

Portaferry Gala Festival

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name Portaferry Gala Festival

Charity registration number NIC107681

Company registration number NI638733

Principal office and registered office 40 Shore Road
Portaferry
Newtownards
Co Down
BT22 1JZ

The trustees

Mr D Gabbie
Mrs C Mageean
Ms M Ritchie
Mrs P O'Neill
Ms C Keating (Resigned 12
October 23)
Ms A Campbell (Resigned 11
October 22)

Independent examiner Imelda Rogan (FCA) Rogan Accountancy Limited Chartered
Accountants & Registered Auditors
Sketrick House
Jubilee Road
Newtownards
Co Down
BT23 4YH

Structure, governance and management

Background

Portaferry Gala Festival began its life back in 1967 as an unincorporated entity, set up by a group of philanthropic locals. At that time, the late Brian Falkner (then Prime Minister of Northern Ireland), was encouraging local towns and villages to set up festivals within their areas to help foster community relations. The idea of setting up such a festival in Portaferry quickly gained momentum and in 1967, Portaferry Festival was born in combination with the Portaferry Development Association.

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Structure, governance and management *(continued)*

Legal Structure

Portaferry Gala Festival was originally set up as an unincorporated entity, governed by its constitution, but was subsequently incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee on 27 May 2016 and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Portaferry Gala Festival is a registered charity, regulated by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (charity number NIC 107681).

Portaferry Gala Festival is currently governed by a Board of four Trustees (also known as Directors). The Board can co-opt new Trustees as and when required. The Chairperson is elected from the Trustees and is ratified at the Annual General Meeting.

New Trustees are briefed on their legal obligations, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision making process and any ongoing pertinent issues. They are free to discuss any issue with other Trustees. Trustees are ultimately responsible to the Board through the Chairperson.

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Objectives and activities

Charitable objects

The Charity's objects are to benefit the inhabitants of Portaferry and its environs without distinction of gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, race, ethnicity, or political, religious or other opinion and in particular to:-

(1) Advance community development for the benefit of the public by:

(a) providing facilities for and organise community and family events in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure-time occupations with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants;

(b) promoting tourism and other sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration.

(2) Promote diversity, equality, good race and community relations, inter-cultural understanding and social harmony through activities that:

(a) foster increased mutual understanding and respect between people of diverse backgrounds; and

(b) cultivate a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.

(3) Advance education and training for the public benefit by organising classes, courses and programmes.

(4) Encourage community participation in healthy recreation by organising and promoting sports and recreational events that are capable of improving health and wellbeing.

(5) Promote arts and culture by encouraging community participation in creative arts and organising cultural and arts initiatives and events.

Activities

Originally taking place during the traditional holiday period in Northern Ireland, in recent years the Gala Committee has staged various events at other times of the year such as Halloween and Christmas. The Gala Committee has increased its audience by engaging effectively with social media and during the July festival Ferry FM, the Gala's own radio station, is broadcast locally and is available around the world online.

Strategic report

The following sections for achievements and performance and financial review form the strategic report of the charity.

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Year ended 31 March 2023

Achievements and performance

Activities during the year

2022 saw Gala celebrate it's 55th Anniversary. As we slowly emerged from the very challenging two year period that was Covid, it was good to be able to return to our usual week long programme featuring old as well as some new events, all of which proved very popular and were enjoyed by all. Once again many events were ticketed via Eventbrite and sold out quickly.

The Board and Committee used socially distance face to face meetings to ensure the continuation of effective governance arrangements and guidelines that were in place.

Financial review

The results for the year are set out in detail on page 7 onwards. At the year end the company had unrestricted reserves of £16,879 and restricted reserves of £443. During the year we generated an overall deficit of £2,871.

Plans for future periods

Plans for the forthcoming year will see Gala applying for funding to organise events to promote and attract more visitors to Portaferry and the Ards Peninsula. We will also continue to develop our programme of events and continue to offer our enriching activities and events to the locale.

The trustees' annual report and the strategic report were approved on 5 November 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

David Gabbie

Mr D Gabbie
Director

Patricia O'Neill

Mrs P O'Neill
Director