

174 TRUST

**REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

30 SEPTEMBER 2023

174 TRUST

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Mr Gavin Pantridge
Rev. Prof J Patton Taylor MBE
Mrs Heather Carey

Director

Rev. DR. Bill Shaw OBE

Principal Office

Duncairn Complex
Duncairn Avenue
Belfast
BT14 6BP
Northern Ireland

Charity Number

XN62669A/AR
NIC 100531

Auditors

Harvey & Co Accountancy Services Ltd
5 Willowbank Road
Millbrook
Larne
Co. Antrim
BT40 2SF

Bankers

Danske Bank
PO Box 183
Donegal Square West
Belfast
BT1 6JS

Solicitors

Hewitt & Gilpin
14 – 16 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 7GA

Risk Management

The trustees have considered the major risks to which the trust is exposed and established systems and procedures to manage those risks.

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- An ongoing review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces.
- The establishment of policies, systems, and procedures to mitigate those risks identified.
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified that financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is a regular review of available liquid funds to settle debts as they fall due, regular liaison with the bank, and active management of trade debtors and creditors balances to ensure sufficient working capital by the Trust.

Attention has also been focussed on non-financial risks arising from fire, health and safety of artists and audience, management of performing rights and food hygiene. All these risks are managed by ensuring accreditation is up to date, having robust policies and procedures in place, and regular awareness training for staff working in these operational areas.

Objectives and activities

The Trust is an interdenominational Christian Community Development organisation, whose mission it is to "work with local people, helping them to identify and meet local needs".

The Trust seeks to do this by providing an inclusive, non-threatening and shared space environment for individuals and groups to access programmes and to be involved in a wide range of activities covering every age group from parent & toddlers to Senior Citizens.

The Trust's local community work is focussed on North Belfast where there are few cross-community groups and where there are very few, if any, shared venues.

Public Benefits

The advancement of citizenship or community development.

The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity.

The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or another disadvantage

The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage, or science.

The advancement of education

The Trust has developed the Duncairn Complex, and the Macrory Centre, as shared spaces / neutral venues in North Belfast.

Achievement and performance

The Duncairn Complex continues to serve as the base for the Trust's work and is used to promote cross community opportunities. It is home to about 12 autonomous groups/tenants and impacts on average 2,500 people most weeks throughout the year, some of whom are among the most marginalized and vulnerable in our society.

Activities

The Trust operates several projects including:

Pre-School Nursery

The Nursery was established in 1995 to address the needs of the children in the New Lodge/Duncairn area of North Belfast.

It was registered for 24 children in this reporting period, aged between 2 years 10 months and 5 years. The nursery operates from Monday to Friday from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm within the former church halls of the Duncairn Complex. We are currently part of the Government pre-school expansion programme and are funded by DE through the Education Authority. The Education Authority provides the 174 Trust Nursery with several free places for children who are in their last pre-school year.

The Nursery is approved by Social Services and Early Years registered, with all members of staff having relevant childcare qualifications. The excellent Staff team is committed to provide quality care and education in a stimulating and safe environment. The children are offered a daily range of activities to encourage all aspects of their development. The staff work closely with the Early Years Advisor and take on board suggestions on how to improve the childcare provision.

During this reporting year, the Deputy Leader left, and a new deputy leader was recruited, however, she also left due to family circumstances and another deputy was recruited. By Sept 23 we had a Leader (CCLD Level 5,) Deputy Leader (completing CCLD Level 5) and an Assistant (CCLD Level 3.) Bank staff/cover continued to be a problem during this period.

We were oversubscribed for the academic year 22-23, with all 12 preschooler spaces full and 9 pre-pre children.

All children in the setting were assessed using WellComm Speech Assessment. All preschool children were assessed using Boxall Assessment. These were used to inform planning and support children's needs. 3 children received a statement of SEN, meaning support for P1 was in place for starting primary school.

We took part in the Getting Ready to Learn programme, hosting workshops for parents and giving out book and play bags each weekend to all families.

We were able to host the following extracurricular activities for the children; Jump, Jiggle and Jive, Sonal Sportz, Jo Jingles, Amazon Jungle, Wee Critters and Kidzfarm NI. We also had a local artist in over 6 weeks completing art with the children and hosting a Mother's Day art morning. A Father's Day play and stay was also hosted outside in our playground. All parents' events were very well attended. We continue to have a very good relationship with Cinemagic, many of our families availed of free tickets to their festival.

After-school Club

The After-school Club provided an invaluable service to the community for over 30 years, and supported hundreds of parents/carers to pursue training and/or education as a way back into employment. The After-school Club was based on fun, friendship, and lots of new experiences – including help with homework – for 4–11-year-olds.

Daily activities were devised in consultation with the children, with the aim of instilling a sense of self-respect, confidence, and respect for others.

Registered with Social Services and approved for 18 places, also registered with Playboard, and was inspected annually to ensure a continual quality of provision.

The excellent team of fully qualified staff ensured that the children had a valuable and fun time from school pick up in our minibus to when parents collected them at the end of the day.

Opening hours were 1.30 – 5.30pm every weekday throughout the school term.

Unfortunately, we never recovered our numbers after the Covid years, and our attendance continued to be challenging. This affected our income and meant we had to look for additional financial support from other sources, using some of our unrestricted funds to cover the costs of the project. At the end of last year, we completed an evaluation of the project in regards its long-term sustainability and very sadly the decision was made to close the project in June 2023. This unfortunately meant that 5 members of staff were made redundant at that time. The associated redundancy payments also had an impact on our ability to generate reserves, and therefore we finished the year with a lower reserve amount than expected.

Disability Project

For over 30 years we have been involved in running activities for people with physical & learning disabilities. In partnership with BHSCT, we aim to make issues like integration, inclusion, self-confidence, individual dignity, and respect for others, accepted as normal within society.

To this end we run the following clubs during the school term:

- Tuesday's 4.30 – 7.30pm Youth Club for young people aged 11 – 18 years.
- Wednesday's 4.30 – 7.30pm Junior Club for children aged 5 – 11 years.
Tuesday and Wednesday evenings are given over to the Junior and Youth Clubs with the aim being the integration of able-bodied and disabled people through a wide range of activities provided in our large indoor hall and a variety of trips and leisure experiences throughout the year. We have over 30 children from 5 – 18 years old involved in these two clubs.
- Friday's 4 – 6 pm for adults aged over 18 years. We had 8 involved in the Adult Disability Club this year. However, because this group of adults are amongst some of the most vulnerable in society it was obvious some of our members had deteriorated substantially throughout the pandemic and mobility had become a much greater issue. The BHSCT permitted us to test out a new way of doing things and allowed a new Coordinator time to contact each of the members and begin the process of establishing a new relationship with them.
- We also maintained our new Monday evening group again during this year and confirmed it as a part of our permanent programme, (the group that started during Covid in 2020) even though we had to continue to find the funding ourselves to do so. There were a growing number of young adults aged 19 – 25 years who had previously come through our youth programme and were finding great difficulty in finding support once they reached adult age. We catered for approximately 21 young adults and as the year progressed, we found that the group became a great support mechanism for each other. Awards for All provided an amount of funding during this year, and we had discussions with BHSCT to consider introducing a contract for this age group.
- Towards the end of the year, we formed a Carers Project for families and carers to come together and provide support to each other.

Led by our vastly experienced coordinators, the very dedicated teams of trained and caring helpers & volunteers organise a range of activities focussing on life skills, health & educational classes, social interaction, mixed with special trips out to add a little bit of excitement for these very special people... and give some much-needed respite for family and carers.

We continued to thrive with the provision of our disability programme and provide a service for 40 families this year, with another 15 on a waiting list.

Duncairn Centre for Culture & Arts incorporating the Arts Outreach Programme.

Another highly successful year of creative and artistic delivery at The Duncairn Centre for Culture & Arts.

Our Music Programme has excelled in year, delivering a multifaceted programme for all. We continue to shape a variety of projects that target new and emerging artists, providing a range of opportunities such as our *Here's Your Chance* programme, open to 16 to 25-year-olds and first-time performers. We have further developed our highly successful *Creative Collective*, now boasting 30+ young multi artform artists, exploring and developing new work, collaborating with, and being mentored by seasoned professional artists, all of which are now enhancing our Gig programme as artists work to carve out careers in the contemporary and traditional Irish music industry.

Workshops and classes go from strength to strength; not only are we providing opportunities for engagement in an interesting range of classes at very competitive prices, but we have also worked hard to strengthen our relationship with our community, engaging them in the multi-layered aspects of our work. Our audiences and participants return consistently, engaging in new music genres and new classes, which means it is important to ascertain why they continue to connect with us over other choices within the city, what are we bringing to the table that is different?

In truth, they are telling us we give them a voice, they feel heard, and they feel like they belong. Their experiences and opinions are being explored through our *Not A Membership Programme*: a non-monetary value based approach to engaging the community in helping shape the future of The Duncairn and north Belfast, and this process is really informing our potential, and how we are impacting on the local community.

Impact such as this is priceless. Its priceless because with this participation, the real stories, and the real people we engage with, with their experiences and their opinions in our toolbox, we have the capacity to genuinely evidence our work at a grass roots, societal level.

Stories @ The Duncairn

This year Stories @ The Duncairn is celebrating its first ten years of Shared Reading, reading aloud for pleasure, in the local community.

We currently deliver 3 weekly 'drop-in' sessions, in The Duncairn on Mondays and Tuesdays, and in Belfast Central Library, supported by Libraries NI staff on Fridays. These groups are free and open to all. Weekly attendance totals around 35; occasional attendance is closer to 60. Volunteer facilitators read aloud short stories and poetry and open a conversation that engages people with great literature and with one another.

Our volunteers also deliver other regular sessions with the 174 Adult Disability Group, with Mindwise, and with Mill Court on the Falls Rd.

We are also working with Queens University Belfast and Dementia NI to support new reading groups over the coming months.

In April our readers have been invited to curate and deliver a 'Dark Skies Fiction and Poetry Walk' in the Waterworks, as part of the Right to the Night project, a Household Project, supported by Belfast City Council.

In August 2023, the annual 'Scribes at The Duncairn' writers' panel featured Michelle Gallan, Michael Magee, Lizz Murphy, and Tony Macaulay. With over 70 attending, it

was the largest audience to date, and once again the event was co-sponsored by the Greater New Lodge Community Festival and Féile an Phobail.

We held two Christmas Shared Reading gatherings, with 46 attending, including several new participants some of whom are now regulars at our weekly sessions.

Our reading team has attended several online masterclasses with The Reader charity in Liverpool, who continue to support us with volunteer resources. The Duncairn's project will be featured by The Reader in an upcoming interview marking our tenth anniversary.

Future Plans

With a successful application to the Dormant Accounts fund of TNL we plan to recruit an Operations Director to drive the development of the community projects, and focus on opportunities to generate new income by developing these and other new areas of activity.

Opportunities to become more self-sustaining are imperative, not only because the grants which we received during Covid have now disappeared but there is also a fear that with the continued cost-of-living crises and the cuts in statutory funding, our income is going to be detrimentally affected from that sector. We must increase our efforts with the philanthropic base (both here and in the USA) and look to generate more from our venue hire and fee-paying programmes.

In addition to this we also intend to look at areas of social economy style income generation through areas of production, film making, ticket sales and such like.

With the Macrory Halls now well established to our ownership, we can continue to develop community programmes across the Duncairn Gardens interface. These plans include the expansion of the community development work in north Belfast and will allow us to operate activities on an interface between the (republican) New Lodge and (loyalist) Tigers Bay. During 2021/22 we developed a programme of activities in collaboration with other organisations, and in partnership with our managing partner Building Bridges Club, an organisation recently established to do outreach work with young people in the area.

Financial Review

The trust is reliant on the income from its donors which amounted to £1,340,787 during the financial year.

In regards the opportunity for the Duncairn Centre to generate income as a venue for third party corporate hire, this year was a difficult one. The total we realised was just over £16k but that was with a limited number of bookings after covid, and we were not up to full capacity until April-23.

Reserves

Whilst it is the intention of the organisation to have a minimum of 6 months operational costs set aside as a Reserve, it is generally accepted that the ongoing cash flow situation of the Trust will determine how much of a reserve is actually set aside.

As the Trust is the owner of the Duncairn Complex, it is recognised that the capital asset of the physical Complex will be used to cover any reserve that may be required in an emergency. The present value of the asset is more than £4M.

The Trustees and Senior Directors of the Trust are continually searching for sources of funding to establish a cash reserve of 6 months operational costs.

At the end of this accounting year, we had a small reserve of £31,130.89 set aside.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the affairs of the trust and of its financial activities for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether the applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the trust will continue in operation.

The Trustees and management committee are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Trust, and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, The Charities (Accounts & Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and the provisions of the trust deed. The trustees are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

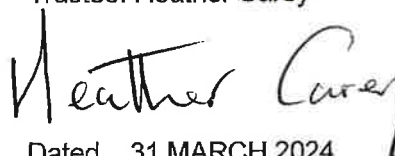
Signed by:

Trustee: Rev Prof Patton Taylor

Dated 31 MARCH 2024



Trustee: Heather Carey



Dated 31 MARCH 2024