



### Secretary's Report for AGM – September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019

In this report, I will give a brief summary of the events that VICA organised from September 2018 to September 2019.

**Fundraising concert:** Our first event after the summer break was a fundraising concert on October 19th 2018. Pdraig McCauley from Armagh performed a two hour set of Irish music in Max Max pub. Over 250 euros was collected that night with about 60 people attending.

**Irish Literature evening:** On November 10th, we had an evening of Irish Literature which took place in Mulligan's Irish Pub on Calle Yecla. The event started with poetry and short story readings. The main event consisted of a talk on James Joyce titled: "An Introduction to James Joyce and his Major Works". Daniel Curran from Maynooth University gave the talk. This was a very enjoyable evening, with about 75 people attending.

**Short Film afternoon:** On Saturday, March 2nd, we organised a matinee of Short Irish Films at Cinemas Las Vegas Valencia. The afternoon consisted of 4 short award-winning Irish films – Rubaí (12 minutes), The Sound of People (7 minutes), The Crush (15 minutes) and Yu Ming is ainm dom (13 minutes). Each film was followed by a short, open discussion. This was a great event and was very well organised by Edel. However, the number of people attending was lower than we had hoped and resulted in a financial loss. This may have been because of the time of day we held the event.

**St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival:** The highlight of our year was on March 17th, when we organised the 2019 St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival in Tinglado 2. Over 500 people attended the event, which showcased the best of Irish music, dancing, sport, language, food and drink. There was also a dedicated kids area with a bouncing castle, face-painting and arts and crafts.

The San Vicent GAA club had demonstration games of Gaelic Football and Hurling throughout the event.

The day finished with the 2nd annual St. Patrick's Day parade around the Port, starting and finishing at Tinglado 2.

Thanks to our event sponsors for their financial support that makes events like this possible. The Embassy of Ireland in Madrid and Tourism Ireland were a great help in getting the event permits, and their suggestions and financial support helped greatly. We were honoured to welcome Caroline Phelan, Deputy Head of Mission at the Irish Embassy in Madrid, to our event. St. Patrick's Irish Pub also provided generous financial support for this event.

Thanks also to the Ayuntamiento de Valencia for covering the cost of the venue – Tinglado 2 was an ideal place to have an event like this.

**Irish Literary evening:** On Wednesday June 19th, Wexford writer and poet Westley Barnes headlined another Literary evening at Sankofa Espai Cultural. About 20 people attended this event.

**Irish dance workshop:** On July 13th, we had our Irish dance workshop weekend with our first guest tutor, Charlene Morrison from Mayo. The adult beginners class had 6 attendees, the adult intermediate had 4, and the children's class had 3. Feedback was very positive on this event.

VICA's music sessions are going from strength to strength, with regular Irish music being played in a variety of locations in the city.

I would like to thank everyone on the VICA St.Patrick's Day sub-committee who helped make the event a great success –Andy, Chris, Claudia, Cynthia, Dermot, Diarmuid, Éamon, Edel, Eoin, Karen, Patricia and Philip. Thanks also to Victor Puigdengolas for his legal advice and help with getting the St. Patrick's Day permit. Victor spent countless hours in dealing with the authorities in the Ayuntamiento and in the port.

I would also like to thank the main VICA committee for their help and support throughout the year – Karen, Dermot and Edel.

Is mise,

Fionn O'Reilly

Rúnaí