

Finance report 2024-2025

- a. The accounts for 2024-2025 are presented with the equivalent figures for 2023-2024 and 2022-2023 for comparison. Expenditure during the year exceeded income by £13,673.91, the difference being made up from the legacy the choral society received in 2024. It was noted at the last AGM that some of the legacy would be spent on bursaries for student singers; a commission from Lucy Walker and purchasing copies of Carols for Choirs. The society also held a Come and Sing day with David Lawrence during this year.
- b. Subscriptions did not increase this year however the society agreed to reduce the cost of score hire from £6 to £5 a term and add it to the subscription, totalling £140 per year. There was concern that this may not be sufficient to cover the full cost of score hire, however I am pleased to report that together with income from hiring our music to other choral societies there was an overall surplus of £325 from our music library. My thanks to Stephen Richardson and Angela Lishman for their work on this.
- c. Due to the legacy the society's total income last year exceeded a Charity Commission threshold and we were required by them to submit accounts checked by an Independent Examiner and a written annual report. The cost of the Independent Examiner is reflected in the General Admin entry. Having been treasurer for four years I was relieved to have my work checked and found to be good. The annual report can be found on the Bishopwearmouth Choral Society website and demonstrates how the society fulfils its charitable purpose by providing high quality concerts and musical education.
- d. The fees paid to musicians increased this year in line with inflation and other amateur music societies however, the total cost of all our concerts was very similar to the previous year. Income from concerts also remains comparable. We should take great pride that we are able to hear some world class soloists and musicians at our concerts.
- e. As an experiment instead of distributing tickets in envelopes for members to sell for the summer concert, I sold them direct at rehearsals. There was no significant impact on the numbers of tickets sold this way, however there may have been fewer donations made. The AGM should decide how the society wishes to distribute tickets to members to sell for future concerts.
- f. My thanks to everyone who takes part in the raffle or buys refreshments at rehearsals and in particular to the people who organise them as these make an important contribution to income, as does the coffee morning. There were fewer donations this year perhaps due to knowledge of the legacy.
- g. At the end of the year the society had reserves of £19,227. There is no need for an increase in subscriptions for the coming year 2025-2026.

Jeremy Cripps – Treasurer
25th August 2025