

Aras Cholmcille Trust

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 30 September 2020

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2020.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name Aras Cholmcille Trust

Charity registration number 100269

Company registration number NI047957

Principal office and registered

The trustees

Mr I Doherty
Mr G Doran

Independent examiner Claremount
43 Clarendon Street
Derry
BT48 7ER

Structure, governance and management

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have any share capital. The company is governed and managed by the board of directors. The directors who served the company throughout the period are shown on page 1. The registered office and details of other professional advisors are also listed on page 1.

The board of directors carry out their governance role throughout the year by way of meetings on a monthly basis to review the performance of the company and to make decisions regarding the company's financial and operational matters. The directors govern the activities of the company in line with the objectives set out in the governing documents of the charity, namely the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the charity's constitution.

Achievements and performance

The centre, which opened in June 2014, has so far attracted more than 1,600 visitors who have been able to view video material recreating the city as it was before the walls were erected. There is also a facsimile Book of Kells and range of other illuminated manuscripts dating from the 14th century. Large-scale illustrated books for children based on the legends about Columba have also been created along with audio recordings of the legends by local people in both Irish and English.

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The centre's education programme is available to all schools and among the young people who have benefited from this resource are 30 A-level RE students who visited to research an element of their curriculum, Celtic Christianity and a range of Primary schools who have participated in workshops related to the legacy of Columba. A series of events, such as Halloween storytelling, a Culture Night and two Christmas craft fairs have already engaged the wider community throughout the year. Visitors to the city have enjoyed their informative visits to the Centre and have left their positive and supportive comments in our Visitors' Book.

The Centre opened a new café in November 2017 serving a selection of items including Soup, Sandwiches, Scones and a range of drinks.

A comprehensive plan for activities in Aras Cholmcille for the year 2020. Exhibitions, activities, public talks and community involvement was planned for each month during 2020. This included photographic exhibitions, local artists displaying their work and marking historical events in the life of the city. The centenary of the June Riots 1920 is an example. These activities had to be postponed because of Covid-19. The materials for some of the exhibitions was produced and we will hold an event when it is appropriate to do so.

The Trustees continued to meet via zoom and regularly reviewed the situation. The centre has been closed since 16th March 2020 due to the covid restrictions. During that time the centre was visited regularly by a number of volunteers to ensure all was well, grass was cut etc,etc. The computer system was shutdown to conserve energy, as was the air conditioning. Work continued updating the software for the graveyard database also.

Financial review

The net surplus resources for the period was £19,424. The company reserves at the year end were (£25,236) of which £52,722 is unrestricted funds and (£77,958) is restricted funds. The trustees aim to have a reserve covering at least three months expenditure at any given time.

The full results are set out in the accounts which form part of this report.

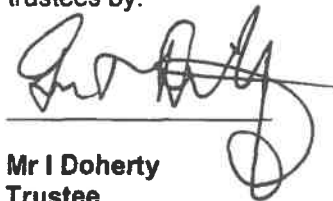
Plans for future periods

The organisation plans continuing the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years subject to satisfactory generation of income and funding arrangements.


Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 9 June 2021 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Mr I Doherty
Trustee



Mr G Doran
Trustee