

PHOENIX SINGERS, SUFFOLK

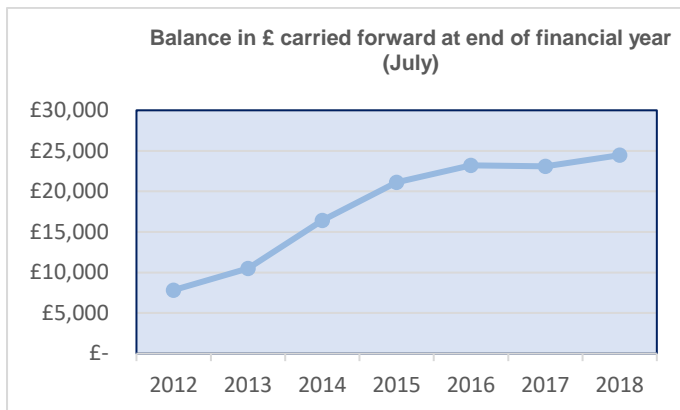
(Registered Charity Number - 1076549)

Report to AGM **Financial Year 2017-2018**



This report is intended to complement the 2017-2018 accounts, and should be read in conjunction with them.

Receipts of approximately £22k have exceeded payments of approximately £20.6k this year, resulting in a surplus of £1,385. The balance carried forward is £24,468 (first graph). The level of cash reserves is considered to be entirely appropriate for the nature of the Society. The Gift Aid accrued in 2016-17 was claimed this year.



The 1y fixed rate saver with Shawbrook Bank matured in December 2017, yielding £165 interest. This offsets CAF bank charges. A new saver on the same terms was opened in December 2018. Currently it contains £20k.

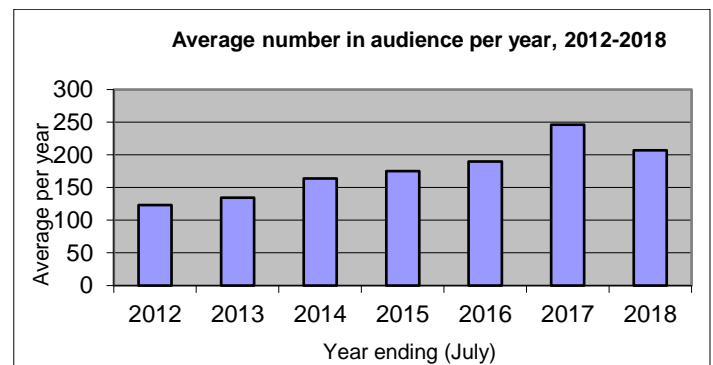
Subscriptions accounted for 40% of income, £8,775 being equivalent to 70 full fee-paying members.

Virtually all of our expenditure was on preparing and performing music and three concerts were held during 2017-2018. The major source of expenditure was on key people; our Music Director, Drew Cantrill-Fenwick, our accompanist, Geoff Lavery, and fellow concert performers (66% of total expenditure). Staging concerts costs about ½ of our annual income.

The Firebirds from Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVAP School have continued to receive singing lessons from Drew, funded by income from our Friends' programme. The funding was higher this year than previously as they were busy. About 30 boys performed for parents at the school at Christmas, at Snape Maltings in spring, at the Aldeburgh bandstand and they sang with us for our summer

concert. Our strong financial position means that we have been able to offer the school funding to start a girls' choir (The Larks) in 2018-19. Rob Gildon and Megan Peel have been appointed by Phoenix Singers to lead the boys' and girls' choirs respectively, both in conjunction with Kate Mawson.

Ticket sales from our concerts accounted for 34% of income (second graph). The audience numbers are based on full price ticket sales and so underestimate the number who attended the concerts. In December 2017 we performed Handel's Messiah in Framlingham College Chapel, conducted by Geoff Lavery, and sold nearly 300 tickets. We sang music by Pizzetti, Mendelssohn, Brahms and Poulenc in our spring and summer concerts and sold 160 tickets or more on each occasion. The more modest ticket sales probably reflected the popularity of the music with our audience, but remained at a high level.



This is my final report to the AGM. Thanks to all members of Phoenix Singers for their support and generosity, and to Drew and Geoff. In particular my fellow committee members have contributed to and ensured our financial success and I'm confident that this will continue into the future. It's been a rewarding and enjoyable six years. My very best wishes to my proposed successor, Keith Barton.

I hope that these accounts meet with the Choir's approval.

Gill Clare, Honorary Treasurer