

# **PHOENIX SINGERS, SUFFOLK**

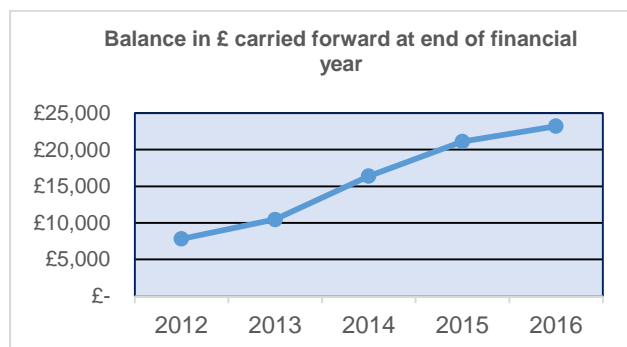
(Registered Charity Number - 1076549)

## **Report to AGM** **Financial Year 2015-2016**



This report provides an analysis of some aspects of the financial year ending July 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. The 2015-2016 accounts provide a complete picture of receipts and payments.

It's been a busy year with receipts of nearly £25k and payments of nearly £23k. Our receipts are nearly twice as high as they were in 2011-12, principally due to increased membership, larger audiences and increased income from advertising and Friends. The cash reserves have increased in recent years and the balance carried forward is £23,207 (first graph) with a surplus this year of £2,093. The level of cash reserves is considered to be entirely appropriate for the nature of the Society. The Gift Aid accrued in 2014-15 was claimed this year.



Subscriptions accounted for 32% of income, £8,020 being equivalent to 64 full fee-paying members. Altogether 72 people subscribed to the Society, although not all members were able to sing in every concert.

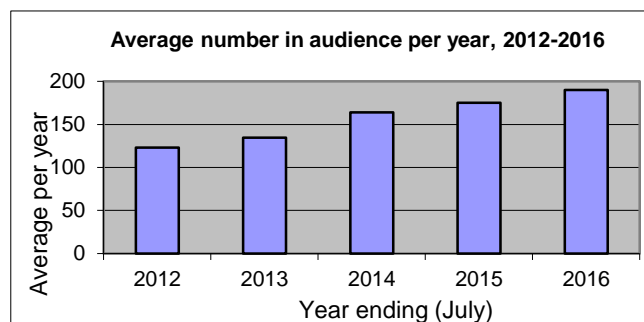
Virtually all of our expenditure was on performing music, directly or indirectly, and four concerts were held during 2015-2016. The major source of expenditure was on our key people; our Musical Director, Drew Cantrill, our accompanist, Geoff Lavery, and fellow concert performers (67% of total expenditure).

Ticket sales were the major source of income (33%). Staging concerts cost about ½ of annual income in the 3 preceding years. This year the concerts were more expensive to stage and cost a slightly higher proportion of income. This is mostly attributable to the joint concert with Woodbridge Choral Society (WCS) at Snape Maltings in April 2016. Expenditure and income was split proportionally to the number of singers with 80 from WCS and 52 from Phoenix. Owing to ticket sales, sponsorship by Marshalls Motor Group, donations and advertising in the concert programme, the financial outcome was well balanced.

A “come and sing” workshop attracted 80 singers, including 49 guests. It was funded by the Phoenix Singers, and the funds of just over £1.5k, including gift aid, were donated to EACH.

A choir of boys from Sir Robert Hitcham’s CEVAP School (the Firebirds) started to receive singing lessons this year from Drew Cantrill, funded by income from Friends. The boys sang with us in the summer concert and this collaboration will continue. Clarke & Simpson supported the summer concert.

For our two concerts in Framlingham, on average there were 190 people in the audience this season (based on full price ticket sales) which continues the steady increase in audience numbers in recent years (second graph) and we are aiming for full capacity.



Four years ago we budgeted on the basis that each concert should pay for itself in order to rebuild our cash reserves. Now we are in the fortunate position where funding is not so constraining. We are in a strong financial position at the year end. This is owing to the support and generosity of members, raising financial support in the wider community, promoting concerts, and selling and buying tickets. In particular I thank my fellow committee members for continuing to promote Phoenix so effectively, energetically and enthusiastically, and for their financial support.

We can look forward confidently to our forthcoming autumn concert, where we celebrate 40 years of singing in Framlingham, the spring concert, and to collaborating with the Royal Hospital School at Holbrook in summer 2017.

I hope that these accounts meet with the Choirs’ approval.

Gill Clare, Honorary Treasurer