

**Moneyreagh & District Community Association  
NI107202**

**Public Address: 36A Church Road, Moneyreagh, BT23 6BB.**

**Annual Report to Trustees for the Financial Year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

Moneyreagh & District Community Association is **founded to, “advance education and to promote the benefit of the inhabitants (hereinafter called the “beneficiaries”) of the Moneyreagh village, wider rural district and its environs of County Down (hereinafter called the “area of benefit”) by associating with the statutory authorities, other community and voluntary organisations and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance education, improve the community environment and to provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.”**

**For the year in question, the following persons served as Committee members and trustees of Moneyreagh & District Community Association:**

Robert Campbell  
Nelson Bryce  
Nikki Donnelly  
Stephen Gray  
Peter Johnston  
Mary McMillian  
Joanne Aiken

**This Report is for the financial year from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and a summary of the Associations 1includes:**

This year has been a very difficult year due to the ongoing Covid 19 Pandemic with lock down curtailing social activity. Since April 2021 no major activity has taken place. Our clubs, Create and Grow mainly worked from home by individuals to keep the group going and supporting their charity from April 2021. Paintbox (Art Club) has only met from September 21 through to April 2022 breaking for two weeks over the Christmas period and the bowling club from September to December 21. Due to folk working from home and the government restrictions Mums and Tots club has been closed since March 2020 but from September 2021 we opened with limited spaces following government guidelines. Our sincere thank you to the youth workers from **“Moneyreagh Community Church” for their support running the club on our behalf** along side Rev Rory Knox. Because of the age profile and the concern around the pandemic our **older persons group “the Nook” has taken the discission to wait and restart during early 2023.**

The fun day to celebrate a cultural event at the 11<sup>th</sup> July 21 was smaller than usual but still provided some of our usual attractions such as music and entertainment, all on an outdoor based event.

We are very pleased that through all the difficulties we have been able to start a **book club, the "Moneyrea Book Turners Club" which is run by our volunteer Lyn Campbell** the club started in September 2021. We offer Lyn our sincere thank you for her work in this area. The club reviews book's each month and meets once a month over Tea & Coffee in the Auld House restaurant.

Together with all the organisations within the village, collectively we continue to support a central Facebook page for communication and work to support vulnerable and isolated people. The "Moneyreagh Hub" support individuals through the supply of food, heating and access to a mental health mentor. One of our volunteers a representative of the Trussell Trust Food Bank continues supporting the application from any individual seeking assistance. The community also supports the food by a weekly drop off point within the community centre where people kindly donate.

With the easing of restriction, at the end of October 21 we held a Halloween event for the children within the village at the community centre. It was a fancy dress pride with prizes for all and the overall best dressed. A mystery trail, find the spiders was set up outside at the back of the centre.

At the beginning of December 2021 to recognise the Northern Ireland centennial year an all-inclusive talk on the history of the formation of the six counties and the signing of the covenant was given by speaker Roy Greer, headmaster of Moneyrea primary school. Following the talk guests were invited to remain for lunch. The event was held in our village restaurant The Auld House and was well attended.

Christmas 2021 seen a major ease with government restrictions allowing us to host a normal Christmas event, all outdoors. We had our tree lighting held on the evening Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Two caricatures lead everyone in Christmas song from **children's musicals, then the count down to the lighting** of the tree. A Santa Christmas bus with Santa on board provided the platform for children to receive a Christmas present.

**The over 50's Christmas lunch** held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 21 was reduced in numbers of attendees and was limited to group members only. We found this to be a difficult discission as many within our community live already in isolation. The luncheon was held in our local restaurant the Auld House and was followed by a quiz.

The association continues to build social interaction back into the community but is a slow process as conference and safety will take time to in still in people.

### **Our Public Benefit**

The committee members and trustees annually reflect on our activities set against our stated Public Benefits, which are, *"the reduction of rural social isolation, the reduction of anti-social behaviour, the improvement of mental health and physical*

*well-being of the inhabitants of Moneyreagh village, wider Rural District and its environs as well as the building of an integrated community in the area."*

The committee, following a consideration, believes that the work of the Association continues to contribute to the public benefit by the establishment of the Moneyreagh Hub working in partnership with organizations within the village. The lockdown offered the opportunity to assist people who were isolated providing much needed assistance. Lobbying local council also assisted with food parcels.

### **Financial Review**

This year's **funding** was received from in the main from Lisburncastlereagh City council with a small grant which provided resource for the October Halloween party. The funding was used to support our five ongoing groups. It also assisted us to maintain our village defibrillator, team building, and culture events Please see financial reports.

The trustees are grateful to community for all the volunteers support through this difficult time. The donations to the food bank and deliveries made to those in isolation. The kick start of our groups and would not have been possible without your support.

### **Declaration**

The association do not hold any property or assets.

This report has been approved by Trustees and signed on their behalf by



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Robert Campbell (Trustee)  
Moneyreagh & District Community Association

Date : 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022