

Setanta Committee Meeting

14th January 2019, Ballymascanlan Hotel 7pm
23rd January, DkIT 6:30pm

Present: Una Murphy, Cathie Clifford, Pat Clinton, Celia Coyle, Jim Duffy, Carmel Hamilton, Joe McDonald, Maura Morgan, Mary Murphy, Murt Ó Séaghdha.

Christmas Concert, Carlingford, Sunday 16th December

- The concert was very well received, a big success.
- Financial details not yet fully available, but provisionally costs of €2480 and income €1200. The loss included having to pay more than expected for musicians due to last minute needs.

Carol Singing, Tesco, Thursday 20th December

- Our carol singing raised €551 for Simon Community. We received a very nice letter from them to thank us - "Your continuing support for Dundalk Simon Community is most appreciated. To receive one donation from you is wonderful, but to receive subsequent donations, which ensure that we can continue to provide our clients with hot food, a warm bed, and a place to relax and feel cared for, is truly awe inspiring."
- Special tribute must be paid to Clodagh's young daughters whose dancing accompaniment drew much affectionate admiration!

Condolences

The committee on behalf of the choir extend their condolences to the family and friends of:

- Michael McCabe, long time choir member and former committee member.
- Ciaran Reid, brother-in-law of choir member Carina Drumm.
- Eileen O'Reilly, sister of Jean Gilson

New Choir Members

- A number of new members are expected to join the choir this month. It is important that they be well mentored, especially during their first trial month. The section reps will ensure that this is done and explain the rules and expectations – not forgetting the handing back of sheet music if they leave the choir.

Celebrate St Patrick, Saturday 9th March

- Murt outlined email correspondence he had with John Anderson, producer of the annual Celebrate St Patrick event in Armagh Cathedral. This year it takes place on Saturday 9th March. Choirs are invited to take part along with individual singers, dancers, musicians and readers. There will be rehearsal that afternoon and then live performance that evening which will be professionally recorded and subsequently edited for broadcasting on worldwide social media the following weekend.
- Murt will write this up and Maura will make copies to distribute during next choir rehearsal so that we can gauge the level of interest before making a commitment to take part.

World Mental Health Week, 6-13th October 2019

- Una is considering the possibility of doing a fund-raising concert, probably in the Crowne Plaza, in late October or early November in aid of mental health, e.g. for SOSAD or AWARE. This would be shortly after World Mental Health Week and would hope to tap in on the growing awareness of this issue. The committee will investigate further.

Programme for the Year

- We begin on 16th January. Una's last rehearsal with us will be on 8th May as she has a trip beginning on the 10th. So we have 14 or 15 Wednesday rehearsals in between, depending on the length of the Easter break.
- The Celebrate St Patrick event in March would make a good start. Then we could begin preparing for a mental health fund-raising concert in October if that gets the go ahead. Alternatively we could look for a local choral festival in May or get together with some other choirs. The possibility previously mentioned of a joint concert with a choir from Sweden has fallen through. They selected another choir.
- If we go ahead with the Crowne Plaza in October the Christmas concert would have to be a short one, as we wouldn't have enough rehearsal time for two big concerts. An alternative would be to do the Crowne Plaza concert in December. Venue availability will be checked.
- All further discussed at short meeting on 23rd January – as follows below

Update 23rd January

Celebrate St Patrick, Armagh, Saturday 9th March

- Good level of interest in the choir to this proposal. Una was then in discussion with John Anderson to confirm our participation. We will sing two pieces – The Lark in the Clear Air and Óró Sé do Bheatha Bhaile. John will send us the pieces to be sung communally, including Be Thou My Vision and Christ Be Beside Me.

Programme for the Year

- Jim investigated dates available to book in December in both the Town Hall (13th & 14th) and Crowne Plaza (8th, as well as every Sunday in October).
- The Town Hall would be very expensive: €700 + €60 for website booking + €200 per technician required. So after some discussion this was ruled out.
- Since it would not be feasible to put on two big concerts after September, it was decided to have just a big Christmas concert in the Crowne Plaza on Sunday 8th December. Jim will book the venue.
- Eugene Ginty will not be available this time. So we need to find another guest artist.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 6th February, DkIT, 6:30pm