



MOUNTSANDEL

DISCOVERY & HERITAGE GROUP

MOUNTSANDEL DISCOVERY & HERITAGE GROUP

Charity Commission No. NIC 108552

Date registered: 23 February 2022

CONTENTS	Pages
Trustee's Report	3 - 6
Independent Examiner's Report	7
Income & Expenditure / Balance Sheet	8

**MOUNTSANDEL DISCOVERY & HERITAGE GROUP
ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR 2023**

The **Mountsandel Discovery & Heritage Group (MDHG)** was formed in 2017 and constituted as an unincorporated organisation on 17 December 2018.

The Group opened a Community/Business Account at Barclay's Bank on 8 September 2018.

MDHG was granted CCNI charitable status on 23 February 2022.

The Trustees present their report for the year 2023 (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity name **Mountsandel Discovery & Heritage Group**

Charity registration number **NIC 108552**

Registered Office (2023) 13 Burnside Road
PORTSTEWART
BT55 7NS

Bankers:

Barclay's Bank PLC, 27/29 Church Street, COLERAINE, BT52 1AW

The Trustees:

The Trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Mrs Maura Hickey (Chair)
Ms Donna McCloskey (Secretary)
Ms Loretto Blackwood (Treasurer)
Mr Derek Sinnamon
Mr Liam Hickey
Ms Rachael Marshall (nee Garrett)
Mr Andrew Anderson
Ms Dorothy Black
Mr Patrick Lennon (joined 2023)
Ms Carol Martin (joined 2023)

MOUNTSANDEL DISCOVERY AND HERITAGE GROUP
ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR 2023

1 - COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Trustees held 16 meetings on the following dates.

In Person:

9 Jan 2023	7 March 2023 (AGM)	19 June 2023
31 Jul 2023	21 Aug 2023	

Zoom :

20 Feb 2023	5 Apr 2023	24 Apr 2023	10 May 2023
15 May 2023	5 Jun 2023	11 Sep 2023	9 Oct 2023
23 Oct 2023	29 Nov 2023	11 Dec 2023	

2 - CAUSEWAYS COAST AND GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL (CCGBC) ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS

- Response to **Strategic Outline Case (SOC)** (13 Jan 2023)
- Consideration of **Way Forward** to develop site (3 Mar 2023)
- **Working Party** - Terms of Reference for proposed working party/steering group and strategic direction defining Mountsandel Experience.
- **Symposium** – part funding for symposium agreed, discussion on Capital Funding. (12 May 2023)
- **Study Trip** with Council officers to Tullhogue & Newgrange sites (29 Nov 2023)
- **A. McL. May Blue plaque** application (4 Dec 2023)
- **Debriefing of Council Study Trip** and MDHG and CCGBC Officers discussion re **Stage 2 in Peace 4 funding application** for £275,000 to upgrade Mountsandel site (20 Dec 2023)

3 - ULSTER UNIVERSITY (UU) ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS

- Symposium sub-group meetings to progress 2022 proposal (8 Feb 2023)
- UU Meeting including Michael McGlade (Yellow Design - Augmented Reality) input by Zoom to finalise symposium (25 April 2023)
- Inaugural Mountsandel Symposium MDHG in partnership with UU the Riverside Theatre and CCGBC. More than 170 delegates attended.(14 June 2023) more info see item 6
- Symposium debrief and way ahead chaired by Ulster University (24 Jul 2023)

4 - EDUCATION DEVELOPMENTS

- Education Sub-group to be set up (20 December 2023) Suggested collaboration with:
UU Department of Education (Dr Shauna McGill)
CCGBC – Council Officers (Museum Services / Leisure & Recreation)
MDHG – Dorothy Black and Loretto Blackwood

5 - LOBBYING / FUNDING

- Co-Operation Ireland, Peter Sheridan re funding (28 Apr 2023)
- Councillor Niambh Archibald to progress Land Fill Communities Fund & Introduction to Sinn Fein's Tourism Spokesperson (3 Oct 2023)

- Meeting with David Jackson (CEO CCGBC) regarding discrepancies with bridge costings for City Deal selection (17 Dec 2023)
- Councillors re The Growth Deal /Bridge - Norman Hillis, Caoimbe Archibald, Niambh Archibald
- The Hon. The Irish society discussion on rolling grant for schools' days ongoing

6 - OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- **Art Competition – 16 May 2023**

Local primary schools in the area were invited to participate in the art competition on the theme of Mesolithic Mountsandel – marking the 50th Anniversary of the excavation of the Mountsandel site. 172 submitted competition entries, judged by Art teacher and MDHG members.

Prize Winners were hosted by the Mayor of the CCGBC (Councillor Ivor Wallace) at Council Mayoral office.

- **Symposium (Inaugural) – 14 June 2023**

Symposium, “The Gathering”, organised in partnership with Ulster University Coleraine and Riverside Theatre. The four main themes:

THEME 1 - 50 years since the late Prof Peter Woodman's find of early habitation at Mountsandel, the site has remained untouched.

Professor Mike Baillie (QUB), Thomas McErlean and Colin Breen (UU) all shared personal experiences of working with Peter.

THEME 2 - focused on education and the value of Mountsandel as an educational resource.

Teachers helped the delegates see Mountsandel through the eyes of children and the importance of developing learning through engaging with our natural and cultural heritage.

THEME 3 - A Visitor Experience, introduced by Professor Kathryn Best German University of Cairo spoke of the importance of using the local resources in imaginative ways to encourage interest and care for heritage and to create a sense of space and place for locals and visitors.

Dr Paddy Fitzgerald from the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies said Mountsandel offered many opportunities for interdisciplinary teams to work to further explore diversity and heritage.

Mary Harte Chairperson Donegal East Tourism talked of connecting communities and heritage.

THEME 4 - Professor Duncan Morrow introduced the final session of the day on Economic Tourism and Environmental Sustainability.

Patrick Lennon suggested how marketing, tourism, photography, filming, social media and reality technology can be used to introduce historical sites to much wider audiences.

Augmented Reality use in Sustainable Tourism – Michael McGlade – Yellow Design.

Tony McCance told of the long and complex process for the Tullaghogue Fort project to come to fruition.

Schools' Day Workshops

- **6th MDHG Annual Mountsandel Schools' Day** workshops in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Coleraine and CCGBC Museum Services and involvement of UU History PGCE Students to cement partnership with the University.
Four on-site workshops with facilitators explaining the context; demonstrating foraging; hunting: fishing / flint knapping. Two local schools (The Irish Society and St Malachy PS (cross-

community event) participated with approximately 70 pupils with teachers, assistants and volunteers.(19 Sep 2023)

- **Museum Services** (CCGBC) rolled out the September Schools Day Workshops for a further 4 days, week beginning 18th Sep 2023, offering a place to the schools in the borough on a first come first served . (Limited to eight places)

Connections

- Meeting with Dr Katherine Best (Cairo University) to discuss connections, of Bann with Castleroe, Kilrea, Portglenone, New Ferry, Toome and Tullyhogue (29 July 2023)
- Study trip with T. McElean Tullyhogue, Church-Island, and New Ferry(29 July 2023)
- Meeting with Matt Gamble **Co-operation Ireland** out-come "Amazing Space Schools (31 July 2023) Programme," involving Loretto College, Coleraine Grammar, "Art Based on Mountsandel"
- Neil Jackman of **Arbarta Heritage**, Tipperary (on-line) to discuss possibilities re Mountsandel site.(21 Aug 2023)
- **Health Worker** (retired) talk re Mountsandel and the River Bann Corridor (11 Oct 2023)
- **Community Engagement Event** at Sandel Centre successfully engaged with community stakeholders, potential future partners or users, which will form the basis of our Heritage Lottery Fund application. (16 October 2023)
- Ulster University **local literature day** featured "The Salmon People" & "Reflections on the Bann" to raise the importance and significance of Mountsandel and the River Bann Corridor(11 Nov 2023)

7 - FUTURE / FUNDING

- Meeting Helen Quigley to discuss opportunities for the way ahead.(20 Nov 2023)
- Matt Gamble **Co-Operation Ireland** Heritage through possible Migration Funding application (4 Dec 2023)
- Small Grant Funding opportunity from **Waterways Ireland** progressing re future event(s) to promote awareness of Mountsandel and the River Bann corridor (15 Dec 2025)
- **HLF funding** for project officer ongoing
- **Peace 4 funding** application at stage 2 for £275,000 to upgrade Mountsandel

8 - PRESS COVERAGE

Art competition; Symposium; Schools' Day; Community Engagement Event
See Facebook: www.facebook.com/MountsandelDiscoveryAndHeritageGroup

9 – TRUSTEES

Two new Trustees joined the MDHG: Patrick Lennon and Carol Martin.

10 – THANK you to the members who have given generously of their time during the period of the report.

MAURA HICKEY (Chair) *Maura T Hickey*

Date: *13 - 12 - 24*

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE CHARITY TRUSTEES OF:

MOUNTSANDEL DISCOVERY AND HERITAGE GROUP

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 as set out on the following page.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act

Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act

State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiners Statement

The charity's gross income did not exceed £250,000.

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Signed: *[Signature]*
Name: *JOHN ESLATZ (ACCOUNTANT)*
Address: *30 KYLEBEG AVENUE, COLTRANE, B252JN*
Date: *10th December 2024*

MOUNTSANDEL Discovery and Heritage Group
INCOME & EXPENDITURE Account 1 January 2023 - 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
Opening Balance as at 01 January	313.13	922.23
INCOME		
Grants:		
The Hon. The Irish Society	720.00	150.57
Fundraising		
Donations	130.00	365.00
Total Income Received	850.00	515.57
EXPENDITURE		
Events & Projects	1034.50	1124.67
Bank Charges		
Petty Cash		
Fees		
Equipment		
Travel		
Total Expenditure	1034.50	1124.67
Surplus of Income/Expenditure	-184.50	-609.10
Account Balance as at 31 December	128.63	313.13

MOUNTSANDEL Discovery and Heritage Group

1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
Current Assets		
Bank	128.63	313.13
Debtors	0.00	0.00
	128.63	313.13
Creditors	94.40	0.00
Net Current Assets	34.23	313.13

This income and expenditure report has been produced from the information supplied by the committee of **MOUNTSANDEL Discovery & Heritage Group**

Maura T Hickey

Chair (MAURA HICKEY)

Loretto Blackwood

Treasurer (LORETTO BLACKWOOD)

*128.63
10/12/24*