



Trustees Report for the period 1/08/2021-31/07/2022

The Charity's name: Côr Meibion Gwalia, translated from Welsh as Gwalia Male Choir.

Charity number: 1169319

Charity address:

c/o London Welsh Centre, 157-163
Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE

Charity Trustees:

Stephen Jeremy Davies

John William Harrow

Paul Simon Miner

Geoffrey Lewis Rogers

Charity's structure and management:

The Gwalia Male Choir comprises choral members supported by a musical director and an accompanist. It is managed by a committee of six members, four of whom are trustees. The committee is led by a Chairman. Other posts are Concert Secretary, Treasurer, Secretary, and Publicity & Website Officer. The committee meets on a regular basis through the choir year. The choir recruits its trustees and committee members by inviting nominations from members which are voted on at the choir's Annual General Meeting.

At an Extraordinary General Meeting on the 18th May 2022 a number of the Trustees and Committee members indicated their intention of stepping down from their positions at the subsequent Annual General Meeting of the choir. This included the chair, Steve Davies, the Treasurer Paul Miner, who was leaving the choir and the Secretary, Geoff Rogers. All three were trustees and indicated that they wished to relinquish this responsibility as well. Richard Hopkin agreed to serve as the new Chairman of the choir and Colin Sanford as the new Treasurer. Both also agreed to serve as trustees of the choir. John Taylor also agreed to become a trustee. John Harrow, the Concert Secretary, agreed to continue as a Trustee. Rod Powrie agreed to work with John in respect of the Concert Secretary role. Madoc Batcup subsequently agreed to be appointed Secretary to the choir.

At the ensuing Annual General Meeting, which was held on the 15th February 2023 these changes were duly implemented, and the choir therefore continues to have a committee of six people and four trustees.

Objectives and activities:

For financial year 2021-2022-Achievements and performance including public benefit:

The choir seeks to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects (in particular by the continuation of the tradition of Welsh choral music) through the presentation of public concerts and recitals.

The past achievements of the choir in pursuing these objectives was noted in the previous annual return of the choir at a time when its activities were severely hampered by the effects of the Covid lockdown and its aftermath. The choir was able to start to resume its schedule of engagements during the latter part of its financial year, and this included a St. David's Day concert at the Oxford and Cambridge Club with many Welsh favourites being sung. This was sufficiently successful for the choir to receive an invitation to perform again at the club's St. David's Day event in 2023.

The choir has a varied repertoire but particularly promotes the Welsh choral tradition and this included a keynote event during the year when the choir performed at the unveiling of the headstone of Cecil Griffiths, a Welsh runner who won an Olympic gold medal in 1920, but who died young, was buried in an unmarked grave at St. Laurence Church Little Stanmore and faded into obscurity. Recently, his grand-daughter started a campaign to commemorate his achievement with a headstone for his grave. This highlighted the coming together of a number of different Welsh historical and cultural strands and was widely reported in the Welsh media.

Other performances of the choir prior to the Annual General Meeting in February included at the Royal Academy of Arts, a radio show with Cerys Matthew, the renowned recording artist, BBC radio host and President of the choir, and providing musical entertainment at an evening of current affairs discussion at the London Welsh Centre. The choir was also asked to perform at the funeral of Cecil Griffiths' grand-daughter, who had tragically died from cancer shortly after the unveiling of her grandfather's headstone.

As a charity itself the Gwalia also helps other charities raise money, and this activity included raising over £1,000 in total for the Samaritans at Paddington station and for Shelter Cymru at a corporate event.

Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting on 15th February 2023.

1. The Chairman (in post since June 2022) began by thanking Steve for his work as the previous Chairman of the Gwalia; Wyn and Chris for their musical leadership; and all the Gwalia Committee especially John Harrow and Geoff Rogers for doing the heavy lifting on concert organisation and administration. He noted that both Geoff and Steve were stepping down as trustees, and that Geoff was additionally stepping down as Secretary. Special thanks were due to Geoff for all his hard work as Secretary over many years. The Chairman was grateful to and thanked Madoc for agreeing to take on the role.

Musically speaking, considering the challenges we faced, the past year had gone well with many successful performances. It had however been a shame that our planned trip to Germany had been cancelled by our hosts, and we had all felt keenly the loss of Mike Davies who had been a stalwart member and a good friend to so many of us for so many years.

The Chairman noted that we continued to face long-term challenges, which have been present for many years:

- while the Committee had taken steps to recruit new members and enhance our publicity, for example reaching out to students and via the Plaid event at LWC, it was acknowledged that we should all renew our efforts in this regard;
- if we are to improve musically, we do need regular attendance at rehearsals – while it is not expected that everyone can attend every week, it is not encouraging when members repeatedly do not show or cancel at the last minute;
- being a member of the Gwalia is a team effort and we all (not just the Committee) need to do more not just in attending regularly but also to publicise ourselves and find new members.

In conclusion the Chairman noted that overall it was encouraging that our pipeline of engagements was picking up. He thanked all the members for their support of his efforts and those of the Committee.

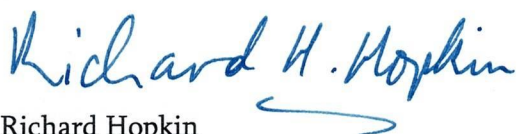
Treasurer's Report for the financial year to 31st July 2022

The year ending July 2022 has resulted in a £1,530 loss. This is despite an increase in revenue, year on year, to just under £5,000. With this increase in revenue, there has naturally been an increase in our operating costs. This increase is further highlighted due to the fact that the previous year was severely restricted by COVID and, therefore, all professional costs were much lower. Our rehearsal costs this year, represented almost three quarters of the total value of our expenses. This has been

measured, in previous years, against our member donations. This year's coverage was the lowest for over a decade at 32% coverage. An increase of member donations of 50% has already taken place and been received from 1st August 2022. The income from the future events for 2023, and into 2024, will allow us to continue to cover our expenses. Projected income for the current financial year (2022/23) will be around £2,500 more than in 2021/22.

Our thanks to Lekha Patel for undertaking the 'independent examination' of the accounts as required by the Charity Commission. The Trustees of Gwalia Male Choir have approved this Report.

Signed on behalf of the current Trustees:



Richard Hopkin

Chairman & Trustee

Gwalia Male Choir.

Dated 17th April 2023

(A copy signed by hand will be retained by the Choir Secretary)

Cor Meibion Gwalia**Income and Expenditure Account**

	2021-22	2020-21
Income		
Member donations	2,192.00	2,220.00
External donations	500.00	170.00
Engagements (fees and ticket sales)	4,950.00	85.00
Gift Aid rebate	0.00	0.00
Website download receipts	28.55	22.81
Total income	7,670.55	2,497.81
Expenditure		
Committee expenses	94.48	0.00
Donations	0.00	24.10
Insurance	71.85	71.85
Nat Ass of Choirs subscription	65.00	0.00
Website	143.88	0.00
Musician engagement fees	2,025.45	0.00
Microphone for Zoom Rehearsals	0.00	119.99
Rehearsal costs (with % cover by members)	6,800.00 32%	2,840.00 78%
Total Expenditure	9,200.66	3,055.94
Excess of Income over Expenditure	-1,530.11	-558.13
	7,670.55	2,497.81

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 JULY 2020

CHOIR ACCUMULATED FUNDS	31 July 2022	31 July 2021
Balance as at 31 July	2,682.38	3,937.99
REPRESENTED BY		
Current Assets		
Sums due (engagements)	0.00	400.00
Cash at bank	7,309.88	5,674.99
Advance CD payments/deposits	0.00	0.00
	7,309.88	6,074.99
Less Current committed funding		
Advance Payments	0.00	0.00
Fees & expenses payable	4,627.50	1,777.50
Engagement advances	0.00	85.00
Website maintenance	0.00	150.00
Outstanding NAC suscription	0.00	53.00
Zoom pro subscription January to July 2021	0.00	71.50
	4,627.50	2,137.00
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS	2,682.38	3,937.99