

Trustees Annual Report 2017

Charity Name: Cymdethas Côr Meibion Caerfyrddin

Charity Registration Number: 259482

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

Trustees:

Dewi Jones (Chairman)
Wyn Evans Vice-Chairman)
Dylan Jones (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 2017.

Governance

The Choir initiated a review of the existing Constitution early in the year with a view to 1) bringing the governing document up to date, and 2) making it better reflect the size of the choir that exists these days.

The Secretary took the lead in revising the Constitution including amending the “Objects” to ensure that supporting other charities was included. The revised Constitution was accepted unanimously at an EGM held in August, and submitted to the Charity Commission.

Officials.

Dewi Jones (previously Vice-Chairman) took over from Wyn Evans as Chairman at the AGM on 28 February, 2017. Clive Pugh, Secretary, stood down after 4 years’ of service, and was replaced by Huw Michael. Wyn Evans was accepted as Vice-Chairman again, there being no other nominations.

Membership

The annual membership fee was increased from £90 to £120 per year in 2017 (having been increased from £50 at the end of 2015) in order to establish a more secure financial basis for the choir on an ongoing basis.

The choir lost a number of members during the year for various reasons . Those who left the choir were: Alex Henderson (B2), Philip Johnes (B2), Graham Vaughan (B1), Vince James (B1), Len Blakemore (T1), Ieuan Phillips (B1), Vince Harris (T1). Some others joined the choir during the year (Tim Rees (B1), Andrew Thomas (T2), Alun Hughes (T2), and Kevin Thomas (T2). However only Kevin remained with the choir by the end of the year.

In addition, a number of members were absent from rehearsals for most of the year for personal, health and family reasons. We hope that these choristers will be able to attend more regularly in 2018.

Despite extensive publicity to encourage new members in the Carmarthen Journal, we are left with a smaller choir at the end of 2017 (33 active members) than we had at the beginning of the year.

Attendance

Attendance at rehearsals was fairly consistent around the 26 mark.

Attendance at performances was at a similar, sometimes lower level, between 20 and 26. For the choir concert on 18 November we had 29 choristers on stage.

Concerts

The highlight of the year was the Choir's concert at Capel Priordy on 18th of November. The guest soloist, Osian Wyn Bowen (Tenor), the Bro Myrddin school choir, guest accompanist, Meirion Wynn Jones, and young musicians, Hannah and Nick Crowdy, made a major contribution to the success of the evening. The concert seemed to be enjoyed by all who attended based on feedback received. Approximately £3000 profit was achieved on the evening. The choir's thanks are also extended to Mr David Jones (B2) who generously sponsored the guest artists to the tune of £500.

The one disappointing aspect was that we sold fewer than 200 tickets.

Other concerts held during the year were: Llannewydd/ Newchurch village hall in March; Army Fest in Pembrey in August, Llanllwch church in September, and Tenovus at Christchurch in December.

In addition, the choir participated in Moliant y Maes at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show in Builth Wells in July along with Côr Llanddarog, Côr Meibion Llanelli and Côr Meibion HenDyGwyn at the invitation of Mr Brian Jones, Castell Howell who was Show President in 2017.

Other performances included: Carmarthen- Lesneven Twinning Association dinner at the Quins Club; Cymanfa Ganu Capel Tŷ Hen, Alma, Meidrim; and the Holstein Club dinner at the Ivy Bush in September.

Weddings

We sang at 5 weddings (one renewal of vows) during the year raising valuable income for the choir. Our performances were well received at all the weddings. The one disappointing turnout was in mid August when only 13 choristers were present. We gave the client a 33% discount on the agreed price to reflect this disappointing turnout.

Funerals

The choir sang at the memorial service for Mrs Rosemary Jones, Trebersed, David Jones (B2)'s late wife, in February. The choir's singing was of an appropriately high standard that day with 31 choristers in attendance.

We also sang at the funeral wake of Mr David Lewis at the Quins Club in March, and at the funeral service of Mrs Tracey Butcher at St Peter's Church at the end of September (Tracey was the daughter of Huw Williams (B2)).

Charities

The choir sang at M&S on two occasions raising money for M&S chosen charities: £300 for the children's cancer charity (LATCH) in March, and £130 for the Skanda Vale Hospice in Rhos, Llangeler in December. In addition the choir donated £50 to the Oncology Unit at Glangwili Hospital in December, in connection with the Plygain on December 10th which the choir was unable to attend due to the weather.

Repertoire

The choir added 3 new items to its repertoire in 2017: Yn Y Man, Y Darlun and Tell My Father, all of which were performed at the concert in November.

The choir's repertoire is now listed on the choir's website.

Conductor and accompanist

The Trustees wish to express their appreciation of the services of Mr Wyn Maskell (now Reverend) and Ms Heather Williams. We are indeed fortunate to have these two talented musicians at our service.

