

Doire Calgach Singers
Trustees' Annual Report
for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 30 June 2022.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act (NI) 2022, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (NI) 2015, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019.)

The charity is governed by a constitution. It's office is at 32 Maybrook Park, Derry, BT48 7TP. The company is a registered Northern Ireland charity. The charity number is NIC 100833.

Trustees

The trustees during the year and at 30 June 2022 were as follows:

Mr Gerard Bradley
Mr Michael Barr
Mrs Margaret Brown
Miss Paddy Quinn
Mr Paddy Canning
Miss Nicky Fallon
Mr Eamon Boast

Chair's report

As a result of Covid 19 pandemic the choir ceased to function between March 2020 and October 2021. Government restrictions prohibited all such activity and as the majority of choir members are elderly and in vulnerable groups, Trustees took all possible precautions to protect the members by putting on hold all group activity. However, during the pandemic the choir did maintain close with one another, enjoyed singing online with other community groups using zoom and social media, which helped to reduce social isolation and protect members' mental health.

In October 2021 the Trustees completed a risk assessment and following government guidelines we were delighted to return to practices even though we sat 2 metres apart, wore masks, sanitised our hands when entering the practice area and had our temperature taken at the door.

We resumed our practices, 6 per month under the guidance of Mr Trevor Burnside, Musical Director and our conductor Mr Michael Barr, and sourced a new practice venue as it was still deemed to be unsafe to return to the primary school we had previously used.

Unfortunately, in January 2022 we had to cease practices again as a result of Covid 19 risks. However, on 14th February 2022 the Trustees met, and we resumed rehearsals on the 17th February 2022.

In the remaining 4 months of this year choir members managed to take part in a major regional event called About Us, and the Every Voice local festival which involved us singing with another charity working with adults with learning disability.

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Our purposes and activities

In normal circumstances, Doire Calgach Singers is a cross-community choir, with approximately 27 members who continue to meet regularly to learn the art of choral singing and organise and assist in the organising of performances for the benefit of public. We work in partnership with other musical groups, churches and charity groups to provide opportunities for the general public to learn and appreciate music.

The open membership provides equal opportunities for individuals from different cultures, religions, ages and disabilities to come together. In this Covid restricted year, we represented our City by continuing performing with other choirs in "About Us" hence continuing to work in partnership with other musical organisations to promote choral singing in the City, UK and Ireland.

In normal circumstances we would have taken part in the International Choral festival and Jazz festivals., however these were cancelled or were delivered online due to the pandemic.

Outside the pandemic we would normally introduce the general public to choirs, choral singing and music of different genres by singing in public venues such as shopping centres, church halls, hotels and in the local the railway station. We would normally support local churches and charities by providing music for various services and functions. Despite the pandemic and restricted time available, we did manage a performance with Tuned Group which offered adults with a learning disability the opportunity take part in a local Community Every Voice Festival

The value of the choir was clearly demonstrated during this period in relation to, improving mental health, reducing social isolation, and the over all health benefits of feeling a part of something, a sense of belonging.

When the choir regrouped in October 2021 the relief of members was palpable and it heightened the importance of continuing to offer opportunities for people of all ages to come together on a regular basis therefore reducing social isolation and improving emotional health and wellbeing. The intention is to return to full operation as soon as possible in the coming year.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit requirement (PBR1). We endeavour to encourage a range of people and organisations to take advantage of our expertise and promote within our community use of our services and to respond positively to requests for us to perform.

We have put these strategies into action through various programmes and in our programme for the coming year. Furthermore, the programme of activities focuses very much on supporting our members who value having a purpose and reason to attend practices, and who thoroughly enjoy performing within the community.

Volunteers

All involved with the Charity do so on a voluntary basis and this has been working very well for many years. Choir involvement and activity is very important to all at practices, performances, socially, and individually and group contributions result in the promotion of positive mental health and support for all members.

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Achievements and performance

As described above the choir had to cease activity for 17 months from March 2020 to October 2021 and a further 6 weeks in January and February 2022 however our main achievements include:

- Providing a safe environment for the choir to return to
- Rebuilding the choir's repertoire through rehearsals
- Taking part in a regional event About Us
- Taking part in a local event with a vulnerable group
- Supporting those choir members who suffered loss and bereavement during the pandemic
- Supporting one another as a number of members passed away during this time.

While the number of members dropped to around 22 we plan to recruit more members in the incoming year.

Financial review

During the year income of £1,946 was received and costs of £2,948 were incurred to leave a deficit for the year of £1,002. Costs included depreciation of £97 this year. Ignoring depreciation, the cash deficit was £905 which was funded from available reserves. The reserves at the end of the year were £5,125 which were all unrestricted.

The Trustees were pleased with the results for the year. All reserves at the year end are free reserves.

Reserves policy and going concern

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned emergency costs. Due to the nature of Charity, no activities are started or costs incurred until funds are secured from members. The Management committee consider that only nominal reserves are necessary to meet future costs.

The trustees have reviewed the circumstances of the Charity and consider that there is secured funding in place that is adequate to fund activities for the foreseeable future. The trustees are of the view that the Charity is a going concern.

Plans for future periods

We plan to continue our choir practises and will endeavour to perform at as many events as we can manage including our charity performances and anywhere we can encourage people with our music.

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for the Year Ended 30 June 2022**

Statement of trustees responsibilities

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustee's annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practise).

The trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the profit or loss of the company for that year.

In preparing these the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the organisation will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved on 17 May 2024 and signed on its behalf by



Miss Paddy Quinn
Treasurer