

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100469

Details

| | |
|------------|--|
| Known as | DMVC |
| Status | Received |
| Registered | 2014-12-15 |
| Register | View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register |

Contact

| | |
|---------|--|
| Address | 12C Warren Road Donaghadee County Down BT21 0ds BT21 0DS |
| Phone | 07855422624 |
| Email | mail@donaghadeechoir.co.uk |
| Website | www.donaghadeechoir.co.uk |

Activities

Purposes: (i) to promote the study and practice of choral music (ii) to present choral works in public performance (iii) to further an interest in music generally and (iv) to assist and support such charitable bodies or purposes as the Committee shall from time to time determine

What the charity does: The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science

How the charity works: Arts,Cultural,General charitable purposes

Who the charity helps: General public

Finances

| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2025-03-31 | £37,242 | £36,986 | £0 | 2 |

Trustees

| Name | Role | Appointed |
|-----------------------|------|-----------|
| Mr Alan Spence | | |
| Mr David Mcalpin | | |
| Mr Edwin Wheeler | | |
| Mr John McClements | | |
| Mr Lloyd Burbidge | | |
| Mr Michael Pritchard | | |
| Mr Norwood Steele | | |
| Mr Paul Weir | | |
| Ms Emma Morgan-Wilson | | |

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100469

Accounts

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

We report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 3 to 4.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to our attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

We have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

Our examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

Independent examiner's statement

Our role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving us cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

We have completed our examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Trustees of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, we have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Broad Street Advisory Ltd

Chartered Accountants

94 Hamilton Road

Bangor

Co Down

BT20 4LG

14th May 2025

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

General Fund

Year Ended 31 March 2025

| | Notes | £ | £ | £ |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|
| Balance at 1 April 2024 | | | | 26,386.68 |
| Add | | | | |
| Receipts: | | | | |
| Members' donations | | 12,140.00 | | |
| HMRC gift aid | | 3,245.73 | | |
| Concert | | 8,120.00 | | |
| Legacies | | 6,500.00 | | |
| Hire of hall | 1 | 4,704.00 | | |
| Charity | | 1,548.00 | | |
| Interest received | | 64.54 | | |
| Other income | | <u>920.00</u> | | |
| | | | 37,242.27 | |
| Less | | | | |
| Payments: | | | | |
| Salaries | | 4,950.00 | | |
| Accompanist | | 3,250.00 | | |
| Professional fees | | 720.00 | | |
| Advertising | | 180.00 | | |
| Charity | | 1,050.00 | | |
| Hall expenses | 2 | 3,343.67 | | |
| Light & heat | | 945.87 | | |
| Concert | | 12,013.78 | | |
| Bank charges | | 190.99 | | |
| Music library | | 5,000.00 | | |
| Sundry expenses | | <u>5,341.72</u> | | |
| | | | (36,986.03) | |
| Surplus for year | | | | 256.24 |
| Balance at 31 March 2025 | | | | 26,642.92 |

Presented by Mr David McAlpin (Hon. Treasurer DMVC) on 14th May 2025

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

Notes to Statements

These statements are prepared on a Receipts and Payment basis and, as such, simply represent the cash receipts and cash expenditure in the period. They do not necessarily reflect the receipts and costs pertinent to that period i.e. no attempt is made to assess accruals and prepayments at the period end.

1. Hire of hall

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Yoga | £2,190.00 |
| Line Dancers | £1,109.00 |
| Camera Club | £300.00 |
| Community Choir | £240.00 |
| Other | <u>£425.00</u> |
| | £4,264.00 |

2. Hall expenses

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| Cleaning | £275.00 |
| Insurance | £1,222.93 |
| Repairs | <u>£1,845.74</u> |
| | £3,343.67 |

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100469

Accounts

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

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Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

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Independent examiner's statement

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1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
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4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

We have completed our examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, we have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Broad Street Advisory Ltd

Chartered Accountants

94 Hamilton Road

Bangor

Co Down

BT20 4LG

13th May 2024

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

General Fund

Year Ended 31 March 2024

| | Notes | £ | £ | £ |
|---------------------------------|-------|---------------|-------------|------------------|
| Balance at 1 April 2023 | | | | 15,055.75 |
| Add | | | | |
| Receipts: | | | | |
| Members' donations | | 12,780.00 | | |
| HMRC gift aid | | 3,099.05 | | |
| Concert | | 5,635.00 | | |
| Legacies | | 3,500.00 | | |
| Hire of hall | 1 | 2,520.00 | | |
| Charity | | 1,760.95 | | |
| Interest received | | 32.99 | | |
| Other income | | <u>583.00</u> | | |
| | | | 29,910.99 | |
| Less | | | | |
| Payments: | | | | |
| Salaries | | 4,875.00 | | |
| Accompanist | | 880.00 | | |
| Professional fees | | 714.00 | | |
| Advertising | | 724.80 | | |
| Charity | | 4,450.00 | | |
| Hall expenses | 2 | 3,316.76 | | |
| Light & heat | | 1,240.72 | | |
| Concert | | 1,525.00 | | |
| Bank charges | | 173.00 | | |
| Sundry expenses | | <u>680.78</u> | | |
| | | | (18,580.06) | |
| Surplus for year | | | | 11,330.93 |
| Balance at 31 March 2024 | | | | 26,386.68 |

Presented by Mr David McAlpin (Hon. Treasurer DMVC) on 13th May 2024

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

Notes to Statements

These statements are prepared on a Receipts and Payment basis and, as such, simply represent the cash receipts and cash expenditure in the period. They do not necessarily reflect the receipts and costs pertinent to that period i.e. no attempt is made to assess accruals and prepayments at the period end.

1. Hire of hall

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Yoga | £600.00 |
| Line Dancers | £1,060.00 |
| Camera Club | £300.00 |
| Community Choir | £380.00 |
| Other | <u>£180.00</u> |
| | £2,520.00 |

2. Hall expenses

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| Cleaning | £675.00 |
| Insurance | £1,123.38 |
| Repairs | <u>£1,518.38</u> |
| | £3,316.76 |

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100469

Annual report

DMVC Chairman's Report, 3 June 2024.

Madam President, Music Director, Accompanist and members, I present the Chairman's report for 2023 – 2024.

I extend my thanks to everyone for your support throughout the year, both individually and collectively and especially to the members of Committee and the officers of the Choir.

I wish to thank especially:

Mark, our vice chairman, for his support, for standing in for me during my period of leave, and all of you for your understanding during that personal and difficult period.

I also want to thank all of you for your generous donations to the Marie Curie Hospice in Nicola's memory.

You won't be aware how much work Michael, our honorary secretary, does behind the scenes, which you do not see but which I know is very time consuming and always to the highest standard.

David is our honorary treasurer and he looks after the accounts immaculately both on a day-to-day basis and in preparing our accounts for the auditor.

They both deserve our great appreciation and, to prepare for the future I know that each would appreciate an assistant, so if you have the time, skills, commitment and the wish to have DMVC continue long into the future, please have a word with either to offer your services.

I wish to thank all committee members for your support in so many ways, especially in our recruitment campaign when Ed led the way. Dave has looked after the maintenance of the Hall and the trailer. He and Roy also voluntarily erected a fence along the rear of the car park, their work saving us a very significant amount of money, so to you both I extend our thanks.

Norman has continued to maintain the website and for this we are really appreciative

My thanks also to Ed who leaves the committee after five years and to Mark and Dave who complete their terms as section reps.

It is right that I recognise the contribution over twenty-two years which Norwood has made as the department officer and thank him for his contribution during this time. I extend a warm welcome to Graham as he undertakes the role.

Emma has been with us now for three seasons and continues to develop her role. I recognise the contribution which she has made during this present season.

And now, I wish to welcome Christine to the fold. She joined us early in the new year and has shown her musical skills both at the piano and in front of us when Emma has been unavailable. I do hope she has an extended period with us and that she and Emma form a talented team to provide our future leadership.

At the end of every year it is customary to look back, to self-assess, to decide what has gone well, to decide what could have been better and what should not be repeated.

My aims for the year were:

1. To continue to enjoy singing.
2. To continue to improve the quality of the choir's singing.
3. To continue the development work begun by David and Ed.
4. To encourage new men to join the choir.
5. To increase the number of engagements in the choir's itinerary.

I hope we achieved some of them:

To enjoy and improve our singing – As our engagements intensified in the final few weeks of the season, I believe our concentration improved and our performances reflected our efforts.

To continue the development work carried out by my predecessors – David and Ed – I'm not so sure that we achieved this aim.

To encourage new men to join the choir – we certainly managed to get nine new men through the door but only Josh has stayed – well done Josh. Why did the others not stay? – this is something which must be addressed by committee and a solution found before we embark on another recruitment campaign.

To increase our number of engagements – well this could not be classed as a success. We had two engagements before Christmas in 2023 – one in October and one, a carol service, in December. We also had a sing-along at the Copelands Care Home in December.

The Spring period was also quite bleak but we sang at Ballyblack Presbyterian Church in March and took part in the Bangor International Choral Festival where, unfortunately, we were not placed.

It is sad to say that a number of other engagements were for the funeral or celebration services of members or former members.

During the year we said goodbye to members Edwin Dunlop, Ivor Morrison, Ken Magill and Clyde Bell and to former members Alec Ireland and Sam Campbell. We were privileged to sing at four of these services and to be represented at the other two services. These men contributed well over two hundred years of singing the Choir and they helped enormously to achieve its very high standard of performance and success.

Personally, I remember Ken Magill's service particularly because about an hour before it was due to begin, we discovered that we had no-one to conduct the choir. I took responsibility and decided that I would do it. I must tell you that it is something that I will never forget. To stand in front of DMVC and hear the sound that we produce is an amazing experience. Thank you for that and for your support on that occasion.

So how do I assess my performance as your Chairman. I'm afraid it fell below the standard that I expect from myself and I believe there is one major reason for that conclusion and there are other supplementary reasons.

When Robert Wilson was our leader, Robert was permanently on Committee, he was able to plan ahead, perhaps even years, and he had so many contacts in the field of music upon whom he could call, or who could call upon him if they required a choir performance. When we lost Robert, we lost much more than a musical director, we lost the man who had the vision for the choir and who was loyally served by all the members.

We have never replaced Robert.

I say all this because in Robert's time, his permanence meant that the Chairman's role could be carried out on a one year basis but now, in just one year, I found it difficult to provide the vision and leadership which I believe the Choir requires. Indeed, I found it difficult to get a grasp on the role.

The role of Chairman should last much longer than a single year. My view is that unless we address the leadership of the Choir in a more permanent manner, rather than on a year to year basis, then the Choir will not develop or progress as we all wish.

I feel also that we must address our repertoire. There are many compositions which are standard for any male voice choir and which we must always maintain in our repertoire, but we must consider expanding that repertoire with music that we can perform at concerts and which will encourage those in the audience to return for another performance.

I am reminded of the President's comments at last year's AGM when she produced the programme of our sixtieth anniversary celebration to inform us that we were singing mostly the same pieces at our ninetieth celebration. Indeed, at our most recent concert we sang compositions which were taught to the Choir by Robert Wilson.

For next season I estimate that we will have 34 practice sessions and at 2 hours per session, that provides 68 hours of practice time. I see this as a great opportunity for development and to enhance the repertoire of DMVC.

For many, many years we were the top choir in Northern Ireland, if not far beyond. Choirs such as Portadown aspired to achieve our standard. Now we are striving to achieve their standard having been beaten by them in competition on the last two occasions when we sang against them.

I know and understand that we are an amateur choir made up of volunteers but, we are keen to come to the choir hall, to sing and to commit to our performances and I dearly wish that when we next take to a platform, we will have new compositions in our repertoire which the audience will enjoy and which we will enjoy singing.

I do hope you understand my views which are expressed for the good of DMVC in the desire that we will again, very soon, become the Choir

which others will see as the benchmark for male voice singing not only in Northern Ireland but much further afield.

Thank you.

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100469

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

We report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 3 to 4.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to our attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

We have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

Our examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

Independent examiner's statement

Our role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving us cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

We have completed our examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, we have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Broad Street Advisory Ltd

Chartered Accountants

94 Hamilton Road

Bangor

Co Down

BT20 4LG

13th May 2024

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

General Fund

Year Ended 31 March 2024

| | Notes | £ | £ | £ |
|---------------------------------|-------|---------------|-------------|------------------|
| Balance at 1 April 2023 | | | | 15,055.75 |
| Add | | | | |
| Receipts: | | | | |
| Members' donations | | 12,780.00 | | |
| HMRC gift aid | | 3,099.05 | | |
| Concert | | 5,635.00 | | |
| Legacies | | 3,500.00 | | |
| Hire of hall | 1 | 2,520.00 | | |
| Charity | | 1,760.95 | | |
| Interest received | | 32.99 | | |
| Other income | | <u>583.00</u> | | |
| | | | 29,910.99 | |
| Less | | | | |
| Payments: | | | | |
| Salaries | | 4,875.00 | | |
| Accompanist | | 880.00 | | |
| Professional fees | | 714.00 | | |
| Advertising | | 724.80 | | |
| Charity | | 4,450.00 | | |
| Hall expenses | 2 | 3,316.76 | | |
| Light & heat | | 1,240.72 | | |
| Concert | | 1,525.00 | | |
| Bank charges | | 173.00 | | |
| Sundry expenses | | <u>680.78</u> | | |
| | | | (18,580.06) | |
| Surplus for year | | | | 11,330.93 |
| Balance at 31 March 2024 | | | | 26,386.68 |

Presented by Mr David McAlpin (Hon. Treasurer DMVC) on 13th May 2024

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

Notes to Statements

These statements are prepared on a Receipts and Payment basis and, as such, simply represent the cash receipts and cash expenditure in the period. They do not necessarily reflect the receipts and costs pertinent to that period i.e. no attempt is made to assess accruals and prepayments at the period end.

1. Hire of hall

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Yoga | £600.00 |
| Line Dancers | £1,060.00 |
| Camera Club | £300.00 |
| Community Choir | £380.00 |
| Other | <u>£180.00</u> |
| | £2,520.00 |

2. Hall expenses

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| Cleaning | £675.00 |
| Insurance | £1,123.38 |
| Repairs | <u>£1,518.38</u> |
| | £3,316.76 |

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100469

Accounts

Accountant's Report

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

We report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 4

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to our attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

We have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

Our examination included as review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

Our role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving us cause to believe:

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4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Independent examiner's statement

We have completed our examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, we have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Broad Street Advisory Ltd

Chartered Accountants

94 Hamilton Road

Bangor

Co Down

BT20 4LG

23rd May 2023

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

General Fund

Year Ended 31 March 2023

| | Notes | £ | £ | £ |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Balance at 1 April 2022 | | | | 20,378.43 |
| Add | | | | |
| Receipts: | | | | |
| Members' donations | | 12,070.00 | | |
| | | | <u>12,070.00</u> | |
| Contributions | 1 | | 1,250.00 | |
| Members Christmas | | | 2,534.20 | |
| | | | <u>15,854.20</u> | |
| Less | | | | |
| Payments: | | | | |
| Salaries | | 4,220.00 | | |
| Pianist | | 50.00 | | |
| Professional fees | | 594.00 | | |
| Uniforms | | 350.00 | | |
| Advertising | | 630.00 | | |
| Subscriptions | | 553.00 | | |
| Computer expenses | | 97.00 | | |
| Sundries | | 350.00 | | |
| Postage | | 5.44 | | |
| | | 6,849.44 | | |
| Balance at 31 March 2023 | | | | <u>29,383.19</u> |

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

Charity Fund

Year Ended 31 March 2023

| | Notes | £ | £ | £ |
|---------------------------------|-------|---|----------|------------------------|
| Balance at 1 April 2022 | | | | 691.97 |
| Add | | | | |
| Receipts: | | | | |
| Charity collections | | | 1,897.50 | |
| Less | | | 250.00 | |
| Payments | | | | |
| Donations | | | | |
| Balance at 31 March 2023 | | | | <u>2,321.47</u> |

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

Property Fund

Year Ended 31 March 2023

| | Notes | £ | £ | £ |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Balance at 1 April 2022 | | | | (2,553.78) |
| add | | | | |
| Receipts: | | | | |
| National Lottery Fund | | 0.00 | | |
| Accessories | | 0.00 | | |
| Interest | | <u>15.16</u> | <u>15.16</u> | |
| less | | | | |
| Payments: | | | | |
| Hall Expenses | 2 | 1,837.27 | | |
| Light & Heat | | 1,732.74 | | |
| Interest/charges | | <u>152.87</u> | | |
| | | | 3,722.88 | <u>(3,707.72)</u> |
| Balance at 31 March 2023 | | | | <u>(6,261.50)</u> |

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

Tour Fund

Year Ended 31 March 2023

| | Notes | £ | £ | £ |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Balance at 1 April 2022 | | | | (2,164.14) |
| add | | | | |
| Receipts: | | | | |
| Members' donations | | | | |
| Travel refunds - Flights | | <u>2,353.90</u> | | |
| less | | | | |
| Payments: | | | | |
| Other (Refunds) | | <u>(5,380.00)</u> | | |
| | | | | <u>(3,026.10)</u> |
| Balance at 31 March 2023 | | | | <u>(5,190.24)</u> |

Presented by Mr David McAlpin (Hon. Treasurer DMVC) on 23rd May 2023

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

Notes to Statements

These statements are prepared on a Receipts and Payment basis and, as such, simply represent the cash receipts and cash expenditure in the period. They do not necessarily reflect the receipts and costs pertinent to that period i.e. no attempt is made to assess accruals and prepayments at the period end.

1. Contributions towards costs;

| | | |
|--------------|---------|------------------|
| Camera Club | £290.00 | |
| Yoga classes | £480.00 | |
| Line Dancers | £480.00 | £1.250.00 |

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100469

Annual report

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT SEASON 2022 – 2023

Good evening everyone and welcome to our first (almost) post-Covid AGM.

The survival of the choir through three very difficult years, when our opportunities for practice and performance were very limited, has been inspiring. This has been possible through a number of factors, including the leadership and dedication of David McAlpin and his committee, the hard work of Michael Pritchard our indefatigable Honorary Secretary and the musical direction of Norwood Steele, who led the choir after the departure of Ivan Black. However, most of the credit is due to you, the members, who continued to support the choir despite having very little practical return on your investment. Thank you all.

It has been a great honour to serve you as Chairman. When I took over from David, he had been in post for a marathon three years, during which he put in the graft and had little benefit from it, except for the satisfaction of doing an excellent job. We had, through death and illness, lost a number of much-valued members. The age profile of the choir was also on an upward curve. It was therefore essential to embark on a recruitment drive and this was my first priority. To do this, we ran a number of open evenings to attract new members. These were promoted in the press, through leafleting, through our social media channels and by personal contact. Although the first one had to be postponed owing to the sad death of Her Majesty the Queen, overall the initiative has been very successful and our numbers are once again creeping upwards. This is evident in the turnout for practices and the numbers on stage at our performances. I know that the incoming committee intend to continue with these efforts and I'm sure that you, the members, will give them every assistance.

Our season began early on a joyful note with Emma's wedding in Portico in July. Sadly, our next appearance was at the funeral of Gibson McCann in August. Then, with an emphasis on recruiting and bringing on new members, we practiced hard during September and October, until Emma had to leave us temporarily for maternity leave. Once again, Norwood stepped into the

breach and took over as musical director from mid October until February, when Emma was able to rejoin us. Norwood led us into our three Christmas engagements in December, namely the turning on of the Christmas lights in Carrowdore on the 10th (where Emma visited us with her new baby Nina), then the Carol Service in aid of Shelterbox in 1st Presbyterian Church, Donaghadee on the 11th and finally to Bangor Abbey with Julia Hutchinson (nee Clarke) on 16th December. We are most grateful to Norwood for his leadership and guidance during that time.

Regarding performances, the aftermath of Covid left us short of church engagements, the bread-and-butter of our public appearances. These engagements help us with practice in deportment and the confidence to stand up and sing in front of an audience. However, the churches were quite understandably cautious in encouraging full-throated singing at first. In the coming season, we are working towards supporting many more church services.

In 2022, the choir celebrated 90 years since its foundation. This occasion was marked by a gala dinner at Clandeboye Lodge, where members, their guests and friends of the choir enjoyed a good meal and a convivial evening. Another strand of the 90th anniversary was a concert. This was originally scheduled for October but was postponed until 31st March 2023 so that Emma could take part and to give us more time for rehearsal. The concert also was dedicated to the members who had died during Covid and whose funerals we were unable to attend to give them the customary choir send-off. In addition, it raised a substantial sum of money for the Storehouse NI charity. The venue was the Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church in Bangor, which is an excellent venue, seating an audience of up to 600 (although perhaps a bit cramped onstage) We were supported in this concert by Donaghadee Community Choir, Bangor Ukuleles, clarinettist Gillian McCutcheon, soprano Helenna Howie and our own Ivan Black. The concert drew nearly a full house and I have received many compliments regarding the variety in the supporting artists. It was a great return to public performance for the choir. Ivan had a busy night and preceding weeks, as our usual accompanist Stuart Tanner was unavoidably absent owing to the illness of his mother in England. Ivan came back to accompany the choir, not only at the concert but in the weeks of practice leading up to it and we are most grateful to him for this.

Several of our new members joined us on stage for the first time at this concert and we were delighted to welcome back Sam Campbell, in recovery from long term Covid illness.

Having come second by a short nostril in the male voice section at Bangor Festival in 2022, we returned this year to compete in this category and also in the sacred music section. I am pleased to report that we won the male voice category and also performed creditably in the sacred music, although beaten to first place by two really excellent ladies' choirs. Bangor Festival showed that the choir is back on song and can now field 50 singers. It was evident that the impetus of competition sharpened everyone's attitude and enthusiasm.

This year could not have been the success it has been without the input of many people, to all of whom I extend my thanks. I wish to particularly mention Emma, who has juggled maternal duties with those of Musical Director very successfully. Emma's easy but firm leadership and her exacting musical standards have made practices highly enjoyable. As mentioned above, Norwood's contribution as assistant Musical Director has been immense, not to mention his incorrigible role as Department Officer and we are most grateful. Michael Pritchard is a tower of strength and where would we be without him? Dave Ayre has quietly shouldered most of the burden of looking after the hall, inside and out. Outside the committee, Norman Willis has continued to run the website, which is now a very useful musical learning resource. Ian Houston manages our Facebook page and is also our group photographer of choice. Hayden McClenahan has taken over as music librarian and has been recognised through receiving the Stanley Robertson Memorial Trophy earlier in this meeting, and has put matters on the archive and organized it splendidly. Many others have put in time and effort on behalf of the choir and I am very grateful to all of them.

In conclusion, during the past year, the choir has clearly recovered its mojo and is ready to cement its reputation as the leading male voice choir in Ireland. I hope that the coming season will see us carrying out many more engagements, increasing our membership, and that we will once again go touring. Tours bring the choir even more together and help new members get to know old hands. I am grateful for the honour of serving as your chairman

and wish the incoming chairman and committee every success in the season to come.

Finally finally, before I end I have one task to undertake. Over the 90 years of this choir there have been many, many legends who achieved that status across many, many avenues and anecdotes. Memories invoke legendary status to incredible servants of this choir and I wish, on your behalf, to highlight and install another one. I have already made reference to his role in looking after the choir after Ivan departed and Emma was appointed. In actual fact he has kept this choir going and together on many occasions. Add to that his meticulous directions as department officer over many many years.

To that end I wish to present Norwood with a photograph which is not for his living room wall but for the choir wall, as he now joins the legends. This is a reflection of respect and in appreciation by us all for what you have done over the last few years and beyond. You are a true DMVC MAN!!

Ed Wheeler.

June 2023

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100469

Annual return

Accountant's Report

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Donaghadee Male Voice Choir

We report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 4

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to our attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

We have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

Our examination included as review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

Our role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving us cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Independent examiner's statement

We have completed our examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, we have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Broad Street Advisory Ltd

Chartered Accountants

94 Hamilton Road

Bangor

Co Down

BT20 4LG

23rd May 2023