

Trustees' Annual Report 2021

Charity Name: Cymdeithas Côr Meibion Caerfyrddin

Charity Registration Number: 259482

Charity Address: The address of the Secretary (Tŷ Hir, Picton Court, Caerfyrddin SA31 3DQ)

Trustees:

Dai Lewis (Chairman)

Kevin Thomas (Vice-Chairman)

Ieuan Phillips (Treasurer)

Huw Michael (Secretary)

Governing document: Constitution adopted at Choir EGM on 22/08/2017

Objects:

The objects of the Choir shall be the advancement of public education in the art of choral music, and the learning and public performance of choral works, whilst assisting charitable causes.

Activities, Achievements and Performance during 2021.

Unfortunately, following the restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 virus, Choir activities did not re-start until June 2021. Three practices were held at Priordy Chapel in June and early July, but we were required to wear face coverings even when singing, and to maintain 2m separation, which was less than satisfactory. Weekly practices re-started again in early September in Christchurch hall and continued until mid-December. Two performances took place in the 4th quarter.

Governance

There were no changes to the Choir's Constitution during 2020.

Officials.

There was no change to the Choir's officers in 2021. As a result of no activity from March 2020, Dai Lewis agreed to extend his term of office as Chairman for another year, and Kevin Thomas did likewise as Vice-Chairman.

Membership

The annual membership fee remained unchanged at £120 per year in 2021. However, in response to the continued suspension of activities, the Committee decided to reduce the membership fee to £40 for 2021, considering that we were only able to have weekly practices for four months in the year.

There were several resignations / retirements from the choir during the year. Bryan Davies (T1) retired with our thanks for more than 40 years of continuous service as a member. Clifford Evans (T1) also retired with our thanks for many years of service. Dave Hume (B2) resigned also, and the 2020 prospective members Stuart Davies (B1) and Steve Martin (B1) did not feel able to return due to work and family commitments.

Several members were absent due to ill health including Arwyn Hughes (T1), Clive Pugh (B2), Wyn Evans (B2) and Paul Endicott(T1). We hope to welcome them back in 2022.

We welcomed one prospective new member in November: Steve Robertson (B2).

The number of choir members at the end of 2021 stands at 30, including the prospective new member.

The reduction in members is a matter of concern to the Committee. Kevin Thomas, as Vice-Chairman, took the lead to develop a plan to attract new members, including, possibly, co-operating with other local choirs. Kevin appeared on Siân Cothi's radio programme on Radio Cymru to promote the choir.

Attendance

Attendance at weekly rehearsals was disappointing. In June/ July, only 19,15,12 respectively attended the three rehearsals at Priordy chapel. Then, after the September re-start fewer than 20 were present in each rehearsal with an average of 16.

Concerts

The choir took part in the Royal Naval Association's carol service in Christchurch on the 13th of December, performing 5 carols on stage as well as contributing to the singing of carols by the congregation.

Other Performances

There were no other performances.

Weddings

The choir sang at the wedding of Angharad Blight and Dafydd at Tŷ Horeb, Llandeilo on October 23rd. It was a very enjoyable afternoon with an appreciative audience, and tea and sandwiches were provided for the choir at the Cawdor Hotel afterwards.

Funerals

None.

Charities

The Committee agreed to suspend further charitable donations in 2021 but would consider further donations in 2022 taking account of the choir's continued healthy finances.

Social Activities:

An enjoyable evening at the Quins Club followed the carol service at Christchurch on 13th December. Refreshments were prepared for the choir members and we also enjoyed some impromptu singing in the bar.

Ladies' Committee

The Choir thanks the Ladies' Committee for their continued support, especially for taking responsibility for receiving choir uniforms back from retiring members.

Repertoire

We started learning "The Wind Beneath My Wings" in September, which is one of the items for the WAMC concerts which have now been re-scheduled: A concert at St David's Hall, Cardiff in June 2023, and the Albert Hall concert which will now be in April 2024. We also re-learned "Sanctaidd Nos" and "Carol Gŵr y Llety " in four voices for the carol concert.

The choir's repertoire is listed on the website.

Conductor and accompanist

The Trustees wish to express their appreciation of the services of the Reverend Wyn Maskell and Ms Heather Williams. Wyn still travels from Felinfach to Carmarthen every week to take our weekly rehearsals. We are indeed fortunate to have these two talented musicians at our service.