

HERVEY HERITAGE SOCIETY

Charity Commission No. NIC107432

Date registered: 15/04/2020

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HERVEY HERITAGE SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 2025

The Hervey Heritage Society was formed as an unincorporated organisation on 3 April 2019.

It opened a Community Account at Barclay's Bank on 16 November 2018 and was granted Charitable Status on 15 April 2020.

The trustees present their report for the year **2024-2025**.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity name	Hervey Heritage Society
Charity registration number	NIC107432
Registered Office	18 Lodge Park COLERAINE BT51 1UN

Bankers:

Barclay's Bank PLC, 27/29 Church Street, COLERAINE, BT52 1AW

The Trustees:

The Trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Mr Jim Hunter (Acting Chair)
Mr Jerry Sayers (Secretary)
Ms Loretto Blackwood (Treasurer)
Mr Ken McCormack
Mr Ian Bartlett
Ms Hester McCunn
Mrs Helen Mark
Mr Frank Carey (Chair - resigned 2024)

The purposes of the Charity are to:

1. Increase public understanding and raise awareness of the life and legacy of the Earl Bishop by:

- 1.1 creating, maintaining and developing a Heritage Trail taking in places of interest associated with the Earl Bishop extending from the Giant's Causeway to the City of Derry;
- 1.2 providing information in all forms of media;
- 1.3 erecting a memorial and producing a bust of the Earl Bishop.

2. Foster a sense of community by:

- 2.1 facilitating organisations, interest groups and individuals to participate in discovering and preserving knowledge, encouraging and celebrating a sense of place, civic pride and ownership and an appreciation of all aspects of local heritage;
- 2.2 supporting strong inter-community relationships as exemplified by the Earl Bishop;
- 2.3 fostering social and economic regeneration in areas along the Heritage Trail.

REPORT Period 2024 - 2025

The Society held meetings during the period of the Report on **14 April 2025** at Hezlett House Castlerock; on **7 February 2025** in St Columb's Park House, Derry/Londonderry; on **25 October 2024** in Hezlett House, Castlerock; and on **27 June 2024** at St Columb's Court Derry. The Annual General Meeting was held at St Columb's Court Derry on **27 June 2024**

There has been a considerable amount of business transacted at these meetings:

- a) **Membership.** The Society welcomed one new member, Valerie Morgan.
- b) **Review of Constitution.** It was noted that the Society was formally constituted on 16 March 2016. The Society had operated prior to this as a project within the Causeway u3a. A sub-group was appointed to review the constitution, which made the following recommendations to the meeting on 7 February 2025:
 - The Committee should continue to hold at least 4 meetings per year with at least 3 Trustees for a quorum,
 - A list of members should be maintained recording full names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses- Loretto Blackwood has compiled a definitive list,
 - The number of Trustees should be greater than 3 and less than 12,
 - A recommendation should be made to the next AGM that Trustees must act by a majority decision and in the case of a split vote, the Chair has the casting vote.
- c) **Presentation to North Coast Association.** Ken McCormack and Gerard Harvey gave a well-researched and fascinating presentation to the North Coast Association at Portballintrae to a capacity audience.
- d) **Benevenagh Lowland Partnership Scheme.** It was noted that the Benevenagh Lowland Partnership Scheme had cleared the wild growth covering the Hervey-Bruce tomb in Dunboe Graveyard. It was also noted that it was planned to transfer Downhill Forest South to the National Trust, who intended to provide forest tracks, waymarking and information boards. The Society has been requested to assist with historic information for the boards.
- e) **Downhill House Survey.** Keith Gilmour has continued with his assiduous work on two sets of plans and elevations of Downhill House, one for 1790 and the other for 1890. Ken McCormack and Jim Chestnut have provided assistance with the project. This intricate and complex work has been favourably received by Heather McLachlan, Director for the National Trust Northern Ireland. On completion it is hoped to offer a building 'walk through'
- f) **Contact with National Trust Ickworth.** Ickworth plans to mount an exhibition on the Earl Bishop in 2026. Two members of their research group, Mr & Mrs McGee, have visited Ireland to meet members of the Society and gather information about his life and times in Ireland. During their visit they attended a briefing from Ken McCormack, a presentation from Ken assisted by Gerard Harvey and tours of St Columb's Cathedral and the Long Tower Chapel arranged by Ken. Jim Hunter took them on a tour of the Earl Bishop Trail. Hester McCunn, Val Morgan and Gerry Sayers met them at Downhill, where Hester provided a tour of the Demesne. During their visit they travelled to the Giant's Causeway. Consideration is being given for a party from the Society to visit the Exhibition.

- g) **Walks and Talks.** This year's Walks and Talks programme commenced on 17 March 2025. Laurence Ghisoiu has arranged, as a trial, for this programme to be advertised and marketed by the Causeway Coast & Glens.
- h) **Cabina Family.** The Society has continued its detailed research regarding two young men from the Italian Cabina family, whose father was likely to have been known to the Earl Bishop. One was brought by Henry Hervey Bruce to Downhill and the other by him to Dublin. These young men are ancestors of one of the Society's members, Marion Hamill. Arrangements are being made to meet the Cabina family in Dublin.
- i) **A Hervey Day in Derry.** It has been suggested that a Hervey Day should be organised to raise the profile of the Earl Bishop in the city. This would be a joint event between St Columb's Cathedral and the Hervey Heritage Society. A draft paper has been prepared outlining our proposals for submission to the Cathedral and the Council.
- j) **Reprint of Earl Bishop Trail Booklet.** Our application to the Council for funding was unsuccessful. Loretto Blackwood has investigated why our application has failed and has been advised to make some adjustments to the submission and to try again.
- k) **Book on Earl Bishop.** It was noted that Ken McCormack's book on the Earl Bishop was being proofed and would soon be published.
- l) **Spanish Chestnut Tree.** Margaret Boyce and Hazel Siberry informed the Society that they had visited and found the Spanish Chestnut sapling planted by the Society at Downhill in a healthy state. The sapling was grown from seeds from one of the remaining Spanish Chestnut trees planted by the Earl Bishop at his summer residence, now the grounds of Lumen Christi College.
- m) **Debt of Thanks.** The Society owes a debt of gratitude to Helen Mark (President); Officers Loretto Blackwood (Treasurer) and Jerry Sayers (Secretary); Trustees; and Members, who have given generously of their time during the period of the Report. The Society thanked the Cathedral, National Trust and St Columb's Park House for providing venues for its meetings.



Jim Hunter
(Acting Chair)

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE CHARITY TRUSTEES OF
HERVEY HERITAGE SOCIETY**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended **31 March 2025** which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention. Signed:

Signed: *B. J. Mulla*
Name: *BRENDAN J MULLA, TREASURER CAUSEWAY USA*
Address: *27 Mourssandel Rd, Coleraine, BT52 1JE*
Date: *13 November 2025*

HERVEY HERITAGE SOCIETY
INCOME & EXPENDITURE Account 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

INCOME	<u>2024 - 2025</u>	<u>2023 - 2024</u>
Balance as at 01 April 2024	421.78	247.78
 Grants:		
National Trust Organisation		
NT - Downhill Tours	325.00	330.00
Fundraising		
Donations		
Total Income Received	<u>325.00</u>	<u>330.00</u>
 EXPENDITURE		
Stationery & Postage		
Publicity/Advertising		
Printing		
Events & Activities		
Bank Charges		
Fees (External Examiner)	60.00	60.00
Sundry Expenditure		
Insurance	96.00	96.00
Total Expenditure	<u>156.00</u>	<u>156.00</u>
Surplus of Income/Expenditure	<u>169.00</u>	<u>174.00</u>
Account Balance as at 31 Mar 2025	<u>590.78</u>	31/03/2024 <u>421.78</u>


HERVEY HERITAGE SOCIETY
1 April 2024 - 31 Mar 2025

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025


	<u>2024- 2025</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
Current Assets		
Bank	590.78	421.78
Debtors	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>590.78</u>	<u>421.78</u>
 Creditors	 <u>0.00</u>	 <u>0.00</u>
 Net Current Assets	 <u>590.78</u>	 <u>421.78</u>

This income and expenditure report has been produced from the information supplied by the committee of **HERVEY HERITAGE SOCIETY**

Acting Chair


JA Hunter

Treasurer


Loretto Blackwood