



**DROMORE AND DISTRICT
MALE VOICE CHOIR**

**Trustee's Annual Report
For the year to 31st August 2021**

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Registered Charity No. 103224

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Dromore and District Male Voice Choir

Registered Charity No. 103224

Trustees' Annual Report From 1st September 2020 to 31st August 2021

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This, the Trustees' fifth annual report to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland has been agreed by the Trustees but not formally presented to choir members as the Choir has not met as a body nor taken part in any activities since March 2020 due to the continuing restrictions on movement and gatherings necessitated by the Covid pandemic. It will however be shared with members as and when the Choir is able to meet again. The Trustees believe that the report complies with the requirements of The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and takes account of the guidance provided by the Commission.

2.0 Governance

- 2.1 DDMVC is governed under the terms of its Constitution which was reviewed, revised and signed by the Trustees on 23rd March 2015

3.0 Trustees

- 3.1 There has been no change in the Trustees since the last report. They remain as:

- Mr Albert Stewart (Chair)
- Mr Noel Meeke (Vice Chair)
- Mr James Smyth (Secretary)
- Mr Eric Conn
- Mr John Lilley
- Mr Keith Ward
- Mr George Wilson

- 3.2 No other individual served as a Trustee during the monitoring period.

- 3.3 Again, due to the restrictions on movement and meetings necessitated by the Covid pandemic the Trustees have not physically met as a group during the period under review. As a number of Trustees do not have the technical equipment necessary for on-line meetings (Zoom, etc.), it has not been possible either to conduct this type of meeting. Meetings will resume when Government and medical advice confirm that it is safe to do so.

- 3.4 The Trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit requirement statutory guidance as set out in its publication PBR1.

4.0 Charitable Purpose

4.1 The Choir's stated Charitable Purpose is:

"To promote, improve, develop and maintain public (hereinafter called the 'beneficiaries') education and appreciation of, the art of music and, in particular, choral music, through the presentation of public performances, and by associating the statutory authorities, community and voluntary organisations and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance musical education".

It falls within the advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science sector of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008

4.2 Its target groups are:

- i) Adult men of 18 years and above.
- ii) The general public.

5.0 Public Benefits

5.1 The Public Benefits DDMVC seeks to provide are:

- i) A welcome to men of all adult ages and from a wide range of backgrounds and musical capabilities.
- ii) The enablement of members to participate in a creative, fulfilling, educational and sociable activity and the provision to them of opportunities to develop their singing technique, musical skills and knowledge of the choral repertoire.
- iii) The promotion of public performances which raise artistic taste, enhance public knowledge and understanding of music and provide enjoyable and stimulating cultural experiences as a result of the high quality of the performances and the interesting range of music featured.
- iv) Improved community life through the appreciation of music.
- v) Raising, or helping to raise funds for other charitable causes by the performance of vocal music.

6.0 Activities and Evidence of Providing the Public Benefits

6.1 Adult Men

- 6.1.1 DDMVC is a traditional four-part harmony male voice choir with a wide-ranging repertoire of both sacred and secular music. Membership is open to all men of 18 years and above, without restriction on upper age, background, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability and/or musical ability. Arrangements are put in place to assist anyone with a physical disability to ensure that they can play a full part in all choir activities. New members are warmly welcomed and indeed, actively sought after.

- 6.1.2 During this year, another member, Mr Robin English, sadly died. Robin will be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers remain with his family and with the families of all our friends who have passed in recent years.
- 6.1.3 As already stated (see 1.1 above), the Choir has not met as a body nor taken part in any activity, including practices since March 2020. In this respect therefore the Choir has been unable to meet its Public Benefit requirement to adult men during the year under review.

6.2 General Public

- 6.2.1 There were no singing engagements during the year and our hopes that the annual concert planned for 20th March 2020 and cancelled because of the spread of Covid infection could be postponed until later in 2020 did not materialise due to the continuing rise in and spread of the pandemic. Again, therefore and regrettably, solely due to Covid related restrictions, the Choir was unable to meet its Public Benefit requirement to the general public

7.0 Accounts

- 7.1 Because of the lack of Choir activity, this year has seen little movement in the accounts, which have again been subject to independent examination by Ivan Shannon & Co. Accountants of Ballynahinch prior to their submission to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.
- 7.1.1 Income has been limited to the refund of the £250 artiste's fee paid in advance for the 2020 concert and a small amount of bank interest. The £50 booking fee paid to Dromore Cathedral for use of the concert hall has not yet been reclaimed.
- 7.1.2 Expenditure comprised a payment of £100 to Cancer Research in memory of John Gordon who sadly died in August 2020, the postage costs of sending copies of the Annual Report to Trustees for review and bank fees of £19.07. It should be noted that we have been informed by Danske Bank that their account management fees are to increase from £1.50 to £2.50 per month from October 2021 and interest rates are to fall to 0.00% from the same date.
- 7.1.3 In consultation with our insurance brokers and taking account of the potential lack of activities during this financial year and in order to protect its funds, the Choir's insurance policies were placed in abeyance. No premiums have therefore been paid. The brokers confirm that the insurances can be reinstated without penalty, when the Choir becomes active once again,
- 7.1.4 The overall result for the year therefore shows a small increase of £127.71 in the credit balance and a total cash fund of £3,267.45.
- 7.2 The Choir remains immensely grateful to the sponsors of the cancelled 2020 concert who have not requested the return of their sponsorship monies even though the concert did not proceed. We are also grateful to our accountant Ivan Shannon who waived his fee for carrying out the independent examination of the 2019-2020 accounts prior to their submission to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

7.3 DDMVC has no restricted funds, other funds, assets or investments other than the monies shown as cash funds at this year-end.


7.4 No Trustee or member receives or has received travel or out of pocket expenses in relation to choir activities.

8.0 Potential Harm

8.1 The Trustees are not aware of any harm or potential harm being caused as a consequence of DDMVC carrying out any of its public benefit activities.

9.0 Private Benefit

9.1 The Trustees are aware that choir members may attain private benefit in terms of enhanced musical skills and knowledge and that this benefit may be transferable. However, acquiring this benefit is also the successful outcome of one of the Choir's charitable purposes (see 5.1.ii above) and is essential to enable the members to perform at the level of expertise necessary to provide a high-quality musical experience to the general public beneficiaries. This benefit is therefore, incidental.

Signed: 
Albert Stewart (Chair)

Date: 10/05/2022

APPENDIX 1

Dromore & District Male Voice Choir - Registered Charity No. 103224

Receipts and Payments Account - Year Ending 31st August 2021

	2020-2021	2019-2020
RECEIPTS		
Membership Fees	£ -	£ 540.00
Income from Performances	£ -	£ -
Gifts and Donations	£ -	£ 100.00
Annual Concert		
Sponsorship	£ -	£ 420.00
Admissions	£ -	£ -
Refund of Artiste Fees - 2020 cancelled concert	£ 250.00	£ -
Bank Interest	£ 3.08	£ 4.10
Total Receipts	£ 253.08	£ 1,064.10
PAYMENTS		
Insurance	£ -	£ 318.37
Hire of Practice Hall	£ -	£ 300.00
Conductor & Accompanist Services	£ -	£ 1,840.00
Music	£ -	£ -
Stationery & Postage	£ 6.30	£ 5.60
Miscellaneous	£ -	£ 13.98
Christmas Dinner Room Costs	£ -	£ -
Barbeque Venue Hire (2018)	£ -	£ 100.00
Accountancy Fees	£ -	£ 60.00
Charitable Gifts & Donations	£ 100.00	£ 100.00
Annual Concert		
Venue Hire & Expenses	£ -	£ 50.00
Visiting Artistes Fees	£ -	£ 250.00
Miscellaneous costs	£ -	£ 14.00
Bank Fees	£ 19.07	£ 26.10
Total Payments	£ 125.37	£ 3,078.05
Net of Receipts/(Payments)	£ 127.71	-£ 2,013.95
RECONCILIATION		
Cash at bank	£ 3,246.50	£ 3,072.49
Cash in hand	£ 20.95	£ 67.25
Cash Funds at Year End	£ 3,267.45	£ 3,139.74

Prepared by: Wesley Boyd

Date: 29th September 2021