

Ulster History Circle

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100124

Details

Status	Received
Registered	2014-06-11
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	17 Glenkeen Avenue Jordanstown Newtownabbey Bt37 0ph BT37 0PH
Phone	07766823535
Email	ulsterhistorycircle1@gmail.com
Website	www.ulsterhistorycircle.org.uk

Activities

Purposes: 1. to erect commemorative plaques in public places in honour of men and women who have made significant contributions to the advancement of ideas and particularly in such fields as the arts and sciences, industry, religion or sport; 2. to expand public knowledge of oft-neglected aspects of our history and to increase, through visible and permanent plaques, public awareness of cultural and historical strengths; and 3. to co-operate with other historical and architectural groups with a view to promoting interest in the study of our history.

What the charity does: The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science

How the charity works: Arts,Cross-border/cross-community,Cultural,Heritage/historical

Who the charity helps: General public

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£5,387	£10,317	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Hume		
Dr Eibhlin Mhic Aoidh		
Dr Peter Collins		
Kenneth Irvine LI.B		
Mr Chris Spurr		
Mr Kenneth Dawson		
Mr Leslie Mckeague		
Mr Mike Catto		
Mr Richard Froggatt		
Mr Trevor Parkhill Mbe Ba (Hons)		
Mrs Mary Delargy		
Mrs Maud Hamill		
Mrs Patricia Pyne		
Ms Noreen Cunningham		
Seamus Mckee		

Ulster History Circle

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100124

Accounts

U.H.C CHARITY ACCOUNT.

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2025		
Receipts	£	£
Cavan County Council	1,294	
Derry City & Strabane DC	1,300	
Belfast City Council	1,300	
Causeway Coast & Glens	1,300	
Total Grant Income	5,194	
Other income – Donations	193	
Total income	5,387	5,387
Payments	£	
Plaque Manufacture & Fitting	(6,216)	
Plaque design	(600)	
Meeting Expenses	(1,240)	
Events	(1,200)	
Administration	(85)	
Printing & Stationery	(170)	
Insurance	(577)	
IT Costs	(179)	
Accounting	(50)	
Total expenditure		(10,317)
Net Income		(4,930)

<u>Statement of assets/(liabilities)</u>		
Opening resources	13,912	
Net income	(4,930)	
Net assets carried forward		8,982
Represented by:		
Balance per bank statement		9,088
Uncashed cheques		(105)
Net bank balance		8,982

Signed:

Roísín Shanks

Ulster History Circle

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100124

Accounts

Ulster History Circle

Summary accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2024

	£
Derry & Strabane District Council	
Ards & N Down District Council	
Belfast City Council	1,300
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	2,600
Cavan County Council	1,294
Foras na Gaeilge	2,600
Newry Maritime Association (Sponsored by Modern Fireplace & Monumental Works Limited)	1,300
Ulster Scots Agency	5,400
	-
Total Grant Income	14,494
Donations - Sadlier Inc (New York) Belfast	838
Total Other Income	838
Total Income	15,332
Plaque Manufacture & Fitting	- 6,380
Plaque design	- 120
Meeting Expenses	- 1,145
Events	- 1,035
Administration	- 314
Printing & Stationery	- 165
Insurance	- 543
Internet Charges	- 756
Accounting	-
Other	-
Total Expenditure	- 10,458
Net Income	4,875
Opening resources	9,037
Net Expenditure	4,875
Net assets carried forward	13,912
Represented by	
Balance per bank	14,105
Uncashed cheques	- 193
Net bank balance	13,912

Ulster History Circle

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100124

Annual report

Ulster History Circle®



Annual Report and Accounts 2023-2024



Sean Hollywood Plaque

12h December 2023 at 11.30 am

Front Row, I-r Cormac McKinney-Principal St. Colman's, Helena Young - Newry Maritime Association, Patricia Slevin (Sean's sister), Council Chairperson, Councillor Valerie Harte, Chris Spurr - Chairman Ulster History Circle, Dr. Eibhlin Mhic Aoidh - Vice Chair Ulster History Circle.

Back Row, I-r David Pearse - Actor and past pupil, Kenneth Irvine - Ulster History Circle, Donal O'Hanlon - Chairman/Director Newpoint Players, Sean Og McAteer - Secretary Down County County GAA, Rory McShane, James McArevey - Chairman Newry Maritime Association.

Photo – courtesy of Liz Boyle.

Registered as a charity with the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland: NIC100124



Contents:

Members of the Ulster History Circle	page	2
Chairman's Foreword.....	page	3
The 2023-2024 Blue Plaque Programme.....	page	4
Images from the 2023-2024 Blue Plaque Programme.....	page	5
Financial Summary.....	page	6
Proposing, Funding and Achieving a Blue Plaque.....	page	7
The Dictionary of Ulster Biography.....	page	7
Further Images from the Circle's 2023-2024 Blue Plaque Programme.....	page	8

Members of the Ulster History Circle 2023-2024

Officers:

Mr Chris Spurr	Chairman	
Dr. Eibhlin Mhic Aoidh	Vice-Chair	
Mary Delargy	Secretary	(appointed UHC June 2023)
Maud Hamill	Treasurer	

Mike Catto, Tim Clifford (resigned August 2023), Dr. Peter Collins, Dr. David Hume MBE, Nuala McAllister Hart (resigned June 2023), Kenneth Irvine, Liam Logan, Leslie McKeague, Seamus McKee, Brian McKeown (resigned September 2023), Alister McReynolds, Patricia Pyne (appointed October 2023), Trevor Parkhill MBE, Richard Froggatt - Editor- The Dictionary of Ulster Biography.

This report covers the period from April 2023 to March 2024. There was a total of 10 meetings held and the Annual General Meeting took place in May prior to the regular monthly meeting.

A Background Note

The Ulster History Circle was founded nearly forty years ago by James Hawthorne, the then Controller of BBC Northern Ireland. Observing how people of achievement were often commemorated elsewhere by plaques, he realised there was no universal scheme in place locally to celebrate those persons whose achievements had made a significant contribution to the history of Ulster. Mr Hawthorne considered there was an opportunity for a blue plaque programme and his inspiration created The Ulster History Circle. The first Circle plaque was to the artist William Conor and is on Stranmillis Road, Belfast, opposite Botanic Gardens.

Since this beginning in the mid 1980s, the Circle has put up 273 plaques to celebrate achievers, in every county and city in Northern Ireland, and in many towns and villages too. There are eleven Circle plaques in the Republic of Ireland, four in Donegal, two in Co Monaghan, and five in County Cavan. Every year the blue plaque programme continues to expand, thanks to those who support its activities. There is no similar body within the whole of island of Ireland doing what the Circle does. With no monies of its own, the Ulster History Circle relies on finance from outside funders, and its activities depend on the efforts of its members, a wholly volunteer working committee, which has a number limited by constitution, to twenty.



Annual Report 2023-2024 Foreword

Throughout the past year the Ulster History Circle's work to erect commemorative blue plaques and organise unveiling ceremonies has continued to progress and a total of ten plaques have been put up across five of the nine counties of Ulster and in Belfast city.

In April 2023 Conway Square in Newtownards, Co Down saw the unveiling of a plaque to the statesman Robert Stewart, Viscount Castlereagh KG; in May the artist Gladys Maccabe was commemorated at her former studio on Stranmillis Road, Belfast, and in Co Armagh in June, Lurgan College hosted a plaque to past pupil Dr Mollie McGeown, nephrologist, and health service pioneer. Two plaques were unveiled in September, the first in Armagh City to Hugh Breen, mathematician, and astronomer at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, and in Cootehill, Co Cavan, the novelist, publisher and businesswoman Mary Anne Sadlier of Montreal and New York was commemorated. In November three plaque ceremonies took place, in Cullyhanna, Co Armagh to Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich, archbishop, historian, scholar, and Gael at the place of his birth exactly 100 years before; in Derrylin, Co Fermanagh, on Armistice Day to Monica de Wichfeld (née Massy-Beresford), a leader of the Danish resistance in World War II, and in Larne, Co Antrim to Dr James McHenry, Ulster-Scots writer and US consul in Londonderry in the 1840s. 2023 ended with the unveiling in December in Newry of a plaque to Sean Hollywood, teacher, actor and director, civil rights activist, hurler, and Gael, on what would have been his 80th birthday, at St Colman's College where he taught. On International Women's Day in March 2024, we were pleased to return to the Circle's annual practice of commemorating a woman of achievement with a plaque to Maighr ad Nic Mhaic in, Irish speaker, translator, writer, and scholar of Russian, at her former school, St Dominic's Grammar, in Belfast. All our plaque unveilings are individual, distinct, and exceptional, and the first citizens of the cities and boroughs concerned, and family members of the persons commemorated attended many of the unveiling ceremonies.

Thanks are due to those bodies who have supported the plaques we have put up during the past year: Ards and North Down Borough Council; Belfast City Council; Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council; Cavan County Council; Foras na Gaeilge; the Ulster-Scots Agency, and Newry Maritime Association. Several of these organizations have committed to a partnership with the Circle for one annual plaque or more. The Circle was also extremely grateful to receive a kind donation from the Sadlier family in America.

Our volunteer members continue to give their invaluable support to the Circle, generously sharing their expertise and knowledge. All deserve thanks for the contribution they make to our efforts, especially those who volunteer to lead a plaque unveiling. The Circle now has an internal complaints procedure in place, and this has been accepted by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. Three members left our committee during the year, and two were welcomed.

The Dictionary of Ulster Biography represents an important part of the Circle's work and includes thousands of entries. The Dictionary, much broader in scope than our plaque programme, offers a rich and continually expanding base of entries, all written and edited in a voluntary capacity to an extremely high standard, and has its own dedicated website at www.ulsterbiography.co.uk

The Circle always has a busy programme of plaque unveilings in progress, but it is possible to propose a person of achievement for consideration. However, it is advisable to understand that many of the proposals we receive for a blue plaque are not always accepted. It is also important to remember that as well as a suggestion of where a plaque might be located, any new plaque proposal must also indicate how this might be funded, as the Circle has no money of our own. To discover more about our plaque programme, I encourage you to read the information included in this Annual Report, or to access the How the Scheme Works page on our website at www.ulsterhistorycircle.org.uk

In conclusion, it is my pleasure once again to thank all those who have supported the Ulster History Circle across the past year, both with funding and in friendship, and to thank in advance those who will do so in the future.

Chris Spurr, Chairman, May 2024.



The Blue Plaque Programme 2023-2024

Plaque Number	Person Commemorated	Location of Plaque	Date of Unveiling	Unveiled by	Funding Body
264	Robert Stewart Viscount Castlereagh (1769-1822) Statesman	Ards Art Centre Town Hall Conway Square Newtownards	19th April	Mayor-Councillor Karen Douglas and Lady Rose Lauritzen of Mount Stewart	Ards and North Down Borough Council.
265	Gladys Maccabe (1918-2018) Artist, Writer, Critic	17 Stranmillis Road Belfast	23rd May	Professor Chris Maccabe, son	Belfast City Council
266	Mollie McGeown (1923-2004) Physician, Nephrologist Health Service Pioneer	Lurgan College College Walk Lurgan	23rd June	Johnny Freeland, grandson	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
267	Hugh Breen (1791-1848) Mathematician Astronomer	19 Abbey Street Armagh City	15th September	Professor Michael Burton, Director of Armagh Observatory and Planetarium	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
268	Mary Anne Sadlier (1820-1903) Novelist, Editor, Publisher, Businesswoman Montreal and New York	Cootehill Library Bridge Street Cootehill Cavan	21st September	Councillor Philip Brady, Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council	Cavan County Council
269	Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich (1923-1990) Archbishop of Armagh. Historian, Scholar, Gael	'An Chrosbhóthar' 58 Killybane Road. Cullyhanna	3rd November	Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland, Eamon Martin	Foras na Gaeilge
270	Monica de Wichfeld (nee Massy-Beresford) (1894-1945) Danish Resistance Leader WWII	Kinawley Parish Church 146 Main Street Derrylin	11th November	Lady Vibeke Dunleath of Ballywalter Park	Ulster-Scots Agency
271	Dr. James McHenry (1785-1845) Ulster-Scots Writer American Consul Londonderry	Larne Museum and Arts Centre, 2 Victoria Road, Larne	24th November	Jane Allen D.L. Co. Antrim	Ulster-Scots Agency
272	Sean Hollywood (1943-1998) Teacher, Actor and Director Civil Rights Leader Hurler, Footballer, Gael	St. Colman's College Violet Hill Newry	12th December	Patricia Stevin Bronagh McGoldrick Rita Finn Rory Gough Sisters and nephew of Sean Hollywood	Newry Maritime Association
273	Maighread Nic Mhaicín (1899-1983) Translator, Writer, Scholar of Russian	St. Dominic's Grammar School Falls Road Belfast	2024 8th March	Two senior St. Dominic students	Foras na Gaeilge



Robert Stewart Plaque.

- Mayor - Ards and North Down Borough Council, Councillor Karen Douglas and Lady Rose Lauritzen unveil the blue plaque.
- Peter and Lady Rose Lauritzen, Mount Stewart, Mayor Councillor Karen Douglas, Chris Spurr, Chairman - UHC.
- Robin Elliott from NTVV with Chris Spurr.

The Blue Plaque Programme 2023-2024



Gladys Maccabe Plaque.

- Professor Chris Maccabe, son of Gladys Maccabe unveils the blue plaque.
- I.r. Catherine McKeever, President - Ulster Society of Women Artists, Chris Maccabe, Chris Spurr, Chairman - Ulster History Circle, Jenny Maccabe, Mike Catto, Ulster History Circle.
- Philip Donald with Seamus McKee, Ulster History Circle.



Mollie McGeown Plaque.

- Johnny Freeland unveils the blue plaque to his grandmother.
- I.r. Headmaster of Lurgan College, Kyle McCallan MBE, Dr. Peter and Alison Freeland, Johnny Freeland, Chris Spurr, Chairman - Ulster History Circle, Paul and Janice Freeland.
- Guests enjoying the unveiling ceremony.



Hugh Breen Plaque.

- Professor Michael Burton, Director - Armagh Observatory and Planetarium unveils the Blue Plaque watched by Chris Spurr, Chairman - Ulster History Circle, Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council, Councillor Margaret Tinsley and Sean Bardon, curator of Armagh County Museum.
- Chris Spurr, Michael Burton, Councillor Margaret Tinsley and Matthew McMahon of the Armagh Observatory and Planetarium.
- Kieran McConville, Creggan Local History Society, Eibhlín Mhic Aoidh, Vice Chair - Ulster History Circle and Gearóid Trimble, Foras na Gaeilge.



Mary Anne Sadlier Plaque.

- Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council, Councillor Philip Brady unveils the blue plaque.
- I.r. Councillor Sarah O'Reilly, Cllr.Clifford Kelly, Leslie McKeague, Ulster History Circle, Niamh Smyth TD, Cllr. Aiden Fitzpatrick, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Philip Brady, Eoin Doyle, Cllr. Madeleine Argue, Chris Spurr, Chairman - Ulster History Circle and Cavan County Librarian, Emma Clancy.
- I.r. Jonathan Smyth, author with Leslie McKeague, Ulster History Circle, Niamh Smyth TD and Patricia Smyth.



Ulster History Circle

Financial Summary 2023-2024

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2024

Receipts		Payments	
Belfast City Council	£1,300	Plaque Manufacture and Fitting	(£6,380)
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon BC	£2,600	Plaque Design	(£120)
Cavan County Council	£1,294	Meeting Expenses	(£1,145)
Foras na Gaeilge	£2,600	Events	(£1,035)
Newry Maritime Association (Plaque sponsored by Modern Fireplace & Monumental Works Limited)	£1,300	Administration	(£314)
Ulster Scots Agency	£5,400	Printing and Stationery	(£165)
Total Grant Income	£14,494	Insurance	(£543)
Other income - Donations	£838	Internet Charges	(£756)
		Accounting	-
		Total Expenditure	(£10,458)
Total Income	£15,332	Net Income	£4,875

Statement of Assets/Liabilities

Opening Resources	£9,037
Net Income	£4,875

Net Assets carried forward £13,912

Represented by:	
Balance per Bank Statement	£14,105
Uncashed Cheques	(£193)
Net Bank Balance	£13,912



Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich Plaque.

- Guests gather at the house on Kiltybane Road, Cullyhanna.
- Eibhlin Mhic Aoidh, Vice Chair - Ulster History Circle at the microphone with I.r. - Kieran McConville, Chair-Creggan Local History Society, Maria Nic Fhearchair, Councillor Valerie Harte, Chair of Newry Mourne & Down District Council.
- I.r. Tom Ó Fiaich nephew of the Cardinal, Kieran McConville, Valerie Harte, Archbishop of Armagh Eamon Martin, Maria Nic Fhearchair and Eibhlin Mhic Aoidh.



Proposing, Funding, and Achieving a Blue Plaque

An Ulster History Circle blue plaque unites a person with a location in their life, and the Circle carries out careful and extensive research into the site of each plaque. Street Indexes are checked over, site visits made, and owners and tenants consulted for permission to allow the plaque on their premises. These activities can take considerable time, especially when seeking permission to put up a plaque. The plaque wording is carefully chosen; invitations are designed and issued; a person to unveil the plaque invited; guest speakers arranged, as each unveiling is accompanied by a talk on the person being honoured, and family members, as well as members of professional bodies associated with the plaque recipient, are contacted and invited. The whole is carefully planned and co-ordinated, towards creating a single special event.

- a person must be deceased at least twenty years, unless they would have reached their 100th birthday by the date of the proposed plaque unveiling.
- the person must be associated with Ulster (nine counties) by reason of birth, education, work, residence, or vocation.
- the person should be acknowledged and recognised as having made a significant contribution to education, industry, commerce, science, arts and literature, international affairs or other calling anywhere in the world.
- the person must have a building associated with them in Ulster: a place of birth, education, residence, work, or similar.
- the Circle's plaques are to persons of achievement and do not commemorate buildings, places, organisations or movements.

A proposal for a plaque should contain the reasons for a person's nomination, a short biographical note, and a suggestion of where a plaque might be located. All proposals should also give an indication of how the plaque will be funded. The Circle has no funds of its own, and relies on such as local authorities, businesses, organisations, and individuals to pay for its plaques.

Each proposal is carefully considered by the Circle committee, and if accepted, it joins the list of prospective plaques. The list always has a considerable number of plaques pending, so a new acceptance can take considerable time to process. The Circle undertakes all the necessary work as outlined above in order to achieve the plaque unveiling but can only undertake a plaque project when funding is agreed beforehand, and in place. Proposals for plaques can be submitted to the Circle at: ulsterhistorycircle1@gmail.com

The Circle's website has undergone a significant improvement and redevelopment and can be accessed at: www.ulsterhistorycircle.org.uk

The Dictionary of Ulster Biography

The Dictionary of Ulster Biography (DUB) has its origins in the published work (1993) of the same name, compiled by Kate Newmann. Its initial 1644 entries were digitised by the Circle in 2007, and form the basis of the present on-line *DUB*, which is edited, in a voluntary capacity, by the Circle to a very high standard. Many of the original entries now include additional details, and new entries are added every month, with the result that the *DUB* currently offers information on over two thousand people. By publishing on-line, the *DUB* benefits from regular updating, and there are many contemporary entries, for although a person must be deceased to be included in the dictionary, the 20-year delay related to blue plaques does not apply. The *DUB* contains biographical information on all the persons commemorated in the Circle's Blue Plaque Programme, including many of those people celebrated by the Circle's plaques up until March 2024.

The *DUB* has the special advantage of being free for all to access, and is easily searchable. It is recognised as a valuable reference source, and the *DUB* website receives tens of thousands of visitors every year from across the world.

As with the Circle's plaques, the *DUB* concerns itself with persons born in, or strongly associated with Ulster. The Editor always welcomes suggestions for entries from new contributors, who will receive full acknowledgement of authorship, and copyright, although there is no payment made for entries.

The Editor can be contacted at the *DUB* website, which is at: www.newulsterbiography.co.uk

Ulster History Circle Annual Report 2023-2024



Monica de Wichfeld Plaque

- Chris Spurr, Chairman - Ulster History Circle, Lord Brian Dunleath, Lady Vibeke Dunleath and Ian Crozier, CEO Ulster - Scots Agency, sponsor of the blue plaque.
- I.r. Seamus McKee - UHC, Lord and Lady Dunleath, Rev Alastair Donaldson of Kinawley Parish, Chris Spurr, Chairman - UHC, Leslie McKeague and Alistair McReynolds, Ulster History Circle.
- Lady Vibeke Dunleath unveils the blue plaque with Lord Brian Dunleath, and Marianne Magnusson from Denmark.



Dr. James McHenry Plaque.

- Jane Allen. DL.for Co. Antrim unveils the blue plaque.
- I.r. Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Councillor Gerardine Mulvenna, Ian Crozier CEO, Ulster-Scots Agency, Jane Allen. D.L., Dr. David Hume, MBE, Gordon Lyons, Minister for Communities, Paul Roelle, United States Consulate office, Belfast, and Chris Spurr, Chairman - Ulster History Circle.
- Ian Crozier, Paul Roelle, Dr. David Hume MBE, Mayor Gerardine Mulvenna, Chris Spurr and Kenneth Irvine, Ulster History Circle.



Sean Hollywood Plaque.

- Principal of St. Colman's College, Cormac McKinney.
- The family of Sean Hollywood unveil the blue plaque, I.r. - Rita Finn, Rory Gough, Patricia Slevin and Bronagh McGoldrick
- I.r. James McAreyve, Chairman - Newry Maritime Association. Sean Og McAteer, Secretary - Down County GAA, Michael Keenan (MF&MW - sponsor of blue plaque) and Rory McShane.



Maighr ad Nic Mhaic in Plaque.

- The family and extended families of Maighr ad.
- Two senior pupils from St. Dominic's unveil the blue plaque. Included in the photo Vice Principal Philip McMaster, Rory Galway - Chair Board of Governors and Dr. Andrea Rainey, St. Dominic's.
- I.r. Chris Spurr, Chairman - Ulster History Circle, Dr. Peter Collins, Ulster History Circle, Professor Fionnt an de Br un, Professor Maxim Fomin, Mary Delargy, Ulster History Circle, Vice Chair - Ulster History Circle, Dr. Eibhl in Mhic Aidh and Dr. Gear oid Trimble - Foras na Gaeilge.

Ulster History Circle

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100124

Annual return

ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT.

Independent Examiner's report to the charity trustees of Ulster History Circle

I report on the accounts of the Ulster History Circle for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out overleaf.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

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

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 Commission 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.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration 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 examiner's statement

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.

Roisin Shanks

Roisin Shanks

Fellow, Chartered Accountants Ireland

7 Foxleigh Wood, Lurgan, Co Armagh BT67 9GW

Date: 12 May 2024

Ulster History Circle

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100124

Accounts



John Herivel Plaque

- Susan Herivel, daughter of John Herivel.
- L-R Susan Herivel, Professor Alastair Adair CBE DL, Deputy Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Michelle Kelly, Principal of Methodist College, Jenny Lendrum, with senior pupils and guests.



William Starrat Plaque

- Robert Lowry Scott, Lord Lieutenant for Co. Tyrone unveils the blue plaque.
- L-R Robert Lowry Scott, LL, Chris Spurr, Chairman-Ulster History Circle, Trevor Wilson, Board Director-Ulster Scots and Alderman Keith Kerrigan-Derry City & Strabane District Council.
- Alan Miller speaking on the works of William Starrat, the Ulster Scots poet.



Dorothy Parke Plaque

- Mayor of DC&SDC, Councillor Sandra Duffy and Joan Smyth a former pupil of Dorothy Parke, unveil the blue plaque at St. Columb's Hall, Derry City.
- Willow McIntyre sings a Dorothy Parke composition "Over the Hills and Far Away".
- L-R David Byers, Dorothy Byers, Nuala McAllister Hart, Alan Boyd and Philip Hammond.



Brian Moore Plaque

- Chairman Ulster History Circle, Chris Spurr and Seamus McKee-UHC, welcomes the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Tina Black.
- The Lord Mayor unveils the plaque.
- The extended families of Brian Moore together with the Lord Mayor.

CHARITY ACCOUNTS
Ulster History Circle®



Annual Report and Accounts 2022-2023



John Herivel plaque

11th November 2022 at 11.00 am

Back- Jenny Lendrum, Principal-Methodist College, Rev. Dr Janet Unsworth, Board of Governors, Chris Spurr, Chairman-Ulster History Circle, Ian Crozier, CEO-Ulster Scots Agency, George Busby and Piper, Alan McCormick

Front - Susan Herivel, Professor Alastair Adair, CBE, DL-Belfast, Dr. David Abrutat, GCHQ, and Deputy Lord Mayor-Belfast, Councillor Michelle Kelly

Registered as a charity with the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland: NIC100124



Contents:

Members of the Ulster History Circle	page	2
Chairman's Foreword.....	page	3
The 2022-2023 Blue Plaque Programme.....	page	4
Images from the 2022-2023 Blue Plaque Programme.....	page	5
Financial Summary.....	page	6
Proposing, Funding and Achieving a Blue Plaque.....	page	7
The Dictionary of Ulster Biography.....	page	7
Further Images from the Circle's 2022-2023 Blue Plaque Programme.....	page	8

Members of the Ulster History Circle 2022-2023

Officers:

Mr Chris Spurr	Chairman
Dr Peter Collins	Vice-Chair
Mrs Maud Hamill	Secretary
*Mr Tim Clifford	Treasurer

Mike Catto, Dr. Nuala McAllister Hart, Dr. David Hume MBE, Kenneth Irvine, Liam Logan, Leslie McKeague, Seamus McKee, Brian McKeown, Dr. Eibhlin MhicAoidh, Trevor Parkhill MBE, Kirsty Raffan (resigned October 2022), Alistair McReynolds (appointed February 2023), Richard Froggatt - Editor- The Dictionary of Ulster Biography.

This report covers the period from April 2022 to March 2023. There was a total of 10 committee meetings held and additionally, the Annual General Meeting took place in June prior to the regular monthly meeting.

A Background Note

The Ulster History Circle (the Circle) was founded over thirty years ago by James Hawthorne, the then Controller of BBC Northern Ireland. Observing how people of achievement were often commemorated elsewhere by plaques, he realised there was no universal scheme in place locally to celebrate those persons whose achievements had made a significant contribution to the history of Ulster. Mr Hawthorne considered there was an opportunity for a blue plaque programme and his inspiration created The Ulster History Circle. The first Circle plaque was to the artist William Conor and is on Stranmillis Road, Belfast, opposite Botanic Gardens.

Since this beginning in the mid 1980s, the Circle has put up 263 plaques to celebrate achievers, in every county and city in Northern Ireland, and in many towns and villages too. There are ten Circle plaques in the Republic of Ireland, four in Co Donegal, two in Co Monaghan and four in Co Cavan. Every year the blue plaque programme continues to expand, thanks to those who support its activities. There is no similar body within the whole island of Ireland doing what the Circle does. With no monies of its own, The Ulster History Circle relies on finance from outside funders, and its activities depend on the efforts of its members, a wholly volunteer working committee, which has a number limited by constitution, to twenty.

Ulster History Circle - Dublin Visit

11th April 2022

Visit by members of the Ulster History Circle to Áras an Uachtaráin to meet President Michael D. Higgins and his wife, Sabina.

Back row: Tim Clifford, Kenneth Irvine, Leslie McKeague, Dr. Nuala McAllister Hart, Dr. Eibhlin MhicAoidh, Brian McKeown, Seamus McKee.

Front row: Maud Hamill, Chris Spurr, Dr. Peter Collins.



Annual Report 2022-2023 Foreword

After two years of unexpected disruption, the Ulster History Circle's work to erect commemorative blue plaques and organise unveiling ceremonies had almost returned to its usual pattern by April 2022. Over the following year we were hoping to put up twelve plaques, but two have been postponed, so ten new Circle plaques appeared across five counties and in Belfast city by March 2023. Some of these plaques were on holders from previous years on account of Covid-19, and they were joined by some new additions.

In April 2022 Francis Street in Londonderry rang with music when James MacCafferty's plaque was unveiled. In May more music was to the fore in Crossmaglen to celebrate John Hannon, and the uilleann pipes were played in Carnlough in June to commemorate Netta Johnston. In September our plaques became dramatic, with a plaque unveiled at Lyric Theatre in Belfast to Mary O'Malley, and in Bangor to the new city's actor-son Colin Blakely. Thomas Reid was commemorated in Drumgooland in October, then on Armistice Day John Herivel was remembered at Methodist College, Belfast. To close the calendar year, in November William Starrat had his plaque unveiled in Strabane. February 2023 saw two further plaques throughout this twelvemonth, to Dorothy Parke in Strabane, and another musical event of note, and to Brian Moore in Belfast, bringing home recognition of this transatlantic author. All our plaque unveilings aim to be individual, distinct, and exceptional, and the first citizens of the town and boroughs concerned, and family members of the person commemorated attended the majority of the unveiling ceremonies.

Beginning in 2012 the Circle has put up a plaque annually in March to a woman of achievement to mark International Women's Day, except during the pandemic year in 2021 and now in 2023. Although we had a plaque planned and funded for IWD this year, circumstances have delayed its unveiling. Nor was it possible to unveil a Circle plaque this year in any of counties Cavan, Donegal, and Monaghan. It is the hope that our plaque programme will ensure that both these non-occurrences are exceptions.

In April 2022 the Circle travelled en masse to Dublin to pay a courtesy call on President Michael D. Higgins at Áras an Uachtaráin. This visit had originally been planned for March 2020 but was postponed on account of covid. For those members present it was a privilege to meet President Higgins and his wife to discuss the work of the Circle across the nine counties of Ulster.

The Circle usually holds its AGM in May. Our 2021 AGM was delayed until February 2022, and then our 2022 AGM was held in June 2022. We sincerely trust that we are now back to our pattern of meeting regularly throughout the year and delivering our plaque programme without undue interruption. Our volunteer members continue to give their invaluable support to the Circle, generously sharing their expertise and knowledge, and deserve thanks for the contribution they make to our efforts, especially those who volunteer to lead a plaque programme. One member left our committee during the year, and another was welcomed.

Thanks are due to those bodies who have supported the plaques we have put up during the past year: the City and Strabane District Council, Foras Na Gaeilge, Carnlough Community Association, the Lyric Theatre, the Ards and North Down Borough Council, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, the Ulster Scots Agency, and Belfast City Council. Several of these organisations have committed to a partnership with the Circle for one annual plaque or more.

The Dictionary of Ulster Biography represents an important part of the Circle's work and includes thousands of entries. The Dictionary, much broader in scope than our plaque programme, offers a rich and continuing expanding base of entries, all written and edited in a voluntary capacity to an extremely high standard, and is available on its own dedicated website at www.ulsterbiography.co.uk

The Circle always has a busy programme of plaque unveilings in progress, but it is possible to propose a plaque of achievement for consideration. However, it is advisable to understand that many of the proposals we receive for a blue plaque are not always accepted. It is also important to remember that any new plaque proposal should indicate how this might be funded, as the Circle has no money of our own. To discover more about our plaque programme, I encourage you to read the information included in this Annual Report, or to access the How to Apply Scheme Works page on our web site at www.ulsterhistorycircle.org.uk

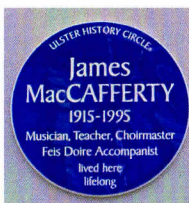
In conclusion, it is my pleasure once again to thank all those who have supported the Ulster History Circle across the past year, both with funding and in friendship, and to thank in advance those who will do so in the future.

Chris Spurr, Chairman, May 2023.

The Blue Plaque Programme 2022-2023



Plaque Number	Person Commemorated	Location of Plaque	Date of Unveiling	Unveiled by	Funding Body
254	James MacCafferty (1915-1995) Musician, Teacher, Choirmaster, Feis Doire Accompanist	25 Francis Street Derry City	23rd April	Graham Warke-Mayor of Derry City & Strabane District Council, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Pat and Una MacCafferty	Derry City & Strabane District Council
255	John Hannon (1867-1931) Scholar, Collector of spoken Irish of the Fews	20 Newry Street Crossmaglen	26th May	Seán Ó Coinn CEO Foras na Gaeilge	Foras na Gaeilge
256	Netta Jane Nicholl Johnston (1878-1953) Uilleann Piper, Teacher of Music, 'The Lady Piper of Carnlough'	19-21 Marine Road Carnlough	30th June	Rev. Violet Johnston, niece	Carnlough Community Association
257	Mary O'Malley (1918-2006) Theatre Director Co-Founder Lyric Players	Lyric Theatre 55 Ridgeway Street Belfast	13th September	Conor O'Malley, son, & friend of Mary O'Malley, Winifred Bell	Lyric Theatre Belfast
258	Colin Blakely (1930-1987) Stage and Screen Actor	Studio 1a 1a Hamilton Road Bangor	24th September	Caroline and Stephen Blakely niece and nephew	Ards and North Down Borough Council
259	Thomas Mayne Reid (1818-1883) Novelist and Adventurer	Drumgooland Presbyterian Church 64 Drumgooland Road, Cloiskelt Co. Down	25th October	Mayor of ABC Council, Councillor Paul Greenfield	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
260	John Herivel (1918-2011) Mathematician Codebreaker Bletchley Park 1940	Methodist College 1 Malone Road Belfast	11th November	Professor Alastair Adair, CBE DL-Belfast, and Susan Herivel, daughter of John Herivel	Ulster-Scots Agency
261	William Starrat (1690-1768) Philomath, Land Surveyor, Early Ulster-Scots Poet 1722	The Alley Theatre 1a Railway Street Strabane	25th November	Robert Lowry Scott Lord Lieutenant Co. Tyrone	Ulster-Scots Agency
262	Dorothy Parke (1904-1990) Musician and Composer	St. Columb's Hall Newmarket Street Derry City	2023 15th February	Councillor Sandra Duffy, Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council	Derry City and Strabane District Council
263	Brian Moore (1921-1999) Novelist and Screenwriter	Clifton Street Surgery 15-17 Clifton Street Belfast	21st February	Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Tina Black	Belfast City Council



James MacCafferty Plaque.

- Family of James MacCafferty with Mayor of DC&SDC, Graham Warke, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Pat MacCafferty, Nuala McAllister Hart, Ulster History Circle and Chris Spurr, Chairman Ulster History Circle.
- Guests and friends celebrate the unveiling of the blue plaque - Francis Street, Derry City.
- Archbishop Eamon Martin with Nano McCabe and Cathal McCabe, former Musical Director for RTE.

The Blue Plaque Programme 2022-2023



John Hannon Plaque.

- Ulster History Circle Chairman, Chris Spurr and Eibhlin Mhic Aidh, Ulster History Circle welcome guests to the event in Crossmaglen.
- L-R Kieran McConville, Chairman-Creggan History Society, Gearóid Trimble and Seán Ó Coinn, CEO of Foras na Gaeilge who unveiled the blue plaque to John Hannon.
- Deputy Mayor NM&DC, Oonagh Magennis, Councillor Aoife Finnegan, MLA-Conor Murphy, Brian McKeown-Ulster History Circle and Carmel McKeown.



Netta Jane Nicholl Johnston Plaque.

- Chris Spurr, Chairman-UHC with Mary Watson, Carnlough Community Association and Deputy Mayor of M&EAC, Councillor Beth Adger MBE.
- L-R Uilleann piper, Marie Kinney, David Hume, Mary Watson, Beth Adger, Rev. Violet Johnston, niece of Netta Jane Nicholl Johnston who unveiled the blue plaque, and Chris Spurr.
- International musician, Louise Mulchay on the Uilleann pipes playing with Marie Kinney and her family.



Mary O'Malley Plaque.

- Conor O'Malley, son of Mary O'Malley and Winifred Bell lifelong friend of Mary, unveil the blue plaque at the Lyric.
- Jimmy Fay, Executive Producer-Lyric Theatre (right) with dignitaries including, Stephen Douds, Claire Murray, Conor O'Malley, Winifred Bell and Chris Spurr.
- Guests and friends gather at the Lyric in Ridgeway Street, Belfast.



Colin Blakely Plaque.

- L-R Kenneth Irvine and Tim Clifford, Ulster History Circle with Colin Maltman, long standing member of Bangor Drama Club.
- Chris Spurr welcomes Caroline Blakely, niece of Colin Blakely, Mayor of Ards and North Down Borough Council, Councillor Karen Douglas, and Stephen Blakely, nephew of Colin Blakely.
- Caroline and Stephen Blakely celebrate the unveiling of the blue plaque.



Ulster History Circle

Financial Summary 2022-2023

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2023

Receipts		Payments	
Derry & Strabane District Council	£2,800	Plaque Manufacture and Fitting	(£7,030)
Ards & North Down District Council	£2,200	Plaque Design	(£560)
Belfast City Council	£1,200	Meeting Expenses	(£480)
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon BC	£1,200	Events	(£836)
Foras na Gaeilge	£1,000	Administration	(£88)
Carnlough Community Association	£1,000	Printing and Stationery	(£294)
Lyric Theatre NI	£1,000	Insurance	(£508)
Ulster Scots Agency	£258	Accounting	(£50)
Total Grant Income	£10,658	Other	(£357)
Donations	£35	Total Expenditure	(£10,203)
		Net Income	£489
Total Income	£10,693		

Statement of Assets/Liabilities

Opening Resources	£8,548
Net Income	£489

Net Assets carried forward	£9,037
-----------------------------------	---------------

Represented by:	
Balance per Bank Statement	£9,072
Uncashed Cheques	(£35)
Net Bank Balance	£9,037



Thomas Mayne Reid Plaque.

- Councillor Paul Greenfield, Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council unveils the blue plaque watched by the MacAuley, Anson and Herron families.
- Councillors for the ABC Council with Mayor Paul Greenfield, and the Council Heritage officers, Sean Barden and Jason Diamond.
- James MacAuley shows the Thomas Mayne Reid family tree to Chris Spurr, Chairman-Ulster History Circle.



Proposing, Funding, and Achieving a Blue Plaque

An Ulster History Circle blue plaque unites a person with a location in their life, and the Circle carries out careful and extensive research into the site of each plaque. Street indexes are checked over, site visits made, and owners and tenants consulted for permission to allow the plaque on their premises. These activities can take considerable time, especially when seeking permission to put up a plaque. The plaque wording is carefully chosen; invitations are designed and issued; a person to unveil the plaque invited; guest speakers arranged, as each unveiling is accompanied by a talk on the person being honoured, and family members, as well as members of professional bodies associated with the plaque recipient, are contacted and invited. The whole is carefully planned and co-ordinated, towards creating a single special event.

- a person must be deceased at least twenty years, unless they would have reached their 100th birthday by the date of the proposed plaque unveiling.
- the person must be associated with Ulster (nine counties) by reason of birth, education, work, residence, or vocation.
- the person should be acknowledged and recognised as having made a significant contribution to education, industry, commerce, science, arts and literature, international affairs or other calling anywhere in the world.
- the person must have a building associated with them in Ulster: a place of birth, education, residence, work, or similar.
- the Circle's plaques are to persons of achievement and do not commemorate buildings, places, organisations or movements.

A proposal for a plaque should contain the reasons for a person's nomination, a short biographical note, and a suggestion of where a plaque might be located. All proposals should also give an indication of how the plaque will be funded. The Circle has no funds of its own, and relies on such as local authorities, businesses, organisations, and individuals to pay for its plaques.

Each proposal is carefully considered by the Circle committee, and if accepted, it joins the list of prospective plaques. The list always has a considerable number of plaques pending, so a new acceptance can take considerable time to process. The Circle undertakes all the necessary work as outlined above in order to achieve the plaque unveiling but can only undertake a plaque project when funding is agreed beforehand, and in place. Proposals for plaques can be submitted to the Circle at: ulsterhistorycircle1@gmail.com

The Circle's website has undergone a significant improvement and redevelopment and can be accessed at: www.ulsterhistorycircle.org.uk

The Dictionary of Ulster Biography

The Dictionary of Ulster Biography (DUB) has its origins in the published work (1993) of the same name, compiled by Kate Newmann. Its initial 1644 entries were digitised by the Circle in 2007, and form the basis of the present on-line *DUB*, which is edited, in a voluntary capacity, by the Circle to a very high standard. Many of the original entries now include additional details, and new entries are added every month, with the result that the *DUB* currently offers information on over two thousand people. By publishing on-line, the *DUB* benefits from regular updating, and there are many contemporary entries, for although a person must be deceased to be included in the dictionary, the 20-year delay related to blue plaques does not apply. The *DUB* contains biographical information on all the persons commemorated in the Circle's Blue Plaque Programme, including many of those people celebrated by the Circle's plaques up until March 2023.

The *DUB* has the special advantage of being free for all to access, and is easily searchable. It is recognised as a valuable reference source, and the *DUB* website receives tens of thousands of visitors every year from across the world.

As with the Circle's plaques, the *DUB* concerns itself with persons born in, or strongly associated with Ulster. The Editor always welcomes suggestions for entries from new contributors, who will receive full acknowledgement of authorship, and copyright, although there is no payment made for entries.

The Editor can be contacted at the *DUB* website, which is at: www.newulsterbiography.co.uk

Ulster History Circle

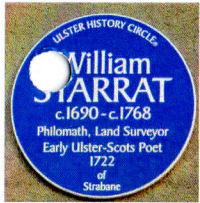
Northern Ireland - Charity number 100124

Annual report



John Herivel Plaque

- Susan Herivel, daughter of John Herivel.
- L-R Susan Herivel, Professor Alastair Adair CBE DL, Deputy Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Michelle Kelly, Principal of Methodist College, Jenny Lendrum, with senior pupils and guests.



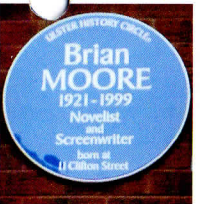
William Starrat Plaque.

- Robert Lowry Scott, Lord Lieutenant for Co. Tyrone unveils the blue plaque.
- L-R Robert Lowry Scott, LL, Chris Spurr, Chairman-Ulster History Circle, Trevor Wilson, Board Director-Ulster Scots and Alderman Keith Kerrigan-Derry City & Strabane District Council.
- Alan Miller speaking on the works of William Starrat, the Ulster Scots poet.



Dorothy Parke Plaque.

- Mayor of DC&SDC, Councillor Sandra Duffy and Joan Smyth a former pupil of Dorothy Parke, unveil the blue plaque at St. Columb's Hall, Derry City.
- Willow McIntyre sings a Dorothy Parke composition "Over the Hills and Far Away".
- L-R David Byers, Dorothy Byers, Nuala McAllister Hart, Alan Boyd and Philip Hammond.



Brian Moore Plaque.

- Chairman Ulster History Circle, Chris Spurr and Seamus McKee-UHC, welcomes the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Tina Black.
- The Lord Mayor unveils the plaque.
- The extended families of Brian Moore together with the Lord Mayor.

TRUSTEE ANNUAL REPORT
Ulster History Circle®



Annual Report and Accounts 2022-2023



John Herivel plaque

11th November 2022 at 11.00 am

Back- Jenny Lendrum, Principal-Methodist College, Rev. Dr Janet Unsworth, Board of Governors, Chris Spurr, Chairman-Ulster History Circle, Ian Crozier, CEO-Ulster Scots Agency, George Busby and Piper, Alan McCormick

Front - Susan Herivel, Professor Alastair Adair, CBE, DL-Belfast, Dr. David Abrutat, GCHQ, and Deputy Lord Mayor-Belfast, Councillor Michelle Kelly



Contents:

Members of the Ulster History Circle	page	2
Chairman's Foreword.....	page	3
The 2022-2023 Blue Plaque Programme.....	page	4
Images from the 2022-2023 Blue Plaque Programme.....	page	5
Financial Summary.....	page	6
Proposing, Funding and Achieving a Blue Plaque.....	page	7
The Dictionary of Ulster Biography.....	page	7
Further Images from the Circle's 2022-2023 Blue Plaque Programme.....	page	8

Members of the Ulster History Circle 2022-2023

Officers:

Mr Chris Spurr	Chairman
Dr Peter Collins	Vice-Chair
Mrs Maud Hamill	Secretary
Mr Tim Clifford	Treasurer

Mike Catto, Dr. Nuala McAllister Hart, Dr. David Hume MBE, Kenneth Irvine, Liam Logan, Leslie McKeague, Seamus McKee, Brian McKeown, Dr. Eibhlin MhicAoidh, Trevor Parkhill MBE, Kirsty Raffan (resigned October 2022), Alistair McReynolds (appointed February 2023).
Richard Froggatt - Editor- The Dictionary of Ulster Biography.

This report covers the period from April 2022 to March 2023. There was a total of 10 committee meetings held and additionally, the Annual General Meeting took place in June prior to the regular monthly meeting.

A Background Note

The Ulster History Circle (the Circle) was founded over thirty years ago by James Hawthorne, the then Controller of BBC Northern Ireland. Observing how people of achievement were often commemorated elsewhere by plaques, he realised there was no universal scheme in place locally to celebrate those persons whose achievements had made a significant contribution to the history of Ulster. Mr Hawthorne considered there was an opportunity for a blue plaque programme and his inspiration created The Ulster History Circle. The first Circle plaque was to the artist William Conor and is on Stranmillis Road, Belfast, opposite Botanic Gardens.

Since this beginning in the mid 1980s, the Circle has put up 263 plaques to celebrate achievers, in every county and city in Northern Ireland, and in many towns and villages too. There are ten Circle plaques in the Republic of Ireland, four in Co Donegal, two in Co Monaghan and four in Co Cavan. Every year the blue plaque programme continues to expand, thanks to those who support its activities. There is no similar body within the whole island of Ireland doing what the Circle does. With no monies of its own, The Ulster History Circle relies on finance from outside funders, and its activities depend on the efforts of its members, a wholly volunteer working committee, which has a number limited by constitution, to twenty.

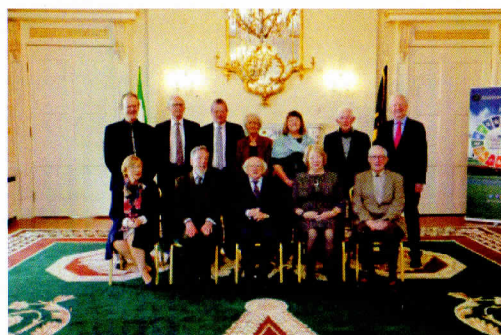
Ulster History Circle - Dublin Visit

11th April 2022

Visit by members of the Ulster History Circle to Áras an Uachtaráin to meet President Michael D. Higgins and his wife, Sabina.

Back row: Tim Clifford, Kenneth Irvine, Leslie McKeague, Dr. Nuala McAllister Hart, Dr. Eibhlin MhicAoidh, Brian McKeown, Seamus McKee.

Front row: Maud Hamill, Chris Spurr, Dr. Peter Collins.



Annual Report 2022-2023 Foreword

After two years of unexpected disruption, the Ulster History Circle's work to erect commemorative blue plaques and organise unveiling ceremonies had almost returned to its usual pattern by April 2022. Over the following year we were hoping to put up twelve plaques, but two have been postponed, so ten new Circle plaques have appeared across five counties and in Belfast city by March 2023. Some of these plaques were on hold from previous years on account of Covid-19, and they were joined by some new additions.

In April 2022 Francis Street in Londonderry rang with music when James MacCafferty's plaque was unveiled; in May more music was to the fore in Crossmaglen to celebrate John Hannon, and the uilleann pipes were in tune in Carnlough in June to commemorate Netta Johnston. In September our plaques became dramatic, at the Lyric Theatre in Belfast to Mary O'Malley, and in Bangor to the new city's actor-son Colin Blakely. Thomas Mayne Reid was commemorated in Drumgooland in October, then on Armistice Day John Herivel was remembered at Methodist College, Belfast. To close the calendar year, in November William Starrat had his plaque unveiled in Strabane. February 2023 saw two further plaques throughout this twelvemonth, to Dorothy Parke in Derry, another musical event of note, and to Brian Moore in Belfast, bringing home recognition of this transatlantic author. All our plaque unveilings aim to be individual, distinct, and exceptional, and the first citizens of the cities and boroughs concerned, and family members of the person commemorated attended the majority of the unveiling ceremonies.

Beginning in 2012 the Circle has put up a plaque annually in March to a woman of achievement to mark International Women's Day, except during the pandemic year in 2021 and now in 2023. Although we had a blue plaque planned and funded for IWD this year, circumstances have delayed its unveiling. Nor was it possible to unveil a Circle plaque this year in any of counties Cavan, Donegal, and Monaghan. It is the hope that our future plaque programme will ensure that both these non-occurrences are exceptions.

In April 2022 the Circle travelled en masse to Dublin to pay a courtesy call on President Michael D. Higgins at Áras an Uachtaráin. This visit had originally been planned for March 2020 but was postponed on account of covid. For those members present it was a privilege to meet President Higgins and his wife to discuss the work of the Circle across the nine counties of Ulster.

The Circle usually holds its AGM in May. Our 2021 AGM was delayed until February 2022, and then our 2022 AGM was held in June 2022. We sincerely trust that we are now back to our pattern of meeting regularly throughout the year and delivering our plaque programme without undue interruption. Our volunteer members continue to give their invaluable support to the Circle, generously sharing their expertise and knowledge. All deserve thanks for the contribution they make to our efforts, especially those who volunteer to lead a plaque unveiling. One member left our committee during the year, and another was welcomed.

Thanks are due to those bodies who have supported the plaques we have put up during the past year: Derry City and Strabane District Council, Foras Na Gaeilge, Carnlough Community Association, the Lyric Theatre; Ards and North Down Borough Council, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, the Ulster-Scots Agency, and Belfast City Council. Several of these organisations have committed to a partnership with the Circle for one annual plaque or more.

The Dictionary of Ulster Biography represents an important part of the Circle's work and includes thousands of entries. The Dictionary, much broader in scope than our plaque programme, offers a rich and continual, expanding base of entries, all written and edited in a voluntary capacity to an extremely high standard, and has its own dedicated website at www.ulsterbiography.co.uk

The Circle always has a busy programme of plaque unveilings in progress, but it is possible to propose a person of achievement for consideration. However, it is advisable to understand that many of the proposals we receive for a blue plaque are not always accepted. It is also important to remember that any new plaque proposal must indicate how this might be funded, as the Circle has no money of our own. To discover more about our plaque programme, I encourage you to read the information included in this Annual Report, or to access the How the Scheme Works page on our web site at www.ulsterhistorycircle.org.uk

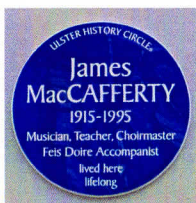
In conclusion, it is my pleasure once again to thank all those who have supported the Ulster History Circle across the past year, both with funding and in friendship, and to thank in advance those who will do so in the future.

Chris Spurr, Chairman, May 2023.



The Blue Plaque Programme 2022-2023

Plaque Number	Person Commemorated	Location of Plaque	Date of Unveiling	Unveiled by	Funding Body
254	James MacCafferty (1915-1995) Musician, Teacher, Choirmaster, Feis Doire Accompanist	25 Francis Street Derry City	23rd April	Graham Warke-Mayor of Derry City & Strabane District Council, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Pat and Una MacCafferty	Derry City & Strabane District Council
255	John Hannon (1867-1931) Scholar, Collector of spoken Irish of the Fews	20 Newry Street Crossmaglen	26th May	Seán Ó Coinn CEO Foras na Gaeilge	Foras na Gaeilge
256	Netta Jane Nicholl Johnston (1878-1953) Uilleann Piper, Teacher of Music, 'The Lady Piper of Carnlough'	19-21 Marine Road Carnlough	30th June	Rev. Violet Johnston, niece	Carnlough Community Association
257	Mary O'Malley (1918-2006) Theatre Director Co-Founder Lyric Players	Lyric Theatre 55 Ridgeway Street Belfast	13th September	Conor O'Malley, son, & friend of Mary O'Malley, Winifred Bell	Lyric Theatre Belfast
258	Colin Blakely (1930-1987) Stage and Screen Actor	Studio 1a 1a Hamilton Road Bangor	24th September	Caroline and Stephen Blakely niece and nephew	Ards and North Down Borough Council
259	Thomas Mayne Reid (1818-1883) Novelist and Adventurer	Drumgooland Presbyterian Church 64 Drumgooland Road, Cloiskelt Co. Down	25th October	Mayor of ABC Council, Councillor Paul Greenfield	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
260	John Herivel (1918-2011) Mathematician Codebreaker Bletchley Park 1940	Methodist College 1 Malone Road Belfast	11th November	Professor Alastair Adair, CBE DL-Belfast, and Susan Herivel, daughter of John Herivel	Ulster-Scots Agency
261	William Starrat (1690-1768) Philomath, Land Surveyor, Early Ulster-Scots Poet 1722	The Alley Theatre 1a Railway Street Strabane	25th November	Robert Lowry Scott Lord Lieutenant Co. Tyrone	Ulster-Scots Agency
262	Dorothy Parke (1904-1990) Musician and Composer	St. Columb's Hall Newmarket Street Derry City	2023 15th February	Councillor Sandra Duffy, Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council	Derry City and Strabane District Council
263	Brian Moore (1921-1999) Novelist and Screenwriter	Clifton Street Surgery 15-17 Clifton Street Belfast	21st February	Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Tina Black	Belfast City Council



James MacCafferty Plaque.

- Family of James MacCafferty with Mayor of DC&SDC, Graham Warke, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Pat MacCafferty, Nuala McAllister Hart, Ulster History Circle and Chris Spurr, Chairman Ulster History Circle.
- Guests and friends celebrate the unveiling of the blue plaque - Francis Street, Derry City.
- Archbishop Eamon Martin with Nano McCabe and Cathal McCabe, former Musical Director for RTE.



The Blue Plaque Programme 2022-2023



John Hannon Plaque.

- Ulster History Circle Chairman, Chris Spurr and Eibhlin Mhic Aoidh, Ulster History Circle welcome guests to the event in Crossmaglen.
- L-R Kieran McConville, Chairman-Creggan History Society, Gearóid Trimble and Seán Ó Coinn, CEO of Foras na Gaeilge who unveiled the blue plaque to John Hannon.
- Deputy Mayor NM&DC, Oonagh Magennis, Councillor Aoife Finnegan, MLA-Conor Murphy, Brian McKeown-Ulster History Circle and Carmel McKeown.



Netta Jane Nicholl Johnston Plaque.

- Chris Spurr, Chairman-UHC with Mary Watson, Carnlough Community Association and Deputy Mayor of M&EAC, Councillor Beth Adger MBE.
- L-R Uilleann piper, Marie Kinney, David Hume, Mary Watson, Beth Adger, Rev. Violet Johnston, niece of Netta Jane Nicholl Johnston who unveiled the blue plaque, and Chris Spurr.
- International musician, Louise Mulchay on the Uilleann pipes playing with Marie Kinney and her family.



Mary O'Malley Plaque.

- Conor O'Malley, son of Mary O'Malley and Winifred Bell lifelong friend of Mary, unveil the blue plaque at the Lyric.
- Jimmy Fay, Executive Producer-Lyric Theatre (right) with dignitaries including, Stephen Douds, Claire Murray, Conor O'Malley, Winifred Bell and Chris Spurr.
- Guests and friends gather at the Lyric in Ridgeway Street, Belfast.



Colin Blakely Plaque.

- L-R Kenneth Irvine and Tim Clifford, Ulster History Circle with Colin Maltman, long standing member of Bangor Drama Club.
- Chris Spurr welcomes Caroline Blakely, niece of Colin Blakely, Mayor of Ards and North Down Borough Council, Councillor Karen Douglas, and Stephen Blakely, nephew of Colin Blakely.
- Caroline and Stephen Blakely celebrate the unveiling of the blue plaque.



Ulster History Circle

Financial Summary 2022-2023

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2023

Receipts		Payments	
Derry & Strabane District Council	£2,800	Plaque Manufacture and Fitting	(£7,030)
Ards & North Down District Council	£2,200	Plaque Design	(£560)
Belfast City Council	£1,200	Meeting Expenses	(£480)
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon BC	£1,200	Events	(£836)
Foras na Gaeilge	£1,000	Administration	(£88)
Carnlough Community Association	£1,000	Printing and Stationery	(£294)
Lyric Theatre NI	£1,000	Insurance	(£508)
Ulster Scots Agency	£258	Accounting	(£50)
Total Grant Income	£10,658	Other	(£357)
Donations	£35	Total Expenditure	(£10,203)
Total Income	£10,693	Net Income	£489

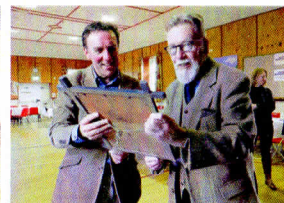
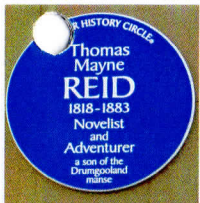
Statement of Assets/Liabilities

Opening Resources	£8,548
Net Income	£489

Net Assets carried forward £9,037

Represented by:

Balance per Bank Statement	£9,072
Uncashed Cheques	(£35)
Net Bank Balance	£9,037



Thomas Mayne Reid Plaque.

- Councillor Paul Greenfield, Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council unveils the blue plaque watched by the MacAuley, Anson and Herron families.
- Councillors for the ABC Council with Mayor Paul Greenfield, and the Council Heritage officers, Sean Barden and Jason Diamond.
- James MacAuley shows the Thomas Mayne Reid family tree to Chris Spurr, Chairman-Ulster History Circle.



Proposing, Funding, and Achieving a Blue Plaque

An Ulster History Circle blue plaque unites a person with a location in their life, and the Circle carries out careful and extensive research into the site of each plaque. Street Indexes are checked over, site visits made, and owners and tenants consulted for permission to allow the plaque on their premises. These activities can take considerable time, especially when seeking permission to put up a plaque. The plaque wording is carefully chosen; invitations are designed and issued; a person to unveil the plaque invited; guest speakers arranged, as each unveiling is accompanied by a talk on the person being honoured, and family members, as well as members of professional bodies associated with the plaque recipient, are contacted and invited. The whole is carefully planned and co-ordinated, towards creating a single special event.

- a person must be deceased at least twenty years, unless they would have reached their 100th birthday by the date of the proposed plaque unveiling.
- the person must be associated with Ulster (nine counties) by reason of birth, education, work, residence, or vocation.
- the person should be acknowledged and recognised as having made a significant contribution to education, industry, commerce, science, arts and literature, international affairs or other calling anywhere in the world.
- the person must have a building associated with them in Ulster: a place of birth, education, residence, work, or similar.
- the Circle's plaques are to persons of achievement and do not commemorate buildings, places, organisations or movements.

A proposal for a plaque should contain the reasons for a person's nomination, a short biographical note, and a suggestion of where a plaque might be located. All proposals should also give an indication of how the plaque will be funded. The Circle has no funds of its own, and relies on such as local authorities, businesses, organisations, and individuals to pay for its plaques.

Each proposal is carefully considered by the Circle committee, and if accepted, it joins the list of prospective plaques. The list always has a considerable number of plaques pending, so a new acceptance can take considerable time to process. The Circle undertakes all the necessary work as outlined above in order to achieve the plaque unveiling but can only undertake a plaque project when funding is agreed beforehand, and in place. Proposals for plaques can be submitted to the Circle at: ulsterhistorycircle1@gmail.com

The Circle's website has undergone a significant improvement and redevelopment and can be accessed at: www.ulsterhistorycircle.org.uk

The Dictionary of Ulster Biography

The Dictionary of Ulster Biography (DUB) has its origins in the published work (1993) of the same name, compiled by Kate Newmann. Its initial 1644 entries were digitised by the Circle in 2007, and form the basis of the present on-line *DUB*, which is edited, in a voluntary capacity, by the Circle to a very high standard. Many of the original entries now include additional details, and new entries are added every month, with the result that the *DUB* currently offers information on over two thousand people. By publishing on-line, the *DUB* benefits from regular updating, and there are many contemporary entries, for although a person must be deceased to be included in the dictionary, the 20-year delay related to blue plaques does not apply. The *DUB* contains biographical information on all the persons commemorated in the Circle's Blue Plaque Programme, including many of those people celebrated by the Circle's plaques up until March 2023.

The *DUB* has the special advantage of being free for all to access, and is easily searchable. It is recognised as a valuable reference source, and the *DUB* website receives tens of thousands of visitors every year from across the world.

As with the Circle's plaques, the *DUB* concerns itself with persons born in, or strongly associated with Ulster. The Editor always welcomes suggestions for entries from new contributors, who will receive full acknowledgement of authorship, and copyright, although there is no payment made for entries.

Ulster History Circle

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100124

Annual return

ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent Examiner's report to the charity trustees of Ulster History Circle

I report on the accounts of the Ulster History Circle for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out overleaf.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

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

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 Commission 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.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration 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 examiner's statement

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.

Roisin Shanks

Roisin Shanks

Fellow, Chartered Accountants Ireland

7 Foxleigh Wood, Lurgan, Co Armagh BT67 9GW

Date: 5 May 2023