

## **THE BUSHMILLS TRUST**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

The Board of Trustees present their report and financial statements of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2021. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the Trust.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the financial statements and comply with the Trust's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and Charities SORP (FRS 102) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

#### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of Trustees of the Trust and professional advisers on page 1 of the financial statements.

#### **TRUSTEES**

The Directors of the Trust are its Trustees for the purpose of charity law. The Trustees who served the company during the year were as follows:

Kerrie Diane Laverty	Secretary
Derwyn Brewster	
Roy Bolton	
Martin Buchanan MacLaine	
James Hickinson McAuley	Resigned 17 September 2020
Robert Allister McIlroy	
Samuel Thompson	Resigned 17 June 2021
Robert Hedley	
Ray McMullan	
Lynne Bryce	Resigned 18 March 2021
Gary Stewart	
Ester Dobbin	
Alan Maguire	Appointed 16 September 2021

#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The Directors of The Bushmills Trust confirm that they have had due regard for the guidance on Public Benefit by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and are pleased to report that during the period the Trust continued to provide the Public Benefits through programmes and services on offer. In particular, the directors consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

#### **Public Benefits**

The direct benefits which flow from the objectives of The Bushmills Trust are the ownership of an 80-bed youth hostel, managed by Hostelling International Northern Ireland, and environmental

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#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT (continued)**

protection and improvements. The Department of the Environment, in collaboration with The Bushmills Trust, administered the improvements.

The Trust lists its charitable purposes as:

- The advancement of environmental protection or improvement.
- The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage and science.
- The advancement of citizenship or community development; and
- The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The principal objects of the Trust are as stated in the Memorandum of Association:

To promote for the public benefit the rural regeneration of Bushmills village.

The Trust publishes annually the Village Guide brochure listing, with map references, all activities, places of interest, accommodation, restaurants, bars and shops within 3 miles of the Village. The Guide is replicated in static panels in 5 locations in Bushmills including the Park & Ride to the Giants Causeway, Bushmills Distillery, and the Visitor Information Centre.

The Trust continues to maintain their internationally acclaimed illustrated panels in windows and doors of vacant building and the wall plaques on historic buildings with QR codes so visitors with mobile phones can access a fuller history. Each year the Trust erects the Lamp Post banners celebrating mostly famous people with Ulster Scots origins. Some of the banners are designed by children of the village and many are regularly photographed by visitors. Covid precautions in 2021 prevented erection of the Lamp Post banners.

The Trust originally secured finance to construct most of the 17 flower beds in the village and initially organised planting and maintenance. Causeway Coast & Glens Council now administer most of the planting, but the Trust continues to weed and generally maintain the beds on a voluntary basis.

The function room of the Bushmills Youth Hostel, owned by the Trust, continues to provide a very central meeting point for village activities and is the indoor venue for the Christmas Light Switch On evening organised by groups within the Village. The Trust act as bankers and administer the income and expenditure for the Christmas Group.

The Trust purchased, in 2016, the former National School, a listed building dating back to 1842 and

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#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

adjacent to the Visitor Information Centre. The vision is for a Heritage Centre, incorporating the Visitor Information Centre, hopefully largely financed with a Heritage Lottery Fund grant. Progress continues to be held back waiting completion of Council's latest Strategic Outline Case for the development of Bushmills; incorporating plans for the village to include the adjacent park & ride to the Giant's Causeway. Currently some £7.5M 'levelling up' funds may be available for the development of Bushmills. To help advance the process the Trust engaged Landscape Architects to come up with an attractive pedestrian link between the Park & Ride and the Village. A flier, with a tear off slip for comments, was circulated to all neighbours during 'lockdown' and left in all open retail outlets. Response was quite limited, but all responses received were very positive.

### **STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **Governing Document**

The Bushmills Trust is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital and avails of the use of 'Limited' exemption. The Company was incorporated on 01 August 2000. The Trust is registered with the NI Charity Commission as of 13 January 2015 - Charity No: 101319.

#### **Organisational structure and related parties**

Responsibilities for the activities of the Trust is vested in and carried out by a Board of Trustees which meets at intervals throughout the period. Trustees may be appointed by resolution of a meeting of the Board of Trustees. None of the Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any connection between a Trustee of the Charity with a contracted supplier must be disclosed to the full Board in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year there are no such related party transactions to report.

#### **Recruitment, appointment, induction and training**

The Board of Trustees have been involved in the Trust for several years and so are familiar with its work. The Trustees regularly review the requirements of the Trust and the possibility of a need for additional Trustees. Appropriate training and induction are available to all new Trustees.

#### **Financial risk management objectives and policies**

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Trust has in place an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Trust and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate any exposure to major risks.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

The Company is a non-profit making organisation. Total income for the year amounted to £24,773 (2020: £22,793). Income derived from charitable activities amounted to £24,763 (2020: £22,767) and other income amounted to £10 (2020: £26). Total expenditure for the year amounted to £22,355 (2020: £25,171).

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### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (continued)**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

The net income for the year amounted to) £2,419 (2020: (£2,379)) with net assets of £80,509 (2020: £78,091) at 31 December 2021. The Trustees consider that the Trust is in a satisfactory position to carry on its charitable activities.

#### **PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

There are no major changes envisaged in the foreseeable future.

#### **TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT**

The Trustees (who are also the directors of The Bushmills Trust) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the of the Trust and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Trust for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102).
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial 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 are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant information of which the Trust's independent examiner is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the independent examiner is aware of that information.

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**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (continued)**

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**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

A resolution proposing K Higgins FCA to be re-appointed as independent examiner will be put forward at the Annual General Meeting.

**SMALL COMPANY EXEMPTIONS**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed, By Order of the Trustees on 22 September 2022:



.....  
**Mr Roy Bolton**  
**Trustee**

Registered office:  
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