

**THE SIEGE MUEUM LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

The Board of Trustees presents its report and unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a Directors' Report and accounts for Companies Act purposes. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Reference and Administration Information

Charity Name: The Siege Museum Limited

Charity Reference Number: NIC 104796

Company Registration Number: NI045100

Registered Office: The Siege Museum
13 Society Street
Londonderry
Co Londonderry
BT48 6PJ

Trustees

Mr William Hay
Mr William S Moore
Mr James Brownlee
Mr Ronald McCausland
Mr Worthington McGrath
Mr Ivan Taylor
Mr William Thompson (passed away 28 January 2021)
Mr Richard Wray
Mr George Luney
Mr Victor Wray
Mr Michael Speers
Mr James Speers
Mr Noel Moore
Mr Raymond Chestnutt (appointed 7 April 2021)

Secretary

Mr Worthington McGrath

Accountants

McCartney & Co
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors
Grove House
27 Hawkin Street
Londonderry
BT48 6RE

Bankers

Danske Bank
Business Banking
Donegal Square West
Belfast
BT1 6JS

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**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
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Our Objectives and Activities

Purposes and aims

Our charity's purposes are as set out in the objects clause contained in the company's Memorandum of Association:

- To restore and promote the permanent preservation, for the benefit of the public generally and especially the inhabitants of the city of Londonderry of a Memorial at the Royal Bastion, City Walls, Londonderry to the Late Reverend George Walker, joint Governor of the city of Londonderry during the siege of 1689 and
- to establish and maintain for the education and benefit of the public generally and especially the inhabitants of the city of Londonderry museums, interpretive or heritage centres within the City Walls of Londonderry to depict by display and chronicles, the attainments of the Scottish, English and French Protestant settlers and descendants in the City and County of Londonderry with a permanent feature on the events of 1688 – 1689 incorporating the Reverend Doctor George Walker's influence on the besieged and his subsequent national acclaim

The focus of our work

Our main objective for the year

- to provide tours and exhibitions for the benefit of the public relating to the Glorious Revolution of 1688, with history and heritage around the walls of Londonderry through the siege heroes trail and other events within the city

How our charity activities deliver public benefit

Who use and benefit from our services?

Our objects and funding focus on the promotion, education and preservation of the historical events surrounding the Great Siege of 1689 and the benefit extends to the general public within Northern Ireland and Ireland, international visitors, educational bodies and cross community initiatives. A core element of the project will be the development of new teaching materials on the history of the Great Siege, for primary and secondary schools, which will link in with both the Northern Ireland and Ireland educational syllabuses.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries. Our aims, objectives and activities are reviewed, monitored and assessed through our ongoing programme of regular committee meetings. The committee is made up of individuals within the statutory, business, voluntary and community sectors.

Activities, achievements and performance

Following the enforced closure due to Covid 19 The Siege Museum reopened on the 24th of May, with a sense of purpose and promise. Unfortunately, the last week of May and the month of June were exceptionally quiet, with few group visits and even fewer walk-in visitors to the museum. Although open, we were faced with the challenge of attracting groups and individuals. Concern existed within the community around entering buildings and individuals circulating in close proximity.

Despite the museum closure, we continued to promote our on-line sales and the Directors took a decision to invest in a new sales website. To justify the cost the Directors agreed to consider producing new and bespoke souvenirs and keepsakes that would validate the expenditure.

Despite the initial pessimism, July and August suddenly sprung into life with visitors again on the move seeking local attractions. The Siege Museum became a must visit for many on local staycations and we responded quickly to again create a safe working environment for guests and employees.

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Despite the ongoing disruptions, the Siege Museum delivered several community projects during 2021. The projects encouraged a greater understanding of the history, culture and traditions of the Apprentice Boys Association and received the support and good will of many communities throughout Northern Ireland and beyond.

The museum guides were delighted to welcome several community groups, local schools and a few university groups from the United States researching conflict resolution. The students found the museum and its content ideal to understand the road to peace in Northern Ireland. The gallery continues to provide a shared space and a comfortable environment to all groups who wish to understand the culture associated with the Great Siege of Londonderry and its legacy.

Since reopening, it has been pleasing to welcome, and conduct a guided tour of the facility to several influential guests. These included the Secretary of State, Brandon Lewis and the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Simon Byrne. Tuesday 2nd November 2021 will be remembered as a most rewarding occasion for the Siege Museum. We were privileged to greet Her Royal Highness, Princess Anne. The Princess Royal was welcomed to the museum, introduced to the museum directors, hall trustees, representatives of the Apprentice Boys Parent Clubs and entertained by Solus Highland Dancers and the Churchill Flute Ensemble. Prior to departure the Princess unveiled a Centenary Stone marking 100 years of Northern Ireland.

Recent projects include:

Urban Village Initiative: We were delighted to recommence welcoming visiting groups from the council district of Londonderry & Strabane to the museum under this funded initiative. Although a challenging project, we were pleased to proceed with the venture and resume group visits to the museum. Due to covid regulations, the project has been operating under a stop start programme, however, we are optimistic that we can resume normal business next year with interface groups visiting from throughout Northern Ireland. Regrettably, we were unable to reach our target numbers due to closure, however, we believe that Urban Village funders will take into consideration the current difficulties, and this will not affect a future programme.

Derry City & Strabane District Council: Following a funding application to DC&SDC Cultural Organisations Fund, we were pleased to secure £4,948. This funding will assist towards museum overheads.

A successful application totalling £12,052 was obtained from DC&SDC Heritage Animation and Visitor Servicing Fund. The funding will be used towards salary costs for staff members and promotional and animation projects.

A successful application for £2K funding from DC&SDC Decade of Centenaries Fund was also secured - the maximum available. Our project created a centenary Lambeg drum featuring a portrait of Lord Craigavon, the first Prime Minister of Northern Ireland. Interactive educational workshops are organised around the design, engaging groups in conversation about the history of Northern Ireland. The funding also assisted towards street entertainment provided by Willie Drennan and his musical friends, enhancing the opening of the Centennial Wall, Lambeg Drum and the Centennial Cannon.

Urban Tourism: It was pleasing to be invited by Council to participate in an Urban Tourism Experience Programme and submit an application to assist with the cost of a new walls map at the reception level of the museum. Once again, this was a competitive application however, we secured the maximum £2K towards our project.

The walls map will also be supplemented from a successful application to Department of Foreign Affairs Reconciliation Fund totalling £14,610. A small sum of this is ringfenced towards the map, with the remainder to bring 12 groups during 2022 to the Siege Museum for a guided tour, and provide refreshments, coach travel and a booklet on the siege

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Northern Ireland Office: We were pleased to secure funding totalling £10,000 from the N.I.O. Shared History Fund managed by Heritage Lottery to create a Centennial Wall in the museum. This featured the six Prime Ministers of Northern Ireland and exhibited interesting local pictorial events which took place during their premiership term. The Wall was opened on Saturday 24th July, attended by the Mayor, Alderman Graham Warke and Jim McGreevy, committee member of Heritage Lottery Fund. The funding also incorporated the cost of a pamphlet promoting the concept and an online talk by Dr. David Hume, describing the formation of Northern Ireland.

Partnerships:

The museum is delighted to be represented on a Walled City Heritage Venues Group coordinated by officials from Derry City & Strabane District Council. This committee will pioneer and encourage visitors to the heritage venues around the walls and the city in general. A visitor pass system has been created and managed by Visit Derry.

The museum continues to work towards achieving Northern Ireland Museum Accreditation and is most grateful to our staff member, Stuart Moore, and in particular Board Member Richard Wray, who meticulously pioneer this complex and extensive programme. Their focus is targeted towards writing and implementing the policies and plans required by N.I. Museums Council to comply with the qualification. When complete, the accreditation will enhance prospects for sustainability, assist future funding applications and most importantly, comply with conditions set out by funding agencies that contributed towards the construction of the museum.

After two years of corresponding with the Ulster Museum, we finally managed to secure, on loan, a small gold key that was presented to Lady Craigavon when she officially opened the extension to the Memorial Hall in 1937. This is now on display in a cabinet at the reception area of the museum.

Social Media:

The Siege Museum's website displays all relevant information about the museum, introducing events & programmes, opening hours, admission prices, facilities and directions. Facebook and Twitter ensure visitors are updated with relevant events, including talks and tours that are taking place.

Fundraising:

A variety of Siege Museum and Apprentice Boys branded gifts are available in the museum retail space. The souvenirs range from badges, keyrings and magnets to hoodies, flags and glass sets. The Siege Museum logo and Apprentice Boys crest are prominent on a number of these items and provide the museum with a further valuable source of income. They continue to serve as a prominent means of marketing and advertising. The merchandise is also available to purchase via online and through social media.

Outreach Vehicle:

Due to Covid restrictions, the Museum Outreach Vehicle remained in storage during the first six months of the year. The volunteers will commence planning for events and activities in 2022. Their promotional activity is warmly appreciated and greatly enhances the museum, raises the profile, creates awareness and encourages footfall to our exhibition. We hope this outreach activity will recommence soon, and the vehicle can be used to its full potential and inspire visitors to the Siege Museum.

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Financial Review

The Trustees have managed to secure funding from Derry City and Strabane District Council, Heritage Lottery Fund and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Reconciliation Fund during the year.

The charity has made a surplus of £10,174 for the year, of which £5,143 relates to unrestricted funds. While the income from tours and sales of memorabilia has not returned to pre pandemic levels due to closures during the year the Museum has received government funding which has assisted with continued running costs. The Museum has also taken advantage of the Job Retention Scheme in order to retain its full time employee during periods of closure.

The restricted income received from funders varies from year to year depending on the projects being funded and as a consequence costs specific to projects vary accordingly. Restricted funds at the year end are £31,547. The support costs attributed to the running of the museum are at a similar level to the previous year and the trustees are satisfied with the financial result given the challenges faced.

Principal Funding Sources

The charity continues to rely principally upon grant funding and contributions made for the provision of tours.

Investment policy

Aside from retaining a prudent amount of reserves each year most of the charity's funds are to be spent in the short term so there are few funds for long term investment.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. The reserves are required to meet the working capital requirements of the charity. The long term strategy is to build reserves through planned operating surpluses.

Plans for the future

The charity plans to continue with the provision of the existing range of facilities and projects, set out above, in forthcoming years, subject to the provision of relevant funding.

Structure governance and management

Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated on 7 January 2003 and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and HM Revenue & Customs. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association and is governed by its Articles of Association. Member's liability in the event of the company being wound up is limited to £1.

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Recruitment and appointment of management committee

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of Charity Law. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association directors are elected at an Annual General Meeting from amongst those persons nominated by the Ordinary Members. The directors have the power at any time to appoint any person to be a director, either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing directors. Any director so appointed serves only until the next Annual General Meeting at which directors are to be elected and are then eligible for re-election. A retiring director is eligible for re-election.

Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the management committee should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is not appropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.


The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 21/3/22 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr William Moore
Trustee



Mr Worthington McGrath
Secretary