

## **The Causeway Yarnspinnners Trustees' Report January 1st to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2018**

The Trustees of the Causeway Yarnspinnners are pleased to submit their Annual General Report and Accounts for the period January to December 2018. Throughout 2018 the Causeway Yarnspinnners continued to meet on the second Monday of each month.

### **Venues**

Mostly we have met in the Methodist Hall, Coleraine, but for several months we met at The Cottage Nursing Home due to one of our members being there.

We were invited to provide storytelling entertainment for:

- Boveedy Springwell 55+ Club
- St Paul's Life and Soul group, Articlave (Roberta is a member)
- Garvagh Museum
- Garvagh Diamond Club
- Ballyscullion Young at Heart
- Castlerock Community Association (George provided the music)
- Kilrea Town Hall – The Museum Service

Clubs give us a donation if they have funding. When one of our members who is a member of another organisation invites us, we do not take any money.

Our June outing was very kindly organised by the writer and broadcaster, Ken McCormack. We had guided tours/talks at Dunmore House, Carrigans, Co Donegal, St Columb's House, and Prehen House.

Our December meeting was held in our usual hall, with 27 attending, including friends, invited guests, Coleraine Mayor Brenda Chivers, Edward Montgomery from The Honourable The Irish Society and Liz Weir who is the NI Libraries' 'Storyteller-in-Residence'.

### **Numbers**

Our attendance is regularly about 14 to 16, plus guests, again a strong core.

### **Activities and Skills Development**

As well as having craic and company, members are encouraged to find/write different materials, come up with ideas for stories, poems, reminiscing themes. Our range is most interesting. One of our members did a story-telling course organised by Liz Weir, and hopefully others may do so in the future. In November Kate Murphy (leader of the Portrush Writers Group) did an engaging workshop with us.

In February Sarah Carson from the Museum Service approached us to propose a project about Sam Henry, well-known for his contributions to local newspapers, and his collection of photographs, stories and folk songs. A group of seven members met regularly for several months and in November, in Kilrea Town Hall, they put on a most informative and amazing evening of stories, songs and music connected with Sam Henry. Mr Henry's grandson was there and was obviously very pleased, and moved by the evening's content. Almost 100 people attended.

In September four members attended the launch of The Armstrong Storytelling Bursary in conjunction with Liz Weir as Northern Ireland Libraries' Storyteller-in-Residence.

Some members are now often on the Radio Ulster programme "The Time of our Lives". Three members continue to do storytelling based projects with Garvagh Museum. We also promote and attend other related events both locally and province-wide.

## Finances

We continued with the £2 contribution from each member attending each meeting. We received £60 from Boveedy, £30 from Ballyscullion, £20 from Castlerock in donations. In October we were successful in being awarded £500 by The Right Honourable The Irish Society for storytelling workshops, and sound equipment to use when we are invited to other venues. We pay £6 an hour for the use of the Methodist Hall and kitchen facilities. At present we have £420.25 in the bank. Our accounts are checked at CRUN in preparation for submission to the NICC.

## Financial Report

Please see attached

## Trustees 2018 - 2019

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.

## Trustees for 2019 - 2020

Two additional Trustees are added for 2019 - 2020, Denise Munce and Patrick Breslin

Signed: *Christine Turner*

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019