

UK AUTOHARPS

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2002.

This is the first set of accounts I have produced as Treasurer where UKA has not covered its outgoings for the year. This is mostly due to having to maintain an existing but unsatisfactory website on a subscription basis whilst paying for the creation of a new one that will meet our needs; the two together have come to some £1100 for the year. In addition we refunded £190 to one of our members who had confusedly set up his annual subscription via Paypal but done so as a monthly payment rather than yearly. For a long time the cost of attending an online workshop was the same as the annual subscription and the payments were therefore assumed to be for monthly workshop attendance. Both of these items are by their nature 'one-offs' and will not recur in subsequent years.

Notwithstanding the above, our general financial position remains both robust and healthy. Covid has been a world-wide disaster and a personal tragedy for so many, so it is perhaps ironic that it has been the cause of a major boost to our finances. Before the lockdown we were committed to running a number of physical UKA Days around the country which more often than not did not break even due to the rent of premises, teaching fees, travel expenses and accommodation charges for tutors etc. Once these became impossible it was necessary to instigate the series of online events and workshops that we are all now familiar with. In doing so we have exchanged paying premises hire for an annual Zoom subscription, and the tutor charges are a proportion of the attendance fees so each workshop has produced a surplus, to the effect that even after paying the 'one-offs' described above our financial position is some £2,000 better than before moving online. Indeed, the continual increase in funds led your committee to seek opportunities to return value to the members with the result that in both 2001 and 2002 we have run two free 'UKA Days' online with paid tutors and performers. The cost of these in 2002 amounted to £1,050.

Such a fortunate circumstance could not continue for ever, and as the world returns to something approaching normal our workshop tutor, Karen Mueller, has had to reduce her online commitment to UKA from monthly to every second month. It may be that your committee finds alternative events to fill the intervening months, but with the present model each event will still achieve a surplus and UK Autoharps financial position will remain healthy for the foreseeable future.

Derik Palmer
Treasurer.