



Westerton Male Voice Choir

Scottish Charity No. 047962

www.wmvc.scot

Trustees' Report and Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 July 2024

Contents

Introduction	3
Reference and Administration information.....	3
Current Trustees and Trustees who served during the year.....	3
Current Trustees	3
Other Trustees who served during the year	3
Structure, Governance & Management	4
Constitution	4
Appointment of Trustees	4
Management.....	4
Objectives and Activities	5
The Choir's Charitable Purposes	5
Membership	5
Musical Director and Musical Accompanist.....	5
Activities, achievements and performances.....	6
Rehearsals and Musical development	6
Public performances.....	6
Social activities.....	7
Social media.....	7
Investment.....	7
Board meetings.....	8
Charitable support.....	8
Outlook and appreciation	8
Receipts and Payment accounts and bank balances.....	9
Independent Examiner's report	10
Trustee Certification.....	11

Introduction

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report for the charity for the year ended 31 July 2024 together with the Receipts and Payments Account and the Independent Examiner's Report.

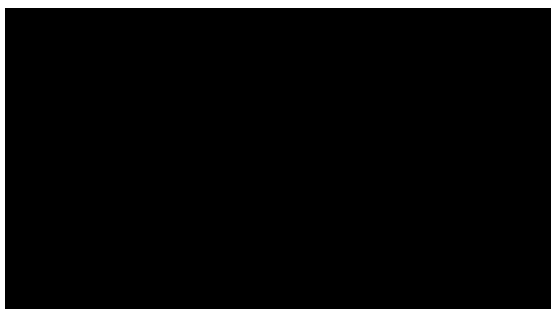
Reference and Administration information

Charity name:	Westerton Male Voice Choir
Charity number:	SC 047962
Address:	



Current Trustees and Trustees who served during the year

Current Trustees



Other Trustees who served during the year

None

Structure, Governance & Management

Constitution

The Charity is an incorporated Association. It is governed by a Constitution which was adopted on 12 September 2017. The organisation was granted charitable status by OSCR on 1 December 2017.

Appointment of Trustees

Membership of the Board is open to all Members of the Choir in line with the Constitution. Under the Constitution there must be a minimum of five and a maximum of ten Trustees. The Board can appoint a Trustee at any time to fill a vacancy. All Trustees retire from office at the Annual General Meeting but are eligible for re-election.

Management

The choir has had another very successful season, with five 'sold out' concerts at Christmas and Spring and another very well-received tour of the Highlands in May. Our financial position remains healthy and sustainable, and our membership numbers reached a record level at 65 during the year, including one honorary life member.

The Board of Trustees manages the activities of the Choir and together with the Musical Director, is responsible for the strategic direction of the Choir and for its day-to-day activities.

Each Trustee has responsibility for developing and reporting on an area of the Choir's operations.

The Trustees are particularly aware of their responsibilities for Health and Safety and engage with the membership to ensure that the Choir's activities are carried out safely.

The Board meets formally at least three times a year and more frequently if required. The Musical Director attends the Board Meetings by invitation.

Objectives and Activities

The Choir's Charitable Purposes

The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science by the promotion of male choral singing and related music through the practice and performance of public concerts, recitals and making recordings, with a view to furthering the appreciation of the genre.

The Choir shall deliver its core purpose through activities in its core area of Westerton (North-west Glasgow), as well as throughout Scotland and any other places it chooses. This will be done in co-operation with local authorities, like-minded choirs and music festivals, all with the objective of promoting male choral singing.

The Choir shall seek to support charitable purposes. This will be at the discretion of the Board of Trustees and will take the form of promoting fund-raising for the chosen charity at any particular time. Such activities will be financially separate from the core activities of the Choir.

Membership

There were two deaths during the year and no resignations. Ten new members joined and two returned to the choir during the year.

The active membership at the year end is a record sixty-four.

Musical Director and Musical Accompanist

The Choir is delighted to retain the services of [REDACTED] as our Musical Director and [REDACTED] as Accompanist. Both are enthusiastic, professional and fully committed to the choir, and we recognise the intrinsic role they play in the success of the choir.

Activities, achievements and performances

Rehearsals and Musical development

The Choir has regular rehearsals at Kessington Hall on Monday evenings, from September to April, totalling around 30 per year.

The venue has excellent stage facilities which we have been able to hire from the hall providers, DCB Kessington and we have access to designated storage space for our audio & video equipment.

Kessington Hall also has a number of smaller spaces available, which have proved ideal for pre-concert warm-ups and reduced-size rehearsals. These spaces are used regularly by The Westertones and The Semitones, smaller groups of singers who perform in care homes and similar venues.

Public performances

At Christmas the Choir was once again invited to participate in the 'Light up a Life' service, in support of The Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice, in the beautiful St. Andrew's Cathedral in Glasgow. This is always a favourite with choir members.

In December we also performed at several pre-Christmas events, including; the Westerton Christmas Lights Switch On; Lenzie Meadows School Christmas Fair; Balfron Bowling Club and the Carmunnock Christmas Fair – all in the space of 10 days!

The Choir once again performed our 'Spirit of Christmas' concert, entertaining record audiences of over nine hundred, across three concerts and raising a substantial sum for our chosen charity. The Christmas concert was also 'live-streamed' for the first time.

A highly successful 'free' concert was held in January, our second in Kessington Hall. Invited friends and family enjoyed an evening of Scottish songs, all in aid of our chosen charity, Drake Music Scotland.

For the first time, an additional 3rd. performance was included in our annual Spring concert. The theme of 'Love Is All You Need' proved very popular with the audiences at Kessington Hall, with two of the three concerts 'sold out'.

In May the Choir returned to The Highlands for our second self-funded and self-organised tour. The tour saw the Choir perform to appreciative audiences in Elgin & Strathpeffer, with 'pop-up' performances in Inverness and Aviemore. A third 'Highland Tour' is planned for 2025.

Social activities

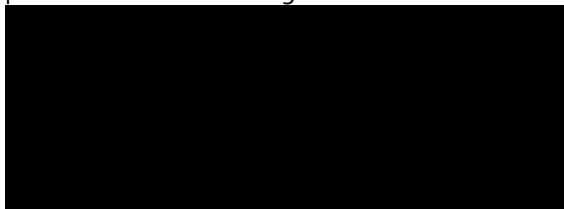
The Walking Group met on just one occasion this season for a number of reasons, but it is fully expected to flourish again next session.

Our golfing section organised three well-attended outings this session.

Our Chairman hosted three snooker nights.

The popular 'Open Mic' singing sessions, at which members perform solo songs of their choice via 'Zoom', continued on a monthly basis. These informal evenings continue to provide an opportunity for choir members to challenge themselves with a variety of genres and boost their confidence at solo singing.

Our Awards Ceremony was held at the Annual Dinner in May. Service Awards were presented to the following members:



The prestigious Norman Shepherd Award was presented to [REDACTED] in recognition of his significant contribution to the choir. [REDACTED] has held the position of Secretary for seven of his ten years in the choir. He also organises the choir's walking group; 'Warbling Walkers' and has many other 'ad hoc' duties.

[REDACTED] was the first recipient of the inaugural 'Dugald Macfarlane Award' for outstanding contribution to the choir. This was in recognition of his commitment to all aspects of the Choir, including his role as part of the 'Tech Team'. The Award was introduced in honour of Dugald Macfarlane, a former President and a much-loved member of the choir for an extraordinary 50 years. Dugald sadly passed away in November 2023.

Social media

The Choir recognises the importance of social media in its promotion and development. One Trustee assists the Musical Director in this regard and there are plans to re-develop our website.

The Choir supports a number of WhatsApp chat groups.

Investment

Around £1,400 was spent on equipment during the year, mainly on audio/visual items to enhance our live performances. Unfortunately, the hall suffered serious weather-related flooding during October, resulting in damage to one of our keyboards and two screens. An insurance claim for £1258 was settled by Royal Sun Alliance in February 2024, whereafter replacement equipment was purchased.

Board meetings

The Board of Trustees held three meetings during the year.

The Annual General Meeting of the Choir was held on 26th August 2024.

Charitable support

The Choir's two year support of Drake Music Scotland came to a successful conclusion at the end of season 2023/2024, with funds of almost £20,000 having been raised.

Following a consultation process with choir members, our new chosen charity was identified as 'Playlist For Life'. This is another music-related charity, with the added relevance of support for people living with dementia.

Every effort will be made to raise awareness of the charity and it is hoped that some musical collaborations may be achieved during the two year period.

Outlook

The Choir has enjoyed a very successful season, performing nine concerts in total, entertaining around 2000 people and raising over £11,000 for our chosen charity in the process.

The Choir's profile has never been higher, with a pre-Christmas appearance on Heart Radio and an invitation to sing with Scottish singer/songwriter Nathan Evans. The Choir performed with Nathan on a video to accompany his new single, which was viewed by more than ten thousand people.

Having existed for over sixty-five years, the Board is committed to the continuing development and welfare of choir members and to ensuring that it meets its Charitable Purpose.

Receipts and Payment accounts and bank balances

WMVC Receipts and Payments Account for the year 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024	Receipts in period	Payments in period
	£	£
Member Subscriptions	8505	
Gift Aid	2130	
Christmas concert	9821	3641
Spring concert	5193	2417
Highland Tour (Incl. professional fees)	14686	15669
Uniforms & ties	3004	3332
Tea donations (net of supplies)	485	
Member donations (inc. net raffle proceeds)	1326	
Insurance pay out (Royal Sun Alliance)	1258	
Professional Fees (excl. Tones, Tour & gigs)		8430
Administration & Miscellaneous		103
Storage		260
MM Subs & Insurance		995
Rehearsals		2202
Equipment & consumables		2541
Music		771
Westertones (incl. professional fees)	320	1487
Choir Gigs (incl. professional fees)	230	1520
Marketing & Recruitment		1130
Sponsorship (excl. Concert & Tours)	0	0
Workshops		0
Choir Development & Welfare	0	0
Annual Dinner & Awards	1460	2011
Sale/trade-in of used equipment	524	
Charity Concert (incl. professional fees)	0	1005
Total	48942	47514
Surplus / (deficit) of income over expenditure	1428	

Bank Balance at 1st August 2023	3846
Add: Receipts in the year to 31 st July 2024	48942
Less: Payments in the year to 31 st July 2024	(47514)
Bank Balance at 31st July 2024	5274

Independent Examiner's report

Westerton Male Voice Choir

Registered Charity No. SC 047962

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period from 1st August 2023 to 31 July 2024 which are set out on page 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

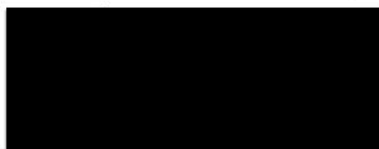
My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


Date: 21st August 2024



Trustee Certification

This report and that of the Independent Examiner have been approved by the Board of Trustees of the Westerton Male Voice Choir.



26th AUGUST 2024
2024

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2024