

## **Loup Women's Group - Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for Loup Women's Group Group for the year 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

### **References and Administrative Details**

**Charity Name:** Loup Women's Group

**Charity Registration Number:** NIC104831

**Principal Address/Registered Office:** Mrs Helen Andrews  
6 Dunronan Road  
Magherafelt  
BT45 7SU

### **Trustees**

The trustees who served during the year are as follows:

**Chairperson:** Helen Andrews

**Vice Chair:** Maura Johnston

**Secretary:** Jennifer Hamilton

**Treasurer:** Irene Johnston

**PRO:** Patricia Toner

**Committee Members:** Ann Cassidy  
Anne Conway  
Christine McFlynn  
Rosaleen McMahan  
Bernadette O'Neill  
Dympna Wilson  
Delia McPeake  
Jennifer Bell  
Mary Frances McGuckin

## Objectives & Activities

The benefits flowing from the purposes of Loup Women's Group is that the people of The Loup and surrounding areas have access to a range of educational, social and recreational activities promoted by the group. People benefit by learning new skills in a variety of crafts. They benefit from being introduced to IT which in turn helps them to work with their children with a better knowledge of modern technology. The community benefits because individuals who might otherwise be isolated in a very rural area are given an opportunity to meet and interact with each other. Individuals with disabilities benefit because the building used by the group is wheelchair accessible so that those with disabilities can participate. A major benefit for everyone participating in the activities is that they meet new friends, learn to trust each other and share individual problems with each other. Local volunteers benefit by becoming involved in the work of the group and deriving a sense of achievement and purpose and ownership of everything that happens. All participants benefit from the educational classes, talks and lectures often from eminent speakers on a huge variety of topics. Those who participate in the social outings benefit from visiting interesting places, learning by networking with other groups and as a result reducing their feelings of isolation and loneliness. While the majority of activities are organised for women by women many of the talks and classes are open to the entire community so everyone can benefit. The benefits are measured by internal evaluations which are held at the end of each series of classes or courses. They are also measured by the number of people wanting to attend the activities and by the feedback from the general community to the management committee.

2023 was another successful year for our group. We were able to continue having our usual classes in crochet, scrapbooking, sewing, flower arranging, stone painting and gardening. The crochet class was held on Monday mornings taken by Celine. 2 new members joined the group and enjoyed learning how to crochet. All enjoyed the company, chat and a cup of tea or coffee and treats.

On Tuesday evenings Yvonne took the scrapbooking class. There were 8 ladies doing this immaculate paper craft work. They made cards, boxes photograph albums and more. The sewing class was held on Wednesday evenings. Ena was the tutor and she worked hard helping all the ladies to make some beautiful home furnishings. This class has been ongoing since our group was formed in 1999. It's a real social affair.

Flower arranging and stone painting were held on Thursday evenings. Collin taught the class how to make very artistic flower arrangements. Fern took the stone painting class in the canteen and they painted some very pretty pictures on the small stones.

Our gardening class continued throughout the year, weather permitting. There were only 3 ladies attending but we managed to produce some fruit and vegetables. Jenny from The Conservation Volunteers was our tutor and advised us how best to manage the garden.

With a grant from Live Here Love Here we did a project making 2 raised beds and planting them with various flowers which will bloom at different times of the year. These beds were placed at a fruit garden beside a local housing estate. The residents were pleased to have them in their area. Jenny also had some cooking sessions with us on colder days. We made bread and butter pickle which was delicious. In December she also held a class in wreath making. 13 ladies attended this and were very pleased with the results.

We had 2 workshops making box frame pictures. In April 13 ladies made pictures depicting a family tree. Helen Armstrong was the tutor. She was kept busy helping everyone out. Then in

December 10 ladies made Christmas scenes which lit up in a box frame. The results were very good.

Also Alan did his usual very popular wreath making workshops. He came with a large Christmas tree for greenery and there wasn't much left when the class was over. There was such demand for his sessions that we ran 3 of them accommodating about 30 ladies.

Bronagh Duffin from Bellaghy Bakehouse came and did 2 excellent cookery demonstrations. One in March and the other in December. Again these were very popular with 20 ladies at the first one and 30 at the second one. Bronagh made 6 different dishes at each demonstration and we all got tasting her delicious food.

Loup Women's Group always enjoys their trips.

In April 22 ladies travelled to Arthur Cottage in Cullybackey, the ancestral home of a former American President. It was lovely sitting round the large old style kitchen watching Mary Johnston Watterson making soda bread and telling us about the family history. We got a taster there too.

The next trip was in August when 33 ladies travelled to Bushmills garden centre, Royal court hotel for carvery lunch and then on to Portrush.

We were pleased to conclude our book project in August with the launch taking place on the 8th. The book is entitled "Field names and Folklore of The Loup". It has been a great success and we have sold 250 copies with another 50 copies printed.

With a generous grant from Mid Ulster Council we were able to have a Christmas Tree at The Loup. The switch on was on 2nd December at The Black Sheep pub. A massive crowd of all ages attended and Santa was there too. Refreshments were served in the pub.

So you can see we have had an interesting year and it is so encouraging that 10 more members have joined our Whats App Group so that they can keep up to date with what we are doing.

Will has remained faithful throughout the year looking after the heating, grass cutting and whatever else is required.

I would also like to thank the committee for all their help and support throughout the year and for their interest in keeping the group going.

We are ever grateful to our funders without whom we could not continue.

Big Lottery           £9207 ( Running costs and activities)

MidUlster Council     £750 (part payment for Christmas tree)

### **Compliance with Public Benefit**

The Charity has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Charity's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

### **Financial Review**

Total Payments (£20,550) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 exceeded Total Receipts (£15,350) by £5,200 decreasing the total cash funds held to £5,957 from £11,157. (Pages 8&9).

### **Charitable Purposes**

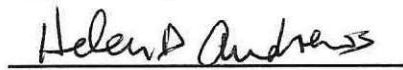
The purposes of the Loup Women's Group is to promote activities for the benefit of people in The Loup and surrounding areas without distinction of age, race, political, religious or other opinion. The group will associate with statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and local inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and provide facilities for social interaction with the aim of improving the conditions of life for the said people.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

Loup Women's Group is a Registered Charity and is governed by the terms of its constitution, which was adopted by the membership on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015. Loup Women's Group is registered with the Charity Commission and is placed on the Northern Ireland register of charities from 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

The objectives and activities of the Charity are administered by a Management Committee, which shall consist of not less than five and not more than twenty members and who are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM is held each year and not more than 15 months after the preceding AGM. There shall not be less than five members of the Management Committee present at all General Meetings, including the AGM. Voting is carried out at General Meetings by way of a show of hands or ballot with the Chairperson having the casting vote.

**Approved by the trustees on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and signed on their behalf by:**

  
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**Helen Andrews**  
Chair

  
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**Jennifer Hamilton**  
Secretary