

## **ARMAGH NATURAL HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**

The Trustees present their report for the year ended 31 October 2023.

#### **NAME AND ADDRESS**

The Society is named 'Armagh Natural History and Philosophical Society'. It is also known as 'ANHPS'.

Its address is:

The Society's House,  
Armagh County Museum,  
Armagh, BT61 9BE

The Society's NI Charity Commission Registration Number is: NIC108682

The Society has a website: [www.armaghsociety.org](http://www.armaghsociety.org)

#### **PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE**

The Armagh Natural History and Philosophical Society (ANHPS) exists to promote education in, and discussion of, the natural sciences, philosophy, literature, the arts, and similar matters of common or public interest.

The Society owns the Grade A listed Armagh County Museum building, which is leased to Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council for a nominal rent. The Society retains the use of its Reading Room within this building. This is available for use by other charities and societies.

#### **TRUSTEES**

The following Trustees have held office since its establishment as a charity on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022:

Dr John Faulkner  
Dr Gerald Millar  
Mrs. Jill Armstrong

## **TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Trustees are responsible for running the society with the assistance of the management committee, of which they are members.

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the society and of the surplus or deficit of the Society for that period.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required (i) to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; (ii) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and (iii) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Society will continue in operation.

The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the income and expenditure for the year. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The accounts for the period 1st November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 show receipts of £1,744.19 and payments of £421.28. The balance at the beginning of the period was £1,106.40 and the closing balance was £2,429.31, showing a net increase in the current account of £1,322.91

The bulk of expenditure was on postage, refreshments, and insurance. The Society is funded mainly by membership subscriptions, with some income arising from its investments and bank interest.

The Society's reserves comprise a Progressive Building Society Fixed Rate Bond valued on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 at £5,000, and an investment of £5,000 in the NI Charities Fund.

The Society's accounts have been discussed at the Annual General Meeting, independently inspected and approved by the management committee.

## ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCE IN 2021-22

The ANHPS organises events in the City of Armagh and its environs in accordance with its principal objective. The Society's programme comprised the following lectures, performances and outings:

| Title  | Speaker            | Attendance |              |       |
|--|--------------------|------------|--------------|-------|
|  |                    | In Person  | Online Views | Total |
| An Evening of Seasonal Readings                |                    | 30         |              | 30    |
| Trauma and Battle Injuries in Ancient Egypt    | Dr Gerry Miller    | 28         | 33           | 61    |
| The Circular Economy                           | Heidi Miller       | 18         | 22           | 30    |
| Visit to Southern Regional College             |                    | 18         |              | 18    |
| Lord Kelvin, Absolute Zero Hero                | Declan Fitzmaurice | 30         | 17           | 46    |
| Visit to the Organic Gardens at Townley Hall   |                    | 6          |              | 6     |
| Political Postcards from the Island of Ireland | Karen McShane      | 12         | 73           | 85    |
| The Small Streets of Armagh                    | Sean Barden        | 12         | 22           | 34    |

Previous talks are archived on our website and have continued to prove popular. The talk 'The Fucine Tunnel' has been viewed 209 times and 'Armour of Ballymoney' 154 times. The total number of people who have watched the Society's recordings now stands at over 700.

### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's Public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

The events organised by the Society deliver significant educational and heritage benefits to the citizens of Armagh and the surrounding areas. All our events are normally open to both members and the public, and no charge is made to attend them. Recordings of many of our events are available through our website and on YouTube.

We have made our Reading Room available free of charge for meetings of other charities and societies. We have publicised events run by other charitable societies and organisations.

## **PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

The Society intends to continue its programme of events with a particular emphasis on widening the diversity – particularly in terms of age – of its membership and audiences.

## **GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The management of the Society is governed by its Constitution, which was last amended and approved at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022. A copy of the Constitution is available on the Society's website [www.armagsociety.org](http://www.armagsociety.org).

In 2021-23, the Society had 41 paid-up members. There are over 100 individuals on the Society's email distribution list, which comprises those who have asked to be kept informed of its events.

The Society's Management Committee comprises nine elected members. It met on ten occasions during the year - including by Zoom videoconference.

The Society's officers comprise the President, Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The committee and office-bearers are elected at the Society's Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of Society members was held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

**[Signed]**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jill', followed by a large, stylized flourish or scribble.

**Mrs Jill Armstrong  
For the Trustees**

**[Date]**