



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
From	Day	Month	Year	To	Day	Month	Year
	1 <sup>st</sup>	Sept	2014		31 <sup>st</sup>	August	2015

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name **ALRESFORD COMMUNITY CHOIR**

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) **1148708**

Charity's principal address **23 Jesty Road, Alresford, Hampshire**  
**New Alresford**  
**Postcode**

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Keith Clark	Chair		
2	Geoff Buss	Events Co-ordinator		
3	Sue Lees		Elected January 2015	
4	Keith Nightingale		Elected January 2015	
5	Sue Hoar		Elected January 2015	
6	Jill Buss	Publicity Officer	Elected January 2015	
7	Stephen Brill		Stepped down January 2015	
8	Catherine Brill		Stepped down January 2015	
9	Helen Gard		Stepped down January 2015	
10	Suzanne Mitchell		Stepped down January 2015	
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year


**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Bank	NatWest	5 East Street, Alresford, SO24 9XA
Independent Examiner	Mary Wallbank	18 Park Road, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, SO53 2EU

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

--

**Section B Structure, governance and management**

**Description of the charity's trusts**

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution adopted 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2012
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Association consisting of approximately 150 members
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting held in January/February

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

<p>You <b>may choose</b> to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;</li> <li>• the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;</li> <li>• relationship with any related parties;</li> <li>• trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.</li> </ul>	<p>Subject as noted below, all trustees give their time in acting as a trustee on a voluntary basis, and received no remuneration or other benefits for acting as a trustee.</p> <p>Keith Clark, the chairman, received remuneration for his responsibilities and time in acting as the Choir's Musical Director. The trustees, without Keith Clark being present during the discussions, considered whether he was the most appropriate person to be appointed to act as the Choir's Musical Director and agreed that he is, and that his fees be determined according to the prevailing market rates for a musical director of a choir of comparable size to the Alresford Community Choir. His appointment and scale of fees are reassessed on an annual basis.</p>
--	--



**Section C Objectives and activities**

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

The bringing together of people of all ages and backgrounds to promote, advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means, including through the development of singing and music skills and the presentation of public concerts and recitals. In addition, to further such charitable purposes as the trustees shall think fit but in particular through the making of grants and donations.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

In planning our activities for the year, we kept in mind at both our trustee meetings and in the general manner of running the Choir’s activities the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit.

The focus of our activities has been the bringing together of people from our locality to learn how to make music together, specifically by singing in a community choir. We have welcomed, and will continue to welcome, people of all ages, backgrounds and experience, with the specific aim that those who have never sung before, or who believe that they can’t sing, are as valued as experienced singers, and that all members can collectively achieve a high standard of musical performance. Through the musical direction of the Musical Director and additional support of the Accompanist, singing and general musical techniques and skills are learned and practised in weekly rehearsals; thereby achieving the educational aims for the members of the charity. In addition to weekly rehearsals, further tuition in ‘theory through sight singing’ and group vocal coaching are offered to all members of the choir.

The members perform the repertoire that has been worked on in concerts presented to the public, who in turn benefit by their appreciation in the presentation of a wide range of music performed to increasingly higher standards. Together with the educational benefits to the members, this therefore satisfies the public benefit requirements for the charity.

Although members pay a monthly subscription to cover the costs of the choir’s activities, we do not deny access to members who due to financial hardship are unable to afford to pay a subscription. Similarly, we try to ensure a wide access for our concert audiences by offering concessionary rates for example to young people.

We have built up the financial reserves of the Choir with a view to continuing in future years to make donations to other local music and drama groups that have supported the Choir through performing with us.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

A great contribution is made by volunteer members of the Choir, be it to support one another, welcome new members, help prepare the church and other venues for rehearsals and concerts by moving chairs, helping to copy and distribute music, etc. Without the willingness to help, and the valuable contribution of time, energy, expertise and enthusiasm, we would not have been able to achieve so much. In particular in the current year, the more experienced singers in the Choir have taken greater responsibility in supporting and nurturing newer members and especially those with less experience at singing and sight-reading music. In this way aspects of the charitable objectives are achieved in a more sustainable and effective manner.



**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

The charity has continued to enjoy success measured in a number of ways during its third full year of existence. Since its formation in February 2012 the Choir has continued to build a repertoire of songs and longer pieces of many types, covering a number of differing styles and languages. Membership numbers have remained fairly steady at around 120, comprising a core of around 80 to 90 who attend nearly all rehearsals and concerts; of these around 50 were original members of the Choir back in February 2012. The ability to continue to retain long standing members and attract newcomers is a major success of the choir. The trustees believe this illustrates an opportunity for high quality music-making that was not available before 2012.

There is no doubt, from the comments received from concert audiences, our Musical Director, professional musicians who perform with the choir and from members themselves that the confidence and quality of singing continues to improve. The choir are building on experiences gained over the past three years and continue to improve their tone, diction and pronunciation. The 'theory through sight singing' education and vocal coaching offered to all members means that the choir have a greater understanding of dynamic and for the need to watch and follow the Director's arm-waving. The result is a greater expression of the music enhancing the quality of music-making considerably.

The Choir held three main concert events during the year, following a now established pattern of events that it is intended the Choir will continue every year. The third annual 'A Carol for Everyone' concert at Christmas was again a sell-out success.

The spring concert allowed the choir to collaborate with other local choirs including St Swithuns senior and junior school and staff choirs and the Hampshire County Youth Choir. During the first half each individual choir sang pieces from their own repertoire. The second half showed the combined voices of over 300 singers performing 'Ahoy! Sing for the Mary Rose' composed by our great friend, Alexander L'Estrange. This concert gave the choir the opportunity to perform in a purpose built performing arts hall – another new experience for many of the members.

During the summer the choir were kept busy with a number of more informal performances including the local Alresford Watercress Festival and the very popular flower festival held in Winchester Cathedral where visitors from around the world were entertained to a mixed repertoire.

The final summer concert, held on July 4<sup>th</sup>, had an American theme in the first half and allowed the choir another opportunity to share 'Ahoy! Sing for the Mary Rose' in the second half.

The Choirs ticketed concerts were all sell-out events, drawing audiences from an ever widening geographical area. This is a significant achievement, showing a healthy appetite for the public to see and hear the Choir perform as their reputation for quality performance grows.

The trustees consider the greatest achievement of the Choir remains the perhaps more intangible aspect of bringing together a body of people who each derive a positive sense of support and fellowship from one another, and which has significantly brought the Community together. This is being enhanced by the introduction of end of term sociable singing evenings further building the rapport between members.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We hold surplus funds at the bank amounting to a little over £4,500h at the end of the year. The amount of retained surplus represents about 9% of gross income over the 42 months of the charity's existence. The charity has no formal policy on reserves but consider that it would be appropriate to have a reserve of at least £5,000 to meet cash-flow should the Musical Director want to engage the services of a semi-professional orchestra or band to work with the choir (as they did in April 2014). The charity aims to secure concert income from selling sufficient tickets priced appropriately, or from sponsorship of events or advertising space in programmes, to ensure that such level of reserves can be maintained after staging concerts using such resources.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable.

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The main source of funds this year has been from ticket sales for the three concerts staged at Christmas, Spring and Summer, which amounted to £10,431 and members' subscriptions that amounted to £14,968 together with Gift Aid recovered in the sum of £562. The amounts received from members' subscriptions were used to support the key objectives of hiring our funding rehearsal venue, and paying costs of the Musical Director and Accompanist and other general overheads of running the choir, and so allow for the choir's musical and educational objectives to be achieved. The proceeds from ticket sales were used to cover the costs of staging the concerts; overall concert profits were used to maintain the overall reserves of the Choir. The resources used to present the concerts enabled the charity to provide its public benefit in bringing the Choir's music-making to an audience who are thus enriched by the experience.

## Section F

## Other optional information

## Section G

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

<b>Signature(s)</b>		
<b>Full name(s)</b>		
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>		
<b>Date</b>		