but is not a voting member or a trustee. The committee is supported by individual members, and working groups, as and when required, who report directly to it.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

WCS has developed various policies based on MM templates to ensure that the legal requirements placed on charities of our size, and their Trustees, are met and that recommended best practices, where applicable, are in position. Full details are available on the website: www.wellingtonchoralsociety.org.uk

We purchased our own staging for use at our concerts and a trailer for transporting it. We have developed a risk analysis on its erection, takedown and use, and for use for hire by other performing groups.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objects of the Society are:
 “to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all aspects by the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by such ways as the Society through its committee shall determine from time to time”.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

In planning and implementing the society’s activities during the year, the Trustees have had regard to the guidance of the Charity Commission on public benefit when making any decisions. The society aims to meet its objects by recruiting members of the public of all ages and from all backgrounds to rehearse and perform choral music of both modern and classical origin. We encourage as wide a membership as possible by not requiring auditions. Previous experience or the ability to read music, are an advantage, but are not insisted on. Membership for under 19s is free and for those members who have problems paying the subscription, special arrangements can be made through a confidential discussion with the Chair or Treasurer. We have developed a Facebook page for the Society in order to engage more widely and attract more diverse singers.

We usually have autumn and spring singing terms with weekly rehearsals culminating in well attended concerts at a local venue. Children (under 18s), accompanied by an adult are welcomed free of charge at our concerts. We take the opportunity at our concerts to help local causes through a retiring collection. The proceeds from refreshments go to the local church where our concerts take place.

During the summer we sometimes hold “Come and Sing Days” aimed at introducing newcomers to the music we sing and attracting new singing members.

At Christmas, WCS members participate Sing for Somerset”, an annual carol service which is held by the Somerset branch of the NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) in Wells Cathedral. The singers (including many members of WCS) and orchestra come from around the county, contribute to the cost of the event and give their time free in aid of this charity, which aims to prevent child abuse and support children at risk of harm in Somerset.

WCS is keen to contribute to the local Wellington community. We do this through involving people in singing with the society and inviting local people to attend our concerts. We also support local events, such as participating in Christmas at the Wellesley Theatre, Wellington, with other performing groups from the town to celebrate the coming of Christmas.

WCS recognises the importance of rehearsing and holding concerts in Wellington. We rehearse in one church and perform in another church paying hire rental for the use of both.

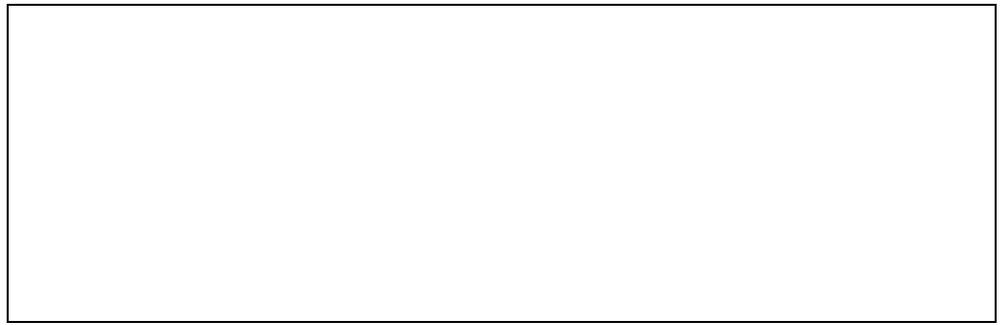
Sadly our 2020/21 singing and performing season had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. However we have active plans to restart singing in person in the summer of 2021 and to engaging with our supporters for a new season of singing and performing in 2021/22.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by

volunteers.



Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Summary of main achievements during the year

Chair's report

This year's summary of achievements has continued to be overshadowed by the impact of Covid 19 as reported in the 2019/2020 submission where those activities planned for the summer and autumn of 2020 could not proceed.

This reporting period proved to be a very difficult year during which it was necessary to comply consistently with Covid19 regulations with the officers of the society having to ensure there were no breaches. Strenuous efforts were made to return to live singing as soon as permitted but regrettably this did not prove possible.

Despite this, some singing was achieved through the medium of ZOOM and it was pleasing that, during what would have been the normal autumn term, several sessions were held attended by a stalwart number of voices. Feedback for this being very positive, a more structured programme of singing Haydn's Creation via ZOOM was held between January and March 2021.

Whilst it has been necessary to amend subsequent plans for the 2021/2022 season as Covid regulations remained unclear, nonetheless the following has been arranged subject to there being no ongoing restrictions to the contrary - it being necessary to cancel the first planned live singing on 8th June at short notice for that reason.

Group singing Haydn's Creation at Langford Budville Village Hall 23rd June 2021

Come and Sing open session (to deliver ongoing public benefit compliance) at Langford Budville Village Hall 3rd July. Programme of music to include Haydn , Mozart and Vivaldi.

Return to normal autumn term activity 8th September 2021 with a view to a live concert of Haydn's Creation in October. This will be subject to there being no continuing restrictions at that time.

Seasonal Music concert towards the end of November - programme and timing to be decided.

Staging and Lighting

Recent correspondence with Taunton Choral Society has reaffirmed their wish to hire the staging and lighting as soon as all restrictions are lifted and it proves possible to deliver a full concert. This is not expected to be an isolated hire with other groups having expressed firm interest to do so when circumstances allow.

There remains a small sum from the Grant monies received for new lighting still to be expended. Had it not been for Covid lock down, this would have been utilised for remaining planned enhancements which were in view at the time during the previous financial year.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

WCS has a reserves policy in place which was last formally revised and updated by the Committee in February 2020. The policy identifies the cancellation of a concert as the main financial risk for the society and includes an unrestricted funds figure of £3500 as the minimum amount of cash reserves that should be held at year end to protect it against that eventuality.

This policy remains in place and has been regularly reviewed and confirmed as apposite at subsequent committee meetings notwithstanding the Covid19 implications. This can be confirmed by reference to the society's accounts for the year where there was a cash shortfall of only £149 for the year indicating that, through prudent financial management and the continued financial commitment of members, the epidemic was not a major financial risk.

A further full revision will be undertaken during the autumn term 2021 to reflect a return to more normal circumstances when the number of returning members and shape of future concerts will be more accurately known.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The Society's sources of funds which finance the two singing terms it undertakes, are principally: -

- A) The subscriptions paid by members
- B) The income from ticket and programme sales at concerts

Available grants remain a helpful source of funding improvements to equipment including staging, lighting and choir seating. The last such grant was gratefully received from Wellington Town Council which assisted greatly in the provision of improved lighting. There remains a small portion of this to be spent to complete this work which has been delayed owing to the impact of Covid 19.

Section F

Other optional information

--

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Lucy Watson	Adrian Cross
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	
Date	10 June 2021	