

Cullybackey & District Historical Society
Trustees Report for the year ending 31st January 2024
NIC 107124

Governing Document:

The Cullybackey and District Historical Society is governed by the constitution amended on the 18th October 2018

The Society was registered with the NI Charity Commission as of 29th October 2018.
Charity Number NIC 107124

Purposes of the Charity:

The Society was established to educate the public in all aspects of the history of Cullybackey and the immediate surrounding area by:

1. Collecting local historical material and artefacts
2. Input information on our website www.cullybackeyhistory.co.uk
3. Answer queries about local and family history received via email
4. Organise speakers for monthly meetings from September to May for public historical talks on local and other historical and cultural themes and to mix socially
5. To further the aims of the Society by giving talks about the history of Cullybackey and the surrounding area to other groups when asked

Main Activities and Achievements:

For everyone's safety the Society's Health and Safety Policy and Risk Register has been updated. This is done annually by our Health and Safety Officer.

The society held some events during the year for the benefit not only of its members but for all the community. On the 25th March 2023 a Coronation coffee morning and book sale was held in conjunction with the Cullybackey Branch of the Royal British Legion. On the 4th September 2023 the society hosted Canadian singer Ann Walker, whose ancestors originated from Cullybackey. Anne wrote a song entitled, "Cullybackey." The society received a large donation of books and this enabled it to hold a book sale on the 13th and 14th October 2023.

A wreath was laid at the memorial in Cullybackey by the chairperson on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of the society.

Quite a bit of outreach was carried out this year. The chairperson was asked to speak on the 28th April 2023 to the Ballymena History Group, on the 18th May to the Rasharkin History Group and on the 27th June 2023 the chairperson, along with Mr Bertie McNeilly from the Cullybackey Community Partnership, hosted visitors from the Ballymena Church Forum Walking Group, and later on the 9th August the chairperson of the society spoke to and did a walking tour of the village with a group from Kilrea and again on the 7th September with the Rasharkin History Group when they visited the village. On the 31st October the chairperson spoke to the Cullybackey Senior Citizens and on the 26th January 2024 the chairperson hosted

the Ballymena History Group on a walking tour of the village. Our chairperson did a recording on the 27th June 2023 for Radio Ulster's Ulster-Scots programme hosted by William Hill about the society's poetry collection, and on the 29th August 2023 a recording of Mahon's Way about Cullybackey in which the chairperson took part was broadcast. In May 2023 the society was asked to provide some photographs for Robinson's supermarket on the Cullybackey Road, for their new window after renovations.

More new material has been donated in October 2023 to the society for its archive in the form of postcards, and again some more postcards in January 2024, all addressed to local people. A wreath was laid on Remembrance Sunday by the chairperson on the Society's behalf at a wreath laying ceremony organised by the Royal British Legion, Cullybackey Branch.

There were 14 queries received via our website which have been answered. From the 1st February 2023 until the 31st January 2024 we had a total of 15,018 hits on our website, an average of 1,251 hits per month, which is an increase on the previous year.

Ongoing research has been carried out by some members and more material has been prepared for the Society's website and will be added. There has been an opportunity to again promote the history of Cullybackey and the work of the Society this year.

Public Benefit:

The Society's beneficiaries are the general public, mainly in the Cullybackey and surrounding area who come together at our monthly lectures to listen to, discuss and reflect on the history and culture of Cullybackey and beyond and have a greater knowledge and a better understanding and appreciation of their local history and heritage. Members and visitors at our lectures also benefit socially as it gives people, especially those who are more isolated or live alone, the opportunity to meet together regularly, enjoy the company while learning together and talking to one another over a cup of tea.

Access to the information on our website is of great public benefit, not only to our own members, but to the wider community and to people worldwide. This enables a wide section of the population to have access to an educational facility and to have a greater understanding of the history of Cullybackey and the surrounding area.

Finance:

Details of the Charity's finances for the year ending 31st January 2024 are provided in the Statement of Receipts and Payments forwarded with this report.

The Charity has £1661.92 cash in Building Society and £358.16 in hand at 31st January 2024. This is the Charity's only funds.

Name and Administration Details:

The name of the charity is the Cullybackey and District Historical Society. The administrative address is 87 Shellinghill Road, Cullybackey, Ballymena, BT42 1NS

Charity Trustees/Management Committee for the year ending 31st January 2024

Mr Robert Dick – President
Miss Elizabeth Hoy – Chairperson/Secretary
Mrs Elizabeth McCormick – Treasurer
Miss Nicola McFall – P.R.O.
Mr Robert McQuillan – Vice-Chairperson
Mr Hugh Wiseman – Health & Safety Officer
Mr Thomas Campbell
Mr Alan Rosborough
Mr George Simpson

Appointment of New Trustees:

The appointment of new trustees is reserved to the Charity. No other individual or organisation has the power to appoint trustees to the Charity.

Organisation:

The running of the Society is managed by the Trustees who hold committee meetings once a month between September and May.

Compliance with the Charity Commission's Guidance on Public Benefit:

In setting out the Charity's objectives and planning 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 its beneficiaries.

Mitigation of Harm Flowing from the Charity's Purposes:

No harm flows from the Charity's purposes. To negate the likelihood of harm, the Society is a member of the Federation of Ulster Local Studies.

Private Benefit:

There was no private benefit received by anyone who is not an intended beneficiary of the Charity.

As trustees of the Cullybackey and District Historical Society we feel that our objectives have been achieved during the period of this report and that we have served the interests of all our members and the general public.

SIGNATURE OF TRUSTEE

Miss Elizabeth Hoy
Chairperson/Secretary

Elizabeth Hoy

Date: 15th February 2024