



Knitted Knockers of Northern Ireland

Annual Report & Statement of Accounts

For the year to 31st January 2023

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The directors of Knitted Knockers of Northern Ireland are pleased to submit their report and accounts for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

Achievements and Performance

An overview of the 6th Year for Knitted Knockers of NI Ltd.

67 Community Access and Outreach Events

- Awareness raising speaker events.
- Markets
- Workshops
- Plays (Fright night)
- Cross Community groups that support breast cancer survivors
- Male Breast Cancer Awareness – Car Shows x 2

104 Knitting & Crochet meetings

104 Sewing meetings

104 Craft meetings

- Lurgan Players
- Lurgan Ukes
- Couch to Celídh

The Clubhouse –

- 104 - Creative & Social Breast Cancer Support meetings
- 48 - Stretch N Relax classes
- 12 - “I feel your See” Breast Cancer Exhibition meetings
- 5 - Outings – Theatre, The Mac

6000+ members of the public reached - this figure includes the delivery of Knitted Knocker orders 4506 knitted knockers delivered and allows for the Markets and attendance to events Fright Night (200 people) Markets average 300-400 people in attendance per market. As well as those who attend Knitted Knockers and The Clubhouse, Car show attendance averaged 400-500 people in attendance

Guest Speakers – attended various meetings eg The women’s Menopause wellness day had 4 specialist speakers engaging with the community. We also have other guest speakers attending throughout the year at the various meetings and events that we hold.

The Charity’s Knitted Knockers & The Clubhouse meeting programmes are a core activity which contributes greatly to the success of supporting women with Breast Cancer throughout Northern Ireland. We also run awareness raising events some of which are combined with our fundraising events.

In the year to March 31st 2023 a total of 55 meetings were held, this mathematical curiosity is explained by the fact that in addition to the normal Fortnightly Knitting evening meetings and The Clubhouse monthly meetings we held new programmes, projects, events and extra workshops, Markets and acting rehearsals as well as production of sets, setup and decoration of building for events.

Total attendance across the meeting programme was 1,226 members and 131 visitors.

Our guest speakers are always a highlight of the programme, and this year has been no exception.

Please see below a list of community events and fundraisers held between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023.

Knitted Knockers Guild

Knitting meetings x 2 per month (104 annually)

Crochet meetings x 2 per month

Sewing & Stuffing & Packing x 2 per month

The Clubhouse – Creative and Social Space for Breast Cancer Survivors

Monthly Meetings – 1st Wednesday of each Month – Creative and social meeting part funded by Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

The Mac Belfast – Partner in the “I Feel You See” – Breast Cast exhibition - 2-year project.

Cancer Charities – Alternative Treatments & Counselling

Department of Health – Carers fund – Lurgan Ukuleles & Yoga

Co-op – Community Fridge

Take 500 – Garden Project

Craft Fayres, car boot sales & Awareness raising Coffee Mornings

Car boot sales & Markets - 2nd April, 14th May, 3rd June, 11th June, 25th June 2022

Pre-loved Boutique pop-up opening – 10 June 2022

Knitted Knockers of NI Birthday Party – & male breast cancer awareness event – American cars & coffee – 3rd July

Male breast cancer awareness event – capri car club car show – 6 August 2022

Mum’s Sustainable Market – 27 August, 1 October 2022

Craft market & Coffee morning – 22nd October, 5th November, 3rd December 2022

Twilight market – 16th, 17th December 2022

Fundraising/community engagement/breast cancer awareness

Gardening club – monthly (12 per annum)

28 January 2023 Take 500 + Market stand – awareness raising event ABC Council

21 February 2023 – Pancake Day & Market

Clubhouse meeting 1 per month (12 month per annum)

6 February 2023 – weekly Stretch & Relax for Clubhouse members.

Stuffing and packing meeting monthly (12 per annum)

27th May 2022 – Art Exhibition Lurgan SRC

17th July 2022 – lobbying for NI to come up in line with same cancer drug standard as England.

1st August 2022 – gardening & fairy house workshop with People’s first Portadown

Lurgan Ukes taster sessions – 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd September 2022

Lurgan Players first meeting – 24th November 2022 decided to run Friday Fright Night in October

Therapies

Toby & Peanut Therapy Ponies – Clubhouse 17th December 1 family January 2023

14th January 2023 – Women’s Wellness Seminar ‘managing the menopause’.

4 March – Monthly – Menopause Café

Incorporation of community fridge – 17th August 2022 – linked with golden crust bakery to reduce food waste.

Clubhouse

theatre outing – 3rd September, 10th December 2022

Acoustic night – clubhouse outing – 11th November 2022

4 weeks couch to Céilí – 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th October 2022

January – weekly - Couch to Celídh –

Preloved Boutique

Breast casting

17-24 March 2023 – “You See I Feel” breast cast exhibition.

Lurgan Townscape Heritage Scheme – Short film Knitted knockers of NI Helping to change Lives.

Short Film Knitted Knockers of NI – Life after treatment.

Alternative Therapies – reflexology, massage, reiki etc. – available to breast cancer survivors

Volunteer appreciation

Volunteer appreciation night – 19th November 2022

Peoples First Lord Mayor Certificate presentation 12th January 2023

Fundraising workshops

Crafternoon tea – embroidery 20th July

Summer Solstice Tai Chi Class – 21st June 2022

Lughnasadh – traditional performance art & storytelling – 6th August 2022

Ceramic Jewellery making – 25th August 1st, 8th September 2022

Cushion making workshop – 15th October, 19th November 2022

Yoga classes weekly starting 28th September 2022

Halloween party fundraiser – 22nd October 2022

Haunted house fundraiser – 28th October 2022

Embroidery classes starting monthly on 6th October 2022

Jog on Cancer 5k fun run – 23rd October 2022

Santa experience fundraiser – 16th, 17th and 18th December 2022

Financial Review

Financial Performance

Financial performance in the year to 31st March 2023 has been broadly consistent with the board of director's forecasts and expectations; a deficit of income over expenditure of £19.00 was achieved for the year compared to £0.00 in the year to 31st March 2022. The year ended with a general fund balance of £3,612.79 (compared £3,613.00 for the same date last year)

Income

Income receipts for the year totalled £40,827 – a decrease of £21,344 (34.3%); however, the year to 31st March 2022 included a one-off grant received from the Architectural Heritage Fund (for a business plan and architectural drawings for the building we are currently renting) of £15,000. Removing these atypical transactions from the analysis would result in a year-on-year drop in income of £6,344 (10.2%). Knitted Knockers of Northern Ireland's income is generally healthy and remains consistent with previous performance, below illustrates the comparison of income in the current and previous year.

	2023		2022
	£	£	
Income			
Grant		14,799	35,761
Donations		7,958	26,410
Generated Income		18,070	0
Other Income		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Income		40,827	62,171

Expenditure

Expenditure			
Rent	6,500		8,530
Charitable Activities	24,312		29,122
Office Costs	1,619		0
Heat & Light	6,127		
Insurance	323		
Telephone	0		1,278
Sundry Expenses	190		0
IT & Equipment	66		14,050
Accountancy & Consultancy	600		8,100
Maintenance	735		767
Bank fees	<u>374</u>		<u>324</u>
Total Expenditure	40,846		62,171
Surplus/Deficit		-19	0

Stock

As of 31st March 2023, Knitted Knockers of Northern Ireland held a stock of wool and craft supplies with a value of £556.

Gifts and Support in Kind

In assessing the finances and assets of Knitted Knockers of Northern Ireland it must be noted that many volunteers and directors give a great deal of support in kind. Many purchases are made, and the payment never claimed back; for example, mileage and refreshments costs, stall fees at events, and craft supplies have all been paid for by volunteers, but the cost not claimed despite such a claim being perfectly legitimate. Volunteers also give generously of their time; without the many hours given to preparing and delivering workshops, running community and outreach awareness events, and managing the daily running of the breast cancer centre, our charity's growth and success could not be achieved.

We undertook an analysis of the time which trustees and members give to Knitted Knockers of Northern Ireland to support our community programmes, preparing and delivering workshops, and on director and administrative duties. The total exceeds 3,952 hours which equates to £40,231.36 at National Minimum Wage rates of April 2022 of £10.18 per hour. The value of this time to Knitted Knockers of Northern Ireland is, of course, much greater. The directors wish to place on record their recognition of and gratitude for all these contributions.

Funds Materially in Deficit

As of 31st March 2023, Knitted Knockers of Northern Ireland had £19 in material deficit.

Major Risks

KKNI now wishes to establish a Health & Wellbeing Centre, addressing mental and physical health issues impacting Breast Cancer survivors and their families. The Major risk we identified a single major risk relating to our accommodation at The Courtyard Brownlow Castle, Lurgan. We are all volunteers and are gravely concerned about the need to raise money for core running costs and realise that for our Charity to continue there is a need for employment of Centre manager to enable the continuation of Knitted Knockers much needed services.

Financial Management and Reserves Policies

Knitted Knockers of Northern Ireland has two accounts; our main account is an Ulster Bank Small Charities account which does not have a debit card associated with it. All payments from this account are via cheque, which must be signed by two out of three of the authorised signatories. All three signatories on the account are unrelated to one another. We primarily use this account to pay for utility bills, rent and large material purchases as well as receiving all grant capital into his main account. Our second account is a Cashplus account which has 1 payment card attached to it. Most of our donations go into this account as we receive most of our donations in cash at fundraising events. All cash is double checked and double signed off on before making a lodgement as per our financial policy. We use this Cashplus card to make everyday purchase such as refreshments, stationary etc. and we also use this card to make online purchase for craft/workshop supplies. We also have a PayPal account which we use to receive donations from JustGiving, GoFundMe and Eventbrite. Funds from PayPal are transferred either to our main Ulsterbank account or to our Cashplus account based on current need. The only people with access to these accounts are our Directors as per our finance policy. There is to always be a reserve fund of £1000.00 in our Ulster Bank Current account, as per our finance policy. Please see further accounting policies as quoted on our annual reports.

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting convention - The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and follow the recommendations in 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice' issued in October 2000 the charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS1 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement because it is a small charity.

1.2 Incoming resources Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated assets are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified, and a third party is bearing the cost. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included. Grants, including grants for

the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable.

1.3 Resources Expended Resources expended are recognised in the year in which they are incurred. Management and administration costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Plant and machinery - 25% straight line

Fixtures, fittings, and equipment - 25% straight line

Motor vehicles - 25% straight line

Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023*Receipts & Payments Account*

Balance Sheet			
As at 30/04/22			
	Notes	2022	
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	6		0.00
Current Assets			
Debtors		0.00	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>6,613.35</u>	
		6,613.35	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		3,000.00	
Net Current Assets		<u>3,613.35</u>	
Total Assets less current liabilities			3,613.35
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year			
Deferred grant income			0.00
Net Assets			3,613.35
Capital and Reserves			
Reserve Fund			3,613.35
Profit and Loss Account			0.00
Total Funds			3,613.35

Statement and Assets of Liability

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the period ended 30/04/22**

	2022		
	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total
Notes:	£	£	£
Incoming Resources			
Grant	35,761.26	0.00	35,761.26
Donations	0.00	26,410.31	26,410.31
Generated Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Income	35,761.26	26,410.31	62,171.57
Expenditure			
Charitable Activities	28,261.26	26,410.31	54,671.57
Administrative Expenses	<u>7,500.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>7,500.00</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>35,761.26</u>	<u>26,410.31</u>	<u>62,171.57</u>
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Movement of Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 30/04/22

	2022	
	£	£
Income		
Grant		35,761
Donations		26,410
Generated Income		0
Other Income		<u>0</u>
Total Income		62,171
Expenditure		
Rent	8,530	
Charitable Activities	29,122	
Office Costs	0	
Telephone	1,278	
Sundry Expenses	0	
IT & Equipment	14,050	
Accountancy & Consultancy	8,100	
Maintenance	767	
Bank fees	<u>324</u>	
Total Expenditure	62,171	
Surplus/Deficit		0

*Notes of the Accounts***1.5 Pensions**

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the company during the year.

The regular cost of providing retirement pensions and related benefits is charged to the SOFA over the employees' service lives on the basis of a constant percentage of earnings (7%).

2. Grant Income

2022

£

Government Grants	35,761
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3. Operating gain/(deficit)

2022

Operating gain is stated after charging:

Depreciation and other amounts written off	0
Accountant's remuneration	600

4. Employees

2022

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees (excluding the Directors) during the year were: 0

Employment costs

2022

Wages and salaries	0
Social security costs	0
Other pension costs	0
Total	0

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 30/04/22

5. Pension Costs

The charity does not operate a pension scheme.

6. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 May 2021	0	0	0	0
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 30 April 2020	0	0	0	0
Depreciation				
At 1 May 2021	0	0	0	0
Charge for the year	0	0	0	0
At 30 April 2020	0	0	0	0
Net book values				
At 30 April 2020	0	0	0	0
At 30 April 2020	0	0	0	0

7. Debtors

	2022 £
Grant Debtors	0
Other Debtors	0
Prepayments and accrued income	0
	0

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £
Trade creditors	2,400
Other creditors	600
Other taxes and social security costs	0
Accruals and deferred income	0
	3,000

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name: Knitted Knockers of Northern Ireland

Charity Number: 108347

Registered Address: The Courtyard, Brownlow House, Windsor Avenue, Lurgan, BT67 9BJ

Charity Directors as of 31st March 2023:

Joanne Harris, Linda Ferguson, Anne Thompson, Lauren Harris, Janice Greer & Hope Graham

Advisors: Derek Browne – Accountant and Funding Opportunities advisor

Insight Business Services, 53 Bernice Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 4QZ

Structure, Governance and Management*Governing document and Constitution*

Knitted Knockers of Northern Ireland is a registered charity and a charitable company limited by guarantee. We have an incorporated Articles of Memorandum which replaced our original Constitution on 28th September 2021.

Related Organisations

Brownlow House - Continued support and Connections with Brownlow Castle – development of the stables in the Courtyard to include the outdoor kitchen and therapy relaxation gardens. Continue linking with Brownlow Castle in the delivery of events in order to bring in funds to support the work of KKNi & The Clubhouse.

Peoples 1 st – Intergenerational project. Students attend during August and October as part of their curriculum; Retail – organising of our Charity Shop, Work on Garden and painting, Work around mental health, the importance of giving back to community and good citizenship qualities, Breast Cancer awareness for all genders., Intergenerational Interaction with Breast Cancer Survivors where the group decide what project they wish to contribute to e.g. 2022 – Cleaning out store rooms, building shelves, organising donated craft material and wool, painting store rooms and Toilet facilities and gardening plus interacting with breast cancer survivors through craft workshop. In October helped us with fundraising by decorating the Castle for a Fright Night.

This year 2023 – they have decided the intergenerational project will aim; to help us move the shop across the courtyard, help retail some items on vinted, work on a marketing plan for the said Preloved Boutique, The Art Project will be painting of picnic tables and painting flowers etc on the table tops as well as upcycling picnic tables they will also upcycle wooden chairs for internal use in our Craft room, which they will also help us decorate.

The MAC - Continued relationship with THE MAC – running on from our You See I Feel Breast Cast Exhibit we are currently working with another Artist with Photography, video and voice over Art project – this is the next phase of the “You See I Feel” Breast Cast Exhibit and aims to show case all the different groups within Knitted Knockers and highlight the work we do and the benefits these groups give to individuals – interviews and pictures are on going at present. We will continue to Link with The MAC on other projects as they arise, helping us to open up the world of Art to some people who have never been to an art gallery of any kind. So opening a new experience which enhances life experience.

Breast Cancer Now - We have linked our “Moment in Time” Programme with Breast Cancer Now “Moving Forward” Programme, and The Breast Care Clinic – Breast Cancer Now will be paying for the professionals to take part in the Moving Forward programme as well as costing for their time in our Premises £180 for the 2 sessions to cover running costs including refreshments. We will both see how this project develops and we would like to establish a secondary breast cancer support group within The Courtyard.

Macmillan - We work with MacMillan in that they refer new patients to us to avail of knitted knockers and The Clubhouse Services from September 2023.

Cancer Focus – have contacted seeking to set up a meeting as they wish to deliver bra fitting service at our premises – we will be meeting them to discuss this within the next 2 weeks. We have established an acting group – Lurgan Players who assist in producing Murder Mystery nights, fright nights, storytelling at our fairy tale folklore festival – this is made up of a coming together of our various groups as well as other community groups and volunteers. Knitting members, Breast cancer survivors, The Portadown Men’s Shed, Banbridge Operatic Society, Local drama teacher, Dish (mental health organisation in Lurgan), AEON Community Group, Lurgan Townscape Heritage Scheme.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Objects

The object of Knitted Knockers of Northern Ireland as set out in our Articles of Association is the advancement of the health and well-being of people diagnosed with breast cancer, primarily focusing on self-confidence, body image and overall health.

Knitted Knockers of Northern Ireland aims to promote body positivity and health & wellbeing as a self-care activity and also aims to promote public awareness and understanding of Breast Cancer and all those who are affected by it. In turn, we offer support to people from the following groups: Adult training, Ethnic minorities, General public, Mental health, older people, Parents, Physical disabilities, Unemployed/low income, Voluntary and community sector, Volunteers, Women.

Public Benefit Statement

The benefits flowing from our purposes are: Better support for breast cancer survivors, therefore increased mental wellbeing, reduced isolation, and higher self-esteem & confidence. Feedback is identified by the comments received, the demand for Knitted Knockers and also increasing members of The Clubhouse & constant flow of volunteers without the need for recruitment There is no harm flowing from our purposes. Our beneficiaries are people with a Breast Cancer diagnosis, friends & family of Breast Cancer patients. Crafters (our volunteers who make knitted knockers & post-surgery kits), NHS Breast Clinic Staff in NI - Breast care nurses and Consultants There is no private benefit.

Summary of Main Activities

Knitted Knockers of NI (KKNi) was founded in 2016 with the mission of engaging with a community of volunteers to produce and deliver free hand knit breast prosthetics (knitted knockers) and post-surgery comfort kits to breast cancer survivors across NI, bringing confidence and comfort to thousands of women that have had mastectomies. KKNi connects with the community through workshops teaching traditional skills of knitting, crochet and sewing. KKNi works closely with breast care clinics throughout Northern Ireland and last year delivered over 3,000 products to women all over Northern Ireland. In 2017 KKNi established “The Clubhouse” in response to demand from breast cancer survivors as a mental health and well-being initiative to establish creative and social programmes to further support other breast cancer survivors. Demand for the Clubhouse has grown to more than 50 members and KKNi now wishes to establish a Health & Wellbeing Centre, addressing mental and physical health issues impacting Breast Cancer survivors and their families. The Clubhouse will provide a positive and creative non-clinical space, to facilitate various support programmes that offer a caring, holistic approach with services and workshops to educate, enable, empower and support members to achieve skills to address mental, emotional, nutritional, practical and physical body image challenges that come with breast cancer diagnosis and impact on the individual, family unit and wider community. KKNi connect with volunteers through workshops, teaching traditional skills of Knitting on 4 needles, Crochet and Sewing resulting in the provision of Free soft 100% cotton hand knit breast prosthetics, crocheted Swimming Knockers, Post-Surgery Cushions and Drain Bag.

Approved and adopted by a meeting of the Trustees on 07/02/2024 and signed on their behalf.



Hope Graham

Director



Joanne Harris

Founder & Director