

NEWTOWN ABBEY ARTS & CULTURAL NETWORK

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

On behalf of the board of Trustees

Mr R.. Sawyer

Trustee

Dated: 12 April 2024

NEWTOWNABBEY ARTS & CULTURAL NETWORK

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

NACN organises training in many different subjects since conception **we have** placed members of the community on the following training , Leadership & Management , Human Rights , Conflict Resolution ,Conflict Management Child Protection, Volunteer Now , HND in Community Development , ICT and Growing Tolerance also helps establish Groups when required by the community ie Autism Group. **NACN** provide the conduit to meet with statutory organisations regarding health and well being or any other issues brought to our attention. We also organise for youth to get involved in sport through taking part in local training and tournaments. Promoting cultural activities by using music and the teaching of music, **along** with drama as a way to engage intergenerational work.

NEWTOWNABBEY ARTS & CULTURAL NETWORK

TRUSTEES REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 and the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005.

Structure, governance and management

The Charity was established by a charitable trust deed on 17 October 2014.

The Trustees who served during the year were:

Miss R.. Twells
Mrs L.. McGurk
Miss K.. Crooks
Mrs K. Sawyer
Mr R.. Ewens
Miss B.. Thompson
Miss Z.. Longridge
Mr R.. Sawyer

The Trustees has assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Objectives and activities

Newtownabbey Arts & Cultural Network was established to improve the lives of the residents of Newtownabbey by providing a range of social, educational and environmental activities.

BENEFITS

The direct benefits which flow from these purposes include: • The empowerment of residents to improve their living conditions and environment • Improved health & wellbeing of all residents • Increased education and skills for participants • Access to further training and employment opportunities • Providing opportunities for residents to explore their culture and identity

EVIDENCE OF BENEFIT

We will evidence the increased benefits through evaluation of programmes delivered and feedback from participants and funding organisations.

POSSIBILITY OF HARM

As the delivery of our activities is led by the needs of the participants we cannot at this time identify any harm that would be caused to residents by improving their living conditions and assisting them in their own personal development.

BENEFICIARIES

The charities beneficiaries are the residents of Newtownabbey area.

PRIVATE BENEFIT

The only private benefit to trustees will be skills enhancement and experience gained through participation in activities. The group operates a programme of training which covers all aspects of good governance and this is necessary to ensure the group complies with relevant legislation and requirements from funding organisations.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

NEWTOWNABBEY ARTS & CULTURAL NETWORK

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Achievements & Performance

Performing Arts Academy has 70 members made up of seniors, juniors and tots. Attendances totalled as follows;

Seniors = 1004

Juniors = 989

Tots = 326

In July the Performing Arts Academy performed two shows of Grease at Theatre At The Mill, Newtownabbey. Along with 25 cast members, the young people were involved with stage management and prop design. Through this NACN have established a support network of parents who are helping to create costumes, props and scenery for the upcoming show and this is a valuable skill sharing exercise for the young members who have expressed an interest in the backstage roles.

Into the Woods rehearsals for the senior performers are well underway alongside the juniors rehearsals for Matilda. Prop design and stage building for the imminent sell out shows Ballyearl Courtyard Theatre, Newtownabbey are well progressed.

NACN in partnership with The Nerve Centre helped 12 young people obtain an OCN Event Management Level 3 qualification. After the 12 week long course the participants organised an event using their skills. The showcase was held at The Standard Social Club, Newtownabbey. These young people also organised a Rathcoole Community Festival for Halloween which attracted 2000+ people. Participants took part in various roles such as stewardship, photography and providing entertainment.

The fabrication group consisted of 8 secondary school aged children who attended each week to learn skills in 3d printing, laser cutting and fabrication skills. This group designed and manufactured and 20 Social Enterprise awards for that year.

Six young members prepared to perform at The Stendhall Music Festival. This included practice and rehearsals at our studio with vocal coach Glen Tweedy.

DJ Academy commenced with attendances of 120. A successful outcome was that one member performed at a well known nightclub in Belfast.

Podcast sessions were held in the new podcast suite with young people interviewing local politicians on topics which effected local residents.

NACN attended local care homes and performed a selection of songs for the residents.

The vocal academy performed at the Northern Ireland Social Enterprise Awards at The Europa Hotel in Belfast.

Facility Works

Work has been ongoing on both 24a and 30a The Diamond which consists of state-of-the-art recording studio, podcast suite, The Vault game development suite and DJ pod.