

BACKGROUND

Newry and Armagh Caring for Victims (NACV) was established in February 2014 to provide support to victims of the Troubles, including ex-service personnel, in the Newry and Armagh area. The vision of the organisation is to ensure that all members are included and supported in society, with improved health outcomes and greater financial security for those who have suffered as a result of violence and conflict in Northern Ireland's recent past. NACV's mission is to provide a personalised, practical response to the need of individual victims, acting as a strong advocate on their behalf.

NACV has three strategic objectives:

- To provide relevant educational, social and recreational activities.
- To continue the growth and development of the support to members.
- To ensure best practice is maintained in governance. The organisation not only seeks to deliver relevant and achievable support to members, but to ensure that they are at the heart of decision-making when services are devised. This value, as well as mutual respect and encouragement, rests at the core of all NACV undertakes.

GENERAL

2023 – 2024 was a busy year for NACV. The organisation had purchased derelict premises in Markethill in 2022 namely the former Bingham House and associated buildings. This was a huge step forward for the voluntary group. It also meant many long hours by volunteers and community. The key element to Bingham House was the significant and poignant memorial wall located there. This was the main driver for the office holders of NACV in going after the purchase of the building, memorial wall and gardens. 2023-2024 saw significant progress as the old garden was cleared and left ready for restoration should funding become available.

Repairs and maintenance continued at Bingham House as monies were raised or funding delivered. This is / was an ongoing process with thousands of pounds needed to renovate and maintain buildings extending to over 10000 sq feet. Much work was done during this reporting year and much more still needs to be done with the building having been vacant for 12 years.

In tandem with all of the maintenance work during 2023-24 NACV continued to deliver a huge programme of events and social gatherings. These included multiple coffee mornings, day trips, fundraisers, classes, social events, seasonal programmes as well as our now annual Remembrance service.

All of these events were organised and staffed by volunteers.

2023-24 saw a huge amount of internal fundraising by NACV volunteers raising over £11k in the process.

OUTCOME

The NACV project continues to target those in the older age profile. Rural isolation, loneliness and poor services are all features of the locality and feature heavily in all our targetted programmes.