

Portstewart Convention

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and aims

In presenting this Report the Directors are mindful of the three "tactical plans and arrangements" set out in the Company's registration with the Charity Commission. These are the effective marketing of the Convention, the provision of a suitable programme and the maintenance of the Company's property.

The annual Convention which took place in Portstewart from Saturday 8 until Friday 14 July 2023 was the first to meet without the lingering constraints of the Covid-19 pandemic. Attendances showed an encouraging increase from the previous year. On several evenings the main marquee, seated for 1,000 people, was full and overflow arrangements were required. While use of the facilities is now close to capacity the Directors continue to monitor the appropriateness of promotional and marketing arrangements.

The teaching theme - "Unshakeable" - was especially relevant in a society which, having come through the Covid-19 pandemic, is now facing many economic and social challenges at home and growing political uncertainties abroad. The importance of a confident, living Christian faith was explored through a series of talks in the mornings based on the Old Testament book of Daniel and in the evenings in the central chapters of the New Testament Letter to the Romans.

It was pleasing to see the numbers of people using the coffee shop where they could discuss the talks they had listened to and share their own experiences with one another. The bookshop was well supported with good literature being bought as a source of further learning. There was good interest in the Missionary information points where opportunities for practical Christian service could be considered. Once again Scripture Union provided a well-structured programme for children and young people.

Through the year the Directors have continued routine maintenance of the property and have undertaken some improvements to the marquee layout to ensure that the property is well suited to achieving the Convention's purpose. The carpark area remains under the management of Carpark Services Ltd on a "pay and display" basis with the Convention having exclusive use during the week of the Convention.

The Directors recognise that there is no practical means to measure the full outcome of the week of Convention. This can only be seen in the lives of people returning to their homes, Churches and districts to live in a manner which, in the words of the Convention's purpose, is God-honouring, helpful to and considerate of others. The Directors give thanks to God for the evidence of his Spirit influencing and changing lives during the 2023 Convention.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

As shown more fully in the attached accounts the Convention's income from all sources in 2023 was £85,578. Apart from £8,111 received as donations to the Missionary Fund this income was applied to the running costs of the Convention, the maintenance and improvement of the site and to maintaining a reserve as a prudent provision for future costs. The Missionary Fund income was distributed in its entirety to the designated projects.

Portstewart Convention

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document and is constituted as a company limited by guarantee as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The charity is managed by a Board of Directors which is assisted in practical arrangements by an Organising Committee.

The Board co-opted Mr Stephen Bailie as a Director at its meeting on 17 November 2023. In accordance with the Company's Articles of Association Mr Bailie will retire at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting and offer himself for re-election.

The Company did not employ any staff during the year. It engaged around 50 volunteers in the organisation of the Annual Convention.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

NI661299 (Northern Ireland)

Registered Charity number

108158

Registered office

42 Rossburn Manor
Kells
Ballymena
Co. Antrim
BT42 3RB

Trustees

Rev Joseph Fell, Minister of Religion
Rev Johnston Rea Lambe, Minister of Religion
Rev Darren Basil McCorriston, Minister of Religion
Mr James Lawson McDonald, Retired Civil Servant
Mr Stephen James Bailie, Accountant (appointed 17.11.23)

Company Secretary

Mr David Preston

Independent Examiner

John McCleary FCA
McCleary & Company Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Garvey Studios
14 Longstone Street
Lisburn
Co. Antrim
BT28 1TP

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 30 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Portstewart Convention

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Lawson McDonald'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Mr James Lawson McDonald - Trustee