

# **The Causeway Yarnspinnners**

## **Trustees' Report January 1st to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

### **About the Charity**

The Trustees of the Causeway Yarnspinnners are pleased to submit their Annual General Report and Accounts for the period January to December 2017. The Yarnspinnners meet once a month on the second Monday from 2pm to 3.30pm to share all sorts of different categories of stories. Through our members we have received invitations to entertain other organisations! The tradition of the oral word still has a place in today's fast changing world. We do also share promoting of related events locally and throughout the Province.

### **Venues**

Mostly we have met in the Methodist Hall, Coleraine, and here are the other places we have been invited to, some for our monthly meeting, some as extras.

- \* Rothesay Court Sheltered Housing for the second time
- \* Agherton Grange for a second visit
- \* Coleraine Library with Liz Weir (NI Libraries' Storyteller-in-Residence)
- \* Garvagh Diamond Club (about 50 attending!)
- \* Castlerock Community Association
- \* Kilrea WI
- \* Coleraine Probus Club

Our June outing was a guided tour of Seamus Heaney country, lunch at the SH HomePlace Café, Bellaghy, followed by a self-guided tour of the exhibition. Our December outing was to have lunch at Stormont, where we also had a guided tour and an interesting 45 minutes with MLA Claire Sugden.

### **Membership**

Apart from occasional drop-ins and a large number for the writer Tony Macaulay in July, our attendance is around the 10 to 14 per meeting. This ensures the Yarnspinnners have a strong core. To ensure "new blood", drop-ins are encouraged, and we are always looking for new members. Usually 6 to 8 members have gone to the places we have been invited as entertainment. Our members are aged between 60 and 90, although people of any age are welcome.

### **Activities and Skills Development**

As always, members are encouraged to develop their skills in storytelling/reminiscing at their own pace and with their own choices. Throughout the year it has been interesting to see these processes develop. Each month we choose a theme. Again there is a wide range of skills being employed in writing imaginary or real event stories, personal experiences, telling funny anecdotes, reciting all sorts of poems, and of course good listening skills. Something for everyone. Through being invited to take storytelling to different community groups, members have been growing in confidence.

Our speakers/workshop trainers were:

- \* Jane Talbot who led us through different ways to remember and to use stories.
- \* Tony Macaulay sharing his stories, books and observations on life, growing up and living in Belfast.
- \* Eugene Kielt talking about Seamus Heaney's life and poetry.
- \* George Murphy telling stories and singing.
- \* MLA Claire Sugden explaining the workings of Stormont.

## Financial Report

Our income this year was in the form of donations from our membership and donations were gratefully received from Kilrea Women's Institute and Castlerock Community Association. We raised £793.20 in total. Expenditure included Storytellers, workshops and an outing to the Home Place in Bellaghy

## Trustees

The trustees this year were Christine Turner, Mick Turner, Maud Steel, Colum McCloskey, Marjorie Geary and Pearl Hutchinson and we thank them for their efforts this year.

Signed Christine Turner January 8th 2018

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