

Setanta A.G.M.

Wednesday 25/05/2016 at 8pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk

Welcome and report on choir year

Una welcomed everyone to this year's AGM; apologies were received and recorded from Pat Clinton, Joe McDonald, Paul Drumm, Clodagh Davies, Anne Quinn, Anne O'Hare.

38 members attended.

This was a busy and successful year for the choir. To summarise:

- Table quiz in October, thanks to Betty Stewart and her team.
- Prague choral festival in November
- Carlingford choral festival also in November
- Carol singing in Tesco in December
- Kilkenny concert in February
- Crowne Plaza cabaret concert in May - see more below

Una thanked all the members for their commitment throughout the year - at rehearsals, workshops and the various preparatory work. It really paid off in our recent concert.

Una recorded her appreciation especially for all the work that Anne Quinn did during the year and added a special word also for Grace Wynne who has so ably helped her in piano accompaniment.

She also thanked the committee members whose work, all of it voluntary, is so vital to the running of the choir. Among other tasks:

- Maura for everything to do with sheet music
- Pat for equipment set up before rehearsals
- Jim for financial management and accounting and also the steps
- Cathie for the website, posters and other communications
- The section reps, Carmel, Mary, Michael, Joe for collecting money and many other tasks
- Murt for taking up a secretary role

May Crowne Plaza Concert Report

Una said that our recent concert was a great success with lots of positive feedback from members of the audience afterwards. She gave some specifics and these were added to from the floor. In summary:

- Some negative remarks from audience members about the use of backing tracks, but most thought it good. Una remarked that it saved a lot of money and that in any case Eugene Ginty intended using them for his pieces.
- It was a bit overcrowded and some audience members at the back got cricks in their necks.
- The Crowne Plaza manager on duty (Dermot) was most helpful and deserves special thanks.
- One audience member remarked favourably on so many choir members singing without looking at music!
- Many people preferred the venue and the format to traditional types because of the informality and especially because of being able to have a drink or two.
- James Conlan suggested that this concert programme could go down well elsewhere, e.g. in the Barbican Centre in Drogheda.
- There were compliments for the new ladies' scarves - with thanks to Maura Morgan and the Catwalk shop in Dundalk for getting them in time.
- There was very generous sponsorship, including goody bags and a cheque, from Allcare (the company that owns Matthews Pharmacy) - with thanks to Betty Stewart for obtaining this.
- Valuable raffle prizes were also given by Crowne Plaza Hotel and McGeoghs Restaurant.

Minutes of Last AGM

The report of last year's A.G.M. will be made available on the website for members to read. No matters arising so the report was taken as read after being duly proposed and seconded.

Treasurer's report (copy attached)

Jim went through the report and especially the finances for the May concert. Main points:

- The Crowne Plaza concert yielded a nice surplus of €4,300 including €1,640 from the raffle.
- Total income including this surplus was €10,592
- Total accounted expenditure was €5,390
- The bank balance rose from €1,759 a year ago to a very healthy €6,961 now.
- Some expenditure items in the accounts are subject to adjustment when required clarification is received. These include transportation costs in relation to Prague and to Carlingford.
- The training subsidy related to a course on choral accompaniment taken by Grace Wynne.
- The steps needed the timber supports replaced with metal quick fit.
- No matters arose and the accounts were duly proposed and seconded.

On a personal note Jim thanked Joan Murphy for all the work she does on organising and keeping track of the ticket sales. He also thanked Betty Stewart for the successful quiz night and sponsorship raising. He pointed out how good and important it was that individuals, who were not committee members and did not wish to be so, could contribute in ways like this.

Election of Officers and Committee

Una said that Jim was not going forward for treasurer this year and she praised him for the wonderful job he has done in that role for the past 14 years, showing huge dedication and ability. Madeleine added praise from the floor for the work he did in constructing the steps and continuing to maintain and set them up, with great help from Brian Lennon. Jim said that he would continue to “contribute from the back benches”.

Celia Coyle has agreed to take over the treasurer role and she was duly proposed, seconded and elected.

All the other committee members had agreed to stay on and were duly proposed, seconded and re-elected.

Annual Subscription

It was agreed to keep the annual subscription at €100. Section reps will collect these and if necessary they may appoint another section member to help them. Members should ensure that they get a receipt on payment. Payments can also be made through PayPal on the choir website.

Tea/Coffee

After many years of losing money on tea/coffee and biscuits during the rehearsal interval when paying DkIT caterers for the service, this year was a great success. As agreed at last year's AGM, the choir bought flasks and then gave Pauline the job of supplying the tea, coffee and biscuits each night and collecting €2 per head from partakers. At a stroke this eradicated the choir's losses and happily it also gave Pauline a small profit. It was agreed to continue this arrangement.

Proposals for the Coming Year

Sunday 11th December has already been booked for an afternoon concert in the Heritage Centre, Carlingford. This provoked several questions and suggestions from the floor about alternative venues in Dundalk, e.g. the Friary Hall and the newly opened hall in St Mary's College. The latter, as described by Pat Daly, seems very impressive, a very big modern facility, and will be investigated for the 2018 special concert. Una explained that the Heritage Centre is uniquely suited for the rather short Christmas programme that she is planning.

It is hoped to go abroad to a choral festival in or around May next year, given the success (and lessons learned) of the Prague experience last November. Una made it clear that she would only handle the musical side of the preparations on this occasion. So a sub-committee was set up - Jim Slater, Maura Morgan, Jean Gilson - to investigate options and make a definite proposal in time for our September restart. They will in the meantime communicate proposals via our website.

2018 40th Anniversary Celebrations

Una reported that initial contact was made with the RTE Concert Orchestra about collaborating on a concert in 2018. The initial email reply was favourable, but detailed discussions have not yet taken place and Una is disappointed that it has been so slow in getting any reply to her requests.

Programme suggestions and comments were requested from the floor. In summary:

- Definitely not a requiem!
- Will not commission a new piece after the experience for the 25th anniversary
- Enthusiasm for a great choruses programme like what we did some years ago
- This could be developed into a greatest hits programme, taking in a variety of popular music.
- Consider a date in October to coincide with the exact anniversary of October 1978. Other options would be February or May.

New Members

There were already some responses to our appeal for new members during the recent Crowne Plaza concert. These will be followed up. Any choir member who is aware of possible interest in membership should make sure to follow up.

AOB

- The existing keyboard, which is 10 or 12 years old, is giving trouble and will need to be replaced. So we need to budget for that. There is the possibility of a grant.
- Grace will be subsidised to do another choral accompaniment course as this has proved very beneficial to the choir.
- The majority preference for the Eugene Ginty hosted musical supper in Dunany is for June 18th. 50 places have been provisionally reserved for this. The numbers will be finalised in one week's time for those who pay €25 by then - either directly to Maura Morgan or online via PayPal on the choir website.
- Liz Allen raised the possibility of having new members audition. This led to a lively discussion with many points of view. The agreement in the end was that there would not be auditions, but rather a test after a month's probation to determine the vocal range and choir section. The mentor system will continue for new members as in the past year.
- There was specific praise from the floor for the website in its latest format - thanks to Cathie.
- It was suggested from the floor that a vocal training workshop should be organised again.
- Madeleine paid tribute to Una for all she does for the choir with her organisational and musical skills and the way she comes to every rehearsal in good form, able to energise us all.

Rehearsals restart on Wednesday 7th September.

**SETANTA CHOIR ANNUAL ACCOUNTS
1 JUNE 2015 TO 31 MAY 2016**

INCOME

Members subscriptions includes €50 ex 2014/2015	6650
Quiz night	842
Surplus May concert in Crowne Plaza hotel 13/5/2016	4300

10692

EXPENDITURE

AGM Crowne Plaza Hotel 27/05/2015	464
Secretarial expenses 2015	73
Committee meetings	156
Music	462
Hosting Domain etc	404
Training subsidy (Grace Ugan concert in (Dub))	250
RHP insurances	130
Transport to Dublin (Prague) and Corlingford return	775
Corlingford Choral festival	330
Aprax Teasco singing for charity in mc Geoghs	120
Membership AOIC	60
New Amplifier	245
Replace timber supports with metal quick fit	800
Additional funding Prague boat trip	1000
Sundry items	143
Bank Fees	208

5390

BANK

Opening balance	1759
Add income	10692
New balance	12351
Less expenditure	5390
Closing balance	6961

**MAY CONCERT CROWNE PLAZA
13-May-16**

INCOME

Ticket sales 201 @ €2/each	7525
choir supports 45 @ €10/each	450
Raffle	1540

9615

EXPENDITURE

Crowne Plaza hotel	4529
Tickets/posters	251
Flowers	35
Guest artist	400

5315

Surplus income/expenditure €4,300