



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31st August 2017

Registered Charity No. 277544

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st Aug 2017

Reference and Administration details

Charity Name: North London Chorus

Registered Charity Number: 277544

Principal Address: 31 Meadow Place, London SW8 1XZ

Trustees & Elected Committee Members: Yoav Landau-Pope (Chair), Joan Reardon (Hon Secretary), Alan Chandler (Hon Treasurer), Gary Bilkus, Nicola Bartlett, Eloise Beckles, David Loxley-Blount, Alan Wills

Co-opted Committee Members: Sue Heaney, Judith Schott

Musical Director: Murray Hipkin (also present at Committee)

Committee Members for part of choir year: Marian Bunzl, Norman Cohen, Shantini Cooray

Principal Bankers: CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Mailing, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner: H Forster

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document: Constitution as amended 3rd July 2014 - note at the January 2018 AGM an amended Constitution (as amended 20th December 2017) is proposed to replace the current one.

Organisational Structure: The Chorus is managed by a committee as detailed above. All members of the committee are elected by the chorus at its Annual General Meeting and hold office until the following AGM. All committee members offer their services on a voluntary basis. The chorus employs no staff but contracts for the services of the Musical Director and Accompanist. The chorus is not connected to other charities. New Trustees / Elected Committee Members are recruited within the ranks of the choir and are encouraged to stand for Committee at the AGM. According to the December 2017 Constitution, a maximum of 6 out of 10 Committee Members can remain without standing for re-election the following year. This encourages rotation of membership and "new blood" within the ranks of the Committee. All elected committee members are Trustees also.

Objectives and Activities

In accordance with the Constitution, the Chorus aims to promote, develop and maintain the public's appreciation and education in the art and science of music. Focusing on choral music, it performs concerts, and holds workshops for its members. In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit and fee charging. The Chorus relies on income subscriptions to cover its operating costs. In setting the level of subscriptions, the trustees give careful consideration to the accessibility of the Chorus for those on low incomes and in these circumstances reduced subscriptions are available.

North London Chorus is a Public Benefit Entity and as such is committed to enabling as many people as possible to benefit through choir membership, participation in workshops and concert attendance. To this end, a varied programme of music is undertaken to appeal to as wide an audience as possible. The Trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's published guidance on the Public Benefit requirement under the Charities Act 2011. More specific details of our activities, which benefit the public, can be found in our Musical Director's and Chairman's reports.

These objectives remain the same for the coming year. We have had a recruitment drive which led to an open rehearsal that was well attended by potential candidates.

Financial Position

The Financial Statements and accompanying notes on pages 6-10 give a detailed account of the main drivers of the finances of the Chorus. In summary, we started the year with net assets of £17,724 and ended with £16,356 making a deficit of £1,368. The Committee managed the reserves in accordance with the policy described below, through careful cost control, realistic concert budgets and contributions from outside and within the choir.

Reserves Policy: Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of resources, to cover other costs including unplanned emergency cancellation of concerts at short notice resulting in costs but no revenue and to fund new developments as agreed by the Trustees, from time to time. The Trustees' policy is thus to ensure normal expenditures are matched by a sufficient level of income and that an appropriate level of reserves is maintained to enable the Chorus to function, to allow for unforeseen contingencies and to fund new initiatives to develop its work in accordance with its aims and objectives in a manner that does not present undue risk to the choir's financial position. The Trustees will act to increase the level of reserves where significant expenditure or increased risks are foreseen.

Chairman's Annual Report

Sept 2016 – Jan 2017: Chairman – Norman Cohen

The highlight of the winter term was our hugely successful performance of Verdi's *Requiem* at ArtsDepot in North Finchley on 20th November. Initial doubts as to whether we were a large enough choir to undertake this demanding work proved unfounded, as demonstrated by the enthusiastic response of a full house audience. Under Murray's direction we were joined by four excellent soloists, Sally Silver, Yvonne Howard, Christopher Turner and Edward Grint and our regular Meridian Sinfonia.

We introduced a trial of offering a small number of premium priced tickets, giving the best seats, free programmes and a free drink at a separate area of the bar. Although there was a full take up of these tickets, we were not completely satisfied with the way the scheme worked, and will need to review the idea before repeating it.

Two very welcome visitors to the concert were the Musical Director, Beat Dähler and board member, Christian Nünlist of the Zurich based Contrapunto Chor. At the time we were in the early stages of arranging joint concerts in Zürich and London in November 2017.

On 15th October 2016, we held a quiz evening to raise funds, and of course have fun. Thanks to Alison Salisbury, Eloise, Shantini and many helpers for expert organisation and food and to Jeremy Pratt for once again being a superb quiz master and setting the questions together with Paul Filmer. As always the event proved popular, and we were pleased to have raised £1,672 for choir funds.

In December, some members, under Shantini's leadership sang carols at East Finchley and at Highbury and Islington stations. We were pleased to have raised £726 for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice. Thanks for Marian who once again hosted our Christmas party.

In the lead up to the last AGM I had decided to step down as chair and indeed from the committee. It was time to make way for younger people and I am delighted to see the amazing contributions already evident from newer young members of NLC. Yoav is a fine choice for chair and I congratulate him on taking on the mantle so confidently.

Jan 2017 – Aug 2017: Chairman – Yoav Landau-Pope

At the AGM of 19th January 2017 a new committee was elected. My thanks to the outgoing committee for a brilliant job leading and serving the choir, and to Norman, the outgoing chair, who led the committee with wisdom, kindness and generosity, spared no effort to enable a smooth and seamless handover, and continues to be a source of advice and support.

2017 marks our 40th Anniversary. We are now a well-established, mature, energetic and very competent choir. We are 90 members strong and work very well together as a community and as a musical ensemble. We have grown and reached new heights and excellence under the leadership of Murray Hipkin, our Musical Director in the past 14 years.

In February 2017 we held our residential weekend singing workshop at Denham Grove. 65 choir members attended the workshop which was led by Murray Hipkin, together with our voice consultants Mark Oldfield and Andrea Brown and our accompanist Catherine Borner. The workshop gave us an opportunity to expand and develop our singing skills as individuals, in small groups and as a choir. It was very successful and enjoyable. It also gave us an opportunity to have a candid and helpful conversation about our current goals and development, repertoire and members' feedback to our Musical Director and the committee.

During the spring and summer terms we held two concerts at St James's in Muswell Hill:

On 25th March 2017 we sang Brahms *Liebeslieder Op 52* and *Neue Liebeslieder Op 65*, and Dove *The Passing of the Year*. We dedicated *The Passing of the Year* to our member David Berle, who sadly passed away in January 2017. There was a retiring collection to support The Parents' House charity which raised £609. The concert was well attended and well received.

Continued overleaf.

Chairman's Annual Report

Jan 2017 – Aug 2017: Chairman – Yoav Landau-Pope (continued)

On 17th June 2017 we sang Mozart *Requiem in D minor K626* and King *Out of the Depths*. It was the second time we had sung *Out of the Depths* which we commissioned and premiered in 2012. It was made possible through a generous contribution by Helen Brown in memory of her late husband Bill Brown, and the support of The Ralph Vaughan Williams Trust. The concert was very successful and well received. It was very special and heartening to have the composer Matthew King and Helen Brown in the audience. In this concert we launched 'Friends of NLC' – a scheme to support and fund special projects, workshops, new commissions and support members in need to take part in choir activities. Our friend and supporter, Soprano Sally Silver, gave us the most moving and uplifting gift in her brilliant performance of Mozart *Exsultate, Jubilate K165* to mark the launch of the scheme. Thank you Sally! My thanks also to David Loxley-Blount for organising 'Friends of NLC'.

The work with our vocal consultants continued regularly throughout the spring and summer terms. Their input included work with the choir as a whole, sectional work as well as individual and small group lessons. It has proven to be an extremely valuable resource and a great support to our singing. We are most grateful to Mark and Andrea for commitment, hard work and highly professional input.

After the 17th June concert, the choir continued to rehearse for almost a month before the summer break, preparing for two joint concerts with Zürich based Contrapunto Chor in November 2017 in Zürich and in London. At the end of each term we had choir parties. Thank you to Lucy, and Andrew and Penny, for hosting the parties in March and July respectively.

The wonderful work of NLC would not be possible without the ongoing commitment and hard work of so many people – choir members and our professional team. My thanks to Murray Hipkin, Catherine Borner, Andrea Brown and Mark Oldfield, to our musical partners Meridian Sinfonia and the various soloists who sang with us, to our loyal supporters and friends, to the choir committee and to every single member of the choir.

Musical Director's Review

I have very little to add to the reports from our two Chairs, Norman Cohen (to January 2017) and Yoav Landau-Pope (from January 2017). They have summarised our musical and social activities in great detail and it only remains for me to thank them, as well as everyone who has served on the committee during this period. Once again, we fulfilled our aim to perform a wide variety of repertoire to a high standard, and we also continued to widen our reach locally by moving away from our regular venue for the Verdi *Requiem* in November 2016. Training and development continued with the Residential Weekend and regular visits by our two Vocal Consultants, Andrea Brown and Mark Oldfield, and I am indebted to them and to our Accompanist, Catherine Borner, for their support this season. Finally I would like to thank every member of the choir for their commitment and enthusiasm during another rewarding year.

Murray Hipkin,
Musical Director,
16 January 2018



patrons Janis Kelly
and Laurence Cummings
musical director Murray Hipkin

with *Meridian*
Sinfonia

Sunday
20 November 2016
7:30pm

arts **depot**

Tally Ho Corner
North Finchley
London N12 0GA

Sally Silver soprano
Yvonne Howard mezzo-soprano
Christopher Turner tenor
Edward Grint bass-baritone
Murray Hipkin conductor

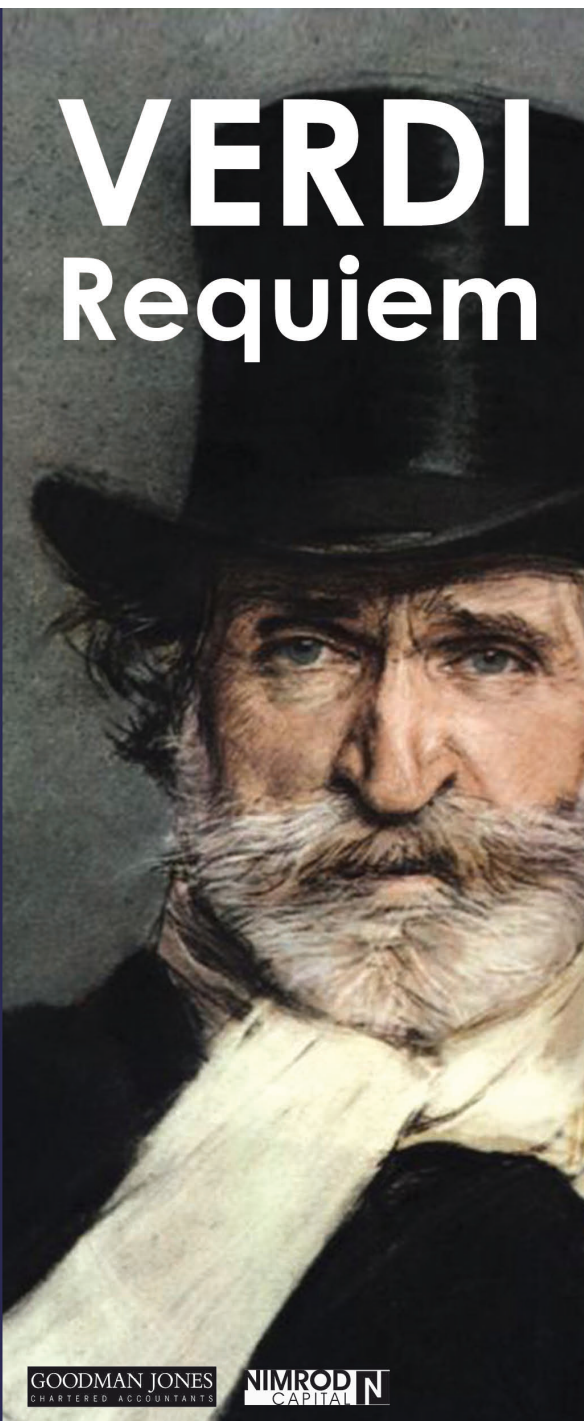
Tickets available online at
northlondonchorus.org/tickets
£35* • £25 • £15
*Premium seats - see website for details
Concessions £2 reduction

Also available from
Les Aldrich Music Shop,
98 Fortis Green Road, Muswell Hill



NLC is a registered charity (no. 277544)

VERDI Requiem



GOODMAN JONES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

NIMROD
CAPITAL



40th
Anniversary Season
1977 - 2017

Saturday
25 March 2017
7:30pm

St James Church
Muswell Hill N10 3DB
Catherine Borner piano
John Flinders piano
Murray Hipkin conductor

Tickets available online at
northlondonchorus.org/tickets
£22 • £18 • £10
Concessions £2 reduction

Also available from St James Church
Bookshop and Les Aldrich Music Shop,
98 Fortis Green Road, Muswell Hill



northlondonchorus.org
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GOODMAN JONES NIMROD
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS CAPITAL

Jonathan Dove The Passing of the Year

In the arrangement for two pianos and percussion

Brahms Liebeslieder Op 52 and Neue Liebeslieder Op 65

Britten Mazurka Elegaica Partsongs by Alcock, Elgar, Coleridge-Taylor, Sullivan and Rutter



Retiring collection in aid of The Parent House



with *Meridian*
Sinfonia

Saturday
17 June 2017
7:30pm

St James Church
Muswell Hill N10 3DB

Lucy Knight soprano
Martha Jones mezzo-soprano
Elgan Llyr Thomas tenor
Timothy Connor baritone
Murray Hipkin conductor

Tickets available online at
northlondonchorus.org/tickets
£22 • £18 • £10
Concessions £2 reduction
Also available from St James Church
Bookshop and Les Aldrich Music Shop,
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GOODMAN JONES NIMROD
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS CAPITAL

40th
Anniversary Season
1977 - 2017

Requiem K626 Mozart

Out of the Depths

NLC Commission, 2nd performance

Matthew King



Statement of Financial Activities

North London Chorus

For the year ended 31 August 2017

	2017	2016
Rehearsals and Administration		
Subscriptions related income		
Subscriptions received	16,487	15,816
Income tax recovered on deeds of covenant	3,787	3,602
Total Subscriptions related income	20,273	19,418
Hall hire - rehearsals	(4,390)	(4,400)
Professional fees - rehearsals	(10,236)	(9,301)
Insurance and Making Music membership	(589)	(676)
Administration & Other	(721)	(814)
Depreciation expense	(300)	(300)
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	4,038	3,926
Concerts		
Tickets, programmes and advertising	18,893	18,463
Concert-specific funding	200	-
Professional fees - concerts	(21,170)	(22,543)
Instrument & music hire	(1,437)	(1,832)
Concert venue costs	(4,279)	(2,921)
Flowers	(193)	(166)
Printing & publicity	(1,713)	(1,547)
Concert - other costs	(1,425)	(818)
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	(11,125)	(11,364)
Other		
Other donations and net fundraising income	2,082	1,280
Other income incl. coffee & raffles	2,097	1,159
Annual sponsorship	1,250	1,250
Friends of NLC Revenue	290	-
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	5,719	3,689
Total surplus / (deficit)	(1,368)	(3,749)

The Statement of Financial Activities details the expenditure incurred and revenues received by the Chorus during the year to 31 August 2017.

The total expenditure incurred by the Chorus during the year was £46,453. Of that amount £16,235 was spent on rehearsals and administration and £30,218 on concerts.

Income during the year was £45,085. Of this, £20,273 was from subscriptions related income, £19,093 from concerts and £5,719 from fundraising and sponsorship.

Professional fees for rehearsals include the cost of our Musical Director, Accompanist and Vocal Consultants.

Administration costs include £231 for the costs of accounting software, a nominal fee of £100 for the Independent Examination of the accounts, PayPal and bank charges of £105 as well as a range of other small expenses to support the running of the choir.

Depreciation £300 represents the annual allocation of the cost of the Yamaha keyboard and some stage lighting, spread over its estimated period of use.

Of the £19,093 concert revenues for this year, £16,562 was generated from ticket sales, £1,238 from programme sales, £935 from programme advertising revenue, £200 was from concert specific funding (see below) and £158 from the bar.

The majority of the £21,170 professional fees for concerts relates to orchestra fees (£14,770) and soloist fees (£3,600). The type of costs in "concerts – other costs" have always included a small crew at the venues to help with the heavy lifting (humpers) and extra choral support (bumpers) as well as our licence to operate a bar. In addition this year, there were other one-off costs such as £312 for rehearsal beverages for the choir in the Artsdepot, £190 for staging adjustments at that venue and £150 for piano tuning for the Spring concert, all of which explain the increase from the previous year's figure.

Other donations of £2,082 relate to the surplus we made on our fundraising quiz evening plus a net donation of £390 from Julia Fabricius. Other income of £2,097 consists of funds raised from the sale of beverages at our rehearsals (£1,725) and from regular raffles (£372). The Friends of NLC initiative launched in the summer and has started to bring in revenue of £290.

The Chorus gratefully acknowledges receipt of £1,250 from its ongoing sponsors Goodman Jones and Nimrod Capital, as well as £200 from Helen Brown to support our second performance of Out of the Depths.

Balance Sheet

North London Chorus

As at 31 August 2017

	31 AUG 2017	31 AUG 2016
Fixed Assets		
Equipment	89	389
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	11,024	18,145
Amounts recoverable by NLC	1,434	1,079
Prepayments and deferred income	3,909	1,098
Total Current Assets	16,367	20,321
Current Liabilities		
Amounts payable by NLC	100	2,987
Net Assets	16,356	17,724
Total Reserves		
Net resources brought forward	17,724	21,473
Current Year Earnings	(1,368)	(3,749)
Total Reserves	16,356	17,724

Approved by the Committee on 24th January 2018 and signed on its behalf by



Alan Chandler (FCCA)
Treasurer

The Balance Sheet lists the Chorus's assets and liabilities as at the close of the financial year on 31 August 2017.

Fixed Assets

The Chorus owns a Yamaha keyboard and some stage lighting. These assets are included in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Current Assets

Amounts recoverable by NLC is £869 relating to venue deposit for 2018 Residential Weekend which ultimately is paid back to the Chorus as the Residential Weekend is funded by its participants – this is just a timing issue as the deposit was paid in May 2017 and participants pay their fees later largely in December 2017; £490 of programme advertising revenue relating to the financial year received after the year end, and £75 damage deposit with St James Church.

Prepayments of £3,909 represents Winter 2017 concert costs paid in advance (venue costs £3,321 and hire of orchestral scores £588).

Current Liabilities

Amounts payable by NLC of £100 is the Independent Examiner's fee to be paid in 2018 once the independent examination of the accounts has taken place.

Net Resources

The Committee aims to maintain a level of net resources in accordance with the policy described in the Trustees' report. The net resources carried forward at 31 August 2017 include a reserve that the committee expects to utilize during the next financial year.

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with
- the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the North London Chorus's ability to continue as a going concern. There are no material uncertainties affecting the current year's accounts.

1.3 Change of accounting policy

The accounts present a true and fair view and the accounting policies adopted are those outlined in note 2. A number of accounting policies have been added in accordance with FRS 102 but this is extra disclosure and does not represent a change in approach.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Income

a) Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

b) Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

2.Accounting policies (continued)

2.2 Expenditure and Liabilities

a)Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

b)Deferred income

No material item of deferred income has been included in the accounts.

c)Creditors

North London Chorus has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

d)Provisions for liabilities

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

2.3 Assets

a)Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £100. They are valued at cost. The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in note 5.

b)Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

3.Analysis of Income

All income received was unrestricted apart from £200 from Helen Brown which is shown on the face of the accounts as concert specific funding and was put towards the Summer 2017 concert, to support the performance of *Out of the Depths*.

4.Details of certain items of expenditure

Independent examiner's fees were £100 (£150 in the prior year).

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

5.Fixed Assets

5.1 Cost or valuation

Fixed assets comprise a Yamaha keyboard (£1,305) and stage lighting (£182). There were no disposals or additions in the year.

5.2 Depreciation and impairments

Accumulated depreciation was brought forward of £998 relating to the Yamaha keyboard and £100 relating to the stage lighting. Depreciation was on a straight line basis and was £250 for the Yamaha Keyboard and £50 for the stage lighting, resulting in accumulated depreciation at the end of the year of £1,248 for the Yamaha keyboard and £150 for the stage lighting.

5.3 Net book value

The Yamaha keyboard had a net book value of £57 (purchased in 2012) and the stage lighting had a net book value of £32 (purchased in 2015).

6.Debtors and prepayments

These comprise of amounts recoverable by NLC and prepayments and are disclosed separately on the face of the balance sheet.

7.Creditors and accruals

These comprise of amounts payable by NLC and are disclosed separately on the face of the balance sheet.

8.Cash at bank and in hand

This comprises of only cash at bank and in hand as North London Chorus holds no short term cash investments or short term deposits.

9.Transactions with trustees and related parties

a)Trustee remuneration and benefits

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity.

b)Trustees' expenses

No trustee expenses have been incurred.

c)Transaction(s) with related parties

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period.

Independent examiner's report

Report to the trustees of North London Chorus (Registered Charity No. 277544) on accounts for the year ended 31 August 2017 which are set out on pages 6 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

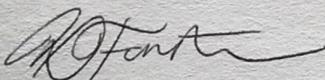
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  F.C.A.
Name: Hannah Forster FCA
Date: 25/1/18
Address: 22 Fortis Green, N2 9EL