



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period



Period start date			Period end date				
From	Day	Month	Year	To	Day	Month	Year
	16	April	2023		15	April	2024

## 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	25a Eight Acre Lane
	Wellington
	Somerset
	Postcode TA21 8PS

### 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	Rosemary Saunders	Chair		See Trustee selection methods below.
2	Julie Harland	Secretary		
3	Hugh Mitchell	Treasurer		
4	Ann Holland	Publicity		
5	Tim Knowles	Membership		
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### 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	Lloyds Bank	27 Fore Street, Wellington, Somerset 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](http://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.

## Section C Objectives and activities

**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 a requirement. Membership for under 19s is free and for those members who have problems paying the subscription, special arrangements can be obtained through a confidential discussion with the Chair or Treasurer.

We 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. A retiring collection is held in aid of a different one at each and the proceeds from refreshments go to the local church where our concerts usually take place.

During the summer we hold a “Come and Sing Day” aimed at presenting an opportunity for current members to meet and sing between the spring and autumn terms and introducing newcomers to the music we sing and attracting new singing members.

A quiz night has been introduced as a social opportunity for members in the summer break.

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 try to support local events.

WCS recognises the importance of rehearsing and holding concerts in Wellington. We have relocated to Wellington Prep School as our rehearsal space and continue to hold our performances in St. John’s Parish Church.

**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.

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year****Concerts**

In the autumn term 2023, Wellington Choral Society presented an evening of Italian Baroque. This included works by Vivaldi, Caldara, Monteverdi and Leornarda . A collection was held at the end of the concert in aid Medicin Sans Frontiere,

In the spring term, 2024, we presented a selection of works under the heading of Faith, Hope and Love. This included works by Dvorak, Howard Goodall and a modern Requiem by Matthew Coleridge. Matthew is a local composer and we were delighted that he was able to attend the concert. We were also delighted to include a beautiful piece by Amy Beach (1867 – 1944), an American composer and pianist and pioneer of women in music. A retiring collection was taken for a local homeless charity.

**Come and Sing**

We held a planned 'Come and Sing' event in June 2023 at Wellington Methodist Church. A further event is planned for June 2024 at Wellington Prep School

**Staging and Lighting**

In both our concerts we were able to use our staging which is much easier to erect than the previous arrangements and enabled all choir members to be seated more comfortably.

**Staging and Lighting Hire**

We have also made the staging and lighting available to other performing societies to hire, including Taunton Choral Society and West Somerset Railway.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

WCS has a reserves policy in place and this was reviewed 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 £3,500 as the minimal amount of cash reserves that should be held at year end to protect it against that eventuality.

The policy specifies that the actual reserves held by the society should be reviewed at each Committee meeting in the light of the budgeted costs of the concert programme planned and action taken in advance to increase the reserves held by the society if required. Such action may include, but not be limited to, raising membership fees and concert ticket pricing.

### 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

The society has been successful in acquiring its own lighting to compliment our staging making enhancing the experience of both members and audience at concerts. This has been achieved, through a grant specifically awarded for the project by Wellington Town Council to which the trustees and members of WCS are very grateful.

## Section F

## Other optional information

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## Section G

## Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

<b>Signature(s)</b>		
<b>Full name(s)</b>	Julie Harland	Rosemary Saunders
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Secretary	Chair
<b>Date</b>	17 May 2024	