

Holywell Trust
Report of The Management Committee

Activity and Programmes 2022/23

In setting the objectives and planning the activities for the year the Trustees of Holywell Trust have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit guidance to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries. The following is a summary of the work delivered during the period, the people who have benefitted and our achievements over the financial year. These are displayed under the relevant aims of the organisation and show progress against the achievement of these.

Aim a) to maintain and manage or co-operate with any local authority in the maintenance of a centre or centres in the area of benefit for activities promoted by the Trust.

Programme Area/Activity: Shared space centre provision

Beneficiaries: In the financial year our shared building at the heart of the city centre was used for 1, 798 bookings which were attended by 20, 315 people.

Programme Area/Activity: Shared Space Exhibitions & Conference

Beneficiaries: Borderlands showcase event was held on 15/3/23 and focused on an exhibit that Holywell had developed in partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council. This examined the impact of the border on the community in the North West. The event was attended by 15 people.

Aim: b) to advance education concerning and carry our research into local history by collecting and recording information, and in particular forming an archive of the works of the area of benefit.

Programme Area/Activity: Partnership working

Beneficiaries: We have worked to maintain and deepen the partnership relationships that Holywell Trust has developed over recent years. As a relatively small charity we are aware that our impact is best amplified by working in partnership with other organisations that share our values. Over the year we have worked in partnership with The Junction (Core Funding); The John & Pat Hume Foundation (lead partner on the Peace Summit project); DiverseCity Community Partnership members (Dog Ears, Foyle Women's Information Network, North West Community Network, REACH Across, The Junction) and; NW Community Wealth Building Hub (with a range of sectoral partners facilitated by Development Trust NI).

Programme Area/Activity: Strategic Planning & Communications and Marketing

Beneficiaries: A new 3 year Strategic Plan was agreed during the financial year by the Holywell Trust Trustees. This plan, which was developed following engagement and consultation with our project participants and partners, charts the way forward for the organisation and will guide our work, 'Working together towards a truly inclusive, shared future'.

Programme Area/Activity: Future Relationship Conversations

Beneficiaries: 3 pieces of research were carried out and launched at a conference on 23rd June 2022 which was attended by 40+ people. The research papers were: 1) 'A Study of Relevant Literature concerning the Debate about Northern Ireland's Constitutional Future' David McCann 2) 'Attitudes of Protestant community in Laggan area of East Donegal and their family members in Northern Ireland) on their acceptance within the Republic of Ireland since the partition of Ireland and Northern Ireland related issues, including the constitutional question.' Brendan Sturgeon 3) 'Health Services - North and South' Paul Gosling. In addition sessions were held on NI Protocol (facilitated with QUB) on 2/9/22 and 8/11/22 which were attended by over 30 people. A Media Seminar was held on 9/2/23 attended by 40+ people. Planning and application was made for Phase II of the project to continue beyond this financial year.

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Programme Area/Activity: Future Leaders - Investing in Community Leadership in the West

Beneficiaries: Two cohorts of the academic year-long Future Leaders Programme were delivered in 2021/22 & 2022/23 with 50 participants. These were intensive programmes that involved residentials, learning sessions, formal accreditation, mentoring and study visits.

Holywell Trust is part of the management group for the Investing in Community Leadership in the West programme with our partners Fermanagh Trust and Rural Community Network. In addition to the bi-monthly meetings on the programme we delivered 4 sessions during the period. The sessions held were (1/11/22 - Partnership Working; 16/11/22 - Reflective Practice; 17/1/22 - Independence of C Sector and; 31/1/23 - Recruitment & Retention). These sessions were attended by 25 people from across the North West.

Programme Area/Activity: Holywell Trust Conversations Podcast

Beneficiaries: Resources were secured during the period for the production of the fourth series of our podcast. The series was released during 2023 with episodes looking at a range of issues including, the Good Friday Agreement, funding for the community and voluntary sector, human rights and local environmental pollution. There are 18 episodes in the series which is co-facilitated with journalist Paul Gosling.

Programme Area/Activity: St. Columb's Hall Heritage Project

Beneficiaries: Delivered a heritage project on the impact and history of St. Columb's Hall as a significant cultural venue in the lives of the local community. 20 people signed up to the project which was completed by 8 committed individuals. A digital and physical tour of the building capturing the heritage and stories from The Hall was also launched.

Programme Area/Activity: Thirty

Beneficiaries: 4 Thirty projects were delivered on a residential basis during the period. These were: 1) Civic Voice: Good Friday Agreement 25 Years On (North-West) 2) Civic Voice: Good Friday Agreement 25 Years On (Belfast) 3) Education: Towards a System that works for Everyone 4) Legacy: Reconciling the Past with a Future Focus. Over the whole project the 89 participants arrived at 36 recommendations/solutions to each of the issues that were considered. These were shared at an Influencing Workshop on 29/3/23 that was attended by 40+ people.

Programme Area/Activity: Informal Connections - Advocacy

Beneficiaries: Holywell Trust lobbied and advocated on behalf of the local community throughout the year. This included regular engagement with organisations such as NIO, National Lottery Community Fund, DFA, Social Change Initiative and NICVA. We also hosted a number of visits including with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, SEUPB (and ROI Minister of Finance) and the German Ambassador to the UK.

Programme Area/Activity: Lunchtime Events

Beneficiaries: One lunchtime event was held during the period. On 8/10/22 an event was held to mark the 50th anniversary of the first civil rights march in Derry which was attended by 60+ people.

Programme Area/Activity: Community Relations Practitioners' Forum

Beneficiaries: Two forums were held during the period. These resulted in Holywell Trust and An Culturann organising a session with Paul Nolan analysing the most recent census figures in Northern Ireland (1/2/23). This session was attended by 23 people.

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Aim: c) to raise awareness and provide education among the community about environmental issues and to conduct programmes to protect the environment.

Programme Area/Activity: Roof Garden & Garden of Reflection

Beneficiaries: Holywell Trust continues to provide shared community space through our Roof Garden on the Holywell building, an accessible space for community events. In addition, during the year, plans were put in place for the Summer 2023 programme in the Garden of Reflection.

Programme Area/Activity: Eden Project Foyle

Beneficiaries: Over the period the difficult decision was taken to no longer pursue the ambitious tourist destination project as originally envisaged due to the restrictive financial climate in Northern Ireland. Elements of the programme will now be attempted as individual stand-alone initiatives.

Aim: d) the recruitment, selection and sending out of volunteers for short term service within the area of benefit.

Programme Area/Activity: Trustees

Beneficiaries: Holywell Trust is governed by a group of 8 volunteers, each of whom give their time and expertise freely to the management of the organisation to ensure that it meets its charitable purposes.

Key achievements

The following are the highlights from our work during the reporting period:

- Approximately 20, 000 people accessed events and services from our premises during the reporting period.
- We have supported almost 50 people through their community leadership journey, building capacity within the sector to create good relations.
- We commissioned and launched 3 interesting pieces of research on challenging issues.
- We examined 3 additional challenging issues through a series of 4 citizens' assemblies and supported people to arrive at 36 solutions to some of our more difficult challenges.
- We have started a new podcast series, again examining challenging issues, cementing our reputation as a thought leader within the community.
- We have delivered a heritage focused project on a key community asset, developing relationships and creating new assets for the future.
- We have strengthened our relationships and partnerships with public, academia and community organisations enabling us to be well positioned to influence positive change in the future.
- We have developed relationships with new funders and strengthened relations with our existing supporters and continue to take innovative approaches to building relationships and peace building.
- Hundreds of people have taken part in the various programmes that we have delivered over the period and are committed to working with us again in the future.

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Lessons learned

We have learned a number of lessons through the delivery of our programme over the period:

- Through the development of our Strategic Plan for the next three years we realised the importance of communications and marketing to the long-term impact of our work. During the period we worked towards financial support to support this work which was successful.
- We were reinforced in our belief that it is essential to move beyond 'tick-box' programmes to engage people in some of the most difficult challenges facing society. We were reassured that when engaged on challenging issues people are generous and creative with their solutions.
- There remains an appetite to participate in the programmes that we deliver and to address the issues that society faces. There is a growing frustration with the non-functioning of Northern Ireland both in terms of the day-to-day delivery of key public services to the lack of political leadership currently being demonstrated.
- There remains a challenge as an organisation that receives funding and support from multiple sources. Different funders have different requirements and this can be time consuming and impact on project delivery.
- Another issue that impacts on project delivery is the constant and ever-present requirement to raise additional resources towards the core costs of our charity.

Members Responsibilities In Relation To The Financial Statements

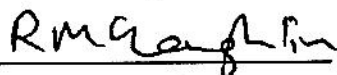
The members are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the members to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In doing so the members are required to:

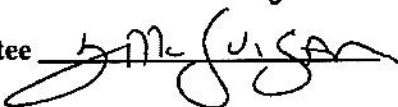
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102)
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The members are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the provisions of the trust deed. The members are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By Order of the Management Committee:

Trustee 

Date: 16 January 2024

Trustee 

Date: 16 January 2024