

AUGHNACLOY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Charity no.107449)

Trustees' Annual Report For the year ended 31st March 2023

The Trustees present the annual report and statement of receipts and payments, and assets and liabilities for the year ended 31st March 2023.

TRUSTEES

Mrs Heather Montgomery
Mr. Pat Montague
Mrs. Davina Stewart
Mrs. Hazel Williamson

OBJECTS

The Society is established to promote the advancement of the arts, culture and heritage; and to encourage participation in arts, crafts and cultural activities, and in particular to, promote the study of and encouragement of public interest in the history, folklore, archaeology and antiquities of the region and around Aughnacloy area and its environs (hereinafter called the 'area of benefit').

Activities

- (i) Establish a Society Archive.
- (ii) Provide, assist in providing or secure the provision of social, educational and recreational facilities for the benefit of the general public in the area of benefit.
- (iii) Provide, maintain and equip or assist in the provision, maintenance and equipment of, premises and facilities to carry out the objects of the Society.
- (iv) Promote and carry out, or assist in promoting and carrying out research, research papers, surveys and investigations and publish the useful results thereof.
- (v) Organise or assist in organising meetings, lectures, classes and exhibitions, and publish or assist in publishing reports, periodicals, recordings, books or other documents of information.
- (vi) Obtain, collect and receive money by ways of grants, donations, bequests, legacies or other lawful methods provided that the Society shall not undertake any permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law.
- (vii) Purchase, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any real or personal property and any rights and privileges necessary for the promotion of the above objects and construct, maintain and alter any buildings or erections which the Society may think necessary for the promotion of its objects.

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Achievements and Performance

The 22/23 year commenced with a talk by Mrs. Sarah Cathers on genealogy, after which our AGM took place, ably chaired by Mrs. Cathers who declared all offices vacant. All office bearers and committee were re-elected.

On 21st May the group travelled by bus to Lisbelaw Fun farm and then to Enniskillen Castle. A boat trip followed to Devenish Island and the group finished the day with a meal in the Clogher Valley Golf Club.

On the 14th of June an afternoon / evening members of the society travelled by bus to Bessmount House in Monaghan, an event which proved so popular it was repeated on the 5th of July.

After the summer break, on September 20th the society welcomed a local speaker , the Rev Glen West , who gave a fascinating talk on "Celtic Spirituality".

On 6th October renowned historian Paddy Fitzgerald spoke on the Canadian Connection.

On 15th November a coach took members and friends to enjoy " sequence dancing" in Lisimnaghan Parish hall.

Decmber meeting cancelled due to severe weather, but on December 29th a number of society members and friends travelled by bus to Newry for a tour of the city, followed by a trip to see the Christmas lights at Hillsborough Castle.

2023 commenced with a talk by a local 10 year old child, Alfie Stewart who had conducted research on the life and times of his grandfather Mr Willie Singleton.

On 14th February our Vice Chair , Pat Montague spoke on Kings and Queens on the English Throne. He also conducted a group discussion on local families , focusing on two families, the Hamiltons and the Moutarys.

On 21st March Dr. Liam Campbell spoke on migration , emigration and how Thomas Mellon recalled travelling from his own homestead near Omagh , following the river to Londonderry docks where he boarded ship for the US. The Chair finished the evening by asking members to bring along objects of interest and photos for discussion at the April meeting.

The society feels that we have met our aims as laid out above as well as contributing to reducing feelings of social isolation and loneliness in the Aughnacloy area through a mixture of educational and social events.

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We continue to promote cultural events in the area by email and social media.

The committee at all times have had regard for the Public Benefit Guidance as issued by the Charity Commission(NI) in all decisions where the guidance was relevant.

Financial position has been maintained in accordance with guidelines as set out in our constitution.

The work of Aughnacloy Historical Society is only possible with the support of the membership who continue to support us year after year and to whom we are indebted.

The Charity has considered 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.

Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity

The charity is governed by its constitution.

Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustee's Report and the statement of receipts and payments , as well as the statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions , and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the charity. They 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.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Trustee



Trustee

Date: 30/1/24