

THE AMERSHAM FESTIVAL SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT
Year ended 30 June 2021

Introduction

I have attached a Financial Summary extracted from the Statement of Financial Activity and the Balance Sheet included in the Society's full statutory accounts.

Restricted Funds

The "Restricted Fund" column in the extract from the financial statement reflects the income and expenditure relating to the planned opera performance. The Fund arose from the generous sponsorship of £23,125 (including gift aid) in 2018/19. During 2019/20, the Society made some advance payments of expenses in respect of the opera and, in response to the Covid-19 crisis, made advance payments to some of the musicians involved, against the fees that they will charge when the opera is eventually performed. Because the opera, when performed, is expected to incur a deficit greater than the amounts so far expended, the sums paid so far have been treated as costs rather than assets.

Review of activities and performance in delivering public benefit

Although we were unable to provide any live concerts, we recorded two concerts (an Organ Spectacular and a song recital) which were made available on the internet in July and August 2021 - free to Friends and for a charge to others.

During the year we awarded Amersham Festival Bursaries totalling £3,560 (2020 £4,700) to twelve (2020 fourteen) local young musicians to assist with instrument costs and/or tuition.

Result in summary

The Society recorded a net surplus of £1,499 (2020 net deficit of £18,625 including the expense of advance payments to musicians and others) after investment gains. Our total reserves were £121,438 (2020 £119,939), of which £106,284 (2020 £104,882) were unrestricted as to use.

In very broad terms:

- the direct cost of the recorded concerts was £3,320, together with an honorarium to our artistic director;
- we incurred few other costs beyond unavoidable running expenses;
- Friends and other continued to provide support that enabled us fulfil our charitable objectives;
- we rationalised our investments during the year, reducing them to investments in two funds whose principal aim is capital preservation.

Ticket sales

There were no ticket sales during the year

The statutory Trustees' Report and Accounts are available from the Treasurer on request and will be filed with the Charities Commission in due course.

Sponsorship, Friends, and donations

Support from Friends and sponsorship continue to be important elements in the Society's ability to perform very ambitious concerts. There were, of course, so events to sponsor in the year to 30 June 2021. Friends' subscriptions increased slightly and although donations, at £2,161, fell by around 60%, that compares favourably with years before 2020.

Costs

Our only significant costs apart from bursaries were either associated with the two recorded concerts or the result of normal recurring items such as insurance..

Investments

Markets continued to be volatile during the year, not least because of the SARS-CoV-2 problems, and interest rates continued to be low. The Trustees, within the guidelines adopted when the investment policy was revised in 2017, further rationalized the Society's investment portfolio to reduce the amount of risk to which it is exposed. At 30 June 2021, 39% of the Society's unrestricted assets were held in cash or on deposit (2020 36%), and 61% in funds (2020 64% in funds and investment trusts) invested in portfolios of several different investment classes with an emphasis on capital preservation.

Interest and dividends received on unrestricted funds were £621 (2020 £1,579) and, including surplus on our investments, represented a return of some 5% (2020 1%) on our unrestricted investments and deposits.

Looking ahead

The major uncertainty, of course, is still the effect of the SARS-CoV-2 crisis on musical performances. We have a 2021/22 Winter Series and 2022 April Festival planned, but we are taking a cautious approach to arrangements such as social distancing both for our audiences and for our performers. If restrictions mean that we cannot provide live performances, we will consider further recorded concerts if they are feasible.

In the meantime, our bursary scheme continues to provide support to the musicians of the future.

Uncertainties arising from the SARS-CoV-2 crisis and surrounding the UK's position mean that investment valuations are likely to remain volatile and the outlook for interest rates uncertain. Our investments are geared towards capital preservation and it is therefore unlikely that we will see substantial returns.

I have already referred to the plan for performances of an opera. Such a project will certainly incur a substantial deficit, likely to exceed even the very generous dedicated sponsorship that has been received, but the Committee believes that events such as this are part of the Society's raison d'être and we will look to secure the performances at the earliest opportunity, but this will not be during our 2021/22 accounting year.

We are fortunate to be well-funded enough to continue, for the foreseeable future, to provide a high standard of music at our concerts and to support the development of young musicians through performance at our concerts and assistance with tuition.

Jonathan D Pegler *Treasurer*

15 September 2021

FINANCIAL SUMMARY
Year ended 30 June 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£'000	£'000	£000	£000
INCOME				
Income from concerts (including sundries)	-	-	-	17.5
Sponsorship income*	-	-	-	7.4
	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.9
Cost of concerts	3.3	-	3.3	32.2
Net surplus (deficit) from concerts	(3.3)	0.0	(3.3)	(7.3)
Advertising revenue	-	-	-	0.1
Subscriptions from Friends*	4.1	-	4.1	3.9
Donations*	2.2	-	2.2	4.9
Interest and dividends received	0.6	0.1	0.7	1.8
Total income	3.6	0.1	3.7	3.4
EXPENDITURE				
Administration costs	2.6	-	2.6	17.3
Bursaries awarded	3.6	-	3.6	4.7
Total expenditure	6.2	0.0	6.2	22.0
OPERATING (DEFICIT) SURPLUS	(2.6)	0.1	(2.5)	(18.6)
Net gains on investments	4.0	-	4.0	-
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) taken to reserves	1.4	0.1	1.5	(18.6)
RESERVES FROM PRIOR YEARS	104.9	15.0	119.9	138.5
RESERVES CARRIED FORWARD	106.3	15.1	121.4	119.9
REPRESENTED BY:				
INVESTMENTS				
At cost	60.0	-	60.0	64.5
Unrealised gain	4.7	-	4.7	3.5
Value of investments	64.7	0.0	64.7	68.0
Monies at bank	39.0	15.1	54.1	48.4
Debtors	4.5	-	4.5	4.8
Creditors	(1.9)	-	(1.9)	(1.3)
TOTAL NET ASSETS	106.3	15.1	121.4	119.9

* Includes attributable Gift Aid

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