

carrickfergus and district historical society

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100315

Details

Status Received

Registered 2016-02-02

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

Contact

Address 7 Henly Close
Carrickfergus
BT38 8uj
BT38 8UJ

Phone 07788208402

Email carrickfergushistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Website carrickfergushistoricalsociety.org.uk

Activities

Purposes: The object of The Society is to promote a knowledge and understanding of the past by means of education, recording and dissemination of information, especially in and about Carrickfergus.

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

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information, Cultural, Heritage/historical

Who the charity helps: General public, Voluntary and community sector

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£11,047	£6,807	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
George Elliott		
Helen Rankin		
Mr Adrian Hack		
Mr Rodney McMaster		
Mr Trevor Lennon		
Mrs Gladys Whan		
Mrs Helen Clarke		
Mrs Shirin Murphy		
Ms Joy Guest		

carrickfergus and district historical society

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100315

Accounts

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31st December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	
	2025	2024
	£	£
Opening balances 01.01.25		
Ulster Bank Business Reserve	3119	3075

	Unrestricted Funds	
	2025	2024
	£	£

RECEIPTS

Bank interest	35	44
	<u>3154</u>	<u>3119</u>

Closing balances 31.12.25		
Ulster Bank Business Reserve	3154	3119
	<u>3154</u>	<u>3119</u>

Bank and Cash Balances

	31.12.24	Unrestricted Funds	31.12.25	£	Movement (+/-)
Ulster Bank Current Acc.	6704	4088			-2616
Savings Accounts	3119	3154			35
Petty Cash	106	152			46
	<u>9929</u>	<u>7394</u>			<u>-2535</u>

Signed and approved on behalf of
Carrickfergus Historical Society

Aileen Rankin Chairperson

L. E. O'Leary Auditor
Date 24/1/26

During 2025 the Society experienced a negative cash flow of £2535

**Receipts and Payments Account
Year ended 31st December 2025**

	Unrestricted Funds	
	2025	2024
	£	£
Opening Balances		
Cash at Ulster Bank	6704	5717
Petty Cash	106	92
	<u>6810</u>	<u>5809</u>
RECEIPTS		
Membership Fees	570	615
Entrance Fees	649	475
Book Sales	1308	152
Journal Sales	45	96
Literary & Scientific Soc Conf. Grant	0	500
Misc donations	13	12
Murder Mystery Tickets	0	940
Raffle Tickets	128	132
Outings	730	0
Chichester Trial Tickets	335	0
Museum Contribution to Chichester Play	330	0
Postage & Packaging	29	0
Journal Contributor Donation	100	100
	<u>4237</u>	<u>3022</u>

	Unrestricted Funds	
	2025	2024
	£	£
PAYMENTS		
Speakers	520	200
Journal Contributors	0	500
Sir Arthur Chichester Trial Writing and Performance	2000	0
Event Workshop Fees	852	0
Outings	790	0
Insurance	40	30
Printing Postage & Stationery	26	96
Mrs Coe Publication	1810	0
Murder Mystery-Play Dead	0	750
Catering	574	152
FULS Membership	50	50
Bank Charges	27	25
Coasters	0	30
Anniv.Cake & Flowers	0	50
Pop-up Banner	0	68
Gifts	70	70
SumUp Card Reader	35	0
Website	13	0
	<u>6807</u>	<u>2021</u>

Closing Balances

Cash at Ulster Bank	4088	6704
Petty Cash	152	106
	<u>4240</u>	<u>6810</u>
	<u>11047</u>	<u>8831</u>

A Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Assets	Unrestricted Funds	
Bank and Cash Balances	2025	2024
	£	£
Ulster Bank Current Acc.	4088	6704
Savings Accounts	3154	3119
Debtor-MEAB Grant	1000	0
Stock-Mrs Coe's Books	1200	0
Petty Cash	152	106
	<u>9594</u>	<u>9929</u>
Liabilities		
There are no liabilities at the end of the year (or previous year)		

Summary

Opening cash at bank and in hand	6810	5809
NET DEFICIT FOR YEAR	-2571	1001
Closing cash at bank and in hand	<u>4239</u>	<u>6810</u>

carrickfergus and district historical society

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100315

Accounts

Carrickfergus Historical Society

**Receipts and Payments Account
Year ended 31st December 2024**

	Unrestricted Funds		Unrestricted Funds	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Opening Balances				
Cash at Ulster Bank	5717	1267	200	335
Petty Cash	92	157	500	0
	<u>5809</u>	<u>1424</u>	0	870
RECEIPTS				
Membership fees	615	390	30	25
Entrance fees	475	782	96	34
Book sales	152	178	0	100
Outings	0	783	750	0
Ballot	0	91	152	62
C'fergus Gasworks Pres. Soc.	0	1567	50	50
Journal sales	96	0	25	22
Lit. Soc. Donation	500	0	30	0
Misc. Donations	12	0	50	0
Murder Mystery	940	0	50	0
Raffle Tickets	132	0	68	0
Journal Contributor Donation	100	0	70	0
	<u>3022</u>	<u>3791</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>1503</u>
Transfer from Progressive Building Society	0	2505	0	408
Closing Balances				
Cash at Ulster Bank			6704	5717
Petty Cash			106	92
			<u>6810</u>	<u>5809</u>
			<u>8831</u>	<u>7720</u>

	<u>8831</u>	<u>7720</u>
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Summary

Opening cash at bank and in hand	5809	1424
Tfr to Res Acc	0	-408
Tfr From Res Acc	0	2505
NET INCOME FOR YEAR	1001	2288
Closing cash at bank and in hand	<u>6810</u>	<u>5809</u>

A Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Assets	Unrestricted Funds	
Bank and Cash Balances		
Ulster Bank Current Acc.	31,12.24	31,12.23
Savings Accounts	6704	5717
Petty Cash	3119	3075
	106	92
	<u>9929</u>	<u>8884</u>

Liabilities
There are no liabilities at the end of the year (or previous year)

Carrickfergus Historical Society

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds			Unrestricted Funds	
	2024	2023		2024	2023
	£	£		£	£
Opening balances 01.01.24					
Ulster Bank Business Reserve	3075	2632			
Progressive Bldg. Soc.	0	2409			
			Transfer to Current Account	0	2505

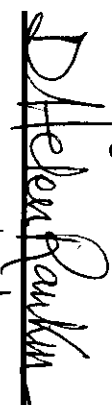

RECEIPTS

Cash lodged	0	408	Closing balances 31.12.24		
Bank Interest	44	35	Ulster Bank Business Reserve	3119	3075
Building Soc Interest	0	96			

	<u>3119</u>	<u>5580</u>		<u>3119</u>	<u>5580</u>
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Bank and Cash Balances

	Unrestricted Funds			Unrestricted Funds	
	31.12.24	31.12.23		31.12.23	31.12.24
	£	£		£	£
Ulster Bank Current Acc.	6704	5717			
Savings Accounts	3119	3075	Movement (+/-)	987	987
Petty Cash	106	92		44	44
	<u>9929</u>	<u>8884</u>		14	14
				<u>1045</u>	<u>1045</u>

Signed and approved on behalf of
Carrickfergus Historical Society

 Chairperson
 Date 28/1/2025


During 2024 the Society experienced a positive cash flow of £1045

carrickfergus and district historical society

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100315

Annual report

Carrickfergus & District Historical Society



In partnership with Carrickfergus Museum

Charity Commission Registration Number NIC100315

Annual Report for the Year Ending 31 December 2024



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Carrickfergus and District Historical Society Annual Report for the Year Ending 31 December 2024

The Trustees of the Society are pleased to submit their report and accounts for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Society Purpose and Governance

The purpose of the Carrickfergus and District Historical Society is to promote a knowledge and understanding of the past by means of education, recording and dissemination of information, especially of the history of Carrickfergus and district. It seeks to develop an interest in our past and generate a curiosity of our history.

The Society's beneficiaries are the general public in the Carrickfergus area and those who originated from the area but have since moved away and are keen to learn about the lives of their ancestry. There are no private benefits flowing from the purpose.

The Society is affiliated to the Federation for Ulster Local Studies, which is an umbrella organisation for the historical societies within the nine Ulster counties and contributes to their activities. In addition, the meetings programme is delivered in partnership with the Carrickfergus Museum which is part of the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council.

The Society is based in Carrickfergus and holds its regular monthly meetings in Carrickfergus Town Hall and is managed by a team of Trustees – please see below:

Role	Name
Chairperson	Helen Rankin
Vice Chairman	George Elliott
Treasurer	Rodney McMaster
Honorary Secretary	Helen Clarke
Committee Members	Shirin Murphy, Laura Patrick, Joy Guest, Adrian Hack, Gladys Whan*

*co-opted August 2024

The Society is governed by a constitution which was agreed at the Annual General Meeting held on 27 January 2016 – please see Appendix A. During the period of this report the Committee met on Zoom on 11 occasions to manage expenditure, review past events and plan future activities of the Society.

During the period of this report the Society had a membership of 64.

The Society has Annual Public Liability Insurance cover through our membership of the Federation for Ulster Local Studies.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The Society takes its responsibilities under GDPR seriously and continues to use an annual membership form which includes a reference to GDPR and seeks email addresses to ensure the Society meet the requirement that information is accurate and up to date. Individuals may unsubscribe from the Society contact list at anytime. A notice advising how the Society uses information is displayed at the desk at each meeting.

Achievements and Performance

During the period of this report the Society held 8 meetings with invited guest speakers and 2 visits to places of interest, a site visit to the Community archaeology dig and a walking tour. These events covered a wide range of local history interests and were open to members and non-members. Further details of the events arranged by the Society are given in Appendix B.

2024 marked the 50th anniversary of the forming of the Society and as part of the anniversary the Society ran a number of special events.

- The **Carrickfergus Heritage Hub** ran from 11 May to 1 June in the Mid and East Antrim Council's Pop-Up shop at 2 Joymount. Approximately 800 people visited the Heritage Hub during the period to browse the old photos, hear one of the daily talks, see some home movie footage of Carrick in the 1960s or to collect a treasure hunt form. The daily talks covered a wide range of topics including the history of the Town Hall site, Irelands first settlers, Old Town records, Carrickfergus in World War II, women transported to Van Diemen's Land from Carrickfergus gaol in the 1840s, Richard Kane a forgotten son of Carrickfergus and a book launch.

- The Carrickfergus Heritage Hub also supported another of the anniversary special events – a **community archaeological dig** in Shaftesbury Park by the Community Archaeology Programme in which the Society and the Carrickfergus Museum were stakeholders. The dig took place from 21-31 May 2024 and a large number of adult volunteers and school children had the opportunity to get down on their hands and knees, get their hands dirty and join in the dig. The dig was part of a three-year archaeological heritage programme, organised by the Community Archaeological Programme Northern Ireland (CAPNI) based at Queen's University Belfast, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, thanks to National Lottery players.
- On 7 September the Society, in partnership with Carrickfergus Museum, ran an anniversary **Conference - Carrickfergus Revisited: Exploring the development of the medieval town, before and after the arrival of the Anglo-Normans**. Approximately 70 people attended the conference which explored the archaeology and history of the settlements on the north-eastern shores of Belfast lough and the development of the medieval town, before and after the arrival of the Anglo-Normans. It showcased new research as well as highlighting the extensive knowledge that has been gathered to date from various excavations of our walled town.
- An **Anniversary Journal** was produced following the Conference and launched on 4 December. The conference and journal was funded by The Irish Walled Town Network and Carrickfergus Literary and Scientific Society (Union Hall) Trust Fund.

In total 1226 people attended Society events. As at 31 December 2024 the Society's Facebook page – Heritage Carrickfergus had approximately 2,900 members.

The Society produces a newsletter on regular basis which provides an update on the Society's activities and is circulated to all C&DHS email contacts, made available at each meeting and to local libraries and posted on the Society's Facebook page.

The Society re-commenced the project to map the grave markers in Kilroot cemetery. A team of 12 volunteers were on site on four occasions measuring, recording and photographing the grave markers and work has been completed on all 116 markers on the site. At the end of the project we hope to provide an online publication with information on each markers including recording the current state of the memorial.

In November 2023 the Society, in partnership with Carrickfergus Museum, commenced a research project looking at 'Carrickfergus before the Castle' which continued throughout 2024 attended by both Society members and non-members.

Accounts

The Society charges a membership fee of £10 per annum and a small fee for attendance at meetings - during the period of this report the charge was £2 per meeting for members and £3 for non-members.

During 2024 the Society experienced a positive cash flow of £1,045 and a net income of £1,001.

The Society's accounts have been audited by the Society's Honorary Auditor Cyril H Beattie and a copy is attached at Appendix C.

Charities Commission for Northern Ireland Guidance

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for year the Trustees gave careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities organised have helped to achieve the Society's purpose and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

Signed H. Clarke.
Helen Clarke
Honorary Secretary

Date 7.3.2025

Carrickfergus and District Historical Society – Constitution

Charity Commission Registration Number NIC100315

Constitution agreed at Annual General Meeting held at Carrickfergus Library on Wednesday 27 January 2016

1. The name of this Society shall be “The Carrickfergus and District Historical Society” (hereinafter: The Society).
2. The object of The Society is to promote a knowledge and understanding of the past by means of education, recording and dissemination of information, especially in and about Carrickfergus.
3. Membership is open to those who are sympathetic to the object of The Society. Each member shall pay an annual subscription, the amount of which shall be determined by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.
4. An Annual General Meeting shall be held by the end of March each year. The date shall be circulated amongst members at least four months in advance. The purpose of the meeting shall be to receive reports from the officers of The Society and to elect a chairman, vice-chairman, honorary secretary, honorary treasurer, five other committee members and an honorary auditor. At the Annual General Meeting other business will be considered relevant to the running of the Society. At an Annual General Meeting or any General Business Meeting a quorum shall be fifteen members including at least two officers.
5. Any motions for consideration at the Annual General Meeting should be proposed 8 weeks before the date of the Annual General Meeting. The motion must be submitted in writing, signed by three members and lodged with the Honorary Secretary.
6. Each member is entitled to one vote at Annual or any General Meetings of the Society, but the chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to an ordinary vote.
7. The Committee may use its discretion to co-opt additional members to the Committee, provided that the co-optees do not exceed two. A co-optee shall have the same rights and responsibilities as other members of committee.
8. The committee is responsible for the necessary tasks of running The Society, namely arranging meetings, lectures, publications, displays, field outings and other activities of a like kind when appropriate.
9. The committee may propose a president to an Annual General Meeting. The president may sit in committee *ex officio*. The president shall not be required to retire annually. The president shall relinquish the post if required to do so by two thirds of the committee or a majority of the membership present at a General Meeting.
10. The quorum for a committee meeting shall be three, two of whom must be elected officers.

11. An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held at the written request of fifteen members of The Society handed to Honorary Secretary with one month's notice to be given to members.
12. If at least two thirds of the committee or one third of the membership ask for The Society to be discontinued an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) will be held. The time and place of the EGM and the motion for discussion shall be circulated to all members allowing at least one month's notice.
13. If The Society should dissolve itself or cease to function, then any funds and property vested in it shall be transferred to another charity or charities connected with the preservation of the history of the Carrickfergus area.
14. The constitution may not be altered except by majority vote at a General Meeting of The Society. A proposed amendment must be submitted in writing to the honorary secretary by at least three members.

CARRICKFERGUS AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY - PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT.

Continuation of Constitution.....

The purpose of Carrickfergus and District Historical Society is to promote a knowledge and understanding of the past by means of education, recording and dissemination of information, especially of the history of the Carrickfergus area.

These benefits can be demonstrated by feedback and words of thanks from the beneficiaries for the information received.

The purpose of our Charity will not lead to any harm.

The Charity's beneficiaries are the general public in the Carrickfergus area and those who originated from the area but have since moved away and are keen to learn about the lives of their ancestry.

There are no private benefits flowing from the purpose.

Carrickfergus and District Historical Society

Talks and Outings 2024

31 January 2024	AGM and talk Bound by Threads by Helen Johnston
28 February 2024	Talk on Mabel Glass by Steve Diamond
27 March 2024	General question and answer session chaired by Helen Rankin
27 April 2024	Talk 'Ancient Connections' by Dr Cormac McSparron
29 May 2024	Visit to Community Dig in Shaftesbury Park with Ruairi O Baoill
29 June 2024	Visit and walking tour Carnlough with Mary Watson
31 July 2024	Visit to Merville House
28 August 2024	Forgotten Women of Second World War walking tour – Adrian Hack
25 September 2024	Talk 'Bad Bridget' by Dr Elaine Farrell and L McCormick
30 October 2024	Talk on Kilroot Graveyard Project by Dr Laura Patrick
27 November 2024	50 th anniversary meeting – Foundation Day talk by Adrian Hack
4 December 2024	Murder mystery evening by Play Dead

50th Anniversary Events

11 – 21 May 2024	Carrickfergus Heritage Hub pop up shop
21 – 31 May 2024	Community Dig Shaftesbury Park
7 September 2024	Anniversary conference – Carrickfergus Revisited

Carrickfergus and District Historical Society Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 2024



CDHS Audited Accounts 2024 (1).pdf CDHS Accounts 2024 Auditor report.pdf

carrickfergus and district historical society

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100315

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of the Carrickfergus and District Historical Society (Reg. No. NIC100315)

I report on the accounts of the Carrickfergus & District Historical Society for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on page 1

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- . examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- . follow the procedures as 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 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 Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: Cyril H Beattie (Bsc Econ) 
Beattie Accountancy Services

Address 25 Upper Road Greenisland
Carrickfergus BT38 8RH

Date: 28th January 2025

carrickfergus and district historical society

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100315

Accounts

Receipts and Payments Account
Year ended 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds			Unrestricted Funds	
	2023	2022		2023	2022
	£	£		£	£
Opening Balances			PAYMENTS		
Cash at Ulster Bank	1267	1667	Speakers	335	250
Petty Cash	157	25	Outings	870	530
	<u>1424</u>	<u>1692</u>	Insurance	25	15
RECEIPTS			Printing and stationery	34	7
Membership fees	390	420	Printing books	0	643
Entrance fees	782	447	Gifts	0	100
Book sales	178	801	Mayor's Christmas Charity	0	100
Outings	783	460	Action Cancer	0	50
Abbey Historical Society	0	250	St Nicholas Church	100	0
Castle entry fes	0	190	FULS membership	50	50
Insurance refund	0	0	Catering	62	65
Mayor's charity collection	0	20	Quiz prize	5	0
Ballot	91	0	Bank charges	22	22
C'fergus Gasworks Pres. Soc.	1567	0			
	<u>3791</u>	<u>2588</u>		<u>1503</u>	<u>1832</u>
Transfer from Reserve Account		643	Lodged to Reserve Account	<u>408</u>	<u>1667</u>
Transfer from Progressive B.S.	2505		Closing Balances		
			Cash at Ulster Bank	5717	1267
			Petty Cash	92	157
				<u>5809</u>	<u>1424</u>
	<u>7720</u>	<u>4923</u>		<u>7720</u>	<u>4923</u>
Summary			A Statement of Assets and Liabilities		
Opening cash at bank and in hand	1424	1692	Assets		
Tfr to Res Acc	-408	-1667	Bank and Cash Balances	Unrestricted Funds	
Tfr From Prog BS/ Res Acc	2505	643		31.12.23	31.12.22
NET INCOME FOR YEAR	2288	756	Ulster Bank Current Acc.	5717	1267
Closing cash at bank and in hand	<u>5809</u>	<u>1424</u>	Savings Accounts	3075	5041
			Petty Cash	92	157
				<u>8884</u>	<u>6465</u>
			Liabilities		

There are no liabilities at the end of the year (or previous year)

Carrickfergus Historical Society

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	
	2023	2022
	£	£
Opening balances 01.01.23		
Ulster Bank Business Reserve	2632	1603
Progressive Bldg. Soc.	2409	2391
Transfer from Current Account		1000
RECEIPTS		
Cash lodged	408	667
Bank Interest	35	5
Building Soc Interest	96	18
	<u>5580</u>	<u>5684</u>

	Unrestricted Funds	
	2023	2022
	£	£
Transfer to Current Account	2505	643
Closing balances 31.12.23		
Ulster Bank Business Reserve	3075	2632
Progressive Bldg. Soc.	0	2409
	<u>5580</u>	<u>5684</u>

Bank and Cash Balances

	Unrestricted Funds	
	31.12.23	31.12.22
Ulster Bank Current Acc.	5717	1267
Savings Accounts	3075	5041
Petty Cash	92	157
	<u>8884</u>	<u>6465</u>

£

Movement (+/-)

4450
-1966
-65
<u>2419</u>

Signed and approved on behalf of
Carrickfergus Historical Society

Helen Rankin Chairperson

Date

31/1/2024

G. Smith 31/1/24

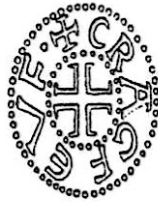
During 2023 the Society experienced a positive cash flow of £2419

carrickfergus and district historical society

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100315

Annual report

Carrickfergus & District Historical Society



In partnership with Carrickfergus Museum

Charity Commission Registration Number NIC100315

Annual Report for the Year Ending 31 December 2023



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Carrickfergus and District Historical Society Annual Report for the Year Ending 31 December 2023

The Trustees of the Society are pleased to submit their report and accounts for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

Society Purpose and Governance

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The Society's beneficiaries are the general public in the Carrickfergus area and those who originated from the area but have since moved away and are keen to learn about the lives of their ancestry.

There are no private benefits flowing from the purpose.

The Society is affiliated to the Federation for Ulster Local Studies, which is an umbrella organisation for the historical societies within the nine Ulster counties and contributes to their activities. In addition, the meetings programme is delivered in partnership with the Carrickfergus Museum which is part of the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council.

The Society is based in Carrickfergus and holds its regular monthly meetings in Carrickfergus Town Hall and is managed by a team of Trustees – please see below:

Role	Name
Chairperson & Treasurer	Helen Rankin
Vice Chairman	George Elliott
Honorary Secretary	Helen Clarke
Committee Members	Shirin Murphy, Laura Patrick, Joy Guest, Rodney McMaster, Adrian Hack

The Society is governed by a constitution which was agreed at the Annual General Meeting held on 27 January 2016 – please see Appendix A. During the period of this report the Committee met on Zoom on 10 occasions to manage expenditure, review past events and plan future activities of the

Society. The Committee notes with sadness the standing down of their longstanding fellow Committee member John Hulme.

During the period of this report the Society had a membership of 50.

The Society has Annual Public Liability Insurance Cover for 50 people through our membership of the Federation for Ulster Local Studies.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The Society takes its responsibilities under GDPR seriously and continues to use a membership form which includes a reference to GDPR and seeks email addresses to ensure the Society meet the requirement that information is accurate and up to date. A notice advising how the Society uses information is displayed at the desk at each meeting.

Achievements and Performance

During the period of this report the Society held 8 meetings with invited guest speakers and 3 visits to places of interest. These events covered a wide range of local history interests and were open to members and non-members. In addition members had the opportunity to visit behind the scenes of the Belfast Central Library. Further details of the events arranged by the Society are given in Appendix B.

In total 448 people attended Society events. As at 31 December 2023 the Society's Facebook page – Heritage Carrickfergus had approximately 2,300 members.

The Society produces a programme on regular basis which provides an update on the Society's activities and is circulated to all C&DHS email contacts, made available at each meeting and to local libraries and posted on the Society's Facebook page.

The Society commenced a project in August to map the grave markers in Kilroot cemetery. A team of 12 volunteers have been on site on three occasions measuring, recording and photographing the grave markers and work has been completed on over 50% of the 116 markers on the site. Work has been paused and will recommence in 2024. At the end of the project we hope to provide an online publication with information on each markers including recording the current state of the memorial.

In November the Society, in partnership with Carrickfergus Museum, commenced a project looking at 'Carrickfergus before the Castle'. This project is ongoing and is attended by both Society members and non members.

Accounts

The Society charges a membership fee of £10 per annum and a small fee for attendance at meetings - during the period of this report the charge was £2 per meeting for members and £3 for non-members.

During 2023 the Society experienced a positive cash flow of £2,419 and a net income of £2,288.

The Society's accounts have been audited by the Society's Honorary Auditor Cyril H Beattie and a copy is attached at Appendix C.

Charities Commission for Northern Ireland Guidance

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for year the Trustees gave careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities organised have helped to achieve the Society's purpose and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

Signed H. Clarke.
Helen Clarke
Honorary Secretary

Date 28.6.24

Carrickfergus and District Historical Society – Constitution
Charity Commission Registration Number NIC100315

Constitution agreed at Annual General Meeting held at Carrickfergus Library on Wednesday 27 January 2016

1. The name of this Society shall be “The Carrickfergus and District Historical Society” (hereinafter: The Society).
2. The object of The Society is to promote a knowledge and understanding of the past by means of education, recording and dissemination of information, especially in and about Carrickfergus.
3. Membership is open to those who are sympathetic to the object of The Society. Each member shall pay an annual subscription, the amount of which shall be determined by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.
4. An Annual General Meeting shall be held by the end of March each year. The date shall be circulated amongst members at least four months in advance. The purpose of the meeting shall be to receive reports from the officers of The Society and to elect a chairman, vice-chairman, honorary secretary, honorary treasurer, five other committee members and an honorary auditor. At the Annual General Meeting other business will be considered relevant to the running of the Society. At an Annual General Meeting or any General Business Meeting a quorum shall be fifteen members including at least two officers.
5. Any motions for consideration at the Annual General Meeting should be proposed 8 weeks before the date of the Annual General Meeting. The motion must be submitted in writing, signed by three members and lodged with the Honorary Secretary.
6. Each member is entitled to one vote at Annual or any General Meetings of the Society, but the chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to an ordinary vote.
7. The Committee may use its discretion to co-opt additional members to the Committee, provided that the co-optees do not exceed two. A co-optee shall have the same rights and responsibilities as other members of committee.
8. The committee is responsible for the necessary tasks of running The Society, namely arranging meetings, lectures, publications, displays, field outings and other activities of a like kind when appropriate.
9. The committee may propose a president to an Annual General Meeting. The president may sit in committee *ex officio*. The president shall not be required to retire annually. The president shall relinquish the post if required to do so by two thirds of the committee or a majority of the membership present at a General Meeting.
10. The quorum for a committee meeting shall be three, two of whom must be elected officers.

11. An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held at the written request of fifteen members of The Society handed to Honorary Secretary with one month's notice to be given to members.
12. If at least two thirds of the committee or one third of the membership ask for The Society to be discontinued an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) will be held. The time and place of the EGM and the motion for discussion shall be circulated to all members allowing at least one month's notice.
13. If The Society should dissolve itself or cease to function, then any funds and property vested in it shall be transferred to another charity or charities connected with the preservation of the history of the Carrickfergus area.
14. The constitution may not be altered except by majority vote at a General Meeting of The Society. A proposed amendment must be submitted in writing to the honorary secretary by at least three members.

CARRICKFERGUS AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY - PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT.

Continuation of Constitution.....

The purpose of Carrickfergus and District Historical Society is to promote a knowledge and understanding of the past by means of education, recording and dissemination of information, especially of the history of the Carrickfergus area.

These benefits can be demonstrated by feedback and words of thanks from the beneficiaries for the information received.

The purpose of our Charity will not lead to any harm.

The Charity's beneficiaries are the general public in the Carrickfergus area and those who originated from the area but have since moved away and are keen to learn about the lives of their ancestry.

There are no private benefits flowing from the purpose.

Carrickfergus and District Historical Society

Talks and Outings 2023

25 January 2023	AGM and talk on the loss of the MV Princess Victoria in January 1953 by Stephen Cameron
22 February 2023	Talk on the history of Carrick Rangers Football Club by Adrian Hack
29 March 2023	Talk on John de Courcy by Steve Flanders
26 April 2023	Visit to No10 High Street a Townscape Heritage Initiative project to see some of the original elements of the building
31 May 2023	Visit to St Nicholas Church of Ireland Carrickfergus – Ron Bishop
10 June 2023	Visit to Armagh City and Navan Fort
31 July 2023	Walking treasure hunt around Carrickfergus Town Centre
27 September 2023	Talk on the murder of Patricia Curran by Kieran Fagan
25 October 2023	Talk on superstitions and beliefs by Dr David Hume
29 November 2023	Talk on funerals in the 1930s by Chris Scott
6 December 2023	Christmas Party – beetle drive and presentation from NI Film Archive
15 December 2023	Members only behind the scenes visit to Belfast Central Library

Carrickfergus and District Historical Society Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 2023



CDHS Accounts
2023.pdf

carrickfergus and district historical society

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100315

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of the Carrickfergus and District Historical Society (Reg. No. NIC100315)

I report on the accounts of the Carrickfergus & District Historical Society for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on page 1

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- . examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- . follow the procedures as 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 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 Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: Cyril H Beattie (Bsc Econ) 
Beattie Accountancy Services

Address 25 Upper Road Greenisland
Carrickfergus BT38 8RH

Date: 30th January 2024