

Accolade

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100345

Details

Known as All Communities Art Communication

Status Received

Registered 2014-08-14

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

Contact

Address 37 Well Road
Warrenpoint
Newry
BT34 3rs
BT34 3RS

Phone 07816919558

Email committee.accolade.acac@gmail.com

Website www.accoladecommunityart.com

Activities

Purposes: The Association is established for the promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit, the advancement, improvement, production and promotion of arts and culture, the promotion and preservation of physical and mental health, the advancement of education and the promotion of the benefit of the inhabitants (hereinafter called the “beneficiaries”) of the Newry and Mourne area of Northern Ireland and the Dundalk area of the Republic of Ireland, in particular but not exclusively (“hereinafter called the “area of benefit”) without distinction of age, gender, sexual orientation, disability/ability, race, nationality, ethnic origin, political, religious or other opinion by associating the statutory and local authorities, voluntary organisations and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and promote the arts with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants and in particular: (a) to advance the education of the general public on issues affecting ethnic minority communities in the area of benefit in particular but not exclusively through the mediums of visual arts and cross-cultural community based arts activities; (b) to promote community harmony and develop the art of choral singing for the benefit of the public by the provision of opportunities to socialize with others from different cultures and communities through participation in choral singing and the arts and to foster among the choir members and the public a knowledge of and appreciation for choral music; (c) to promote equality and diversity and to eliminate discrimination in relation to ethnic minority communities in the area of benefit by such charitable means as the Committee may from time to time decide and in particular but not exclusively by the promotion of cross-cultural community based arts activities in an effort to advance education and raise awareness about different national and racial groups in order to promote good community relations; (d) to foster, promote and advance the education of the public in art in all its aspects, and to encourage appreciation for and participation in the arts and cross-cultural community based arts activities in particular but not exclusively by members of ethnic minorities in the area of benefit by the provision of information and training, classes, workshops, arts facilities and equipment, support and instruction and the organisation of exhibitions of works, concerts, performances and events as the Committee shall from time to time decide; (e) to provide relief for persons suffering from mental or physical illness or living with disabilities, emotional or behavioral problems or in need of such rehabilitation as a result of such illness by the provision of music therapy; (f) to advance any other exclusively charitable purpose as the Committee may from time to time, decide in accordance with the law of charity.

What the charity does: The advancement of education, The advancement of citizenship or community development, The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science, The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity, The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

How the charity works: Arts, Community development, Cultural, Education/training

Who the charity helps: General public, Men, Older people, Voluntary and community sector, Women

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£8,397	£12,612	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Attracta Clarke		
Carmel Mcparland		
Frank Mcgivern		
Mr Anthony Mcshane		
Mr David Allen		
Mrs Frida Patricia Kennedy		
Mrs Maggie Rose Murray		
Mrs Ruth Gilmour		
Phelim Convery		

Accolade

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100345

Accounts

Accolade (Charity Number NIC100345)
Receipts and Payments
Year Ended 31st March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	<u>Totals</u>
Receipts			
Members donations	5,277		5,277
Concert and performances	2,116		2,116
Lottery Fund Grant		504	504
Warrenppint Harbour Authority		<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
Total receipts	<u>7,393</u>	<u>1,004</u>	<u>8,397</u>
Payments			
Facilitors	5,976	504	6,480
Rents (Rehearsal facilities)	3,502		3,502
Insurances and subscriptions	663		663
Equipment Purchased	550	400	950
Concert Expenses	453		453
Website	191		191
Administration costs	<u>373</u>		<u>373</u>
Total payments	<u>11,708</u>	<u>904</u>	<u>12,612</u>
Net receipts/(payments)	-4,315	100	-4,215
Fund balances brought forward	<u>13,283</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>13,683</u>
Fund balances carried forward	<u>8,968</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>9,468</u>

Statement of Assets as at 31st
March 2025
Assets and Liabilities

2025 2024

Bank and cash balance 9,468
13,683

Other Assets 500* 3,000

(Unrestricted) 9,968 16,683

Net liabilities (836)

(Unrestricted) (2,098)

Totals £7,870 £15,847

· The assets of the charity consist of a number of Ukeleles, a camera and some sound equipment. These do not have a significant value and have been notably written down in value.

Accolade

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100345

Accounts

Accolade (Charity Number NIC100345)
Receipts and Payments
Year Ended 31st March 2024

	Unrestricted <u>Funds</u>	Restricted <u>Funds</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Receipts			
Members subscriptions, concerts	<u>8,807</u>		8,807
Lottery Fund Grant		4,536	4,536
Warrenpoint Harbour Authority		<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>
Total receipts	<u>8,807</u>	<u>4,936</u>	<u>13,743</u>
Payments			
Facilitors	4,387	4,536	8,923
Rents (Rehearsal facilities)	3,072		3,072
Insurances and subscriptions	628		628
Gifts and gratuities	107		107
Administration costs	<u>963</u>		<u>963</u>
Total payments	<u>9,157</u>	<u>4,536</u>	<u>13,693</u>
Net receipts/(payments)	-350	400	50
Fund balances brought forward	<u>13,633</u>	0	<u>13,633</u>
Fund balances carried forward	<u>13,283</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>13,683</u>

Accolade

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100345

Annual report



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For Year Ended 31 March 2024

ACCOLADE ALL COMMUNITIES ART COMMUNICATION

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER NI100345

REGISTERED ADDRESS: 55 ST ANNES PARK, MAYOBRIDGE, NEWRY BT34 2JL

EMAIL: committee.accolade.acac@gmail.com

Trustees' Annual Report for Year Ended 31 March 2024

1. Period Covered by Trustees' Annual Report

This is the Trustees' Annual Report for Accolade All Communities Art Communication (hereinafter referred to as Accolade) for Year Ended 31 March 2024 covering the financial period from 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

2. Governance, Administration and Structure

Accolade is governed by its constitution dated 21 April 2013, reviewed and updated in 2019, as well as by its supporting policies, namely, Safeguarding Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, Volunteer Policy, and Financial Policy (introduced post March 2017). Copies of both the constitution and supporting policies are available on request in writing to the Charity Secretary at the registered address or alternatively by email to committee.accolade.acac@gmail.com. After consultation with the Charities Commission, the constitution was further amended at the last Annual General Meeting held on 23rd October 2023 to allow a committee member to serve more than 6 years, in the interest of continuity. Accolade is managed and administered by its Trustees who meet on a regular basis at committee meetings. Typically, committee meetings take place once a month but may be more frequent as and when required.

The Trustees are set out below. Where applicable, resignations are listed, and co-opted members noted.

Trustees 2022/2023

Rosaleen Moore (Re-elected at AGM October 2023) **Chairperson**

Colin Barr Re-elected at AGM October 2022 – **Vice Chair and IT and Finance support**. Resigned from the committee in September 2023

Gerry Hollywood elected at AGM in October 2022 stood down from committee in October 2023

Karen Hollywood elected at AGM in October 2022

Anthony McShane re elected at AGM in October 2022

Phelim Convery re elected in October 2022 **Treasurer**

Dora South elected at AGM 2022 **Vice secretary**

Josephine Campbell elected at AGM 2022, **secretary**

Trustees 2023/24

Rosaleen Moore re elected at AGM October 2023 **chairperson** resigned from committee on 9th February 2024

Attracta Clarke, elected at AGM 2023 **vice chairperson**, subsequently took over as **chairperson** in March 2024 following the resignation of the chairperson.

Phelim Convery – Re-elected at AGM October 2023 - **Treasurer**

Frank McGivern, elected at AGM 2023 - **assistant treasurer**

Dora South – re-elected at AGM. - **assistant secretary**

Josephine Campbell – re-elected at AGM 2023 - **Secretary**

Kathleen McCaul elected at AGM 2023 resigned in April 2024 for personal reasons

Carmel McParland elected at AGM 2023

Joan Mulholland elected at AGM 2023

3. Geographical Scope, Charitable Purpose, and Accolade Groups

Accolade is registered as a charity in Northern Ireland, based in Banbridge, Newry and the surrounding South Down area. It is a community-based organisation which was formed to deliver arts-based programmes within an artistic, social, and educational context. In particular, its purposes, through its various artistic mediums include, the promotion of equality and diversity, the advancement and improvement of arts and culture, and education the promotion and preservation of physical and mental health.

The three current core Accolade groups, the community choir, the ukulele group and the community chamber orchestra, include people from different backgrounds, different communities, different ages, different religious beliefs, different political persuasions. Members attending the groups participate in the activities (music and vocal lessons, rehearsals, workshops, events, concerts) with the main purpose of connecting people through music.

Through singing and playing music together, they aim to find ways to open doors for understanding, acceptance, collaboration, friendship and support for the diversity in Northern Ireland, especially in the Newry and Mourne area. Banbridge Community Chamber orchestra reaches out to people with musical and instrumental interests, to provide them with a possibility to experience the power of music as a bridge between the cultures, communities and people. They also aim to benefit the participants and local community in promoting good social and mental wellbeing, providing stimulation, preventing loneliness and isolation.

The management Committee's focus for the year had been to consolidate membership and increase diversity; to review the current activities of Accolade and determine medium and long term goals; to identify associated costs and appropriate funding streams.

4. Membership

Enrollment of members for the year was 66, a modest increase on last year, following efforts to recruit using posters, banners and social media. Despite efforts to inform New Nationals of the activities of Accolade, there was not yet an uptake from that section of the community. While membership does reflect both of the main sections of the population in Northern Ireland, it is weighted slightly in one direction, reflecting the localities in which it operates and their dominant communities, so achieving better diversity remains a challenge.

5. Funding.

The £10,000 received from the Arts Council for 2022/23 for Reconnecting People Through Music, had been completely used by March 31st 2023. Accolade received £5,000 from the Arts Council Awards for All in April 2023 to continue this project. This was less than was applied for and hoped for, however, restricted funds accrued from weekly donations from members, and from concerts and performances were used to supplement costs for the year and to cover facilitators fees, venue hire, insurance costs, monitoring and evaluation.

6. Activities and Performances

Concerts

On 19th June, 2023 the orchestra gave a very successful concert with two guest singers in Bannside Presbyterian Church Hall. This was well attended and tickets for the concert and raffle made a significant contribution to funds. It also raised the profile of the orchestra in the area and provided good publicity.

The orchestra also gave a candlelight concert in the Bannside Presbyterian Church, for Christmas, with contributions from guest singers from other surrounding churches. This was a successful interdenominational event and was enjoyed and participated in by a range of age groups. Donations for tickets helped towards the funds.

The choir, the ukulele group and the orchestra jointly gave a concert in Newry in Riverside Reformed Presbyterian Church. Again this was very successful with another substantial contribution to funds from the sale of tickets, and further publicity of our activities. Each of these performances gave purpose and a sense of achievement to members, many of whom reported benefits including a sense of wellbeing, camaraderie, improved mental wellbeing, improved confidence, intellectual stimulation, and joy and pleasure from being part of the groups and participating in performances together.

Other performances throughout the year include the following;

- The choir and Ukulele group collaborated with a gardening group event called Soil and Soul, in Warrenpoint Park, in an event supported by Warrenpoint Harbour.
- The choir sang at a carol service in Loughbrickland Presbyterian Church
- Choir and Ukulele groups played and sang in Buttercrane Shopping Centre, Newry, for Christmas shoppers.
- The choir sang for diners in Loft56 - a restaurant in Rathfriland.
- The orchestra entered Warrenpoint Feis playing two contrasting pieces. They came first with very satisfying feedback from the adjudicator.
- The Ukulele Group played and sang at Ardmaine Nursing Home, and Rockfield Nursing Home, being joined on St Patrick's day by some to the choir.
- The orchestra enjoyed a successful 5 day Summer workshop. Rental of premises for it was paid by Accolade and tutor was paid by the members who

attended. The workshop served to improve the musician's sight reading abilities and extend their repertoire.

7. Progress and Challenges.

The Choir

The acquisition of a new keyboard for the use of the choir was beneficial and appreciated. The concerts and events listed above brought a sense of achievement and satisfaction, as well as raising some funds for Accolade. Members' feedback reflected a good level of satisfaction with the choir, with members enjoying the social aspect of making new friends and giving and receiving support from others. They acknowledged the many health benefits from singing, including keeping the brain stimulated. They reported that singing together in three part harmony builds up confidence, keeps one alert and builds up concentration skills. Choir members enjoyed learning a variety of new songs, sometimes performing along with the orchestra and ukulele group. They have great appreciation for the tutor Orla, whom they find to be pleasant, caring, considerate and hard working. Audience feedback included commenting on how much people enjoyed the familiar songs and the opportunity to join in and sing along. The music chosen was considered very relatable and easy for the average singer, without the need to be able to read music. The challenge for the choir, like all of the groups, include increasing membership and improving diversity.

The Ukulele Group

The Management Committee has been concerned about the decreasing membership of the ukulele group over the last 12 months. It was recognised that there is a need for open and honest communication going forward, where all viewpoints are respected and common goals are agreed.

Feedback from members included the enjoyment of the social aspect of meeting friends. Singing and playing in a group builds confidence. All members should be encouraged to practise at home to improve the progress of the group. There is a need to ensure that the key chosen is one in which all ukulele members feel comfortable to sing along. Again the challenge is to increase membership substantially for the ukulele group, and increase diversity.

The Orchestra

While there has been an increase in numbers in the orchestra, it has been slow, but attendance and enthusiasm has been consistently good throughout the year. Setting goals for concerts and recordings has proved very worthwhile and considerable work went into events. The successful concerts mentioned above brought in a good contribution to Accolade's funds, and increased publicity. First place achieved in a Feis resulted in a very positive press write up for the orchestra and overall Accolade group. The summer workshop served to develop the skills of the individual players and enhance the overall skill and sound of the orchestra. Collaborative working between the three Accolade groups still needs to be increased. Joint social events and the re-establishment of a regular newsletter may assist in improving communication between the groups.

Members expressed very positive sentiments about the benefits of being members of a chamber orchestra and reported feeling uplifted, intellectually stimulated, having a great sense of achievement and wellbeing from the friendship and challenge of performing together. They were very positive about the leadership they received from Kim and the support and patience shown by her, and the range of music covered. It was appreciated that the group has a wide range of musical ability and covers a wide range of ages, from 30 upwards. This is an extra challenge which Kim and the members manage well, supporting everyone and meeting their varying needs. The orchestra expressed a desire to work with the choir and ukulele groups more often. Getting new members is an ongoing challenge here too.

Some members wanted more easy access to payment online and to having application and evaluation forms available online. Payment of fees and donations can now be made by bank transfer, so this is a step in the right direction.

Financial Statement.

In summary, the financial position of Accolade at the end of the financial year was as follows;

Cash in bank and in hand 31st March 2024 £13,683.

This amount is divided between unrestricted funds, (i.e. those made up of voluntary

donations and membership fees, and not attributed to specific funded projects) and restricted funds £400

Full financial details are included in the attached accounts.

In preparing this Report the Trustees have had due regard to their statutory obligations under the Charities Act and have had due regard to the guidance prepared by the Northern Ireland Charity Commission on public benefit.

The Trustee Report and Annual Accounts were adopted by the

Management Committee on 11th Sept 2024.

Signed Attracta Clarke Attracta Clarke (Chairperson)

Dated: September 11th 2024,

Signed Josephine Campbell Josephine Campbell, Secretary

Dated: 11th September 2024

Accolade

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100345

Annual return



30th July 2024

To whom it may concern,

As the Independent examiner to the financial reports of Accolade registered charity number NI100345, I would like to reiterate my responsibility to the group.

The annual reports which I receive from the charity trustees of Accolade are in line with their constitution and the reporting procedures within.

I report on the accounts of Accolade for the year ended 31st March 2024, which are set out herein.

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.

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 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

SOUTHERN AGE WELL NETWORK
BALLYBOT HOUSE, 28 CORNMARKE T, NEWRY CO.DOWN BT35 8BG
OFFICE: 02830266024 MOBILE: 07885210488

Website: www.southernagewellnetwork.org Twitter: @AgeSouthern Facebook: www.facebook.com/age.well.5



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.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities Report - 2023/24

Assets retained for Accolade for its own use, comprise of music equipment with little value.

No depreciation has been provided on the music equipment as the current estimated value is less than that of their remaining useful life. Music equipment is recognised at cost and depreciate on a straight-line basis over a period of 5 years. Accolade therefore owns nothing of substantial value.

Name: **Kathy Gallagher**

Relevant professional qualification or body: **N/A**

Address: **Southern Age Well Network Ballybot House, 28 Cornmarket, Newry BT35 8BG**

Date: **30th July 2024**

Signed:

Kathy Gallagher

Development Officer

SOUTHERN AGE WELL NETWORK
BALLYBOT HOUSE, 28 CORNMARKEt, NEWRY CO.DOWN BT35 8BG
OFFICE: 02830266024 MOBILE: 07885210488

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Accolade

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100345

Accounts

Accolade Community Choir (Charity Number NIC10035)

Receipts and Payments

Year Ended 31st March 2023

	Unrestricted <u>Funds</u>	Restricted <u>Funds</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Receipts			
Members subscriptions, concerts	<u>6,853</u>		6,853
Arts Council grant		<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
Total receipts	<u>6,853</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>16,853</u>
Payments			
Facilitors	2128	5,306	7,434
Rents (Rehearsal facilities)		4,694	4,694
Musical instruments	735		735
Insurances and subscriptions	628		628
Charitable donation	415		415
Food for concert	315		315
Gifts and gratuities	500		500
Other miscellaneous	<u>344</u>		<u>344</u>
Total payments	<u>5,065</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>15,065</u>
Net receipts/(payments)	1,788	0	1,788
Fund balances brought forward	<u>11,845</u>	0	<u>11,845</u>
Fund balances carried forward	<u>13,633</u>		<u>13,633</u>

Accolade Community Choir
Registered Charity
Charity Number NIC10035

Statement of Assets as at 31st March 2023

<u>Funds Reconciliation</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>
Cash at Bank and in hand at 31 st March 2022	11,845	
Net receipts this year	<u>1,788</u>	
Cash at bank and in hand at 31st March 2023	<u>£13,633</u>	

<u>Assets and Liabilities</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Bank and cash balance	13,633	11,845
Other Assets (Unrestricted)	<u>4,000</u> 17,633	<u>7,000</u>
Liabilities (Unrestricted)	(443)	
Totals	<u>£17,190</u>	<u>£18,845</u>

Rosaleen Moore
Chair

Rosaleen Moore

Phelim Convery
Treasurer

Phelim Convery

Kathy Gallagher
Independent Examiner

Kathy Gallagher

Accolade

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100345

Annual report



TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

For Year Ended 31 March 2023

ACCOLADE ALL COMMUNITIES ART COMMUNICATION
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER N100345
REGISTERED ADDRESS: 23 OLD MANSE GREEN, BANBRIDGE BT22 4QY
EMAIL: committee@accolade.acad@gmail.com



Trustee's Annual Report for Year Ended 31 March 2023

1. Period Covered by Trustee's Annual Report

This is the Trustee's Annual Report of Accolade All Communities Art Communication (**Accolade**) for Year Ended 31 March 2023 and covers the financial period from 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 hereinafter referred to as Accolade in this Report.

2. Governance, Administration and Structure

Accolade is governed by its constitution dated 21 April 2013 as well as its supporting policies namely, Safeguarding Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, Volunteer Policy, and Financial Policy (introduced post March 2017).

Copies of both the constitution and supporting policies are available on request in writing to the Charity Secretary at the registered address or alternatively by email to committee.accolade.acac@gmail.com.

The constitution has been updated to reflect amendments adopted at the Annual General Meeting held on 15 October 2019 following advice sought from the Charity Commission. In May 2018, the organisation reviewed the branding first used in 2013, consulted the membership and has rebranded all correspondence and promotional literature using the logo seen on this front of this Trustees report.

Accolade is managed and administered by its Trustees who meet on a regular basis at committee meetings. Typically, committee meetings take place once a month but may be more frequent as and when required. The Committee has resumed in person meetings in accordance with any remaining COVID 19 restrictions. The Annual General Meeting took place on 4 October 2022. A Special General meeting took place on 6 September 2022.

The Trustees are set out below. Where applicable resignations are listed, otherwise the Trustees were appointed at the AGM(s) and continued for the period covered by this Report:

Janet McAlister – Stood down after 6 years on committee.

Rosaleen Moore (Re-elected Chair October 2022)

Colin Barr Re-elected as Committee member October 2022 – Vice Chair and IT and Finance support.

Mary Cunningham – Stood down from committee after 6+ years.

Sandra Parker – Stood down after 6 years on committee

1

Phelim Convery – Re-elected as October 2022

Dora South – Elected at AGM. Joint Charity Secretary

Josephine Campbell – Elected at AGM = Joint Charity Secretary

Karen Rafferty – Elected at AGM

Gerry Mulholland – Elected at AGM

Anthony McShane – Elected at AGM

3. Geographical Scope, Charitable Purpose, and Accolade Groups

Accolade is registered as a charity in Northern Ireland based in Banbridge, Newry and the surrounding South Down area.

Accolade is a community-based organisation which was formed to deliver arts-based programmes within an artistic, social, and educational context. In particular its charitable purposes through its various artistic mediums include, for the public benefit, the promotion of equality and diversity (to include work with ethnic minorities and cross sections of the community), the advancement and improvement of arts and culture, the advancement of education, the promotion and preservation of physical and mental health, and the promotion of community harmony.

Accolade's core groups include community choirs in Newry and until October, Banbridge, a community orchestra, and a ukulele group in Newry.

4. Special General Meeting – September 2022.

A special general meeting was agreed in advance of the Annual General Meeting to:

- share progress and challenges with members over the last 12 months following your request that groups continue.
- provide information about the role of a member of the management committee.
- discuss the possible change in structure
- seek input and support as to how the organisation could develop over the next 12 months and beyond.

At the meeting held on 6 September 2022 the critical need for members to come forward to fill vacancies on the Management Committee and develop sub-committees to support the organisation was emphasised.

The previous Management Committee's focus had been to deal with the immediate and short-term issues over the last year. A priority for the incoming committee was to determine the medium to long term future of Accolade and therefore the associated costs and appropriate funding streams to achieve this.

To do this it will be necessary to review the current activities of Accolade in terms of its purpose, aims and objectives in the constitution. **This should involve the input of all Accolade members.**

5. Membership

Current membership is 60. Steps were taken to increase the level of membership. These included displaying notices about the meetings for the three groups and the times and venues of those meetings, in libraries in Banbridge, Newry, Warrenpoint; in churches and supermarkets like Tesco in each of these places and in Portadown and Craigavon. This information was put on facebook and

our website too. A three metre long banner was made to recruit new members to the orchestra, and was displayed on the railings at Tesco in Banbridge, after attempts to display it in the town were foiled by the council removing it.

6. Funding.

Accolade continued to use unrestricted funds from April 2022 until the award of £10,000 following a successful application to the National Lottery Community Fund for a 12 month project entitled "Reconnecting People through Music. It was felt that with diminishing numbers and uncertainties about the future after covid, we would not be likely to get big lottery funding again and a funding application was made to the Arts Council. The amount granted was smaller than hoped for, £5000 was granted. This is supplemented by the weekly donations from members and the donations received from such events as the Concert in Loughbrickland church, in Buttercrane and in the nursing homes.

Funding covered facilitators, venue hire and monitoring and evaluation.

7. Activities and Performances

Social Event – June 2022 Thomas Davis Community Hub

The Thomas Davis Community Hub was the venue for another night of fun and music attended by Accolade members family and friends. There was a programme of music featuring each of the groups and two pieces which the choir, orchestra and ukulele group played together. Once again, an open mic session proved what a talented bunch of people we have with some unexpected performances including yodeling and poems. We all enjoyed supper provided by Courtneys and were pleased that there was an opportunity to record the evening for a **promotional video**. Press coverage was good.

Tom Moore was our compere/continuity artist for the evening. Suitably dressed and with some amusing and interesting musical facts he ensured the evening flowed so well. Sadly, no further social events were managed throughout the year.

Ukulele Group- Progress

The group was sorry to lose their leader in July 2022. This role had been undertaken by a member on a voluntary basis. An advertisement was placed for a new leader in August 2022 and a suitable appointment enabling the group to continue weekly sessions in September 2022. The group continues to meet on a weekly basis to develop new skills and learn new songs. After some difficulties in the group a decision was made to divide it into two groups to better suit the needs of players. Members of the group met to perform in nursing homes on several occasions where they were warmly welcomed and appreciated.

Community Choirs – Newry and Banbridge Progress

Unfortunately our Choir leader also advised that she would need to stand down due to personal commitments . The appointment of a new choir leader was particularly challenging and ultimately a new leader was appointed for the Newry Choir only. It was agreed that the choir would meet on a weekly basis with Banbridge choir members welcome to attend. This did not work out for Banbridge members as the Newry choir met on a night that clashed with some other activities that the Banbridge members attended. Sadly we lost the Banbridge Choir as a result. The Newry Choir performed in Loughbrickland Church on 14th December and again together with the Ukuleles in Buttercrane on 15th December. Both successful and well appreciated performances.

Community Orchestra - Progress

The Management Committee were pleased that the orchestra was able to continue under the same leadership as the previous year. The membership and associated costs of the orchestra had been a concern for the committee, however, the past year has seen an improvement in the situation. The overall sound of the orchestra was greatly impacted by the loss of our founder members and some of their advanced music students and other experienced musicians i.e facilitators. With perseverance and hard work 4 new members were recruited to the orchestra to great advantage. The orchestra, under its new leader, and with still low numbers, did not feel ready for a Christmas performance.

Bannside is still seen as a very accommodating venue for the weekly performances and any concerts. Collaboration with the other groups could be improved. Lack of communication has sometimes led to misunderstanding and possibly wrong conclusions. In view of this, and with Covid hopefully behind us, it was hoped that an occasional rehearsal night might be put aside for a social event where groups can mix and enhance relationships. This did not happen this year.

8. Challenges for 2022/23

The Challenges for 2022/23 included:

- An absence of long-term funding...this challenge still remains.
- Maintaining and increasing membership....some new members have joined the choir and orchestra and we continue to work on this.
- The induction and training of new members of the Management Committee.....Kate Hamilton delivered training to the committee in May.
- The absence of a dedicated administrative post.....this still remains a challenge.
 - The recruitment of new leaders for both the Ukulele group and Choirsmuch work went into finding new leaders for the choir and ukuleles and this has been achieved, with the groups and leaders adjusting to the inevitably different styles of working.
- Encouraging smaller groups of members to perform at local events especially in care homes.... This happened on several occasions, but with sometimes fewer members than hoped for.

9. Financial Position at Year Ended 31 March 2023

In summary, the financial position of Accolade at the end of the financial year was as follows:

Cash at bank was **£13,633**

This amount consists of unrestricted funds i.e., funds not attributed to specific funded projects (which is made up of voluntary donations and membership fees).

Unrestricted funds totalled **£13,633**

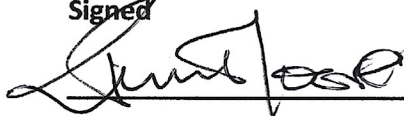
Restricted funds £0

In preparing this Report the Trustees have had due regard to their statutory obligations under the Charities Act and have had due regard to the guidance prepared by the Northern Ireland Charity Commission on public benefit.

The Trustee Report and Annual Accounts were adopted by the Management Committee

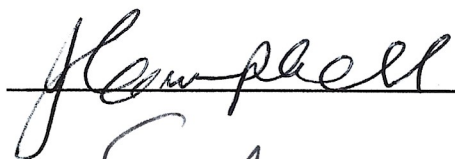
on 19.12.23

Signed

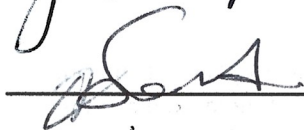


Rosaleen
Rosemary Moore (Chair)

Dated: _____



Josephine Campbell (Joint Charity Secretary)



Dora South (Joint Charity Secretary)

Dated: 16.12.23

Accolade

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100345

Annual return



24th November 2023

To whom it may concern,

As the Independent examiner to the financial reports of Accolade registered charity number NI100345, I would like to reiterate my responsibility to the group.

The annual reports which I receive from the charity trustees of Accolade are in line with their constitution and the reporting procedures within.

I report on the accounts of Accolade for the year ended 31st March 2023, which are set out herein.

Accolade has no fixed assets or liabilities.

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.

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

SOUTHERN AGE WELL NETWORK
BALLYBOT HOUSE, 28 CORNMARKE T, NEWRY CO.DOWN BT35 8BG
OFFICE: 02830266024 MOBILE: 07885210488

Website: www.southernagewellnetwork.org Twitter: @AgeSouthern Facebook: www.facebook.com/age.well.5



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.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities Report - 2022/23

Assets retained for Accolade for its own use, comprise of music equipment with little value.

No depreciation has been provided on the music equipment as the current estimated value is less than that of their remaining useful life. Music equipment is recognised at cost and depreciate on a straight-line basis over a period of 5 years. Accolade therefore owns nothing of substantial value.

Name: **Kathy Gallagher**

Relevant professional qualification or body: **N/A**

Address: **Southern Age Well Network Ballybot House, 28 Cornmarket, Newry BT35 8BG**

Date: **24th November 2023**

Signed:

Kathy Gallagher

Development Officer

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