



Counties Antrim & Derry Country Fiddlers Association (CADCF) Annual Report – April 2023 – March 2024

CADCF classes continue to grow from strength to strength with over 36 students Preliminary to Diploma grades attending weekly Saturday classes from 10 am in Broughshane Community Centre.

CADCF celebrated 70 years in April 2023, the teaching team and volunteers agreed that building in orchestra time to our timetable would be invaluable. Indeed this was fantastic as it helped to build stronger relationships with all our students as well as providing encouragement to each other in coming together to play familiar tunes to an audience.

Our teaching team and committee agreed to look into CADCF members' polo shirts and or fleeces which have proven to be popular and comfy!

We held our AGM on Saturday 21st October 2023 in The Broughshane Community Centre and voting of our committee members was overseen by Sandy Wilson, Broughshane Community Association. We appreciate Sandy taking the time from his busy schedule to facilitate this.

CADCF committee members proposed and seconded were:-

Position	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chairperson	Meabh McKeon	Maire	Grainne
Vice Chairperson	Alex Kerr	Meabh	Maire
Secretary	Elaine Orr	Alex	Meabh
Treasurer	Jane Rea	Elaine	Pamela
Assistant Treasurer	Molly McAllister	Meabh	Alan
Grants Officer	Hugh Laverty	Meabh	Elaine
PR Officer		Maire	Karen
Social Media	Chlöe Orr	Karen	Alex
Liaison Officer	Maire Buckley	Alex	Meabh
Leader of Sessions	Andrew Leacock	Alan	Chlöe
Music Co-ordinator			
Head of Tuition	Meabh McKeon	Alex	Chlöe

With our committee in place we commenced our years' work with agreeing our meetings, socials and holidays. Our special event for 2023 would be our 70th Anniversary!



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Our first social of Autumn Concert & Ceilidh was held on 4th November 2022 and we were fortunate to have McStocker Ceilidh Band with us to walk us through our paces with Waves of Troy and Gay Gordons to name a few!

Aughafatten Accordion Band held their annual fundraiser on 8th November 2022 and CADCF were asked to play a few tunes along with the band. This was a great night and way to continue to strengthen the relationships across the musical genres throughout not just Broughshane but further afield.

LCM exams were held November 2022 with Grades from Merit to Distinction obtained by students involved.

Christmas Social was held morning of Saturday 17th December 2022 at 11 am and it was lovely to share the beginning of the festive season with family and of course a mince pie or two.

CADCF have a traditional New Year's Eve get together at The Barn for a few tunes with family and friends from the local community. As always the tunes were enjoyed and some new friendships established. It is lovely to celebrate new beginnings in this way with our musical family. As you all know there was always good food, laughter and fun.

With Christmas and New Year celebrations over lessons commenced again on Saturday 14th January 2023. We were again encouraged with looking forward to exams and another social in February 2023.

Our annual February Social in memory of our esteemed member Acheson Armstrong was held on 11th February 2023 in Slemish Barn. For those of you who knew Acheson he had been a member of CADCF for over 50 years and he always attended our social events looking after the door and money for the same. As a committee following Acheson's passing in February 2020 we agreed to hold an annual social in Acheson's memory as close to his birthday as possible which was 14th February.

In March 2023 we were featured on The Antiques Road Trip as they filmed around part of Northern Ireland which had been filmed in November 2022 in The Barn and The Half Way House. This was a very special experience for those who were involved in getting to meet and talk to Natasha Raskin Sharp. Natasha even played a few cords on Maebh's violin.



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On Saturday 25th March 2023 we played at The British Legion as part of a joint fundraiser for Cullybackey Historical Society and The British Legion. Our numbers were small due to space but the tunes were mightily played and thoroughly enjoyed by all who listened whilst having a cuppa and a bun.

We celebrated our 70th Birthday on 15th April 2023 in Broughshane Community Centre. We were fortunate enough to enjoy a ceilidh dance or two played by McStockers Band. We are thankful for the support of family and friends for our events, it is greatly appreciated and an encouragement to the teaching team, volunteers and committee members.

At the end of June we finished our teaching year with our Summer social which gave all of our students the opportunity to showcase their exams pieces or other new pieces learnt throughout the year. Even though this was the end of the teaching year we always have our summer school week to look forward to.

SCT exams were held on 1st July 2023 with students obtaining Pass to Distinctions in their results.

Summer school week was held week commencing 24th July 2023 in The Braid Community Hub. This continues to be an encouragement to the students who attend as well as the staff who assist with the teaching. Following attendance at an NACN event CADCF and The Braid Community Association were winners of £50 vouchers and it was agreed that CADCF would use theirs as part of our summer school week. We took the opportunity to plant flowers and appreciate the safe space which The Braid Community Hub offers us and we hope to continue to build this relationship further in the coming months.

CADCF is grateful to Broughshane Community Association and The Braid Community Association for their continued support throughout the year.

Financial Update including Grant applications (September 2022-August 2023)

CADCF commenced September 2022 with a balance of £16,506.84 and final balance for August 2023 was £13,333.19. Our accounts were verified by Tax Accountants Ballymena and will be sent to The Charity Commission due to our charity status this is a legal requirement.

In respect of grants CADCF made an application to DAERA Rural Micro Capital Grant in December 2022 for storage boxes and shelving for CADCF's record collection which is being housed in The Braid Community Hub. This has been



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invaluable to us in securing our LP collection. If you have a record player and wish to enjoy a few easy listening LPs please let us know.

CADCF also made an application to Live Here, Love Here Grants in July 2023. This grant has allowed CADCF to expand further the planting of flowers and trees at The Braid Community Hub which were started at the summer school.

CADCF committee members wish to express their thanks to parents, friends and family for their continues support as without you our Association was not exist, keep growing and continue to be involved in cross community activities not only in Broughshane but throughout Northern Ireland.

Please accept this as a true reflection of CADCF work throughout September 2022 to August 2023.

Maeve McKeon

CADCF Chair