

HEART OF THE GLENS FESTIVAL
For The Year ended 31 March 2024
Trustees Annual Report

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)	Anne Quinn	Maureen McAlister
Joanne Quinn	(Chairperson)	Shauna Mitchell	Evelyn O'Neill
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 15th 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 2023-24 Heart of the Glens Festival were delighted to see the continued success 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 Community Festival Fund - £3000

Funding used to cover venue and equipment hire, workshop tutor and printing costs during the Heart of the Glens Festival 2023

Causeway Coast and Glens BC Festive Fund - £2500

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

Northern Area Community Network –Mental Health and Suicide prevention Community Development support Model - £470

This money was secured to facilitate exercise classes and motivational talk during the Winter Wellness Challenge.

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 LED Reflective Sashes for the participants of the Winter wellness Challenge.

Income for Heart of the Glens Festival totalled: - £36,787

Expenditure activities, administration, insurance, workshops, sundry expense, Christmas expenditure and maintenance, totalled: - £40,605

Funds are held in reserve to cover any unexpected expenses.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 7th October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed 

Joanne Quinn

Chairperson

Signed 

Susan McLaughlin

Hon Treasurer

