

Portaferry and Strangford Trust Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 December 2020

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Portaferry and Strangford Trust Limited
Charity registration number	NIC100148
Company registration number	NI621790
Principal office and registered office	Westgate 15 The Strand Portaferry Co Down BT22 1PF

The trustees

Mr J Elliott
Mr G Lavery
Mr G Lennon
Mrs M McCarthy
Mrs A Murphy
Dr J Sigwart
Mr R Murphy
Mr S Reilly
Mrs U Reilly
Ms D Birkett
Mrs E Roddy

Company secretary Mrs A Murphy

Independent examiner Imelda Rogan (BSC. Hons. FCA) On behalf of Rogan Accountancy Limited
Sketrick House
Jubilee Road
Newtownards
Co Down
BT23 4YH

Structure, governance and management

Legal structure

Portaferry and Strangford Trust Limited is a Company limited by Guarantee and is a registered charity, regulated by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. The company has been awarded charitable status by HM Revenue and Customs. It is a not for profit organisation.

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Structure, governance and management *(continued)*

Governance arrangements

Portaferry and Strangford Trust is currently governed by a board of 11 trustees (subject to a maximum of 14). The board can co-opt new trustees as and when required. The charity's chair is elected from the members on an annual basis and is ratified at the Annual General Meeting. New directors are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Articles of Association, the committee and decision making process, and recent financial performance of the charity.

Objectives and activities

The company's charitable objectives are:

1. to secure by such means as are available for the public benefit the preservation, protection and improvement of buildings or land or structures of particular beauty, or of historic, environmental, architectural or constructional merit or interest in the Portaferry and Strangford area, and to stimulate and educate public interest therein;
2. acquire, restore, repair, renovate and improve buildings and land (including parkland) for the community common benefit in Portaferry and Strangford and where thought desirable erect new buildings for the general benefit of the said community;
3. make environmental improvements to properties, streets, streetscape and land (including parkland) generally in the areas of Portaferry and Strangford including where appropriate planting and horticultural improvements;
4. generally promote and encourage the education of the public in historic architecture, understanding of planning, and appreciation of the built environment, landscape and townscape environment whether through exhibitions, lectures, seminars or otherwise or by commenting on planning applications;
5. co-operate with the local authority, local planning authority and all other statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, charities or persons having aims similar to the company;
6. to heighten awareness of the importance of the concept of sustainability and promote sustainable development;
7. to carry out, encourage and foster research and so far as may be practicable to disseminate the results of same, to cause to be written and printed or otherwise reproduced and circulated, gratuitously or otherwise, literature, reports and other documents.

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Year ended 31 December 2020

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

Activities

Portaferry and Strangford Trust aims to celebrate and promote the maritime and built heritage of Portaferry, Strangford and the surrounding area by regenerating buildings and landscape and developing a maritime centre to promote the rich past, present and future of the area by all or any of the following means:

1. running maritime events involving the local communities. These events raise awareness, generate interest, and have high educational content;
2. developing good links with local organisations including councils, museums, historical societies, Portaferry Regeneration Limited, Strangford Lough Lecale Partnership and Queen's University Marine Lab;
3. use and encourage use of empty heritage buildings.

Strategic report

The following sections for achievements and performance and financial review form the strategic report of the charity.

Achievements and performance

2020 started in the usual energetic and enthusiastic way, having just hosted the 2019 Carol Ship on Strangford Lough event which was a huge success. Plans for the incoming year included capitalising on community enthusiasm for the activities carried out by the charity, continuing to develop the Ropewalk Maritime Centre, continuing to host talks and events. However, with the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic, plans quickly changed, scheduled talks were postponed, the Maritime Centre was closed during much of the year due to government regulations, and the annual Carol Ship event was cancelled. Our usual income streams, such as funds raised from hosting talks and events, were interrupted. Nevertheless, with the much needed help from our regular funders, including Ards and North Down Borough Council, in addition to our very generous local benefactors and supportive community groups, we were able to satisfy our financial obligations and keep our finances secure and intact.

Whilst financial survival was our main focus during the year, closure of our facilities provided an opportunity to make substantial progress with the Jim Blaney Project. With the Maritime Centre remaining closed to the public, we were able to divert our time and attention to the project, furthering the activities of archiving and building display space for this vast collection. This was an inadvertent positive consequence of the pandemic.

Social distancing regulations also meant that our Trustees had to adapt to using online hosting technologies, such as Zoom, to prevent interruption to our regular meetings. We are now in a position to make use of online meeting software to continue to build on communications and build relations further afield.

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Financial review


Results for the year

During the year ended 31 December 2020 the company generated a surplus in unrestricted reserves of £1,679 and a deficit of £2,470 in restricted reserves.

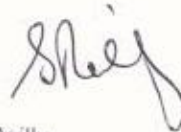
Plans for future periods

Our plans for 2021 and beyond include the continued search for funding, we will recommence our talks and events, and continue to develop the Maritime Centre. We have launched our vast documentation collection online, enabling researchers from all over the world to access our archives. We have re-opened the Maritime Centre and are delighted that we have had over 1,000 visitors, despite having to restrict numbers to comply with the continued social distancing measures.

The trustees' annual report and the strategic report were approved on 20 September 2021 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Mrs A Murphy
Trustee



Mr S Reilly
Trustee