

PHOENIX SINGERS, SUFFOLK

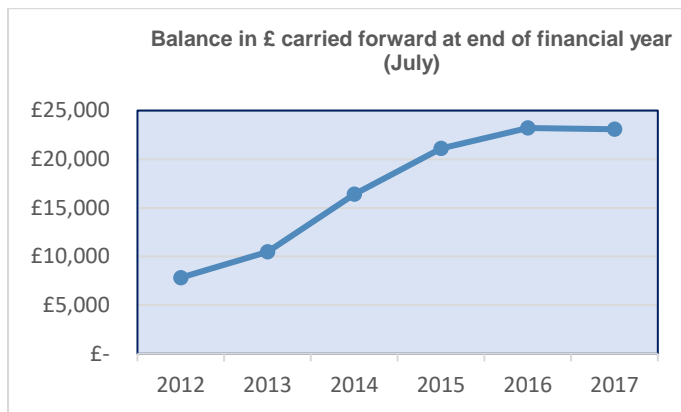
(Registered Charity Number - 1076549)

Report to AGM **Financial Year 2016-2017**



This report is intended to complement the 2016-2017 accounts, and should be read in conjunction with them.

Receipts have balanced payments this year, both being just over £22k with a small deficit of £123. The balance carried forward is £23,083 (first graph). The level of cash reserves is considered to be entirely appropriate for the nature of the Society. The Gift Aid accrued in 2015-16 was claimed this year.



In November 2016, CAF Bank reduced interest rates and introduced bank charges. A 1y bond was opened with Shawbrook Bank, which matures in December 2017, when the interest will be payable. Currently it contains £15k.

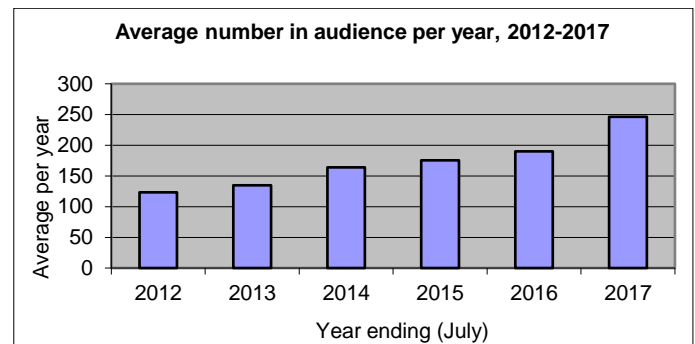
Subscriptions accounted for 40% of income, £8,740 being equivalent to 70 full fee-paying members. Altogether 80 people subscribed to the Society.

Virtually all of our expenditure was on performing music, directly or indirectly, and three concerts were held during 2016-2017. The major source of expenditure was on key people; our Musical Director, Drew Cantrill, our accompanist, Geoff Lavery, and fellow concert performers (56% of total expenditure). Staging concerts costs about ½ of annual income.

In November 2016 we performed Monteverdi's Vespers in St Michael's Church, which was expensive. By contrast we sang a selection of cathedral anthems at the Church accompanied only by an organist in spring 2017 and there was a small surplus. In summer 2017 we combined forces and contributed to the cost of performing Elgar's Dream of Gerontius at the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook.

A choir of boys from Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVAP School (the Firebirds) has continued to receive singing lessons from Drew Cantrill, funded by income from Friends. The boys sang with us in Monteverdi's Vespers.

The revenue from ticket sales indicated that on average 246 people bought tickets for both concerts in Framlingham this season. Audience numbers, based on full price ticket sales, have continued to increase (second graph). We reached full capacity in autumn 2016. Ticket sales from these concerts were a major source of income.



Sufficient reserves have been built up to allow flexibility in planning concerts, collaborate with others and fund relatively expensive concerts confidently. The support and generosity of members, raising financial support in the wider community, promoting concerts and selling and buying tickets all contribute to our strong financial position. It is a privilege to serve with fellow committee members who promote Phoenix so effectively, energetically and enthusiastically.

We will sing Handel's Messiah in December 2017 in Framlingham, and music by Pizzetti, Mendelssohn, Brahms and others in our spring and summer concerts in 2018. It is anticipated that we shall end the financial year with a surplus.

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

Gill Clare, Honorary Treasurer