



**BANGOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022**

CHARITY NUMBER – 104010

Principal Address: 28 Ballyholme Esplanade, Bangor, County Down BT20 5LZ

Contents	Pages
The Society's Purpose and Administration	3-5
Outputs and achievements	5-7
Accounts	7-8
Public Benefit Requirement Statutory Guidance	8
Appendix A – Bangor Historical Society's Constitution	
Appendix B – Audited Accounts of Bangor Historical Society and Independent Examiner's Report	

Bangor Historical Society

Annual Report for the year ending 31 December 2022

The Trustees of Bangor Historical Society are pleased to submit to The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland its Report and Accounts, including a Report by an Independent Examiner, for the period 1 January to 31 December 2022.

Trustees

The Trustees / Committee members in 2022 were –

Robert McKinley	President
Ian Wilson	Chairman
Ronald McClements	Honorary Secretary
Adrienne Brown	Honorary Treasurer
Dr. Sandra Millsopp	Trustee
William McMullan	Trustee

The Trustees' Committee met on 4 occasions in 2022 to monitor the Society's accounts and to review plans for speakers, themes for meetings and the Society's role in promoting and protecting local heritage. The Committee also looked at risk assessment and general data protection issues relating to the Society.

Membership

At 31 December 2022 the Society had maintained its 2021 level of 62 members drawn mainly from the Ards and North Down Borough Council area. Visitor numbers for the year remained steady at 203 compared with 201 in 31 December 2021.

The Society's Purpose

The Society's objectives, as set out in Part 2 of its constitution are-

(a) The study of and the encouragement of public interest in history, folklore, archaeology, and antiquities with special reference to the local area.

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(b) The holding of lectures, visits and outings and the encouragement of the study of local history.

Purposes under The Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008

(a) The Advancement of Education; and

(b) 'Heritage' under The Advancement of the Arts, Culture, Heritage or Science.

The Society's activities directly benefit its members and visitors, who come mainly from the Ards and North Down Borough Council area of Northern Ireland and Greater Belfast.

Beneficiaries include speakers and, whenever outings are held, the proprietors of historic buildings and museums visited; also coach companies and restaurants/cafes who service the Society's outings. The rent for premises benefitted Ards and North Down Borough Council up to the Society's final meeting of April 2022 in North Down Museum. From 8 September 2022 the Society rented a hall at Queen's Parade Methodist Church and paid insurance premiums to cover the Society's activities and its trustees' public liability.

These private benefits are incidental and necessary because the Society could not function without these services from the wider community. In addition, the existence and activities of the Society encourage respect for the preservation of local heritage which is also important to the tourist trade. To this end the Society may decide to support projects and events which promote or preserve local heritage.

The Society's purposes do not lead to any harm.

Membership of other organisations

The Society is a member of the **Federation for Ulster Local Studies Ltd (FULS)** which promotes communication and co-operation between local historical societies and with similar bodies. The Federation's magazine 'Due North' also provides informative papers on historical subjects.

Through FULS the Society insures its members by a Public Liability Insurance Scheme.

Due to the effects of the Corona Virus pandemic upon attendances at historical society meetings and outings, FULS excused all its members, including Bangor Historical Society, from paying premiums for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2022.

The Society is also a member of **The Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA)** which represents voluntary and community bodies throughout Northern Ireland.

Contact is ongoing with FULS and NICVA to ensure that the Society is kept informed of relevant matters and offered relevant training courses. In 2022 the Society's Treasurer attended online webinars on Funding Matters, Trustee Annual Reporting, General Data Protection Regulations and Governance for Trustees.

Administration

The Society is based in Bangor and held 4 monthly meetings in 2022 (from January to April) at North Down Museum, rented from Ards & North Down Borough Council. The rising numbers attending meetings there failed to comply with health and safety guidelines from Ards and North Down Borough Council and the Society sought new premises for the second half of 2022.

The Society acknowledges with thanks the excellent support given by the Museum's Manager, Heather McGuicken and her staff during its meetings at this location.

A new venue was finally secured at The Queen's Parade Methodist Church, Bangor where another four meetings were held from 8 September to 8 December 2022.

Constitution

A copy of the Society's Constitution is attached at Appendix A.

Outputs and Achievements 2021

In accordance with the purposes of the Society as stated in its Constitution and under the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the following is a summary of the Society's outputs and achievements in 2022.

Activities

In the calendar year 2022 the Society held 8 monthly meetings from January to December at 8.00pm on the second Thursday of each month.

Programme of Meetings in 2022

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Subject</u>
13 January	Laura Spence	<i>Robert Burns</i>
10 February	Aidan Campbell	<i>East Belfast: Big Houses</i>
10 March	Roy Greer	<i>Con O'Neill</i>
14 April	Peter Vannucci	<i>Italians, The War and the 'Arandora Star'</i>
8 September	Ken Dawson	<i>Henry Joy McCracken & the 1798 Rebellion</i>
13 October	Leanne Briggs	<i>Royal Visits to Bangor</i>
10 November	Billy McCullough	<i>The Ulster Scots who went to America</i>
8 December	Alan Cook	<i>The Cook Family at war.</i>

Outings

Because of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman (who plans and leads outings) none were held this year.

Supporting Heritage-Section 2(f) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008

The Society did not provide any financial support to local heritage during 2022 mainly due to the lengthy sickness absence of its Chairman, Ian Wilson, whose duties include advice on funding local heritage promotion. Thankfully the Chairman has recovered and resumed this special responsibility in 2023.

The Society was represented by its Treasurer at two Heritage Cluster Group meetings organized by the Heritage Development Officer at North Down Museum for groups with heritage related projects in the Ards and North Down Borough Council area. A new project about the history of shops in Bangor, in which the Society will participate, is at the planning stage.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

GDPR compliance is regularly monitored and members presented with copies of the Society's Privacy Policy. On registration they are asked how they wish the Society to contact them. Details of members are held by the Secretary and the Treasurer alone. Lists of members' contact details are destroyed when no longer needed.

The Treasurer attended a course on GDPR in 2022, run by NICVA.

The Society's Website – <http://www.bangorhistoricalsocietyni.org/>

Throughout 2022 the website was maintained by volunteers and requests from researchers were received and dealt with appropriately.

Publicity

Each talk was reported by Trustee Dr. Sandra Millsopp and published in the local newspaper '*The County Down Spectator*', along with date and time of the next meeting. Dr. Millsopp's reports also appear on the Society's website.

Public Benefit of the Society's work

Membership levels remained high at 62 plus 201 visitors, all of whom appeared to benefit from the social participation of attending meetings again after the worst period of the Covid-19 pandemic. They clearly found the speakers and their subjects stimulating and enjoyed networking with fellow history enthusiasts.

Accounts

Bangor Historical Society's revenue comes mainly from an annual membership subscription of £15 and a visitor's fee of £3 plus income from subscriptions for any outings (none in 2022). No additional funding was sought or received.

The Society's accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 have been audited by **Elise Richardson, Chartered Accountant, 25 Ardnavanagh Avenue, Conlig, Newtownards BT23 7XE.**

Ms Richardson also conducted an **Independent Examiner's Report** for the same period.

The Society's Bankers are **Santander, Bridle Road, Bootle L30 4GB.**

The Society's address is **28 Ballyholme Esplanade, Bangor, County Down BT20 5LZ**

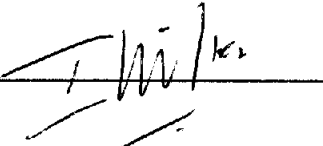
Copies of accounts and related documents are at Appendix B.

Public Benefit Guidance from the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland

The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on the public benefit requirement continued to influence the Society's Trustees both in planning and decision making throughout 2022.

Judging by the enthusiastic reaction of audiences at meetings of Bangor Historical Society it performs a useful function in boosting the morale of the many older people who support it and contributing to their lifelong learning.

In co-operation with North Down Museum, the Society continues to undertake research into local heritage and its activities help to keep both local and wider historical subjects at the forefront of public interest and debate in this area.

Signed 

Date 31/10/23

Ian Wilson

Chairman of Bangor Historical Society

CONSTITUTION OF BANGOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1) Name

The Society shall be called the Bangor Historical Society

2) Objects

- a) The study of and the encouragement of public interest in history, folklore, archaeology and antiquities with special reference to the local area.
- b) The holding of lectures, visits and outings and the encouragement of the study of local history.

3) Membership

Membership will be open to any person supporting the objects of the Society and paying the annual subscription. The annual subscription shall be decided by the committee and subject to approval of the members at the Annual General Meeting of the Society. A membership card will be issued annually.

4) President

As necessary, members shall appoint a President who will be a member of the Executive Committee. The President may hold office for up to five years and may be re-appointed. The President, or delegated deputy, will take the chair for the election of the incoming Chairman. In the event of equality of voting the President will have a casting vote.

5) Executive Committee

- a) At the Annual General Meeting of the Society the members shall elect from its number, a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and up to seven other members to form an Executive Committee. A person so elected shall commence his/her year of office immediately after election.
- b) Subject to this Constitution the Executive Committee shall have the general control, direction and management of the affairs, funds and records of the Society.
- c) The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice in each year and the quorum for such meetings shall be the majority of the Committee.
- d) The Chairman at each executive meeting shall have a casting vote in the event of equality of voting.
- e) If the need should arise the Executive Committee shall have the power of co-option.

6) Meetings of Members

- a) The Annual General meeting of the Society shall be held at the last meeting of the session - normally in April – or at such date, time and place as the Executive Committee by resolution determine.
- b) The agenda of the Annual General Meeting shall contain the following :
 - i) Secretary's Report
 - ii) Treasurer's Audited Report
 - iii) Election of the Executive Committee
 - iv) Appointment of Auditor
 - v) Any other business
- c) Each member shall have one vote on each proposal/motion at any General Meeting of the Society, except in voting at elections when the Chairman shall have a casting vote in the event of equal voting.
- d) Notices of motions to be debated at the Annual General Meeting must arrive in writing with the Secretary at least fourteen days before the meeting.
- e) Special General Meetings of the Society, may be called by decision of the Executive Committee as soon as may be after the receipt of a requisition in writing to the secretary signed on behalf of not less than one third of the members, and stating the object of the meeting. Any such meeting thus

called must be notified in writing to the membership not less than fourteen days before the date of the meeting.

- f) The notice of a Special General Meeting shall state the purpose for which it is to be held and no business, other than that specified in the notice convening it, may be dealt with.

7) Financial Provisions

- a) The financial year of the Society shall be 1st January to 31st December.
- b) All funds of the Society shall be kept in a recognised bank or building society agreed by the Executive Committee and all receipts and disbursements of the Society shall be recorded in the Treasurer's accounts. The accounts shall be kept in the name of the Society.
- c) The Executive Committee shall have power to administer such funds.
- d) The accounts of the Society shall be audited annually by the Auditor appointed by the members at the Annual General Meeting.

8) Interpretation and Procedures

In all matters of procedure and interpretation of this constitution the decision of the Chairman shall be final.

9) Amendment

The Constitution of the Society may only be amended by a resolution carried by not less than two thirds of the votes given thereon at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the Society, provided that notice of the proposed amendment has been given in writing to each member of the Society at least fourteen days before the meeting.

10) Affiliations

The Society may affiliate with the Federation for Ulster Local Studies or such other body the membership of which would be deemed to be in the best interests of the Society. However, any such affiliation shall require the prior approval of the members at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called for the purpose.

11) Miscellaneous

- a) Any object or document given to the Society for safekeeping or otherwise shall remain the property of the owner unless otherwise decreed by him/her in writing and signed in the presence of two independent witnesses.
- b) A copy of this Constitution, together with any amendments thereto, shall be delivered free of charge to any member of the Society on request.
- c) The Society may be dissolved by the consent of three fourths of the votes given thereon at a special General Meeting called for the purpose, of which twenty-eight days notice has been given in writing.
- d) If on dissolution of the Society there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any assets whatsoever such assets shall not be kept among its members but shall be given or transferred to such other charity or charities having objects similar to the Society as the Committee may decide.

Signed :

J. Curran (Chairman)

Date :

10 - 12 - 15