

UK AUTOHARPS

TREASURER'S REPORT 2023

2023 has been another financially successful year for UKA. As you will see from the Annual Accounts Summary provided, our financial position has improved yet again; this is largely because since the covid lockdown began our activities have been moved online with no requirement to rent premises for get-togethers. The online events have proved very successful and will continue but they are a poor substitute for in-person gatherings and during the year we have started to make efforts to reintroduce live events to our calendar. We held a UKA Day at Tewkesbury, a Scottish Autoharp Weekend at Moniaive and another weekend at Stourton Caundle in Dorset; Tewkesbury and Dorset both more than covered their costs, and although ScAW didn't there is a separate ring-fenced sum held within UKA accounts to finance its operation. Although ScAW will no longer be held in its current form there is still a positive balance to finance any future Scottish events.

I have some concern, both as Treasurer and as President, that our financial resources continue to grow at a much greater rate than our membership. This could be seen as fortunate and it is important that we hold sufficient funds to cover both our normal operations and any unforeseen contingencies that might arise, but there is obviously a limit to which they should be allowed to grow for an organisation such as UKA with at most a hundred and fifty members. I feel it important that we find other ways of returning value to the membership. To this end we have already instituted two online UKA Days each year which are free for members to attend although of course we do pay the tutors and performers, and we now have a new, up-to-date website for which we paid last year. But we have to do more, and your committee would welcome any suggestions you might have as to what else we could be doing with at least some of the funds we hold.