



Trustees' Annual Report for the period



		Period start date			Period end date		
From	Day	Month	Year	To	Day	Month	Year
	16	April	2018		15	April	2019

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	Michael Maddock	Chairman		See Trustee selection methods below.
2	Sue Ryan	Secretary	31 December 2018	
3	Jenni Hill	Treasurer	28 February 2019	
4	Hilary Nutt			
5	Malcolm Hair			
6	Rosemary Saunders			
7	Lucy Watson	Secretary	1 January – 15 April 2019	
8	Odile Gayon	Treasurer	1 March – 15 April 2019	
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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
Ann Holland	

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Bank	HSBC	17 North St, Taunton TA1 1NA

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)

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>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.</p> <p>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, sub committees and advisory groups, as and when required, who report directly to it.</p> <p>All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.</p> <p>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</p> <p>We purchased our own staging for use at our concerts and have recently purchased a trailer for transporting it. We will be carrying out a risk analysis on its erection, takedown and use.</p>
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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 decision for which it was relevant.

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

At Christmas, WCS members participated in the rehearsals and the performance of “Sing for Somerset”, an annual carol service which is held by the Somerset Community Foundation in Wells Cathedral. The singers (including many members of WCS) and orchestra who 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 strengthen communities, tackle disadvantage and transform people’s lives 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 attending civic functions when invited by the Town Mayor, holding a society stall at the annual Friends of Wellington Park Spring Fayre. This year we participated in the Christmas at the Wellesley Theatre 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.

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

In the autumn term of the year, Wellington Choral Society performed the Durufle Requiem. We performed this work as part of the centenary memorials for the ending of the first world war. Our concert included relevant poetry readings and our retiring collection was in aid of SSAFA the armed forces charity 'Providing Lifelong Support & Advice To Servicemen, Veterans & Their Families'.

Following this performance in late November, rehearsals took place for the annual "Sing for Somerset" charity carol service. WCS members joined singers from other Somerset based choirs, in Wells Cathedral. The Sing for Somerset Choir received a commendation from the Somerset Community Foundation for the standard of performance. A retiring collection in support of the work of The Somerset Community Trust was held.

In the spring term we embarked on rehearsing Bach's St Matthew Passion. This a significant choral work to put on requiring two choirs and a number of soloists. This was an ambitious project and our Musical Director commissioned a small group of expert singers for the second choir and some of the solo performances. The performance took place in front of a near sell out house and once again, a very appreciative audience. We were delighted that our patron Elizabeth Watts was able to attend.

In both our concerts we were able to use our new staging which was much easier to erect than the previous arrangements and enabled all choir members to be seated more comfortably. In addition we received grant funding from the Truemark Trust which enabled us to buy a trailer with which to transport the staging equipment to concert venues.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

WCS has developed a reserves policy and in doing so has identified the cancellation of a concert as its main financial risk. Whilst such an occurrence is insured against, an unrestricted funds figure of £3,500 has been identified 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 regularly reviewed 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

Recently the society has been successful in acquiring its own trailer for transporting our staging and chairs to enhance the experience of both members and audience at concerts. This has been achieved, through a grant specifically awarded for the project by the Truemark Trust to which the trustees and members of WCS are very grateful.

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	16 July 2019	