

DERGANAGH TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Trustees Report for the financial year 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2024

Northern Ireland charity number NIC102057

Trustees

The elected trustees, who also acted as Office Bearers for the Derganagh Training and Development Association during the period of this report, have not changed since the original submission for charitable status and are as follows:

- Stanley Leacock
- Adrian Bradley
- Mark Hawe
- Harold Leacock
- Ryan Leacock
- Ashley Stewart
- Ivan Lamont

Purpose

The purpose of the Derganagh Training and Development Association is to carry out the provision of education and vocational training or any related activity being charitable in nature for the benefit of inhabitants of Derganagh, Knockloughrim and immediate outlying rural areas of Mid Ulster. To advance citizenship and community development by promoting social inclusion, volunteering, providing facilities to community groups and helping other charities by providing training and support.

Activities

The Derganagh Training and Development Association continues to play a central and invaluable role in the development of the community in the Knockloughrim area of rural Mid-Ulster. As well as providing training, the Association hosts many social events for all sections of the local socially deprived community.

The Association is continually assessing how to achieve its 'Purpose' more effectively and efficiently. To this end, members of the Committee and Volunteers visited the very successful 'Schomberg Mourne' Society in Kilkeel. This community group has been operating for many years and is well recognised as an incredibly effective community development organisation. During discussion, representatives from the Schomberg Society described the range of events and activities it has provided for the local community, ranging from pageants to music tuition. It also provides classes for pupils who require additional assistance with core academic subjects. They continually recruit volunteers to spread the workload emanating from their ever-increasing portfolio of events, whilst keeping existing volunteers motivated. The funding stream that facilitated this educational trip enabled representatives from our Association to

gain valuable information and encouragement and the subsequent discussion will help our group to develop in the future.

Continued funding has been very effectively used to enable tuition in both fife and drum to continue within the community during the winter and spring periods. New members have been introduced to both instruments, whilst the more experienced existing musicians have further enhanced their skill base. This group is now widely recognised for their musical ability and continually receive requests to perform at community events.

A range of community activities undertaken by the Association facilitated much-needed social interaction. Firstly, a community table quiz received phenomenal support with the local Hall being filled to capacity. This eagerly contested event provided a relaxed environment where all sections of the local community interacted freely, and new friendships were forged. In addition, lecture on local history was again attended by all the community irrespective of age, gender or financial status allowing individuals to mix and the community to develop socially. The annual community barbeque has become a 'cornerstone event' in the community calendar and this year the attendance was greater than ever. Attendees from all sections of the community were present and enjoyed the food and entertainment provided through the prudent allocation of grant funding by the Association. Finally, the ability to provide residents in the local village with a small present at Christmas was well received, making them feel appreciated and valued members of the local community.

Fund raising is central to the activities of the Association to ensure the group can provide for community development, and this year was no exception. Voluntary donations and raffles ensured that the Association had the ability to offer events at little or no expense to attendees. This was greatly appreciated by many experiencing the current 'cost of living' crisis.

The Association continue to maintain the facilities in the local Hall. This ensures that members of the community can enjoy tailored training and social events which are conducive to individual and community development. Indeed, the Hall is central to the successful work of the Association and enables it to provide a welcoming environment where participants feel relaxed and are comfortable to interact socially hence facilitating personal and community development. It is the latter objective which is central to and guides the work of the Association.

In conclusion, all the work of the Derganagh Training and Development Association undertaken during the current reporting period is directly aligned with the core themes of the 'Purpose and Public Benefit' of the organisation including training, education, citizenship, providing facilities and ultimately community development.

Finances

The Derganagh Training and Development Association gave due and timely notice of the Annual General meeting of the group, which was held on 8th May 2024 in the local Hall. At this formal meeting, the treasurer presented a full and detailed report of all financial transactions undertaken during the previous reporting period (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024) to all members present. The Treasurer then answered any queries relating to the latter, before the accounts were formally passed and unanimously accepted by the meeting. In accordance with the statutes of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, all the Trustees of the Association confirmed that they had not benefited privately from any of the activities provided by the group over the previous reporting period.

The ability and professionalism of the Association is continually confirmed with grant awarding bodies providing funding, and indeed repeat funding. This is tangible evidence that these organisations are content with the way all finances are administered by the group. The Association relies heavily on the latter funding to enable it to provide the activities outlined in the 'Purpose' of the group, which ultimately enhance community development.

The Association is confident that the activities undertaken during the year ensured that the objectives of the group have been met and that the essential public benefit continues to be provided. All activities and actions have been undertaken with careful consideration given to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland guidance on public benefit, to ensure that they meet the required standards as well as the activities and objectives of the Association. All financial activities have been completed to the highest standards and finances have been deployed to ensure maximum benefit within the community.

The Derganagh Training and Development Association is integral to community development and will continue to provide an essential public benefit to all within the immediate rural area.

Signed



Date 8th May 2021

Mark Hawe

(Trustee & Secretary)