

LISNASKEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEES REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 30/04/23

Charity Regd. Northern Ireland: NIC107828

Charity address: 22 Coolcannel Square, Maguiresbridge, Co. Fermanagh, BT94 4RE

Committee: Chairperson - George Elliott;
Treasurer - Linda Swindle; Secretary - Victoria Herbert; Vice Chairperson - Russell Storey;
Under Secretary - Anne Elliott (resigned 24/12/2022); Honorary President - John Cunningham.

Objectives and Aims

The Society has been established for the benefit of the people of Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh, without distinction of age, sex, race, political or religious persuasion, by associating inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities to learn, discuss and share heritage and history in a friendly atmosphere.

The beneficiaries are the members of the society and the general public who attain an increased awareness of the varieties of traditions that go to make up the present, and gain knowledge of the experiences of people in former generations. There is no private benefit from the activities of the society and no payments are made to members who volunteer their help with the programme of events (excepting incidental benefits). We are a welcoming society whose members are adults, predominantly elderly, who share a common interest in local history.

The public benefits that flow from any presentations, research or publication of any articles of local interest, raises local and community awareness of their heritage and traditions, thereby encouraging others to engage in a similar process by helping local people both in the society and outside, to develop their expertise and skill levels. Other public benefit is from interaction via our facebook page where people engage to share history, photographs and comment on historical items we post there. In addition we deal with a number of queries from tourists/visitors via our facebook messenger and email enquiries, assisting when and where we can with both family history and local history queries/research and occasionally meeting them where time permits and showing them the rich history we have here. We also liaise where appropriate with other local charities and groups to help build awareness locally.

The charity hosts monthly heritage talks/lectures for the general public in the Castle Park Centre, Lisnaskea on a variety of topics. The charity also arranges outside annual events, e.g. Olde Tyme Market Day involving three local Primary Schools in the Cornmarket Yard, Lisnaskea and a group of Home Schooled children. The expenses for this event include hire of venue and personnel, Public Liability insurance for events, demonstrations/exhibits, refreshments for attending schoolchildren and hire of media system. Our former treasurer, Vicky Herbert obtained approval in March 2020 for grant funding from RSPB by LELP and National Lottery Heritage Fund NI for £5,000 toward our events pertaining to our Lough Head project which was only concluded during this past year with the publication and launch of our society book 'Lough Head Revealed' on 25th November 2022. This included research, publication, walk and talk tours of Lough Head and a number of linked talks through the year.

Meetings were minuted and agreed at talk and committee meetings. The committee are conscious of our wide-ranging responsibilities. On Friday 17th June 2022 we were able once again to hold our society's largest annual traditional event, our Olde Tyme Market Day in conjunction with local primary schools. Due to the previous few years absence of such events with the pandemic in place, we were most grateful to Lough Erne Landscape Partnership with funding from Heritage Lottery Fund, which enabled us to put on a bigger and better event than ever before with many more heritage stalls exhibiting their particular skills and even playing old time traditional games which were all very well received by the children and adults alike. There were bee keepers, men's shed woodwork, wool spinning, crochet and butter churning demonstrations, hay rope making, basket weaving, boxty making workshop and more. The biggest attraction of the day however, was the presence of Westway Film Productions with Joe Mahon of 'Mahon's Way' talking to vendors and children taking part. The programme was televised in the autumn of 2022. Joe Mahon also interviewed Vicky Herbert on the

history of the Commarket Yard and at the old ruins and graveyard at Aghalurcher, he also interviewed Linda Swindle at Castle Balfour on the history of the site and Plantation Balfour settlers there for this same episode of 'Mahon's Way.' The old market day ended with treats from the ice cream van for the children attending. The children from the three local primary schools also took part in an art competition and received prizes.

As part of (EHOD) European Heritage Open Day in September 2022 we held two walk and talk tours, firstly at Sheebeg Henge led by George Elliott and afterward at Aghalurcher old graveyard, led by Vicky Herbert and Linda Swindle. Both were popular, having almost 20-30 attending each tour. We had two local guided trips during the year, one to Enniskillen Workhouse with 15 attending and the other to Munville House with 17 attending. Also in September 2022 society assisted LELP in an archaeological dig at Lisdoon Ringfort and had a talk from site leader, Dr Ruairi O'Baoill in April 2023 giving feedback on their findings. Further updates are expected in due course when further analysis of finds is completed.

Linda, our treasurer, attended a course at Fermanagh House for guidance for Treasurers.

Our 2022 AGM was held in the Castle Park Centre, Lisnaskea on 8/8/2022. Members listed above were duly elected, with two posts remaining unfilled due to being unable to get others involved. The post of Public Relations Officer has been covered by Vicky Herbert along with her Secretary role, and since December 2022 she has covered the post of Under Secretary (Minutes) following the resignation of elected secretary. No Hospitality Provider Officer is in post, Linda has fulfilled this along with Treasurer role in meantime. We hope to have this addressed at our upcoming AGM.

04/05/22 (Opening) Bank Balance	£1,291.97
Petty Cash in hand	£9.53
Income:	£6,683.94
Expenditure:	£4,548.24
Profit/Loss:	£2,049.00
Closing Balance @ 30/04/2023	£3,427.67

The society events are slowly coming back to a more normal pattern this year, however the earlier part of the year still suffered with poor attendance at talks as people were wary of contracting viruses in group situations. For the first time in a few years, we have made a profit. This is primarily due to book sales of our society publication, the proceeds to be used for reprinting.

L Swindle 16/10/23
16/10/23