

Loup Women's Group - Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2024

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 31st December 2024.

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.

Loup Women's Group has had another enjoyable year in 2024.

We have kept on doing the long running classes and also managed some other workshops. Fern took the stone painting classes. 2 x 10 week sessions. They painted some beautiful pictures on the stones. This is a very relaxing past time. The stones are used around the home and in the garden.

The crochet classes were also well attended with Celine guiding everyone through the stitches. The ladies are always very keen to get started at the beginning of each session. It's a great skill to have

The scrapbooking classes are much enjoyed too. Yvonne leads these classes and everyone follows the instructions meticulously to produce papercraft items.

Gardening still goes on with Jenny. There are only 4 in the class but we still find it worthwhile. We had a bumper crop of strawberries, plums, apples and blackcurrants. The Conservation Volunteers, the organisation which Jenny works with, held an Autumn gathering in September. Jenny Hamilton got first prize for her plum brandy. We were taught the art of pounding flowers onto material. It is called "Tatakizome", an ancient Japanese technique.

On colder days we did some cooking. Apple chutney was one of the recipes we tried.

Reminiscence was a new subject for us to get involved with. Maura led these 4 sessions of recording memories . She put these into script and a book was printed . There are still plenty of copies for sale.

Then at Christmas the workshops take off.

We did Christmas scenes, box frame pictures. Plaques and wreaths. All well attended and you can see from the photos how beautiful they are.

In February we had a very good Health day.29 ladies attended.

Kathy from TCV gave a very informative talk on sprouting vegetables and micro greens . She had a display of these and we got tasting them.

This was followed by a nutritionist ,Jacqueline Kartin, giving an in depth talk on healthy eating. We finished off the day with a healthy buffet meal

Trips are always a must for our ladies.

In February we went for a short day trip to Junction one,Antrim.

Dobbies was the attraction there.

Then in September 52 ladies went to Holywood and on to Donaghadee.

The third trip was to Rushmere shopping centre in November.

23 ladies went on that trip.

Back in June 2 of us attended the 30th anniversary of Swatragh women's group. That was a big affair with music ,a speaker and a buffet meal. We still like to keep in contact with the Swatragh ladies.

In order to celebrate our 25th anniversary the committee went out for a meal in The Black Sheep restaurant.

Our what's app group keeps getting more contacts.

This is very encouraging to know that local people want to come to our events.

I would like to thank the committee for all their support throughout the year and for attending meetings . Everybody's opinions and practical help are appreciated.

Will and Yvonne are always very helpful and Will keeps us right when something needs fixed.

We could not continue without the help.of our funders. In July we were pleased to receive £19,980 from Awards for All. A 2 year grant.

Mid Ulster Council are always generous. We received £ 1045 for Crochet and Scrapbooking classes and a flask.

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 (£12,958) for the year ended 31st December 2024 were exceeded by Total Receipts (£23,195) by £10,237 increasing the total cash funds held to £16,194 from £5,957. (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 26th February 2015. Loup Women's Group is registered with the Charity Commission and is placed on the Northern Ireland register of charities from 7th 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 7th May 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Helen D Andrews

Helen Andrews
Chair

Patricia Toner

Patricia Toner
Secretary