

Moira Friendship Group TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their Trustees' Report and the unaudited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 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 Moira Friendship Group present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 31 March 2023.

The charity 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 (Charities SORP effective January 2015), the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

AGM Chairperson's Report 2022- 2023

The Moira Friendship Group (MFG) has been operating for 20 years. We are a non-denominational group, all are welcome to join, and to take part in our many activities. Our current membership is 269. Pre-covid this was 320, but we know that some people are still wary of the virus, as it is evolving too. We hope that the vaccination program for older people has benefitted all who seek inoculation. All are welcome back, and we hope to increase our membership as time passes.

The MFG first came to the attention of my wife and I when we saw a banner advertising an MFG sale in the church hall. We were inclined to enrol as we thought that it would be a good way to meet the locals. We were impressed by the welcome we received and have mentioned this to anyone who is seeking to contribute to the community.



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Activities And Events

Our list of activities is always open to new suggestions, though the costs have risen steeply, in common with most things today. Our administration team are always available to discuss any new activities, and we welcome any suggestions. Not all can be accommodated but we are always looking for new things to try.

We have recently gained some new blood as Paul King has agreed to continue with the art classes. Speaking to some of the people who have joined Paul's group, the generous comments and engagement are very encouraging – and the feedback has been very positive, and life affirming.

I earlier mentioned the membership, the sense of community, and the personal experience of myself, and my wife has provided us both with a large group of new acquaintances and friends. I look forward to welcoming new members as part of our continuing enrolment, and I encourage you to try things that are on offer, even if it may seem to be on a different agenda to that which you are used to.

Our most successful events encourage members to be active. For example, walking groups, and keep fit for ladies and gentlemen are popular, so it is always possible to expand your horizons by trying something new.



Finance

One of the benefits of our longevity as a community group is that we have a tested operational experience and are financially sound. This is an inheritance of our founding members and is continued by our honorary office bearers, husbanding our finances and in the existence of a very active management committee. Once more I would encourage you all to consider if you have any skills or specialised knowledge that could benefit the whole group.

I am pleased to report to you that despite the huge increase in costs we continue to plan weekends away. We continue to benefit through our relationships with other fund awarding bodies. However, in common with all groups like ours there is a serious problem caused by the inability of our elected representatives and others to finally sit down and hammer out an agreement that will benefit everyone in NI, and relationships with fund awarding bodies.

Volunteers/ Facilitators

We are lucky with our friends – and I must add a huge thank you to our administrative staff who keep their fingers on the pulse of our daily activities. I also must include my personal thanks to everyone who is already serving on the Management Committee. They make my job so much easier. I also must mention our friends and contributors who have helped us to gain access to external funding. Although at present the augury does not fill me with joy, we can do no more than what we already do and continue to expand and encourage you as members to continue to make suggestions for other activities. I cannot let this occasion pass without commending our two-admin staff, Alison and Julie. They make a good team, and we are very lucky to have them “minding the shop”. Without them my job would be immeasurably more difficult: with them in post it is a formality.

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Conclusion

Finally, I conclude by thanking all the current Management Committee, and I encourage you all to offer your talents to the continuing smooth operation of MFG. And lastly, I must make a special mention of our retiring long term secretary Helen McCleary. She has been a member of the backroom team for over 17 years. We wish her well for the future, and hope that she will continue to drop in to see us when time permits.

Results

At the end of the financial year the charity has assets of £57,995 (2022 - £60,416) and liabilities of £3,984 (2022 - £1,226). The net assets of the charity have decreased by £(5,179).

Reserves Policy

The existing Reserves Policy was £60,000 and we are happy to have reached the target reserve figure. This level of reserves is necessary to cover 6 months of running costs (£25,000), annual room hire costs (£15,000), £18,000 for grants not being renewed and £2,000 for replacement of equipment. The Trustees feel that this level of Reserves Policy is an integral part of the charity's planning, budget and forecasts.

Public Benefit Statement

The benefits that flow from our purpose are:

- (1) advancing education, older people will be better able to cope with the challenges of ageing and modern life.
- (2) the relief of poverty among older people include, a reduction of financial and emotional distress, a higher quality of life and increased confidence in dealing with financial issues.
- (3) from promoting the preservation and protection of health are a greater sense of wellbeing among older people and a reduction in social isolation through greater involvement in various activities.
- (4) from improving the benefit of older people is an improvement in their overall quality of life.
- (5) flow from providing facilities include, enabling the group to run our activities, encouraging older people to interact socially and provide a safe and comfortable environment.
- (6) from raising awareness among the general public will be an increased appreciation of the positive roles older people play, a reduction of apathy or hostility towards older people and to increase awareness of the process of ageing and its attendant problems.

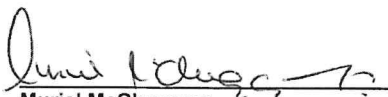
These benefits are and will be demonstrated through surveys of satisfaction at the end of any course, increased attendance at relevant meetings and advice and guidance sought by members. The Charity's beneficiaries are Older people living in Moira and the surrounding areas.

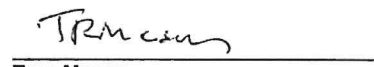
Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards

The charity engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. Moira Friendship Group subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

- The Charities SORP (FRS 102)

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 09th May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:


Muriel McCluggage
Trustee


Tom Mason
Trustee

Moira Friendship Group
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
for the financial year ended 31 March 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 charity as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the charity and otherwise comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

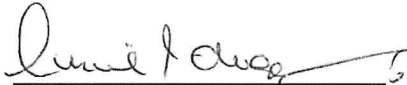
In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework, 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 charity will continue in operation.

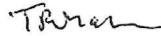
The trustees confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 09th May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Muriel McCluggage
Trustee



Tom Mason
Trustee