

**HEART OF THE GLENS FESTIVAL**  
**For The Year ended 31 March 2023**  
**Trustees Annual Report**

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**Charity Name:-** Heart of the Glens Festival - NIC 103080

**Charity Address:-** Old Schoolhouse  
25 Mill Street  
CUSHENDALL  
Co Antrim  
BT44 0RR

**Trustees:-**

The following served as trustees during the year and up to the date of this report

Bernadette Delargy	(Chairperson)	Siobhan O'Grady
Joanne Quinn	(Chairperson)	Shauna Mitchell
Carmel McKeegan	(Secretary)	Aine Campbell
Una McCambridge	(Deputy Secretary)	Christine McAlister
Susan McLaughlin	(Treasurer)	Kieran Dempsey
James McCurry	(Deputy Treasurer)	Katrina Delargy

**Accountants:-** Park McKillop and Company  
51 Springwell Street  
Ballymena  
Co. Antrim  
BT43 6AT

**Structure, Governance and Management:-**

The Heart of the Glens Festival Group (also known as HOTGF/The Festival) was officially established on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1999 and constitution was amended in February 2015. The first festival was in 1990 under the guidance of Cushendall Development Group.

Membership of the Festival shall be open to the following, irrespective of age, gender, ethnic identity, nationality, sexual orientation, race, religion or political opinion.

The Committee shall meet at least 6 times in the year and shall consist of not less than 5 members and no more than 15 members as per election at AGM.

The Hon Treasurer keeps proper accounts of the finances of the group. The financial year of the group shall run from 1 April to 31 March annually.

The accounts are audited by an auditor/s as appointed at the Annual General Meeting. A Bank account is held in the name of the group and cheques are signed by 2 out of 3 members of the group.

### **Purposes and Objectives of Heart Of The Glens Festival**

To advance education, promote arts and culture and sporting activities and enhance the health and wellbeing of locals and tourists through the organisation of a community festival and various community events and activities in the Mid Glens area.

To network with other local voluntary organisations to enhance the health and wellbeing of locals and tourists through the organisation of a community festival and various community events and activities in the mid Glens area.

To recruit volunteers to support the work of the group and hold meetings for the group and other relevant parties to plan and facilitate events and activities.

To raise funds to invest in the work that we do, in the form of donations, grants, membership fees and fundraisers.

### **Statement of Compliance:-**

In setting out our objectives and carrying out our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission NI's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to its beneficiaries.

### **Achievements and Performance:-**

During the year 2022-23 Heart of the Glens Festival were delighted to see the return of the main festival in August.

A full 9 days of events were organised and were well attended by the vast number of people in attendance.

In addition to our festival week, The Heart of The Glens Festival Committee also organised a Christmas Late Night Shopping event at the start of December to encourage the community to 'shop local' and support our local shops who struggle to survive over the winter months. Families were encouraged to gather at the Christmas tree to see Santa. Shops were opened as normal to allow the local community to avail of the bargains on offer. Heart of the Glens Festival also provided selection boxes to the local primary schools, festive music for the village and replaced more of the Christmas Festive lighting.

During the first months of the year Heart of the Glens Festival organised a Winter Wellness Challenge for the local community. Local people joined and availed of the health and wellbeing talks, walks and cookery demonstrations as well as the wide variety of exercise classes on offer.

**Financial Review: -**

**Causeway Coast and Glens BC Tourism Growth Fund - £10,902.18**

This funding was used to pay for entertainment, workshops and running costs of the Heart of the Glens Festival in August 2022

**Rural Micro Capital Support Grant - £816.30**

This enabled the group to purchase a generator, rope lights, a microphone and foldable tables

**Causeway Coast and Glens BC Festive Fund - £250**

This money helped towards the costs of facilitating a Festive evening in the village.

**Northern Area Community Network – Making Life Better Through Short Term Funding - £1000**

This money was secured to facilitate Art, Craft and other recreational workshops for adults and children.

**Community Foundation NI Micro Community Fund- £2000**

This was used during the Winter Wellness Challenge and was used to facilitate exercise classes, wellbeing talks, cookery demonstrations, venue hire, and refreshments.

**Causeway Coast and Glens Policing and Community Safety Small Grants Fund - £999**

This funding was used to purchase High Viz Vests and Torched for the participants of the Winter wellness Challenge.

**National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All - £10,000**

This grant was obtained to help fund the Heart of the Glens Festival in August 2023.

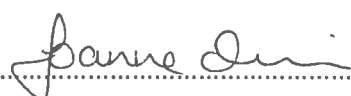
Income for Heart of the Glens Festival totalled: - £51,151

Expenditure activities, administration, insurance, workshops, sundry expense, Christmas expenditure and maintenance, totalled: - £41,477

This has left a Profit of ( £ 9,674 ).

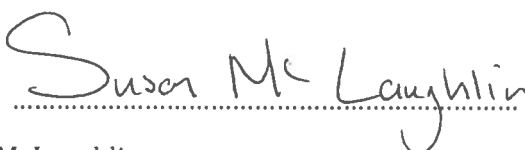
Funds are held in reserve to cover any unexpected expenses.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 12 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed  .....

Joanne Quinn

Chairperson

Signed  .....

Susan McLaughlin

Hon Treasurer

