

# Lisburn Downtown Centre

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100081

## Details

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**Status** Received

**Registered** 2014-05-21

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 49 Market Square South  
Lisburn  
County Antrim  
Bt28 1ad  
BT28 1AD

**Phone** 02892672052

**Email** [info@downtowncentre.org](mailto:info@downtowncentre.org)

**Website** [www.downtowncentre.org](http://www.downtowncentre.org)

## Activities

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**Purposes:** a. The Organisation is established for the benefit of the inhabitants of Lisburn and its environs ( hereinafter described as "the area of benefit") without distinction between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation; between men and women generally; between persons with a disability and persons without; and between persons with dependants and persons without, by associating statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education to protect and preserve public health and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

**What the charity does:** The advancement of education,The advancement of health or the saving of lives,The advancement of citizenship or community development

**How the charity works:** Advice/advocacy/information,Community development,Counselling/support,Cross-border/cross-community,Disability,Education/training,General charitable purposes,Human rights/equality,Medical/health/sickness,Sport/recreation,Volunteer development

**Who the charity helps:** Adult training,Carers,Community safety/crime prevention,General public,Learning disabilities,Men,Mental health,Older people,Physical disabilities,Sensory disabilities,Unemployed/low income,Volunteers,Women

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£110,104	£89,619	£0	3

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr John Henry Brown		
Mr Alexander Fitzpatrick		
Mr Christopher Paul Stephenson		
Mr Daniel Mccready		
Mr Donald Starritt		
Mr Richard Millen		
Mrs Deborah Balnave		
Mrs Janet Moffett		

**Lisburn Downtown Centre**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100081

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# Accounts

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## Lisburn Downtown Project Annual Accounts 1 September 2024 – 31 August 2025

<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>
Opening Balance - Bank and Cash	59,244.12
Albert Hunt	3,000.00
Awards for All	20,000.00
Baily Thomas Charitable Foundation	7,000.00
CLEAR PHA	8,550.00
Community Development and Health Network	9,600.00
Community Foundation for NI	1,980.00
David Solomons Charitable Trust	500.00
Donations	1,511.00
D'Oyly Carte	4,000.00
Esme Mitchell	2,000.00
Fundraising	9,248.91
Garfield Weston Foundation	5,000.00
Halifax Foundation for NI	5,000.00
HMRC	8,524.60
Hughes Insurance	448.29
John Moores Foundation	3,020.00
The Leathersellers' Foundation	5,000.00
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council	7,764.00
Miscellaneous	416.80
NIE Networks	1,500.00
Progressive Building Society	1,100.00
Screwfix Foundation	1,500.00
South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust	2,940.59
Tesco Stronger Starts	500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>169,348.31</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>
Accountancy Fees	1,080.00
Advertising	1,659.87
Cleaning	1,073.00
Donations	171.30
Equipment	3,634.29
Fees and Subscriptions	388.69
Heating	3,320.31
Hospitality	2,274.90
Insurance	1,095.69
Maintenance	860.00
Materials	4,328.05
Members Events	23,025.56
Salary	40,527.99
Salary – HMRC	2,442.79
Salary – Pension	2,881.93
Volunteers Expenses	855.02
Closing Balance – Bank	79,465.61
Closing Balance – Cash	263.31
Closing Balance – Bank and Cash	79,728.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>169,348.31</b>

Treasurer – Richard Millen

*R. Millen*

Date: 07-10-25

Auditor – Jill Hanna

*J. Hanna*

Date: 07-10-25

**Lisburn Downtown Centre**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100081

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# Accounts

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**Lisburn Downtown Project Annual Accounts September 2023-August 2024**

<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>
Opening Balance - Bank and Cash	43,903.71
Awards for All	10,000.00
Bentley	500.00
British Enkalon Foundation	500.00
Clear - Developing Healthy Communities	5,000.00
Community Development & Health Network	500.00
Community Foundation	2,000.00
Donations	765.00
Edward Gosling Foundation	6,000.00
Fundraising	8,598.96
Garfield Weston Foundation	5,000.00
Halfax Foundation for NI	19,620.00
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council - Annual grants	7,906.00
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council - Special projects grants	5,547.00
Miscellaneous	182.52
Music for All	1,460.00
SEHSC Trust	2,788.59
WG Edwards	1,150.00
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>121,421.78</u></b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>
Advertising	1,622.55
Bank Fees	54.07
Cleaning	1,380.00
Donations	265.42
Equipment	1,132.32
Fees and Subscriptions	410.62
Fundraising	1,871.63
Heating	2,710.00
Insurance	1,038.60
Materials	3,988.31
Members Events	8,766.49
Miscellaneous	217.00
Salary	33,870.26
Salary - HMRC	1,900.61
Salary - Pension	2,071.98
Training	432.00
Volunteer Expenses	445.80
Closing Balance - Bank	59,131.45
Closing Balance - Cash	112.67
Closing Balance – Bank and Cash	59,244.12
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>121,421.78</u></b>

Treasurer - Richard Millen



Date:

12 Nov 2024

Auditor - Jill Hanna



Date:

12-11-24

**Lisburn Downtown Centre**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100081

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# Annual report

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**Lisburn Downtown Centre  
AGM 2023-2024  
Chair's Report**

Thank you all for coming to this year's AGM, my second as Chair.

I am not going to detail the work that has taken place or how we have secured and managed the funding to make it happen, as this will be set out in subsequent reports. However, it is suffice to say that the range of activities and level of participation has grown throughout the year largely as a result of being able to employ two members of staff. There are many other benefits to this "Two Coordinator" approach which we will endeavour to sustain if funding permits. One of the big wins is the world-famous Downtown Choir!

Last September, the management committee held a strategic review meeting where we updated our Values and Mission Statement. Subsequently we further developed a 3-5 year strategic plan which you will hear more about later. A copy is included in your pack.

We are currently reviewing our governance arrangements to ensure they are fit for purpose and comply with the requirements of the NI Charity Commission. Specifically, we are reviewing our constitution and developing a risk register as well as updating all our policies. The committee undertook some governance training this spring and we are grateful to LCCC for funding this training.

It is also vital that Downtown itself undertakes fundraising activities. We have recently held our second annual Table Quiz – this time in the Crafty Hound - which has raised over £1600. It also provided with an opportunity to publicise the work of the Centre to more than 100 people and have a good night's craic. We are grateful to the Lambeg Players for providing us a fund-raising opportunity by selling tickets for their pantomime – Snow White and the Seven Merrie Men – in January and for donating half of their traditional "orange bucket" collection. Between these two we raised almost £1000. Other fund raisers included supporters running the Belfast marathon in May raising almost £3000 and our members undertaking a sponsored walk in Wallace Park raising almost £600.

Since last year's AGM we have had further changes to our management committee. Ted Parks has stood down after many years excellent service and his place as a FLPC representative has been taken by Deborah Balnave. Caroline McGrath, who brought additional professional expertise, has also had to step down from the committee. We are still keen to recruit a couple of additional members to our management committee and our looking for individuals who will bring an additional skill set to our team. In particular we are keen to recruit someone who has an active Social Work background. If anyone knows anyone who might be interested and bring additional expertise to the committee please speak to Jill, Rebecca, Janet or myself.

We have also lost the support and involvement of Rev John Brackenridge who retired as minister of FLPC at the end of last year. John has been a terrific supporter of Downtown throughout this time – we could not undertake the work we do without such support. We are grateful for the support of Rev David Bruce, Convenor of the Vacancy, over this past year and hope that a new minister will be appointed during the year ahead. Whilst we are an independent charity, it is vital that we in Downtown maintain a supportive and cooperative relationship with FLPC, something that has characterised the past 30+ years.

In conclusion I would just like to thank Jill and Rebecca for the tremendous work they do for us, we would not be as successful without their dedication, enthusiasm and drive. I would also like to thank the other members of the management committee and in particular our Secretary, Janet, and Treasurer, Richard, and all the many volunteers who support our members.

Thank you

JH Brown  
November 2024

**Lisburn Downtown Centre**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100081

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# Annual return

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**Lisburn Downtown Project Annual Accounts September 2023-August 2024**

<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>
Opening Balance - Bank and Cash	43,903.71
Awards for All	10,000.00
Bentley	500.00
British Enkalon Foundation	500.00
Clear - Developing Healthy Communities	5,000.00
Community Development & Health Network	500.00
Community Foundation	2,000.00
Donations	765.00
Edward Gosling Foundation	6,000.00
Fundraising	8,598.96
Garfield Weston Foundation	5,000.00
Halfax Foundation for NI	19,620.00
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council - Annual grants	7,906.00
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council - Special projects grants	5,547.00
Miscellaneous	182.52
Music for All	1,460.00
SEHSC Trust	2,788.59
WG Edwards	1,150.00
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>121,421.78</u></b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>
Advertising	1,622.55
Bank Fees	54.07
Cleaning	1,380.00
Donations	265.42
Equipment	1,132.32
Fees and Subscriptions	410.62
Fundraising	1,871.63
Heating	2,710.00
Insurance	1,038.60
Materials	3,988.31
Members Events	8,766.49
Miscellaneous	217.00
Salary	33,870.26
Salary - HMRC	1,900.61
Salary - Pension	2,071.98
Training	432.00
Volunteer Expenses	445.80
Closing Balance - Bank	59,131.45
Closing Balance - Cash	112.67
Closing Balance – Bank and Cash	59,244.12
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>121,421.78</u></b>

Treasurer - Richard Millen *RM* Date: 12 Nov 2024

Auditor - Jill Hanna *J Hanna* Date: 12-11-24

**Lisburn Downtown Centre**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100081

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# Accounts

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**Lisburn Downtown Project Annual Accounts: September 2022-August 2023**

<b>Income</b>		
Opening Balance - bank and cash	£	46,152.76
Comic Relief	£	13,022.50
Community Development Health Network	£	2,000.00
Donation	£	373.92
Foyle Foundation	£	5,000.00
Fundraising	£	9,418.21
Halifax Foundation	£	4,000.00
HMRC	£	3,441.11
John Moores Foundation	£	4,000.00
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council	£	3,118.10
Miscellaneous	£	437.51
Public Health Agency	£	5,220.00
SEHSC Trust	£	1,954.73
Resurgam Comm Dev Trust	£	100.00
Telecommunity-Community Foundation	£	2,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>100,238.84</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Advertising	£	1,607.85
Bank Charges	£	45.78
Cleaning	£	1,510.00
Donation	£	420.00
Equipment	£	1,663.42
Fundraising	£	3,415.37
Heating	£	609.60
Insurance	£	999.54
Materials	£	2,101.79
Members events (including Taxis)	£	6,899.02
Miscellaneous	£	994.13
Salary	£	30,646.54
Salary - HMRC	£	2,159.01
Salary - Pension	£	1,639.25
Stationery	£	474.72
Training	£	630.00
Volunteer expenses	£	519.14
Closing balance - Cash	£	515.07
Closing Balance - Bank	£	43,388.61
Closing Balance - Bank & Cash	£	43,903.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>100,238.84</b>

Treasurer - Richard Millen *R Millen* Date 24/08/2023  
 Auditor - Jill Hanna *J Hanna* Date 24-10-23

**Lisburn Downtown Centre**

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# Annual report

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We started the 2022-23 year with an opening balance of £46,153, compared to an opening balance of £18,855 a year earlier. This very notable increase in funds left Downtown in a strong financial position at the start of the year, and provided some assurance should there be any significant reduction in opportunities to bid for funding during the year.

During 2022-23 our Centre Manager, Jill Watton, and Service Coordinator, Rebecca Chambers, have been successful in securing funding from a range of funding bodies. Bidding for funding is time consuming and funders increasingly require a substantial amount of evidence and input. Jill and Rebecca spend many hours dedicated to fundraising activity.

Downtown's biggest funder this year was Comic Relief with £13,023, followed by the Public Health Agency, through the CLEAR Health scheme, with £5,220. Our next biggest funders were the Foyle Foundation with £5,000, the Halifax Foundation and the John Moores Foundation, each with £4,000, our local council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council with £3,118, the Community Development Health Network and Telecommunity, each with £2,000, and the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust with £1,955.

You will all be aware that many community and voluntary organisations lost their European funding during the year. As a result, these organisations have been seeking funding from other sources, including those which have traditionally been funders of Downtown, and I have already mentioned that many funders are requesting ever more exacting detail and evidence in their funding applications. This has created a much more challenging funding environment and Downtown has responded by increasing its own fundraising efforts, raising £9,418 during the year. First Lisburn Presbyterian Church has been a crucial and willing partner in many of the fundraising activities and I would want to take this opportunity to thank the Church and its staff and members for their unstinting support.

I would also like to thank First Lisburn for its crucial support in providing Downtown with the use of these premises and office space. In the year to August 2023 we did not need to draw any funding from First Lisburn and Downtown provided £610 to the Church for heating bills.

During the year Downtown delivered a wide range of services and activities to its members and spent £6,899 on those members events. A further £2,102 was spent on materials for activities such as arts and crafts, and £1,663 for equipment for members events and the office. Also £630 was spent on training for our much valued volunteers.

In summing up I would like to thank Jill and Rebecca for their enthusiasm for and sheer hard work in Downtown, for their excellent fundraising efforts and for their excellent financial record keeping. I would also want to thank Sandy Fitzpatrick for his excellent mentoring skills and Excel wizardry in preparing the accounts. I would also like to thank Johnston Graham Accountants, and Geraldine O'Neill in particular, for their work on salaries and pensions, and thank Jill Hanna for so readily agreeing to audit the accounts.

After a busy and successful year, our closing balance at the end of August 2023 was £43,389 – this again leaves Downtown in a solid financial position going into 2023-24. However, I must end on a word of caution as fundraising will become increasingly challenging going forward. We must all fully support Jill and Rebecca in this never-ending and never-easy task.

Thank you.

**Richard Millen – 27 November 2023**

**Lisburn Downtown Centre**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100081

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# Annual return

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Treasurer - Richard Millen *R Millen* Date 24/09/2023  
 Auditor - Jill Hanna *J Hanna* Date 24-10-23