



Aghalee Village Hall

Aghalee Village Hall

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Aghalee Village Hall

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Aghalee Village Hall

TRUSTEES' AND OTHER INFORMATION

Trustees

Stephen Bann
Michael Beacham
Derek Blakely
Christopher Buller
Pauline Buller
Alison Gawith
Fernando Gutierrez
Bobbie Hamill
Andrea Huff
Matt Hull
Fiona Maree
Pat McAdams
Susan McCavigan
Anne Miskelly
Kerry Quinn
Walter Robertson
Lewis Trevithick

Charity Number in Northern Ireland

NIC100157

Principal Address

6 Lurgan Road
Aghalee
Co. Armagh
BT67 0DD
United Kingdom

Independent Examiner

Daly Park & Company Ltd
Chartered Accountants
4 Carnegie Steet
Lurgan
Co. Armagh
BT66 6AS
Northern Ireland

Principal Bankers

Danske Bank
45-48 High Street
Portadown
Co. Armagh
BT62 1LB
Northern Ireland

Solicitors

R M Cullen & Son.
16-22 Edward Street
Portadown
Co. Armagh
BT62 3NA
Northern Ireland

Aghalee Village Hall TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present their Trustees' Report and the unaudited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustees' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The trustees of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the trustees of Aghalee Village Hall present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 31 December 2023.

The company is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and, although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102, the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

Mission, Objectives and Strategy

In the wider world, 2023 dawned with Russia's continued intense bombardment of Kyiv and the Met Office confirmed that 2022 was the UK's warmest year since records began in 1884.

In Northern Ireland, as 2023 arrived, we had been without a functioning government for some 11 months, and major budgetary crisis was facing a number of public services.

All did not bode well for the incoming year.

After Christmas 2022, a number of the Village Hall Committee were recovering after having been in hospital, contracted either Covid or a bad flu which had going about, and it was hoped everyone was well recovered and fighting fit for 2023.

Grants 2023

Halifax Comm Fdn NI towards the Art/Activity Programme	£4,000.00
LCCC - MAC in the community towards the Art/Activity Programme	£750.00
LCCC - Xmas – towards Christmas celebrations	£1,000.00
LCCC – Coronation Grant towards celebrating the Coronation	£500.00
LCCC - Community Service Grant towards core costs	£4,345.00
LCCC Hardship Fund towards AgeNI hampers Jan - April 24	£2,000.00
Awards for All towards consultancy for the future, tables and equipment	£10,000.00
Total granted	£24,595.00

Once again, we offer a huge thank you to everyone in the local community who has supported us with donations, to Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council who put their trust in us and continue to give us so much support through their various programmes, and to all the other Trusts and Agencies who have given us funding this year.

Fund-raising 2023

Over 2023, a grand total of £4,642.03 was raised through fund-raising efforts. Of £1,540.53 of this we can claim HMRC aid of approximately £385.13.

This is a superb amount to boost our funds; many thanks to everyone who was involved.

Groups continuing to run over summer

Exercise to Music Classes
AgeNI Aghalee Group
Aghalee Taekwondo Club
Jeanne Cree Ballet
Aghalee Art Club

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Activities Programme 2023 – Applications opened December 2022 and was very heavily subscribed. The 2023 programme has been a massive success once again, with large numbers of people both locally and from wider afield hearing about our super programme and wanting to take part.

This programme has been funded by: Telecommunity, Halifax Foundation NI, The Honourable The Irish Society, John Moores Foundation NI, Arnold Clark, Arts Council Northern Ireland, Garfield Weston and Awards for All. Our sincere thanks to all of these funders as without their support the programme wouldn't have been possible.

Stats for 2023

116 workshops, including 8 courses, 300 individuals who booked places on programme.
1,300 places available and booked.

The majority of workshops were for 10 people, but varied between 8 and 20 depending on the activity being undertaken.

In October 8 workshops had to be cancelled for 2023 to facilitate hire by Film Company These will be run in January 2024 with places offered to the original applicants first rather than made public. Carried over workshops will restart on Saturday 20th January until end November 2024. There should be almost enough funding to run but we will continue to apply for funding to complete.

Some feedback:

1 - I have attended a number of workshops held at the Village hall in the past 8 months. The Arts Programme has given me the opportunity to try some things that I have not done before and in some cases it's something I have never even heard of. The range of classes has been incredible and the tutors have been so friendly and accommodating. The classes have given me an opportunity to also make new friends but have also seen my skills improve over the classes
2 - Initially, for me, entrance and participation in this past year's programme was a 'vehicle' to assist me on my journey forward as a 'new' widow. Although feeling 'tender' at the outset, there was a warm welcome, a strong sense of community, and with much encouragement I quickly realised that one course would never suffice. For me, these affordable and accessible classes included crochet, ceramics, willow wreath making, felting, and pebble art. I formed wonderful new friendships, learnt many new skills, updated and enhanced historical ones, gained fresh confidence whilst improving my wellbeing along the way. For me the opportunities at AVH have been a 'lifeline', enhanced in 'no small way' by the clean and comfortable, well stocked premises and the tireless commitment of the team who have ensured its success.

3 - I'm very happy to report that all the classes I have been lucky enough to attend have all been excellent. Each class has been very different & has given me a chance to learn new skills. I have also enjoyed the social aspect, having the opportunity to meet different people. The classes at the weekends have been a life line for me as I am now living on my own & family and friends are tied up with their own lives.....thus another opportunity to connect with other people. The art classes have been great & it's particularly important to have some evening classes which follow on for several weeks especially during the dark, dank days. Also the crochet classes which I have never done before & have learned how to & read a pattern. There are a lot of opportunities thanks to your hard work and dedication. Flower arranging, Silk painting, Ceramic jug making, Woodworking & Pebble art just to name a few all of which have been great to take part in. Very much hoping these opportunities will continue for the future. Thanks again

Future Activities Programme 2024 – 2026

We met with The Big Lottery on 13th September and were invited to make an application to People and Communities for a 3 year grant up to £60,000 for programming. They suggested we change name from Arts programme to Activities programme as it was more appropriate for the funding stream. The application to Peoples in Communities (Lottery), £58K over 3 years was postponed due to committee illness but the Lottery will be in touch in January 2024 for a possible March submission if we wish to continue. This will be for 3 years funding to support a continuing activities.

Maintenance

As well as the regular, ongoing, regular maintenance issues, we had to start the process to carry out repairs and remedial work to the rear of the hall, between the two security gates. Barge boards and fascias need some major repair, some of the wooden boards need replaced and painting and the high areas of the walls need repainted also. The estimated cost of these works are in the range of £25,000. Whilst it is a financial commitment to spend this amount, it will be cheaper than trying to do so in stages - safe and secure scaffolding carried out by a reputable company will be required to be in place for the entire duration of the works and depending on trades availability, this could be a number of weeks. This is a large job with potential to go awry if not professionally handled. South West Antrim Construction who have carried out work for AVH previously and with whom the committee agreed to use is a reputable company with proper insurance and will coordinate the complete works which our volunteers would not have time to do with individual contractors. Tasks also include carrying out a risk assessment, checking insurances, liaison, and safety checks with NIE and these too would be undertaken with SWAC. Our maintenance manager will liaise with SWAC in getting these works successfully completed.

All white tables were checked out and repairs made.

Covid notices were taken down.

Weeds as rear and sides of the halls were sprayed off.

The car park marking was sorted out again and nonslip surface laid in alleyway. The surface at the alleyway has lifted in places and the company will redo the work when weather is better.

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for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Thanks to Frank McGrady & Matt for dealing with all tables before upholstery restart, to Alison, Owen, Susan, Pauline and others who weeded and tidied and to Chris and John Buller for dealing with the weeds around the back and side.

Seats at Wildflower meadow

We had asked the Council about a possible path in to the seating at the wildflower meadow but had been advised this was not possible at the time. We had further requests again in 2023 for paths to make it more accessible and more inviting to access the seating from the footpath. A committee member has been in telephone discussions with the Councils regeneration and infrastructure manager and the case has been escalated with confirmation the parks and amenities team will be taking a look at installing a pathway in the wildflower garden in the New Year. There is also the possibility of additional planting.

Broadwater issues/update

Issues this year regarding the towpath and Broadwater, included people parking on the towpath, bins being perpetually full, loud music being heard and people camping. Several of these activities flout local bye-laws. Due to the difficulty of parking on the towpath for the Council, DfI have taken back the emptying of the bins. Some bins have also been moved to other locations.

Councillor Claire Kemp has been liaising with DfI about the issues and about overgrown vegetation. Some works were carried out towards September and one of our committee reported it had been all left in a bit of a mess. Aghalee to Broadwater wasn't left so bad, but from Broadwater to Soldierstown Bridge was just a mess as was Soldierstown to Moira. The Agency had brought machines in to scrape back grass and weeds but it had not been well done. In most places it was only possible to walk in single file.

Donations – Alison McClintock (Carols n Cake Event 2022) made some donations of equipment for upholstery plus table linen, a cool-box and an organ for the stage. We also had a donation of a tea set for Afternoon Tea events from Pat McAdams.

This year we continued to require caretaking help required from club reps and we thank them for their help and support:

TUESDAY NIGHT - Taekwondo Club – after class to put out 6 brown tables and 12 chairs for AgeNI on Wed morning.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT - Exercise Class – after class to put out against wall 16 white tables for Thursday Upholstery use

THURSDAY NIGHT – Either Taekwondo Club or Ballinderry Badminton Club (depending on who is the last group using the hall on a Thursday night) – after class to put out and erect 15 white tables for SRC use on a Friday morning.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON – Taekwondo Club to put tables away in store.

DfI Festive Lighting

We were approached in early 2023 by a resident from Coronation Gardens to see if we could get the infrastructure restored to a lighting column in order to have Festive Lighting reinstated at Christmas. This had been removed when DfI Lights upgrading some street lights and had replaced with a column with no infrastructure. The cost to reinstate fitments was quoted by DfI at £300 and due to DfI funding constraints, the community would have to pay for the work. AVH confirmed that given hall fundraising activities there were funds available and it was agreed to fund as a goodwill gesture to the community.

In December Chris repaired lights and had arranged for these to be put up with help from Nigel Grant and Frank McGrady. Electrical contractor – Stephen Magee Electrical supervised as per DfI/NIE licence requirements.

Traffic Calming/update – Money for this was to have come from Small Villages Scheme but due to all the restrictions we were unsure when the work will finally be carried out. There had been an objection which had to be investigated and considered and which has now been discounted so it is expected works will go ahead in early 2024. DfI staff had been seen in village during October, marking out where lighting columns are to be moved to, facilitating planting of trees, so it would seem things are beginning to start moving.

Death

The funeral was held on 19th September of Prof Rod Blackshaw. Rod was a past Chairman and served on the committee between 1985 and 1987 and was Chairperson of the Fundraising Committee during that refurbishment. The family lived in the little house beside the hall before they moved to England. Deepest Sympathies were extended to the Family.

Filming enquiry

We were approached in September by a location scout for the Children's BBC programme 'A Kind of Spark'.

'A Kind of Spark is a heart-warming story about friendship, courage and self-belief, based on the award-winning novel by neurodivergent author Elle McNicoll. Aimed at children 8-12, it tells the inspirational story of teenager Addie, a neurodivergent girl, growing up and learning the power of her voice. Set across one life-changing summer holiday this season sees Addie taking the voice she found in Season 1 and learning to use it in a way that is both powerful and personal.'

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There's a good chunk of the schedule that takes place in a Village Hall, and having seen some of pictures of the Aghalee Village Hall online I think that it would work very well on this show. We would actually need the location on 2 separate occasions in close proximity.

It is currently Scheduled for: Monday 9th October - Thursday 19th October (Inclusive) and Thursday 26th October - Friday 10th November (Inclusive)

If these dates suit and you are open to having us use the premises I'd be delighted to come down and chat with you more about it. Thanks for taking my call and hope to hear from you soon.'

Well, this was too good an opportunity to miss so we agreed to meet with them the same day the email was received. After a number of meetings over the following week, we agreed a contract and it was agreed filming would commence as planned on 9th October.

Then ensued a very hurried search for premises in which to relocate all our user groups. They were all eventually relocated in – Craigmore Church Hall, Soldierstown Church Hall and Ballinderry War Memorial Hall and one workshop taking place in Aghalee Presbyterian Church Hall. There a few little glitches here and there but on the whole, things went very well. We had to reschedule the Craft Fair and 8 Arts Programme workshops had to be postponed and held after filming finished.

The production team started work in the hall on 9th and they made changes to suit their filming schedule. The Secretary checked the premises each day as required by our insurance company and has advised the crew if any alterations and changes were required to comply with H&S arrangements. The planned leaving date after all put back to normal in the hall was Friday 17th November. We were not allowed to take photos or to publish anything other than we are given by the film company until the show airs in 2024.

Filming – This was a great success. The contract was eventually sorted out satisfactorily with help from our Solicitors, Claire Elliott of RM Cullen & Son, pro bono. The filming caused some excitement in the village. We had many contacts from members of the public asking what's been going on as they saw actors walking about every day. There have been advantages to a number of businesses due to the filming, the re-location sites have all made a small profit, as have local building supplies, shops both here and in Aghagallon and cafés in Aghagallon. Members of the committee have been in and out daily with the film company and have a few photos for use when allowed.

Thanks to everyone who agreed to 'go for it' and who relocated to other sites for the duration; it was well worth our while hiring to the company despite a few disruptions in and around the village. Chris will arrange payment of the other locations as soon as possible, and will invoice the film company before the end of the month.

There are a few bits and pieces that need remedial attention, such as some paint off walls in PG Hall, a blind in the Loft needs replaced and a few other items, including a small repair required to the floor where a castor came of a piano being transported, but we will bear the cost of repair. The gold lame 'flat' and a couple of other items will be left in place.



Youth worker – Aghalee

The Education Authority have been trying again to recruit for a youth worker for Rural Lisburn, which includes Aghalee. They had not been successful recruiting previously hence the delay in putting someone in post. To date, there still is no youth worker in place and we continue to lobby for this with help from our local Councillors.

Policy Reviews

There is a review and changes to be made to Safeguarding Policy and training implemented for the committee to bring up to date. In 2024 several other policies have to be reviewed and updated as necessary

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Chip Shop Planter

We are indebted to Christine Lynn, from Down to Earth Gardening for continuing to sort out and replant this container every season. It's lovely to have this sort of job carried out by a local firm on a voluntary basis



VOLUNTEERS – THANKS

Many thanks to all the volunteers and helpers who have helped out in any way over the past 12 months. There are those who have: set out tables and equipment, put this all away again, looked after bookings, collected subs and ticked off names at workshops, washed dishes, served food, given of their time to fundraise, sell ballot tickets, do the H&S paperwork, sort the accounts, become elves and other Christmas VIPS, and make the hall what it has been over 2023. Thank you all.

User Group Reports

AgeNI - Aghalee

In 2023 AgeNI Aghalee were in the wonderful position of being 'in funds' from a number of sources.

A Hardship Grant from Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council awarded at the end of December 2022 £1,315.60 allowed essential hygiene products to be bought for each member each month from February 2023 until December. This fund also purchased Slow Cookers for the members to use at home to help them cook nutritious meals at low cost.

In August 2022, The Older Persons Grant through Community Foundation NI awarded £4,700.00, ending in December 2023 allowing each member to have food hampers each month for 15 months.

With the donations raised through the Carols n Cake concert last December, the group has been able to add to each of these grants as required and also to purchase a Google Home unit for use on their meeting days, which will enable them to access all sorts of entertainment and activities.

A further Hardship Grant from Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council awarded at the end of December 2023 will enable the food hampers to carry through until April 2024.

The group is very grateful for all of these grants enabling them to have considerable help through 2023, enabling them to be free from the worry of 'heating or eating'.

Aghalee Book Club

Our group is still going strong, since 3 friends sat together in September 2013 to decide that Pride and Prejudice would be a great first book to read! Hard to believe that we have been together over ten years, albeit with a few face changes along the way!

In 2023 Aghalee Book Club enjoyed another year of reading lots of books!

We have engaged with new members and said goodbye to others.

We have continued with our current format of allowing each member to recommend a book (or books) for the rest of the group to read over the following month. This has helped us to expand the breadth of our reading material, allowing some of us to venture into genres not usually chosen. Books have ranged from autobiographies including those of Ruby Wax and Fern Brady to thrillers including Liz Nugent's latest offering: Strange Sally Diamond.

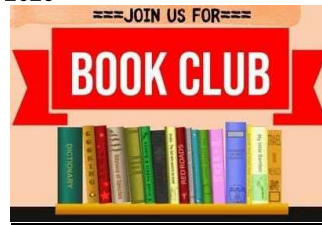
Most of the fictional books which we have read have been thrillers and this continues to be the preferred genre for most within the group.

In 2024, we will continue to explore new authors and we hope that our little group expands to allow more local people to meet up and discuss books!

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month – 8pm in The Loft – new members very welcome

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Aghalee Taekwondo Club

Aghalee Taekwondo Club reopened in January 2023 with a resolution to 'Kick more stuff!'

We had a successful year, starting in March with instructor Michael Beacham achieving his Referee recertification, thanks to the British taekwondo team for organising this course. Then in April members of the club passed their Dan grading, showing that hard work pays off.

In June we took some time out after exams to cut loose up at Moira Lakes Paddle Board Sports & Events Centre and spent some time in the water, enjoying trying to tip others off their boards. The water was warm and the craic was mighty and all of the students really enjoyed themselves Thanks to Susan and Leah for their help, which was greatly appreciated.

In October some of us competed in the Korean Ambassador Cup and managed a couple of medals - well done guys! And, finally in December, we took part in the Grading held in the Village Hall, and several students passed with flying colours.

All in all, we've had a great year and look forward to learning and competing more in 2024.



Reopening – Jan'23



April '23



June '23

Aghalee Upholstery Group

It's Thursday, it's 9.30am and it's 'Upholstery'!

The Thursday upholstery group continues to be very well attended and much enjoyed.

Once again an array of projects, from footstools to fireside chairs, have been completed to an excellent standard under the instructions of June Acheson, our amazing tutor.



Ballinderry Badminton

In 2023 we entered the Church of Ireland League with a mixed team and also entered a Gents team into the Ballinderry League. We drew in 1 new member this year and would welcome more players. Anyone of any ability is very welcome on Monday nights, 20:15 to late.

Exercise to Music

Ciara Mulholland – I was asked last year if I would be interested in starting a class in Aghalee hall as there had been a number of enquiries from the community. I put out a Facebook post to gauge interest and was overwhelmed with the enthusiastic response. I agreed to complete a 10 week block of classes on a Wednesday evening between 7-

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for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

8pm. The classes started on 26/04/23 and have gone from strength to strength. I have a full class of devoted women and can see the improvements and the drive to continuously develop of each member on a weekly basis. We are booked out almost as soon as we advertise a new block of classes.

Jeanne Cree School of Ballet

The school had a very successful year. At Easter the pupils took their ABD exams, from pre preparatory to Grade 8, all passing with a merit or Distinction mark. Lauren and Darcy were invited to take part in scholarship day in Birmingham where Darcy placed 4th and Lauren gained an honours certificate. In May Eva took part in her school talent competition and was awarded 1st place with her character solo, while Erin has been given a scholarship to attend the Hammond ballet school in Chester over the summer.

To finish the year the school danced at our annual McMillan coffee morning and raised over £200 and we look forward to another successful year in 2024

Lost & Found

Over the year on our social media pages, we advertised lost items and animals and reunited the community with 1 x roll of spanners, a toolbox, found the owners for an injured sheep, some cavorting cattle, found 7 cats, 12 dogs (maybe 1 dog several times!, some guinea fowl) and a parrot!



Moira Station. Pauline summarised the report received from David Honeyford MLA. Hedging is confirmed as being tidied over the winter. It would seem Council / Dfl are not going to do anything to improve safety issues until the refurbishment of the Station is complete when it is hoped these issues will have been addressed within the plans. Pauline suggested anyone still concerned about the state of the footpath between the Public house and the Station should contact the local MLAs and asking them to go out to view/discuss the issues.

Rent Increase/fees – As part of the Strategy document requirements, a review was carried out and small increases were recommended for implementation in January 2024. AVH remains competitive with other similar halls. The rent increases will take effect from Jan 2024.

Other Hall Activity – Regular Programmes

- AgeNI WEDNESDAYS in the Main Hall – 10.00am – 3.00pm (Over 65) – Contact: Gillian Thompson Manager - Contact: 07733 912 876 Gillian.Thompson@ageni.org
- Aghalee Taekwondo Club TUESDAYS - in the Main Hall – 6.30pm – 8.00pm (Age 7+) THURSDAYS - in the Main Hall – 6.30pm – 8.00pm (Age 7+) Contact: Michael Beacham – 07548 885 114, or email Michaelb5717478@btinternet.com
- AVH Upholstery Classes THURSDAYS mornings – 9.30am – 12.30pm in the Main Hall. Contact: June Acheson 028 9261 9177
- Ballindery Senior Badminton MONDAY evenings and THURSDAY evenings 8 to late. Contact: Text or call Bobbie Hamill on 07919 123 027 or Derek Blakely on 07791 267 636.
- Book Club FIRST TUESDAY of each month - In The Loft. Contact: Clare Ward 028 9265 0377
- Jeanne Cree Ballet School SATURDAYS in Main Hall - Children accepted from 3 years. Contact: Jeanne Cree 028

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- Needlecraft Group SECOND TUESDAY of each month - In The Loft.
- Southern Health & Social Care Trust. As required during the year.
- Southern Regional College - Hobby Art MONDAYS in the Paul Green Hall – 10:15am – 12:15pm. Contact: Jim Cunningham 07711 981 732 or College on 0300 123 1233.
- Southern Regional College - Upholstery Classes FRIDAYS in the Main Hall. 10.00am to 12.00pm and 12.30pm - 14.30pm. Contact: Jim

The Entertainment Licence has been granted with a reduction in total numbers by the Fire Authority from 250 to 220 because a couple of the double doors are bolted at one door to secure the entrance. When an event is taking place both sets of doors are left unbolted to give the required free escape in case of fire. We will discuss this with the Fire Authority in due course.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governance

The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees comprised of members detailed on page 3 of these financial statements. All board members receive induction training in relation to their role.

AGM Held in 2023 relating to Year End 2022

Date of AGM agreed for Wed 15th March, 7.30 pm, Paul Green Hall.

Report - WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL 2023 AT 7.30PM IN THE PAUL GREEN HALL

Present: Lewis Trevithick (Chairman), Chris Buller (Treasurer), Pauline Buller (Secretary), Victoria Jackson (Community Development Manager, LCCC), Alison Gawith, Ruth Macauley, Matt Hull, Susan McCavigan, Fernando Gutierrez, Kerry Quinn, Suzanne Cochrane, David Twigg, Stephen Bann, Ronnie Lewis & Anne Miskelly

Apologies received: Derek Blakely, Bobbie Hamill, Andrea Huff, Michael Beecham, Fiona Maree, Cllr Claire Kemp, Cllr Beckett

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 2023 AGM of Aghalee Village Hall, relating to y/end 2022

MINS 2021 - ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS Y/e 31/12/21

The minutes was proposed by Anne Miskelly, seconded by Alison Gawith and signed.

REPORTS - 2022

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT for Y/e 31/12/22 was presented by Lewis Trevithick

We opened 2022 with a sense of hope that Covid was finally on the run and that we were going forward learning how to live with it.

Unfortunately, there was a new and infection variant about so restrictions and regulations had to stay in place in some shape or form until September. Thankfully we had planned for this eventuality and everything was in place.

Highlights this year were a return of most of our public social activities:

- Afternoon Tea – a great success with the Art Exhibition and funds raised for the hall
- Art Exhibition
- Jubilee Celebrations – a wonderful celebration for the whole village, especially the over 70s
- Solstice Walk – a very wet walk this year but more funds raised
- Rock & Pop Gig Night – an excellent night's music with over £1,000 raised
- Christmas Market run by a local resident – enjoyed by the whole village
- Annual Craft Fair run by a local resident – also enjoyed by the whole village
- Carols and Cake Concert – enjoyed by the whole village
- Santa at the hall – booked out with 77 families and 165 children visiting to see Santa. (Santa visits at Christmas this year remained as pre-booked appointments with no large public gathering, but it is hoped next year we will be able to open the hall again to a 'proper' event)
- Return of paper newsletters in May and December
- Liaising with various Agencies and Authorities about improvements in the Village, the Canal towpath and Broadwater, bus shelters and activities for Rural Youth
- Continuation of the Arts Programmes started in 2021:
- More than 100 workshops and courses for all ages and abilities - Children, Special needs, Adults and Senior Citizens
- Almost 1,000 places filled
- Many new skills learned and new friends made

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TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023
Annual Accounts y/e 31/12/22

These were completed and sent around for perusal and agreement to forward to the Auditors for action, and were subsequently submitted to Charity Commission for NI. We were in a very good position going forward into 2023 and had quite a lot of cash in the accounts.

It was noted that funders might not be very likely to offer grants if we had a large amount in the bank, but we had some major outstanding items of maintenance to sort out:

- to prepare for high maintenance costs expected for all high woodwork at exterior of the hall, which will require scaffolding to be erected to repair and repaint all the high woodwork and also secure and replace/repair where necessary the high guttering. Estimated costs approx. £25,000
- to prepare for higher utility costs over 2023 and higher costs in general in the short to medium term.
- to prepare for replacement of all curtains (including the stage curtain) at the hall to more heat effective ones. Estimated costs approx. £5,000.
- to prepare for repainting the interior rooms over the medium term, no quotes yet
- to replace all the lighting with energy efficient LED versions, no quotes yet.

It was agreed as many of these items as possible to be carried out in 2023.

Composition of the Board and Board Appointment Process

New Trustee

The Chair welcomed Stephen Bann, new committee member who came on board after the AGM. Stephen is a local man and his family live in the area.

Resignation

In December Lewis resigned from the Committee, stepping down after 5 years in the Chair. The Secretary thanked him on behalf of the committee for his time and support of the organisation over the years and wished him well in the future.

Review of Activities, Achievements and Performance

Grants and fundraising this year totalled around £76,000, an increase in around £35,000 from last year, spread between core costs, programme costs and specific projects, all of which has been very gratefully received and have gone a long way to help us return to normal. The Treasurer will refer more to this later.

We closed December in a bit of a sorry state: The Chairman and Treasurer had separately been admitted to hospital, our Cleaner was being treated for cancer and she, the Vice Chairman, the Treasurer and the Secretary all had Covid.

Overall though we have had a very successful year with the potential for more successes in 2023, when the Village Hall will celebrate 90 years of work in the community.

The major issue we must tackle is:- planning for the future and how we can adapt and change as we need to for the next 90 years. Many of the current committee are 65+ and the remainder are still working, with limited time available to take on more work. We need to try and 'future proof' the work of the hall and to this end we are discussing with Consultants about organising business plans in consultation with the community. This is with a view to attracting funding to help us move into a more secure future.

In conclusion, we would like to say a huge 'thank you' to all the members of the committee for their unstinting support throughout the year.

TREASURERS REPORT for Y/e 31/12/22 was presented by Chris Buller

The Treasurer thanked everyone attending this rescheduled AGM.

'On your seats you will have a copy of the accounts to year end December 2022. In accordance with current charity legislation, these have been given an unqualified (clean) report issued by Daly Park & Company Ltd.

Grants

The Secretary continues to make grant applications for the proposed Art based programme 22/23, new curtains and equipment, along with helping some groups with their grant applications.

Aghalee Village Hall TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Grants awarded:-

LCCC Covid recovery	Core -Varying ways to work	Awarded £ 4,500
Nationwide Fdn	Core	Awarded £ 5,000
DfC Covid recovery	Core	Awarded £11,700
Foyle Fdn	Core	Awarded £ 5,000
LCCC Comm Service Grant	Core	Awarded £ 4,510
Enkalon	Taekwondo	Awarded £ 500
LCCC Jubilee Grant	Jubilee Celebrations	Awarded £ 500
Arnold Clark Community Fund	Core	Awarded £ 1,000
Halifax Fdn	Arts Prog - SEN/AgeNI	Awarded £ 3,000
Telecommunity	Arts Prog - SEN/AgeNI	Awarded £ 2,000
The Honourable the Irish Society	-Arts Prog - SEN/AgeNI	Awarded £ 1,000
John Moores Fdn NI	Arts Prog – Children	Awarded £ 5,000
Garfield Weston - Aug	Arts Prog - All	Awarded £ 7,500
Arts Council NI - Aug	Arts Prog - specified	Awarded £ 5,000
CFNI - Older Peoples Fund (Aug22)	Food Parcels 15 mths	Awarded £ 4,700
Awards for All	Arts Prog - All	Awarded £ 9,999
LCCC – Xmas	Christmas event	Awarded £ 1,000
LCCC – Hardship Fund	Hygiene products AgeNI	Awarded £ 1,315
Total awarded so far this year		£73,224

Add to this, total donations of £2,360 and HMRC Gift Aid of £325 and an additional award of £500 from Halifax towards cost of living, that made a grand total raised of just over £76,000.

We also helped raise funds for AgeNI and for Aghalee Taekwondo Club.

We offer a huge thank you to everyone in the local community who has supported us with donations, to Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council who put their trust in us and continue to give us so much support through their various programmes, and to all the other Trusts and Agencies who have given us funding this year.

Our specific plans over 2023 for the high level of unrestricted money (approx. £45,000) are:

to prepare for high maintenance costs expected for all high woodwork at exterior of the hall, which will require scaffolding to be erected to repair and repaint all the high woodwork and also secure and replace where necessary the high guttering.

- to prepare for higher utility costs over 2023 and higher costs in general in the short to medium term.
- to prepare for replacement of all curtains at the hall to more heat effective ones.
- to prepare for repainting the interior rooms over the medium term.
- to replace all lights with energy efficient ones.

We will have additional expenditure due to our strategy plans over the next two years, although we hope to attract more funding to help with these.

We would like to continue to run some exciting programmes and to try and bring in some more regular activities.

The Village Hall continues to be in a strong and secure financial position for the next 12 months.'

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ACCOUNTS

David Twigg commented that the Accounts show a remarkable achievement. There were no matters arising. Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Lewis Trevithick, seconded by David Twigg and signed.

RETIREMENT OF CURRENT COMMITTEE, NOMINATIONS & ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE.

Before the meeting retired to take nominations to the 2023 committee, the Chairman took the opportunity to mention 3 people:

The first is Alan Collingwood who for the past 7 years has been a Custodial Trustee. Alan is stepping down this year as he has other plans to pursue, and we thank him for his Trusteeship over the past 7 years and much longer as a supporter. We wish him well for the future.

The second is Suzanne Cochrane who has had to step down as a Wag & Bone Dog club representative. The club ceased in 2022 due to the leader's ill health. We would thank Suzanne for her input to the committee and are very pleased she has offered to remain as a volunteer at events.

The third is David Twigg who is retiring from the committee. David has been a committee member over a total of 27 years, 5 during the 1980s and the remainder since 2001. David was Chairman of the committee for a number of years and we wish to thank him most sincerely for his positive attitude, contribution and support to the committee over the past number of years. We wish him well in his retirement.

The Chairman declared all seats vacant and invited Victoria Jackson, Community Development Manager, LCCC to chair the election of the 2023 committee. Victoria recorded her congratulations and admiration to the committee and wider community for supporting the village hall. In particular, Victoria acknowledged the amount of work that is required to be carried out and the responsibility of managing the grants applied for and achieved by the small level of asset currently available to AVH. In conclusion, Victoria said that the Council is very happy to support the Hall.

Aghalee Village Hall TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Victoria announced nominations from the following Custodial Trustees who had completed 7 years and were invited to stand for a further 7:

Michael Best, John Buller, Mark Campbell, Mandy Clydesdale, Andrea Huff, Katherine Lloyd and Alan McKeown had all confirmed their wish to continue as Custodial Trustees. Alan Collingwood had sent his resignation and Tom Kirk had not replied to our letters – both would be removed as Custodial Trustees. These nominations were proposed by David Twigg and seconded by Lewis Trevithick.

Victoria announced the following nominations from the regular user groups as follows:

Aghalee Taekwondo Club (2)	Michael Beacham and Susan McCavigan
Ballet (1)	Pauline Buller
Ballinderry Badminton Club (2)	Derek Blakely and Bobbie Hamill
Book Club (2)	Kerry Quinn and Fiona Maree
Needlecraft Club (1)	Pat McAdams
SRC Art Class (1)	Lewis Trevithick
Thursday Upholstery Class (2)	Alison Gawith and Anne Miskelly

11 in total therefore allows up to 6 Public Representatives.

These nominations were proposed by Anne Miskelly and seconded by Alison Gawith.

Public Representatives wishing to stand again in 2022 (5)

Matt Hull, Andrea Huff, Walter Robertson, Fernando Gutierrez, Chris Buller.

The Chairman noted that if any more wish to stand, there is one place available OR if more than one should apply, we can co-opt Chris Buller and Fernando Gutierrez as specialist (Finance and IT respectively) to make space for a total of 3 extra. There were no further nominations. These nominations were proposed by Pauline Buller and seconded by Matt Hull.

Specialist volunteers with no committee voting rights

Ruth Macauley as Booking Secretary and Carol Redpath as Safeguarding Officer. The Committee was in agreement.

This concluded all of the 2023 election business. Before handing back to Chairman, Victoria noted that the Good Relations grant is currently open until mid-May.

The Chairman thanked Victoria for her role in the election of the 2022/23 Committee and the Committee acknowledged her continued help and support.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A Strategic Document has been included in the pack to take away and consider. Victoria Jackson and an external consultant are helping to complete this project.

With regard to William Redpath's railway exhibition, David Twigg said that this was a fascinating exhibition and was sorry to hear that more donations had not been received for William's work. Pauline Buller confirmed that the option of an entry fee had been discussed with William but that William had decided not to levy one.

Chris Buller asked Victoria Jackson whether a healthy amount of money in the accounts can affect the outcome of grant applications. She said that whilst it will not have a bearing on the Council's grants, it may be a different matter for external funders.

The meeting end at 8 pm and the Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

After meeting ended Stephen Bann approached the Secretary and asked to be a committee member. Pauline welcomed Stephen and agreed to meet with him at a later date to go through the legal paperwork and induction procedure.

Annual Events 2023

Thanks to the following companies and people for all ballot prizes given for both Country Night and Rock Night. Hannon Transport, Classic Kitchens, Aghalee Centra, Aghalee Taekwondo Club, Linda Hamilton-Harris, Aghalee Building Supplies, Leona Coulter, Trish Rogers, Aghalee Pharmacy, Aghalee Carwash, Pooles Supervalu, Beeches Resource Centre, Active Therapy Dollingstown and various AVH Committee members.

Ballet Exams: The exams went very well and AVH was awarded 'Centre of Excellence' certification.

Coronation Drop in Event: Saturday 6th May – drop in event all day. There was a cost £252 to AVH after a grant of £500 from LCCC. Attendance was poor and sporadic throughout the day, thought due to most people just staying at home to watch.

Aghalee Village Hall TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Art Exhibition: We held the Annual Art Exhibition on 21st – 23rd April. This was a huge success with some beautiful work being shown. Thank you to everyone who helped out on the weekend and helped to make it such a success. The hall received £260 from the group in donations.

Country Music Night: Saturday 13th May @ 8pm. A profit £180 was made. There was very poor attendance compared to last year, thought due to conflicting external events in Northern Ireland. We decided we would try once more in April 2024 instead of May, maybe on a Friday night which would suit the Hall better.

Summer Solstice Walk: Saturday 24th June @ 6am. Leona Coulter from Walk Aghalee was approached to lead the walk. £195 raised, a small improvement on last year. Huge thanks to Ruth Macauley for cooking the delicious breakfasts. Suggested improvements for 2024 were either a Friday evening walk or later on Saturday morning to attract more participants.

Rock & Pop Night: Sat 7th October 8pm. Within a week of tickets going on sale, only 12 tickets were left and these were quickly snapped up, resulting in a full house of 100 guests. This was another super weekend, with a full house and 3 live bands and guest artists playing. The ballot was also well supported and at the end of the event a total of £1,470 was raised. Many thanks to William Redpath and his bands and guest artists along with Renegade Kings for their support and all of them playing free of charge.

Craft Fair: This had to be rescheduled to Friday 24th November 5pm – 10pm. This was successful and apart from the booking fee from the organiser, the AVH table made £160. Thanks to Susan and Pauline for jam and other items, and Abigail Lloyd (8), who made bracelets for sale, for donating 1/3 of her sales to hall funds.

Christmas Event: Thurs/Fri/Sat 7th- 9th December. Thursday was the lighting up event for the community and the Friday and Saturday booked Santa visits.

The 3 local partner school choirs were invited to sing; Ballinderry Primary, Rowandale Integrated Primary and St Patrick's Primary. A grant of £1,000 from LCCC was available to help with costs. Any shortfall could be met from donations at the events or the hall's fundraising events through the year.

The Thursday night event went very well indeed. The Santa bookings also went very well with a total of £357.81 being donated, up on 2022 by £96.46. Between the choir children and Santa visits we gave out 174 selection boxes and saw more than 55 families. There were a few boxes left and these were donated to Food bank Moira. Improvements for 2024 include having alternative parking sorted out in good time, addressing 'no show' booking to see Santa, and break down arrangements, which were affected this year due to committee illnesses.

Carols & Cake: planned for Friday 15th or Saturday 16th December but unfortunately, the organiser was unable to organise this year.

90th Anniversary

The Hall was 90 years old in September 2023. The last significant anniversary celebrated was in 2018, the 85th anniversary, when we had a photograph taken.

It was decided to celebrate by running the rescheduled Afternoon Tea event along with pictures of old Aghalee and excerpts from the old minute books along with info about different activities through the decades. The Art group was invited to show paintings. A request for photos went out on social media and a good number were received which were then added to over 100 old photos donated by Soldierstown Church from their stash celebrating their Heritage project. Over 40 tickets were sold for the event, which was a tremendous success with a total of £540 being raised after expenses. Everyone really enjoyed their afternoon with a delicious handmade afternoon tea, made entirely by Fiona Maree of the committee.

The 90th anniversary table with minute book from the first days in 1933 along with the opening photograph, a short history and 2 booklets of the old village pictures, which we had bound, also proved very popular.



Picture of the opening of the hall in 1933 plus the original minute book

A huge thank you to Fiona for masterminding and baking and making everything (it was all delicious) for the event and thanks also to those who helped in any way

Aghalee Village Hall
TRUSTEES' REPORT
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023



Pictures from an Exhibition

Aghalee Village Hall
TRUSTEES' REPORT
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023



90th Celebrations
– 2 ladies both the
same age as the
hall, renewed
acquaintances
again



Coronation Day event

Coronation Day Event
6th May 2023
from 9.30am

Drop in during the day and watch the ceremony on the big screen

Complimentary refreshments
Enjoy some cake and a cuppa

Aghalee Village Hall
TRUSTEES' REPORT
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023



Some Solstice Walkers



The Craft Fair



Rock & Pop Night



Rowandale Integrated
Primary School Choir

A visit to Santa



Aghalee Village Hall TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Financial Review

The results for the financial year are set out on page 24 and additional notes are provided showing income and expenditure in greater detail.

Results and Dividends

At the end of the financial year the company has assets of £296,116 (2022 - £306,829) and liabilities of £1,640 (2022 - £1,400). The net assets of the company have decreased by £(10,953).

The Future of AVH

In January we started discussing the future for the hall. We resolved to try and engage the community further in our programmes and to think about the future and creating a strategic plan for the next 3-5 years. We met with the Community Development Officer from Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and McGarry Consultants, to discuss how the Committee could plan for future proofing and safeguarding Aghalee Village Hall.

The purpose this first meeting was to discuss/agree bringing in a Consultant with the Community Development Officer's assistance and to discuss possible funding. There was Dormant Account funding available at this time, with up to £100K available for a 3 year project.

The project should be focussed on strategic development, future-proofing and building sustainability.

At this stage the Consultant's remit would include:

Objectively reviewing the situation that AVH finds itself in; this may include running a consultation with committee and obtaining user feedback;

Taking the lead on the project and supporting the committee to make any agreed changes with regards to the future of the Hall.

The Consultant might recommend action such as: raising the profile of current Hall programmes and activities, surveying the community, assessing volunteer recruitment, analysing how Hall provision can be delivered, and building community support. One recommendation may be to employ a Centre Manager/Administrator (with the assistance of a grant). Other options would also have to be considered.

We discussed methods of community engagement and volunteer recruitment, including a focus on existing committee skills and those that are desirable such as youth work, legal, building maintenance etc. We felt that youth participation in the Hall was very low. Another view was that programme leaders need not be involved with the committee/running of the Hall. It may be that a few small subgroups/committees are required with different purposes. We wondered if the current Constitution was still appropriate. We would like to see management models that other community groups have used.

A Strategic Plan was drawn up and a powerpoint version included with the AGM to summarise the future plans of the Hall. The Dormant Fund application of £50K over 2 years, seeking funds for a Hall Development Manager recruited for a 2-year buffer period (20 hours/week, £33K over 2 years, includes national insurance payments, Consultant fees of £12K professional fees for 2 years plus £2K recruitment and training, £1K volunteer expenses and £2K digital and IT.

The Committee agreed to engage the consultancy service for some stages of the project and to make an application to the Dormant Accounts Fund.

In April we received formal notification that Dormant Accounts Fund would not be funding.

By July we had met and set out some actions that we split into easy, more difficult and what else we might require funding support to help us with.

Actions/Project - CAN DO FAIRLY EASILY

Review current hire rates and increase these if required to take into account the rise in cost of living and the need to increase revenue/income – HAVE DONE

Develop fund-raising policy – TO BE REVIEWED

Included in the above is the need also to cost out the financial requirement to pay for any Consultancy fees involved for the next months – SEEK FUNDING FOR FIVE DAYS FEES OVER NEXT 12 MONTHS – HAVE DONE AND BEEN AWARDED

Carry out a skills audit with current committee and from this work out what is required by way of additional skills and recruit new or additional committee members or voluntary advisors accordingly, using other agencies to assist if required. This to help lessen the burden or work. COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEED TO BUY INTO THIS FOR IT TO BE OF HELP

Consider seeking volunteers for smaller / short-term project elements. REVIEW PROJECTS AND SEE WHAT CAN BE DEALT WITH IN THIS WAY

Review the different roles of committee members for good governance as well as for day-to-day volunteer roles – REVIEW – CONSIDER DEPUTIES FOR POSTS

Aghalee Village Hall TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

MORE DIFFICULT

Look at the possibility of creation of what is essentially a business plan for the next 3-5 years with operational annual plans towards this.

Break the Strategic plan into shorter term activities achievable in a time limited way.

Funding required

Look at applications to People & Communities Lottery Funding for longer term Programme funding. THIS IS DONE – COSTINGS ALREADY DONE FOR ONE YEAR x 3 FOR 3 YEARS

Consider what could be applied for under Awards for All. Look at funding to pay Consultants. APPROVED - £5,000 AWARDED

Look at applications to Heritage Lottery Funding with regard to Strategy / resilience plans as well as any heritage storytelling or other programme activity. TO BE INVESTIGATED IN DUE COURSE

We then paused to regroup and think about our next plans. We determined to carry out a community audit in January 2024 to start the process again to look to the future for the hall. In this we will be asking what people would like to see happening at the Hall, as well as opinions requested from each group/workshop using the hall.

Heritage Lottery might be of use to fund these plans as the Hall is very much part of the village heritage. We were awarded £5,000 in December from Awards for All, for consultant fees (10 days x £500/day) towards further help with moving this project forward.

The key priorities are as follows:

- Planning for 2023/24

At the first committee meeting of the management trustees after AGM, the following officers and other posts were appointed and elected. All are on a voluntary basis and training is given if required. If we cannot appoint from within the committee, interested parties can be co-opted into post.

Members of the committee are encouraged to consider taking on a post in order to help the committee function properly and to take pressure off individuals.

Legal Officers for next 3 years

Posts: Chairperson - Lewis Trevithick, Vice-Chairperson - Matt Hull, Secretary - Pauline Buller, Treasurer - Chris Buller

Others if possible:

Marketing & Publicity, including Website and social media - Fiona Maree and Peter Rusk, I.T. - Fernando Gutierrez, Booking Secretary - Ruth Macauley, Safeguarding - Carol Redpath, Courses -Pauline Buller, Events - All are required, H&S - Pauline has agreed in the interim but someone else needs to be found, Maintenance Cttee - Matt, Chris, Lewis, Fernando and others as required.

Legal cheque signatories

Lewis Trevithick, Matt Hull, Chris Buller and Anne Miskelly are all to continue - any 2 of 4.

Future Activities Programme 2024 – 2026

We met with The Big Lottery on 13th September and were invited to make an application to People and Communities for a 3 year grant up to £60,000 for programming. They suggested we change name from Arts programme to Activities programme as it was more appropriate for the funding stream. The application to Peoples in Communities (Lottery), £58K over 3 years was postponed due to committee illness but the Lottery will be in touch in January 2024 for a possible March submission if we wish to continue. This will be for 3 years funding to support a continuing activities.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the trustees retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards

The company engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. Aghalee Village Hall subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

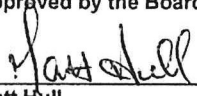
- The Charities SORP (FRS 102)

Public Benefit

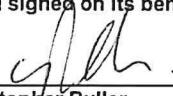
The charity has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Charity's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

Aghalee Village Hall
TRUSTEES' REPORT
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 21st February 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Matt Hull
Trustee



Christopher Buller
Trustee

Aghalee Village Hall
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the company and otherwise comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

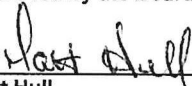
In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

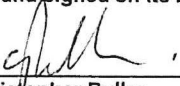
The trustees confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 21st February 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Matt Hull
Trustee



Christopher Buller
Trustee