



Annual Report for the year 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

Dear Parents and Friends,

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic the Edgumbe Gateway Club (NIC100680) met in the Island Resource Centre, Cuba Walk, Belfast, on Wednesday evenings from 18:30-20:30. Although our main catchment area is East Belfast, we openly welcome members from further afield. The primary aim of the club is to provide adults with a wide range of learning difficulties, our main beneficiaries, with an opportunity to meet in a sociable environment and to participate in a range of leisure activities. Typical activities include games nights, pool/snooker, arts and crafts, bingo, baking and karaoke etc. All members are fully supervised during activities so that they can fully engage in a safe and welcoming environment. Our hope has always been that these activities provide the members with a sense of belonging and enjoyment. It is hoped that participation in club activities will increase their confidence in interacting in social settings and enable them to develop skills which will be transferrable to other aspects of their lives.

Unfortunately, however, 2024 was another difficult year for the club which has not yet reopened since the beginning of the pandemic. The main limiting factor is access to the Island Resource Centre, which is a Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) property. Due to new regulations introduced at the time of the pandemic the property remained closed in the evenings. This has obviously been very disappointing for our volunteers and members of the club. Unfortunately, BHSCT have been unable to provide any definitive information as to whether the centre is likely to re-open in the evenings and, if so, when this will happen. Consequentially, the Edgumbe Gateway Club will need to consider whether there is an appetite to start exploring alternative locations over the incoming year.

We started the year with a balance of £5,649.75. Our income was £80.07. Our expenditure was £679.12. We closed with a balance of £5,050.70.

As you will be aware, the club is run on a voluntary basis and relies on the generous support of others. Over the years we have been very grateful to BHSCT for the transport and venue they have provided. We are also very grateful to Mencap for their support. Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank the volunteers for their patience at this difficult time and we very much look forward to welcoming everyone back to the club as soon as we can.

All trustees have reviewed and had regard to the Commission's Public Benefit Requirement statutory guidance. There has been no private benefit to individuals as a result of the clubs on-going activities.

The Trustees

Signed on behalf of the trustees by

Dr Ben McNaughten 30th October 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dr Ben McNaughten', written over a horizontal line.