

## LISNASKEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEES REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 30/04/2024

### **Charity Regd. Northern Ireland: NIC107828**

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

Committee: Chairperson - George Elliott; Secretary - Victoria Herbert; Treasurer - Linda Swindle; Vice-Chairperson - Russell Storey; Under/Minutes Secretary - Kathleen Cassidy; Public Relations Officer - Nuala Reilly; Hospitality Provider - Anne Elliott; and President - John Cunningham. (@AGM 16/10/2023)

**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 by society, raises community awareness of their heritage and traditions, thereby encouraging others to engage in a similar process by helping local people both within and outside the society to develop their skills and knowledge. As a rural community, rural isolation is a huge concern especially among our mainly membership of older people. We aim our activities at helping those feeling isolated, by providing a regular, safe, friendly place to meet and learn together, helping both their mental health and well-being. Other public benefit is from interaction via our facebook page where people actively engage by sharing snippets of their known oral history, photographs and comment on historical items we highlight there. We deal with numerous queries from home/abroad via our facebook, email, in person, assisting when and where we can with both family history and local history queries/research and occasionally meeting them if time permits and sharing our rich history. We also liaise regularly with other local groups/charities so building awareness and connectedness 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 where public get to enjoy fresh air, aiding health and well-being, e.g. an educational Olde Tyme Market Day involving three local Primary Schools in the Commarket Yard, Lisnaskea in June 2023. The expenses for this event typically include hire of venue and personnel, Public Liability insurance for events, hire of demonstrators/exhibitors, refreshments for attending schoolchildren and hire of media system. We annually support EHOD NI, 2023 we had a heritage walk and talk tour of our Lisnaskea Main Street with 17 attending. No bus outing was held this year due to vast increase in all costings and considerations of membership issues with cost of living concerns. Instead we opted for a shorter local tours - Belleisle Castle tour in January 2024. This was well attended and pre-booking system worked well. Meetings are minuted and agreed at talk and committee meetings. Committee aim to keep abreast of our wide-ranging responsibilities.

Vicky, our secretary, attended a Safeguarding course (Designated Officer Refresher) on 26 June 2023 in her role as Safeguarding Officer. The society were nominated for Heritage Angel Award NI by Lough Erne Landscape Partnership, organised by Ulster Architectural Heritage, for Best Project involving Young People in our annual Olde Tyme Market Days for which we were Highly Commended. The award was accepted at the Award Ceremony at Braid Arts Centre, Ballymena on 27 March by Linda Swindle and Russell Storey, on behalf of the society.

Our 2023 AGM was held in the Castle Park Centre, Lisnaskea on 16 November 2023. Members above were duly elected, making this a full committee. We welcomed Nuala Reilly as Public Relations Officer;

Kathleen Cassidy as Minutes Secretary, a vital role, taken on with enthusiasm and Anne Elliott was elected as Hospitality Provider, taking on the role of organising needs for society events with ease.

Opening Bank Bal. @ 01.05.2023	£3,427.67	
Petty Cash in hand @ 01.05.2023		£9.53
Income:	£1,755.44	
Expenditure:	£1,328.05	
Profit/Loss:	£ 427.39	
Closing Bank Bal. @ 30/04/2024	£3,846.96	
Closing Cash Bal. @ 30.04.2024		£17,63

Six monthly talks were held under the leadership of chairman, George Elliott on the third Monday of the month in the Studio Room, Castle Park Centre, Lisnaskea. Attendance varied month to month, and one event we enjoyed the largest attendance at a meeting since the group began over 30 years ago (pre-charitable status). EHOD event in September went well, with a town tour led by members of Lisnaskea Historical Society sharing history at various sections of the Lisnaskea Main Street tour, finishing in Frank's Bar where George gave a history of the premises. A heritage tour was carried out in January at Belleisle Castle. A sizeable income was generated from sales of our society book @ £420, these are available from McBrien's Newsagents and Enniskillen Castle online bookshop. Donations gratefully received from Fairs & Markets Committee toward Olde Tyme Market Day £750 helped offset expenses. Help from LELP at OTMD also greatly appreciated, in organising and assisting at the event itself. Overall, a successful year, ending with a profit of £427.39. This will be used to fund the upcoming Olde Tyme Market Day event in June 2024. A small grant of £36 was received via LELP this year, however this was to offset of expenses paid by us the foregoing accounting year in relation to archaeological dig talk.

L Sunde Treasurer 24/9/24,  
R Story VICE CHAIR person 24-9-24