

## Treasurer's AGM Report October 2023

Firstly, these accounts are marked 'draft' as they are still with the examiner. I hope to be able to deliver his approval shortly.

Well, this has been another unusual year! Following Benedict Collins Rice's surprise resignation, the choir sustained an unexpected cost of £420 due to contractual arrangements and our desire to give William Baldry the best possible start as MD. However, the result has been beneficial, as WB's first concert actually made a profit of £391, as well as being an amazing experience! Concerts have traditionally made a loss, so your Committee wishes to thank everyone who helped and supported in any way.

Fundraising continues to be a vital element for Stowmarket Chorale's success and survival, so thanks go out again to anyone who helped and supported our money-making efforts. Our weekly raffles, refreshments, sales of produce, additions to the coppers jar and Friends help enormously. Last year's quiz night raised £380 but unfortunately the Singing Day made a loss of £99 and there was no income from the 100 Club as we decided to alter the payment date to match our season date. Finally, Gift Aid (which takes very little effort to claim) provided us with £1940 which was offset against the costs of our three concerts.

The superb evening with Paul Phoenix was sadly affected by the weather, but an anonymous donation together with donations from the audience mitigated our losses and once again your Committee is extremely grateful for any donations you make.

We have been fortunate to receive another grant from Stowmarket Town Council this year for £400 and from the Alfred Williams Trust for £1000. These have enabled us to hire first-rate musicians for our concerts, adding to audience enjoyment and enhancing our reputation.

Looking to the future, we must all continue to work towards adding to choir funds to cushion us against rising costs and to build reserves for our upcoming 125<sup>th</sup> season (Sep 2025 – Jun 2026). There is a great need for us all as a choir to explore every avenue for grant applications, sponsors and patrons so, if you can think of anyone who might be willing to support the arts and culture, speak nicely to them or let a member of the Committee know!

My first year as Treasurer has been a baptism of fire but I would personally like to thank those who have supported me and got me through it.

Kim Pyke