

# Ulster Aviation Society

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100128

## Details

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Known as	UAS
Status	Received
Registered	2014-06-16
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register</a>

## Contact

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Address	33 Old Mill Meadows Dundonald Belfast BT16 1wq BT16 1WQ
Phone	028 9048 0747
Email	<a href="mailto:hello@ulsteraviationsociety.org">hello@ulsteraviationsociety.org</a>
Website	<a href="https://www.ulsteraviationsociety.org/">https://www.ulsteraviationsociety.org/</a>

## Activities

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**Purposes:** The Society is established to advance education in Northern Ireland (herein referred to as 'the area of benefit') in particular to: Advance the education of the public in the history of aviation and aviation related matters; Establish and maintain for the benefit of the public an aeronautical museum; and Promote for the benefit of the public the permanent preservation of aircraft and equipment and items of aeronautical interest, or of historic or scientific interest or importance.

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

**How the charity works:** Community development, Education/training, Heritage/historical, Volunteer development, Youth development

**Who the charity helps:** Adult training, Children (5-13 year olds), General public, Learning disabilities, Older people, Voluntary and community sector, Volunteers, Youth (14-25 year olds)

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£138,773	£112,472	£0	0

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Alan Jarden		
Mr Andrew Mcgookin		
Mr Edgar England		
Mr Garry Macdonald		
Mr John Martin		
Mr John May		
Mr John Weir		
Mr Mark Cairns		
Mr Raymond Burrows		
Mr Stephen Hegarty		
Ricci		

**Ulster Aviation Society**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100128

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# Accounts

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The attached figures are prepared from the books and records of the Society.  
An audit of the account has not been carried out, but it is in accordance with the above.  
Appropriate and necessary confirmations have been received and/or evidence. No value is attached to the Assets or Exhibits and no depreciation or factor for appreciate is applied.

Signed

Garry MacDonald  
Honorary Treasurer

Sandra Barr, CIMA  
Independent accountant/examiner

**Ulster Aviation Society**  
**Receipts and Payments Account - Year ended 31 December 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Opening Balances (01/01/2024)</b>		
Danske Current account	£20,901	£25,348
Danske Savings account	£1,250	£1,250
Virigin Savings account	£75,672	£75,247
	<b>£97,823</b>	<b>£101,846</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Membership Subscriptions	19,898	17,377
Ballot receipts	159	0
Book donations	0	0
Gift Aid (HMRC)	6,862	0
Donations - Hangar	19,641	17,311
Donations	33,368	37,765
Donations - Organisations	7,416	1,919
Heritage Benefactors	4,265	5,669
Grants	0	2,000
Events	20,026	19,140
Bank Interest	901	491
Group Visits	3,745	2,918
Shop Sales	22,012	0
Badge Donations	0	146
Clothing Donations	0	1,445
Stationery Donations	0	167
Calendar Donations	0	135
Model Donations	0	8,162
Book donations	0	77
Misc	480	37
	<b>£138,773</b>	<b>£114,759</b>
Totals		
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Magazine	13,707	20,870
Meeting Expenses	615	596
Clothing/Badges	500	502
Subscriptions	310	306
Postage and Stationery	418	517
Hangar Rent/Insurance/Utilities etc	17,830	13,489
Van Expenses	2,131	3,677
Exhibits	45,954	32,252
Bank charges	203	188
UAS Trips	0	0
Equipment	15,250	26,433
Hangar Infrastructure	7,537	13,691
Event Expenses	5,609	6,243
Advertising/Promotion	2,408	350
Models	0	0
Misc	0	0
	<b>£112,472</b>	<b>£119,114</b>
Totals		
<b>Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>£26,301</b>	<b>-£4,355</b>
<b>Closing Balances (31 December 2024)</b>		
Danske Current account	£67,398	£20,901
Danske Savings account	£5,286	£967
Virigin Savings account	£51,487	£75,672
	<b>£124,171</b>	<b>£97,540</b>

### **Income**

Income for the year has improved on previous year with increase in shop sale by £10K plus receipt of HMRC Gift Aid £6K.

Membership subscriptions have increased.

Donations remain a large part of income receipts.

### **Expenditure**

Expenditure during the year has reduced by £6.6K.

### **Summary**

***UAS remain in a strong financial position posting a surplus of £26K for period.***

**Ulster Aviation Society**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100128

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# Accounts

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The attached figures are prepared from the books and records of the Society.  
An audit of the account has not been carried out, but it is in accordance with the above.  
Appropriate and necessary confirmations have been received and/or evidence. No value is attached to the Assets or Exhibits and no depreciation or factor for appreciate is applied.

Signed

*Garry MacDonald*  
24/10/24

Garry MacDonald  
Honorary Treasurer

*Sandra Barr*

24/10/24

Sandra Barr, CIMA  
Independent accountant/examiner

**Ulster Aviation Society**  
**Receipts and Payments Account - Year ended 31 December 2023**

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Opening Balances (01/01/2023)</b>		
Danske Current account	£25,348	£38,283
Danske Savings account	£1,250	£6,834
Virgin Savings account	£75,247	£50,061
	<b>£101,846</b>	<b>£95,178</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Membership Subscriptions	17,377	18,604
Ballot receipts	0	0
Book donations	0	0
Gift Aid (HMRC)	0	8,810
Donations - Hangar	17,311	17,644
Donations	37,765	98,092
Donations - Organisations	1,919	1,399
Heritage Benefactors	5,669	4,405
Grants	2,000	0
Events	19,140	5,622
Bank Interest	491	331
Group Visits	2,918	1,796
UAS Trips	0	0
Badge Donations	146	40
Clothing Donations	1,445	466
Stationery Donations	167	311
Calendar Donations	135	196
Model Donations	8,162	5,056
Book donations	77	0
Misc	37	118
	<b>£114,759</b>	<b>£162,890</b>
<b>Totals</b>		
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Magazine	20,870	17,194
Meeting Expenses	596	0
Clothing/Badges	502	329
Subscriptions	306	637
Postage and Stationery	517	75
Hangar Rent/Insurance/Utilities etc	13,489	14,986
Van Expenses	3,677	2,327
Exhibits	32,252	62,854
Bank charges	188	217
UAS Trips	0	0
Equipment	26,433	25,819
Hangar Infrastructure	13,691	6,678
Event Expenses	6,243	16,912
Advertising/Promotion	350	4,267
Models	0	0
Misc	0	830
	<b>£119,114</b>	<b>£156,106</b>
<b>Totals</b>		
<b>Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>-£4,355</b>	<b>£6,784</b>
<b>Closing Balances (31 December 2022)</b>		
Danske Current account	£20,901	£25,348
Danske Savings account	£967	£1,250
Virgin Savings account	£75,672	£75,247
	<b>£97,540</b>	<b>£101,846</b>

### **Income**

Income for the year has reduced on the previous year in which an extra-ordinary donation had been received, when this is taken into account income is as per previous years.

Gift aid from HMRC has not been received in FY 2023.

Visitors to the hangars has recovered after the last few years of covid restrictions

### **Expenditure**

Expenditure is down, due to large expenditure on exhibits in 2022 not repeated in 2023.

### **Summary**

***UAS are still in a strong financial position even with the small loss in 2023.***

## Independent Examiners Report

Report to the trustees/members of: **Ulster Aviation Society**

Charity Number: **NIC100128**

On accounts for the year ended: **31 December 2023**

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner: **The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year, under section 65 of the Charities Act (northern Ireland) 2008 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.**

It is my responsibility to:

- 1 **Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act**
- 2 **To follow the procedure laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for NI (under section 65(3) of the Charities Act) and**
- 3 **To state whether particular matters have come to my attention**

### Basis of Independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission for NI. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### Independent examiner's statement:

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- 1 **which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect the requirements:**
  - a **to keep accounting records in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act and**
  - b **to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met, or**
- 2 **to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.**

Signed



24 October 2024

Name

Sandra Barr CIMA

Address

60 Shankbridge Road Ballymena BT42 3DL

**Ulster Aviation Society**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100128

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# Annual report

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## ULSTER AVIATION SOCIETY (UAS)

### ANNUAL REPORT: 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2023 – 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023

This is the eighth Annual Report for the Ulster Aviation Society, approved by the Society's Trustee Board on 26th October 2024.

2023 began with a flurry of activity, whilst the recently "gifted" Sycamore helicopter required virtually no work done to it, the Meteor aircraft which was in three major parts required considerable engineering expertise and a lot of time. Apart from this 'practical' activity, we had to bring the management of the Society's 700 strong membership 'in-house' after our membership admin contractor suddenly and unexpectedly decided to cease this piece of work in late 2022. As well as this, the Board decided it was best not to split membership and magazine production as both were closely allied – so the Society now undertook responsibility for both printing the monthly magazine and for its distribution. This turned out to be a mammoth task, taking a great deal of time from three Board members and it was almost a full year before the new computerised system was understood and 'tweaked' to suit the Society's requirements. Despite the upheaval and all the changes, we managed to retain annual family membership at £26. Also, to begin a new year we had a new Library operational, holding up to 6,000 aviation books and countless aviation magazines, together with a new Editor, who's first edition of "Ulster Airmail" appeared in February! Other 'projects' taking place around the hangars, included the move of three Royal Observer Corps rooms which would be combined into one larger room, the setting up of a new "simulator" room and a concerted effort to get the NI Schools 'Build a Plane' project going again. There is no doubt, that with the beginning of 2023, the Society was working 'flat-out'.

The one thing still missing, from what would be a 'normal' year was monthly members meetings. In April, the Board decided to reintroduce these meetings albeit 'every other' month. The first meeting since Covid (a Quiz night) was held at the Long Kesh hangars on 28th June with a further meeting at the hangars in August, the venue then transferring to CIYMS (East Belfast) for the October and December meetings. All were very well attended.

April 1<sup>st</sup> seen the 2023 AGM being held in the Long Kesh hangars and it was very encouraging to see some 50 members in attendance. Society business was quickly dealt with but, sadly we had to say goodbye to a Board member who had served passionately and enthusiastically for several years. April also saw the end of remedial repair work on both hangars, some of which had been extremely disruptive to exhibits and visitors alike but as this work finished, there were rumours that work would soon start to replace the front doors on hangar 2! In fact, the work began during May and continued throughout the summer, finally being completed in November.

With the ROC having vacated three rooms, the Board decided to make one a Simulator Room, another an 'Art Studio' whilst the third, would be used as a temporary storeroom. At the end of 2023, we had one simulator up and running whilst the 'Art Studio' was still being designed.

Elsewhere around Hangar 1, improvements were made to the Engine Room, WWII Room, Polish Room and the Sir Philip Foreman Room.

Whilst there were no rooms to be refurbished in Hangar 2, the last few months of 2023 were used to 'top out' the west side plinths with imitation grass. These were then used to set up a long overdue display featuring WWII aircraft "Wreckology". Items which had been recovered in the mid 1980's and 1990's were at last put on display.

Thanks to the RAF Heritage team, our promised 'Red Arrow' Hawk T1A aircraft arrived on site on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May courtesy of the JARTS (Joint Aircraft Recovery & Transport Squadron) team, who put it together for us.

Our second new exhibit in 2023 was our Jaguar GR1 which necessitated a Society 'working party' going to RAF Cosford near Wolverhampton, to complete the dismantling process to allow transportation home – this project took place during November.

As well as receiving new exhibits during 2023, major restoration work continued apace on the following projects:- Gannet, Sea Prince, Wildcat, Meteor, Devon cockpit and the AEC Matador vehicle. We also managed to have both Tornado engines installed.

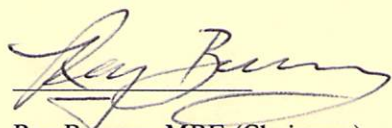
The "NI Schools Build a Plane" (NISBP) project which had ground to a halt due to Covid took flight again, albeit in a reduced capacity. Starting in January there were 5 pupils from RBAI (Royal Belfast Academical Institution) who attended the hangars on a Wednesday afternoon for the fuselage build, whilst the wings were transported to Limavady to be assembled by pupils from both Limavady High School and St. Mary's Grammar School.

With progress on the build being extremely slow (estimated at another 2 years to complete), it was agreed by the NISBP Board that the project should be offered to the Belfast Metropolitan College, where the pupils would have a much better understanding of aeronautical engineering – the College accepted the offer and agreed to start work on the project in early 2024.

As in past years, we lost members during 2023 due to illness, but it was a particularly sad and cruel year as we said goodbye to some very long standing and extremely active members: David McKelvey, Jimmy Lappin, Mervyn Johnston, Michael Clarke and George Grace. RIP.

As a totally voluntary Society, we are dependent on donations from both the public and our own members. To interact with the public, we once again attended various outdoor events including Shane's Castle Steam Rally, Armed Forces Day, Lisburn Mayor's Fun Day and the Royal Agricultural Show at Balmoral. Again, this year we were able to open seven days a week for public visits/tours but the highlight of the year was the two day European Heritage Open Days (EHOD) in September at which we had some 3,500 visitors. Total visitor numbers for 2023 was a staggering 9,200 which is more than double the 2022 figure of 4,000!

Taking the overall visitor numbers, combined with membership numbers officially reaching 770+ by the years end, 2023 was certainly one of the busiest, if not the busiest year in the Society's history. Once again special thanks to our 'Tour Guides' and 'Volunteers' who give so freely of their time and without who's input we would not accomplish our aims. Mention must also be made, of the Companies and Members whose generous donations have enabled us to raise our standards and profile. Finally, special mention of my fellow Board members without who's dedication and hard work the Society simply would not be where it is today – recognised as one of the top 10% visitor attractions in the world and having one of the best aviation Collections in the UK.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Burrows', with a stylized flourish underneath.

**Ray Burrows MBE (Chairman)**

**Ulster Aviation Society**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100128

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# Annual return

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### Independent Examiners Report

Report to the trustees/members of: Ulster Aviation Society

Charity Number: NIC100128

On accounts for the year ended: 31 December 2023

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner: The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year, under section 65 of the Charities Act (northern Ireland) 2008 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- 1 Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- 2 To follow the procedure laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for NI (under section 65(3) of the Charities Act) and
- 3 To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission for NI. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement:

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect the requirements:
  - a to keep accounting records in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act and
  - b to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met, or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



24 October 2024

Name

Sandra Barr CIMA

Address

60 Shankbridge Road Ballymena BT42 3DL

**Ulster Aviation Society**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100128

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# Accounts

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The attached figures are prepared from the books and records of the Society.  
An audit of the account has not been carried out, but it is in accordance with the above.  
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Signed

Garry MacDonald  
Honorary Treasurer

Sandra Barr, CIMA  
Independent accountant/examiner

**Ulster Aviation Society**  
**Receipts and Payments Account - Year ended 31 December 2022**

	2022	2021
	£	£
<b>Opening Balances (01/01/2022)</b>		
Danske Current account	£38,283	£26,995
Danske Savings account	£6,834	£16,630
Virigin Savings account	£50,061	£36,412
	<b>£95,178</b>	<b>£80,036</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Membership Subscriptions	18,604	16,528
Ballot receipts	0	512
Book donations	0	0
Gift Aid (HMRC)	8,810	4,952
Donations - Hangar	17,644	12,042
Donations	98,092	11,965
Donations - Organisations	1,399	3,068
Heritage Benefactors	4,405	4,204
Grants	0	0
Events	5,622	6,880
Bank Interest	331	103
Group Visits	1,796	0
UAS Trips	0	119
Badge Donations	40	53
Clothing Donations	466	723
Stationery Donations	311	25
Calendar Donations	196	444
Model Donations	5,056	704
Other Donations	0	0
Misc	118	632
	<b>£162,890</b>	<b>£62,953</b>
Totals		
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Magazine	17,194	14,738
Meeting Expenses	0	0
Clothing/Badges	329	0
Subscriptions	637	647
Postage and Stationery	75	0
Hangar Rent/Insurance/Utilities etc	16,347	9,330
Van Expenses	2,327	761
Exhibits	64,474	9,166
Bank charges	217	177
UAS Trips	0	0
Equipment	25,819	6,070
Hangar Infrastructure	6,678	2,193
Event Expenses	16,912	1,268
Advertising/Promotion	4,267	2,461
Models	0	0
Misc	830	671
	<b>£156,106</b>	<b>£47,481</b>
Totals		
<b>Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>£6,784</b>	<b>£15,472</b>
<b>Closing Balances (31 December 2022)</b>		
Danske Current account	£25,348	£38,283
Danske Savings account	£1,250	£6,834
Virigin Savings account	£75,247	£50,061
	<b>£101,846</b>	<b>£95,178</b>

### **Income**

Income revenue is returning to pre pandemic levels with subscriptions and donations increasing.

Society benefited during the year from a large donation.

### **Expenditure**

2022 seen global increases in energy costs thus increase in electricity etc over previous years, this should level out in 2023 accounts.

Increased expenditure in 'exhibits'

### **Summary**

***UAS are in a strong financial position and even with increased expenditure in 2022 have a surplus in funds at the end of the year.***

**Ulster Aviation Society**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100128

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# Annual report

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## Trustee Annual Report 2022

Unlike January 2021 when we were still in the throes of a Covid-19 full lockdown, January 2022 was reckoned to be the start of the Society making a full recovery and getting back to doing what it had been doing for the last 50 years and so it was decided at the January 'Board' meeting that we would hold the 2022 AGM at the Maze hangars but restrict the numbers attending to 40 maximum, as there were still some Covid restrictions persisting.

There were many positives on the horizon but, there were two surprises ahead that no-one could have foreseen! Being the go-ahead Society that we are, January saw us take the initiative whenever the IWM (Imperial War Museum) at Duxford were looking to "Gift" a Kirby Cadet glider and a Grumman Avenger from the American War Museum to a suitable Collection, and since both types had operated here, we applied for both! Sadly we missed out on the Avenger but were fortunate enough to get the Cadet glider. Within a few weeks it was the turn of the RAF Museum at Cosford to announce they were looking to "Gift" around 20 airframes – again to suitable homes. Again, we applied for two – a Bristol Sycamore helicopter and a 'modified' Gloster Meteor T7 – the reason for the choice was again straightforward, both had connections to the Province - the Sycamore type had served here during the 50's/60's whilst the Meteor had been one of the principle test aircraft for the Martin Baker Company. We were made to wait some months before we were told we had been successful in our bid for both airframes but it wasn't until December that they actually arrived here at Long Kesh.

With no new aircraft due immediately work continued on the Gannet, Sea Prince, Wildcat, vehicles etc but there was to be major changes in some display rooms which included - 'New' Library, WWII room, WWI room and the re-location of no less than three ROC rooms into one large room. This latter move would leave three small rooms available for various future displays – to be decided.

Despite all the positives there were two negatives early in the year. (1) A group had penetrated the MLK site and got as far as entering the prison from where they began to show live video on Tik Tok, the incursions continued for quite a while and caused the MLK security quite a headache thankfully however, there were no intrusions into our premises. (2) As part of our Library refurbishment we applied to HLF for a £12K grant most of which would go towards making some 30 new bookcases however, the application was refused on the grounds that it did not fall into their "inclusivity" box! As a result, we went ahead and paid for the bookcases ourselves.

March 2022 was an incredible month. During the preceding few months we had been visited by a film company "scout" looking for a hangar location and possible 'set' pieces. To cut a long story short, in March we signed an agreement with the film Company which meant six low-loaders taking some of our aircraft and equipment to Ballykelly (for filming) and then some weeks later bringing it all back to Long Kesh. We signed a "Confidentiality" Agreement with the Company which is why I have omitted their name but you will see from the Treasurers Report it turned out to be a very lucrative partnership. It was certainly the busiest period ever in the Society's history.

Also around this time we had a visit from UTV to film an episode of "Hidden NI" produced by Alison Fleming, it was a great chance to showcase the Society and the Sea Prince team helped tremendously by fitting the aircraft's rudder during filming. The BAPNI project had been dormant for over two years due to Covid and again it was time to try to re-ignite interest amongst schools by having an 'Open-Day' however due to schools still being affected by Covid combined with Exam pressures, the hoped for re-ignition did not take place!

At the end of March we added yet another addition to the Collection - a Tornado composite cockpit replica complete with trailer which was formally transferred from the Air Training Corps at Liverpool, where it had sat uncared for, for a number of years. We were also 'gifted' a Learjet test airframe "TA-05" by Spirit Aerosystems which arrived at Long Kesh 26<sup>th</sup> March. A collection of smaller items was offered to us at this time but it wasn't until August that we actually purchased the collection from a reputable author in the Republic of Ireland. The collection consisted of memorabilia belonging to the "Glass sisters" one of whom, Mabel, was one of the early ATA women pilots. The collection amongst other things included her flying log-book and various Cups etc which the sisters had won both here and in South Africa, quite an amazing collection which we are keen to put on show, hopefully some time in 2023.

By the end of March we also had a set programme for our "Events" team :-) Veterans Event Coleraine (March), Shane's Castle (May), RUAS (May), Newcastle Airshow (June), Armed Forces Day Banbridge (July), Ulster Flying Club Open Days (July), EHOD (September) and finally the NI Airshow at Portrush (September). It was going to be another incredibly busy year, or so we thought. The Veterans Event was cancelled, the Newcastle Airshow was cancelled, following an accident at Newtownards just days before their Open Days they too were cancelled and

finally with the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II the Portrush Airshow was also cancelled as a mark of respect. What had set out to be a busy year for events turned out to be exactly the opposite. As in years past though there was a surprise outing for us (not the RAF Battle of Britain dinner, which was also cancelled) but to coincide with the release of “Topgun 2” we were invited to spend the week 23<sup>rd</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> May at the Boulevard, Banbridge with our Tornado cockpit complete with “Maverick” painted flying helmet.

Around June our sole Editor (Ron) was feeling the pressure and so we advertised within the Airmail for assistant Editor(s) – we got two responses from two very capable members and it was quickly decided that the pressure would soon be off – it did however take some six months before the assistance was realised and due credit must be given to Ron. Elsewhere, within the Society after just three months of being open, we had already exceeded the total number of visitors for the whole of 2021 and membership was still rising towards the 700 mark

At the end of June we received two “gifted” Tornado engines which were for installation whilst the third was being kept for display purposes.

In mid-July we were once again working with the film industry, this time, it was a BBC film crew who not only wanted to use some of our exhibits but also to film within the hangars. For two days we had the pleasure of having international film celebrity Pierce Brosnan with us and some members of the Society even managed to appear in the film! During the two days filming we probably got the PR photo of the century when 007 (Bond) posed with our very own 007 (F4 Phantom). Thanks here to both Alan Jarden and Edgar England for snapping some fabulous photos for our scrap-book.

In September our Patron AVM Harv Smyth was promoted to Air Marshall becoming 2 i/c Ops for the RAF and it was my pleasure to send him a congratulatory message from the Board of Trustees and every member of the Society. We also sent congratulations to ‘Elizabeth’ at Paul Trimble Printing who was retiring and who had looked after the Society membership for over 10 years, Elizabeth’s retirement was the precursor to a major change in both printing and distribution of the Society magazine. This was something the Board had thought about ‘on and off’ for many months but had never acted upon it however, when we were informed that we would have to do the membership ourselves we were left with no choice and so the major change was set in motion.

The death of HM Queen Elizabeth II was a major shock and led to thousands of events either being cancelled or rescheduled. EHOD was still taking place throughout the UK so the Board took the decision to open 10/11<sup>th</sup> September. By the end of September we had welcomed some 3000 visitors to our Collection, which at first sight might not seem a lot however, if you consider that each of those visitors received a two and a half to three hour guided tour that equates to someone talking all day for every day we were open!

Unlike previous years, in 2022 we remained open until November 30<sup>th</sup> and we took on a fairly major project to be held on October 15<sup>th</sup>. This was the dedication of our Bulldog aircraft to the memory of Sqn/Ldr Bob Burge who was the CO of Queen’s University Air Squadron when he was killed in a flying accident on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1992. The ceremony was a tremendous success not from a PR perspective but from Bob Burge’s family’s perspective as every single one of them left the Society’s hangar with a changed outlook on NI, the people who live here and of course the UAS. The Society made lots of new friends that day.

December was supposed to be a winding down month but typical of UAS we ended up going to the RAF Museum at Cosford twice, first time to dismantle the Meteor and secondly to load both the Meteor and the Sycamore – it was a very busy month, but both aircraft arrived safely at Long Kesh and both were eventually moved into Hangar 2.

Looking back at everything we did and achieved in 2022 I believe it was, without doubt, the busiest year to date in the Society’s history. A remarkable year with special thanks to our guiding team who eventually welcomed 4000 visitors to our Collection. Special thanks also to our hangar volunteers who produce incredible exhibits and to all our members who collectively make the UAS something unique. Special thanks too to all our benefactors, sponsors and supporters and finally to your Trustee Board members who have served throughout 2022 with unrivalled dedication. We are still a shining example of volunteering at its very best, here’s to a great 2023.

**Ray Burrows MBE**

**(Chairman)**

**Ulster Aviation Society**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100128

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# Annual return

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## Independent Examiners Report

Report to the trustees/members of: Ulster Aviation Society

Charity Number: NIC100128

On accounts for the year ended: 31 December 2022

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner: The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year, under section 65 of the Charities Act (northern Ireland) 2008 (the Charities Act) and that an Independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- 1 Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- 2 To follow the procedure laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for NI (under section 65(3) of the Charities Act) and
- 3 To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission for NI. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement:

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect the requirements:
  - a to keep accounting records in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act and
  - b to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met, or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed

25 October 2023

Name

Sandra Barr CIMA

Address

60 Shankbridge Road Ballymena BT42 3DL