

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100872

Details

Status	Received
Registered	2014-11-18
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	Belfasttrad Blick Shared Studios 65 Great Northern Street Belfast Bt9 7fl BT9 7FL
Phone	07710896378
Email	info@belfasttrad.com
Website	www.belfasttrad.com

Activities

Purposes: The Society is a cross-community organisation established to advance education in the arts of traditional music and dance and to promote public appreciation of those arts in the greater Belfast and district area and its environs of Northern Ireland (hereinafter called the “area of benefit”) and in particular to: a) Promote and develop a knowledge and love of the traditional arts of traditional Irish music, song and dance amongst the public in the area of benefit; b) provide workshops, classes, lectures and training in all aspects of traditional Irish music skills and traditional Irish dancing to anyone in the area of benefit who wants to learn; c) organise performances of traditional music, song and dance and promote active participation in such arts; d) advance the understanding and public appreciation our shared tradition and the links between Irish traditional music and dance and other genres of traditional music and dance.

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

How the charity works: Arts, Cross-border/cross-community, Cultural, Education/training, Heritage/historical

Who the charity helps: Children (5-13 year olds), General public, Learning disabilities, Mental health, Older people, Physical disabilities, Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£99,378	£90,581	£0	2

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Miss Catherine O'neill		
Miss Sile Martin		
Mr Conor Diamond		
Mr Davy Maguire		
Mr Kevin Mccullagh		
Mr Naomhán O'connor		
Mrs Christine Dowling		
Ms Bernadette Corr		
Ms Deirdre Kearns		
Ms Marcella Marais		

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100872

Accounts

BELFASTTRAD (TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2025

Bradley Accounting and Taxation
Chartered Certified Accountants
Suite B, Formation Works Maryland
Maryland Industrial Estate
Ballygown Road
Belfast BT23 6BL

BELFASTTRAD (TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY)

CHARITY NUMBER: NIC 100872

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Deirdre Kearns	Chairperson
Christine Dowling	Vice Chairperson
Catherine O'Neill	Treasurer
Martin Dowling	Administrative support
Anne Marie Walsh	Safeguarding
Kevin McCullagh	Music-Co-Ordinator
Berni Corr	Dance Co-Ordinator
Pat O'Hagan	Dance Co-Ordinator
Conor Diamond	Data Visualisation Officer
Sile Martin	Deputy Safeguarding Officer/ Tutor Liaison
Olivia Adair	Social Media Officer
Naomhán O'Connor	Officer
Tom Clarke	Officer
Nuala McBride	Administrator/Secretary
Ciara Maguire	Temporary administrator (Appointed April 2025)

ACCOUNTANTS: Bradley Accounting & Taxation
Chartered Certified Accountants
Suite B, Formation Works Maryland
Maryland Industrial Estate
Ballygowan Road
Belfast, BT23 6BL

BUSINESS ADDRESS: Blick Shared Studios
65 Great Northern Street
Belfast, BT9 7FL

BANKERS: CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling,
Kent, ME19 4JQ

BELFASTTRAD (TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY)

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT	Page 4
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT	Page 8
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	Page 10
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	Page 11
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	Page 12

BELFASTTRAD (TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Executive Committee present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

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 and 'Accounting and Reporting Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice.'

Status and Administration

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society) is a charity under number NIC 100872 and is governed by an Executive Committee (also referred to as "Trustees"). The registered office of the charity is located at Blick Shared Studios, 65 Great Northern Street, Belfast, BT6 7FL.

Principle Activity

The principal activity of the society is to promote and develop a knowledge and love of the traditional arts of Irish music, song and dance and to advance its education in the greater Belfast and district area.

BelfastTrad was originally founded as Belfast and District Set Dancing and Traditional Music Society. Constituted in 1991, it was formed by a small cohort of like-minded dancers and musicians led by the set dancer Mary Fox. The goals and ethos of the Society from its inception have been to ensure that the shared traditions of Irish music and dance are available to anyone who wants to learn, with classes provided in a welcoming and neutral setting. Our students are aged 5-90, with the majority of our students being young adults and up.

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

Public Benefit

The benefit which flows from the provision of traditional arts of Irish music and dance include education, social inclusion and artistic expression to the people throughout Northern Ireland that participate in the activities. The provision of workshops, classes, lectures and training in all aspects of traditional music and dancing skills to anyone in the area of benefit who wants to learn also provides the benefits of education, greater understanding of our shared culture and traditions and the attainment of musical skills.

We welcome people of all abilities. Through the organisation of the performance of traditional music, song and dance and promoting active participation in such arts provides direct benefits of supporting the arts, social cohesion and better health.

Financial Review

A statement of financial activities for the year is set out on page 10.

The society is a non-profit making organisation. The results are set out in detail on pages 10 and 11. The Society recorded a surplus of £8,798 in the year (2024: £3,387).

Income generated from Society activities totalled £99,378 (2024: £89,338) of which £35,824 (2024: £37,448) was received from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. This continues to fund a part-time administrative post within the Society. The remaining income was generated from term fees for a range of instrument classes at various levels, individual and set dancing classes, workshops, oblique masterclasses and end of term concerts/ ceilis.

The balance of funds at the year-end was £68,307 (2024: £53,864) of which £62,961 was unrestricted.

The committee have discussed strategies for reducing any unnecessary expenditure and will apply these in the forthcoming programme of events.

Reserves

The Committee considers it prudent to hold monies in reserve in the event that unforeseen circumstances should lead to financial difficulties which might put the users' well-being and charitable work in jeopardy. The Committee recognises that in the developing public sector funding climate, competition for future grant aid will be even more intense. Free reserves are defined by the trustees as those funds freely available for use as the society so determines and thereby excludes any restricted or designated funds.

Focus for the Future

The society now looks forward to growing our programme and our audience over the next year as we build on the success of this year, helping to consolidate our identity as the leading provider of traditional arts tuition in Belfast's Queen's Quarter and South Belfast and helping to gain new audiences.

Structure Governance and Management

The Society was formally constituted in 1991. It is a non-profit making organisation.

The executive committee members, who are also trustees for the purpose of charity law, and who served during the year, were:

Deirdre Kearns	Chairperson
Martin Dowling	Chairperson (resigned November 2024)
Christine Dowling	Vice Chairperson
Catherine O'Neill	Treasurer
Anne Marie Walsh	Safeguarding
Kevin McCullagh	Music-Co-Ordinator
Berni Corr	Dance Co-Ordinator
Pat O'Hagan	Dance Co-Ordinator
Conor Diamond	Data Visualisation Officer
Olivia Adair	Social Media Officer
Sile Martin	Deputy safeguarding officer/ tutor liaison
Ciara Maguire	Administrative support
Naomhán O'Connor	Officer
Tom Clarke	Officer
Nuala McBride	Administrator/Secretary
Martin Dowling	Temporary Administrator/Secretary (Appointed December 2024)

During the period under review the Committee met monthly and the present Committee was approved by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Under the Society constitution the number of trustees for the purpose of law shall not be less than three and is not subject to any maximum. Trustees are elected to serve only until the next Annual General Meeting, at which they shall be eligible for re-election.

Taxation

The Society has no liability to taxation as a result of its charitable status.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Executive Committee report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. Under relevant legislation the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that

they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the net movement in funds for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume the charity will continue on that basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the applicable law and regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Executive Committee Report is approved and signed on behalf of the Executive Committee on 21 June 2025:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Kearns". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Deirdre Kearns
Chairperson

BELFASTTRAD (TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 10 and 11.

Respective responsibilities of committee and examiner

The charity's committee considers that an audit is not required for this year (under section 65(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 65 of the Act).
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 65(9)(b) of the Act)
- State whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 65(9)(b) of the Act).

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.

It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as committee members concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view.

The report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of our examination no matter has come to our attention:

1. That gives us reasonable cause to believe that, in any material aspects, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 65 of the Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the

accounting requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008l have not been met; or

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Bradley Accounting + Taxation

Bradley Accounting & Taxation
Chartered Certified Accountants
Suite B, Formation Works Maryland
Maryland Industrial Estate
Ballygowan Road
Belfast, BT23 6BL

Date: 21 June 2025

BELFASTTRAD (TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Restricted Funds 2025	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
Income				
Stripe Income	61,829.31	-	61,829.31	50,471.00
Box Office	-	-	-	969.00
Other Sponsorship	663.06	-	663.06	333.00
Donations	200.00	-	200.00	-
Bank interest	861.80	-	861.80	117.00
Arts Council Grants	-	35,824.00	35,824.00	37,448.00
	63,554.17	35,824.00	99,378.17	89,338.00
Expenditure				
Workshop/Ceili Expenses	-	4,651.00	4,651.00	3,376.00
Tutor Payments	22,811.23	14,901.00	37,712.23	40,050.00
Rent Payable	25,950.30	-	25,950.30	18,540.00
Depreciation	280.98	-	280.98	355.00
Wages and Salaries	-	16,272.00	16,272.00	16,342.00
Training	356.00	-	356.00	290.00
Insurance	932.00	-	932.00	977.00
Instruments/Equipment/Storage	500.00	-	500.00	727.00
Administration Expenses	2,092.78	-	2,092.78	2,092.00
Telephone	110.20	-	110.20	584.00
Digital Services	1,377.21	-	1,377.21	1,699.00
(Gain)/ Loss on sale of assets	-	300.00	- - 300.00	-
Accountancy Fees	450.00	-	450.00	335.00
Bank Charges	120.80	-	120.80	175.00
Membership Fees	75.00	-	75.00	409.00
	54,756.50	35,824.00	90,580.50	85,951.00
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	8,797.67	-	8,797.67	3,387.00

BELFASTTRAD (TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025	2024
<u>Fixed Assets</u>		
Fixtures & Fittings	21,330.60	21,627.00
Accumulated Depreciation	20,304.98	20,564.00
	1,025.62	1,063.00
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash at Bank and in Hand	68,307.28	53,864.40
Debtors: Arts Council NI	1,791.20	3,416.20
Debtors: HMRC and NEST	196.28	-
Prepayments	1,332.38	932.00
	71,627.14	58,212.60
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Accruals	16,167.50	16,904.51
Advance Statutory Maternity Pay	5,316.50	-
	21,484.00	16,904.51
Net Assets	51,168.76	42,371.09
<u>Sources of Capital</u>		
Accumulated Fund		
Opening Balance - Unrestricted Funds	42,371.09	38,969.00
- Restricted Funds	-	-
Surplus/ (Deficit) for Year	8,797.67	3,402.09
	51,168.76	42,371.09

These Financial Statements were approved by the committee of BelfastTrad and authorised for issue on 21 June 2025:



Deirdre Kearns
(Chairperson)



Catherine O'Neill
(Treasurer)

BELFASTTRAD (TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Note 1

Accounting Policies

Accounting Convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and comply with financial reporting standards of the Accounting Standards Board.

Turnover

Income of The Charity represents monies received from grants and operating activities.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the costless residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures and Fittings – 25% Reducing Balance

Incoming Resources

Donations, legacies and other income is included in full in the Income and Expenditure Account when received.

Bank interest received is accounted for on accruals basis.

Resources Expended

All expenditure has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have all been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100872

Accounts

BELFASTTRAD (TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2024

Bradley Accounting and Taxation
4 Knockbracken Manor
Belfast
BT8 6WQ

BELFASTTRAD (TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY)

CHARITY INFORMATION

CHARITY NUMBER: NIC 100872

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Martin Dowling	Chairperson
Deirdre Kearns	Vice Chairperson
Catherine O'Neill	Treasurer
Anne Marie Walsh	Safeguarding
Kevin McCullagh	Music-Co-Ordinator
Berni Corr	Dance Co-Ordinator
Pat O'Hagan	Dance Co-Ordinator
	Data Visualisation
Conor Diamond	Officer
Sile Martin	Deputy Safeguarding Officer/ Tutor Liaison
Olivia Adair	Social Media Officer
Christine Dowling	Officer
Tom Clarke	Officer
Nuala McBride	Administrator/Secretary

ACCOUNTANTS: Bradley Accounting & Taxation
Chartered Certified Accountants
4 Knockbracken Manor
Belfast BT8 6WQ

BUSINESS ADDRESS: Blick Shared Studios
65 Great Northern Street
Belfast, BT9 7FL

BANKERS
:
CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling,
Kent, ME19 4JQ

**BELFASTTRAD (TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY)
CONTENTS**

COMMITTEE REPORT	Page 4
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT	Page 2
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	Page 3
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	Page 4
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	Page 5

BELFASTTRAD (TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Executive Committee present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

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 and 'Accounting and Reporting Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice.'

Status and Administration

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Principle Activity

The principal activity of the society is to promote and develop a knowledge and love of the traditional arts of Irish music, song and dance as practiced in Northern Ireland and to advance its education in the greater Belfast and district area.

BelfastTrad was originally founded as Belfast and District Set Dancing and Traditional Music Society. Constituted in 1991. It was formed by a small cohort of like-minded dancers and musicians led by the set dancer Mary Fox. The goals and ethos of the Society from its inception have been to ensure that the shared traditions of Irish music and dance are available to anyone who wants to learn, with classes provided in a welcoming and neutral setting. Our students are aged 5-90, with the majority of our students being young adults and up.

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

Public Benefit

The benefit which flows from the provision of traditional arts of Irish music, song and dance include education, social inclusion and artistic expression to the people throughout Northern Ireland that participate in the activities. The provision of workshops, classes, lectures and training in all aspects of traditional music, singing and dancing skills to anyone in the area of benefit who wants to learn also provides the

benefits of education, greater understanding of our shared culture and traditions and the attainment of musical skills.

We welcome people of all abilities. Through the organisation of the performance of traditional music, song and dance and promoting active participation in such arts provides direct benefits of supporting the arts, social cohesion and better health.

Achievements and performance

Our annual programme for 2023-24, supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Lottery Funding through the Arts Council, consisted this year of an average of 43 weekly classes per term with Spring Term 23, Autumn Term 23 and Winter Term 23 all happening in-person at Stranmillis University College. We were delighted to have a full range of music, song and dance classes all in-person at the same venue for the entire year. BelfastTrad also held a range of special events including 16 workshops in music, dance and song, 4 additional workshops at the Belfast TradFest winter weekend, 3 illustrated lectures, 2 singing sessions, a piper's weekend chair and 'In Conversation With' events with noted practitioners. We also continued our collaboration with Glengormley School of Music to host 2 children's sessions at the new arts venue at 2 Royal Avenue, Belfast.

The level of participation in our classes and events grew significantly this year with 765 students attending our weekly classes over the three terms. This is a growth of 4.37% on last year's numbers and our highest student enrolment yet. Almost 800 more people engaged with us at our other events such as workshops, lectures, sessions, concerts and collaborative events with other organisations.

We continue to engage and support the local community including schools and encourage all members of the public to enjoy the benefits provided from traditional music and dance.

Financial Review

A statement of financial activities for the year is set out on page 10.

The society is a non-profit making organisation. The results are set out in detail on pages 10 and 11. The Society recorded a surplus of £3,387 in the year (2023: £11,751).

Income generated from Society activities totalled £89,338 (2023: £83,410) of which £37,448 (2023: £31,374) was received from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. This continues to fund a part-time administrative post within the Society. The remaining income was generated from term fees for a range of instrument classes at various levels, individual and set dancing classes, workshops, advanced masterclasses and end-of-term showcase events for our students.

The balance of funds at the year-end was £42,365 (2023: £38,969) of which £42,365 was unrestricted.

The committee have discussed strategies for reducing any unnecessary expenditure and will apply these in the forthcoming programme of events.

Reserves

The Committee considers it prudent to hold monies in reserve in the event that unforeseen circumstances should lead to financial difficulties which might put the users' well-being and charitable work in jeopardy. The Committee recognises that in the developing public sector funding climate, competition for future grant aid will be even more intense. Free reserves are defined by the trustees as those funds freely available for use as the society so determines and thereby excludes any restricted or designated funds.

Focus for the Future

The society now looks forward to growing our programme and our audience over the next year as we build on the success of this year, helping to consolidate our identity as the leading provider of traditional arts tuition in Belfast's Queen's Quarter and South Belfast and helping to gain new audiences.

Structure Governance and Management

The Society was formally constituted in 1991. It is a non-profit making organisation.

The executive committee members, who are also trustees for the purpose of charity law, and who served during the year, were:

Tom Clarke	Chairperson
Deirdre Kearns	Vice Chairperson
Martin Dowling	Treasurer
Anne Marie Walsh	Safeguarding
Kevin McCullagh	Music-Co-Ordinator
Berni Corr	Dance Co-Ordinator
Pat O'Hagan	Dance Co-Ordinator
Conor Diamond	Data Visualisation Officer
Alison Morrow	Officer
Christine Dowling	Officer
Fióna Ni Mhearain	Administrator/Secretary (Resigned November 2023)
Nuala McBride	Administrator/Secretary (Appointed November 2023)

During the period under review the Committee met monthly and the present Committee was approved by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Under the Society constitution the number of trustees for the purpose of law shall not be less than three and is not subject to any maximum. Trustees are elected to serve only until the next Annual General Meeting, at which they shall be eligible for re-election.

Taxation

The Society has no liability to taxation as a result of its charitable status.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Executive Committee report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. Under relevant legislation the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the net movement in funds for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume the charity will continue on that basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the applicable law and regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Executive Committee Report is approved and signed on behalf of the Executive Committee by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Dowling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Martin Dowling
Chairperson
Date:

BELFASTTRAD (TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Independent Examiner's Report of the Committee of BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

We report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 11 and 12.

Respective responsibilities of committee and examiner

The charity's committee consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 65(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 65 of the Act).
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 65(9)(b) of the Act)
- To state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 65(9)(b) of the Act).

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records

It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as committee members concerning any such matters

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view

The report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of our examination no matter has come to our attention:

1. That gives us reasonable cause to believe that, in any material aspects, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 65 of the Act; and

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008l have not been met; or

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Bradley Accounting + Taxation

Bradley Accounting & Taxation
Chartered Certified Accountants
Date: 5th December 2024

BELFASTTRAD (TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
<u>Income</u>				
Stripe Income	50,471	-	50,471	45,531
Instrument Hire		-	-	650
Box Office	969	-	969	760
Other Sponsorship	333	-	333	434
Bank interest	117	-	117	211
Arts Council Grants		37,448	37,448	35,824
	51,890	37,448	89,338	83,410
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Workshop/Ceili Expenses	-	3,376	3,376	6,170
Tutor Payments	22,320	17,730	40,050	35,436
Rent Payable	18,540	-	18,540	26,805
Depreciation	355	-	355	479
Wages and Salaries	-	16,342	16,342	15,045
Training	290	-	290	380
Insurance	977	-	977	1,258
Instruments/Equipment/ Storage	727	-	727	385
Administration Expenses	2,092	-	2,092	480
Marketing/Branding	-	-	-	5,000
Telephone	584	-	584	386
Digital Services	1,699	-	1,699	1,887
Accountancy Fees	335	-	335	660
Bank Charges	175	-	175	109
Misc and Refunds	-	-	-	621
Membership Fees	409	-	409	60
	48,503	37,448	85,951	95,161
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	3,387	-	3,387	-11,751

BELFASTTRAD (TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	2024	2023
Fixed Assets		
Fixtures & Fittings	21,627	21,627
Less Depreciation	<u>20,564</u>	<u>20,209</u>
	<u>1,063</u>	<u>1,418</u>
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank and in Hand	53,849	55,804
Debtors -Arts Council NI	3,416	4,090
Prepayments	<u>932</u>	<u>932</u>
	<u>58,197</u>	<u>60,826</u>
Current Liabilities		
Accruals	<u>16,904</u>	<u>23,275</u>
Net Assets	<u>42,356</u>	<u>38,969</u>
Sources of Capital		
Accumulated Fund		
Opening Balance – Unrestricted Funds	38,969	50,720
– Restricted Funds	-	-
Surplus/Deficit) for Year	<u>3,387</u>	<u>-11,751</u>
	42,356	38,969

These Financial Statements were approved by the Committee of BelfastTrad and authorised for issue on 6th December 2024.



CHAIRPERSON: Martin Dowling



TREASURER: Catherine O'Neill

BELFASTTRAD (TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Note 1

Accounting Policies

Accounting Convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and comply with financial reporting standards of the Accounting Standards Board.

Turnover

Income of The Charity represents monies received from grants and operating activities

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the costless residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures and Fittings – 25% Reducing Balance

Incoming Resources

Donations, legacies and other income is included in full in the Income and Expenditure Account when received.

Bank interest received is accounted for on accruals basis.

Resources Expended

All expenditure has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have all been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100872

Annual report



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date				Period end date			
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	1	April	2023	To	31	March	2024

Reference and administration details

Charity name	BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)	
Registered charity number	NIC 100872	
Charity's principal address	Blick Shared Studios	
	65 Great Northern Street	
	Belfast	
Postcode:	BT9 7FL	

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Date joined	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Tom Clarke	Chairperson	Over 25 years ago	
2	Deirdre Kearns	Deputy Chairperson	Jun 2007	
3	Martin Dowling	Treasurer	Dec 2012	
4	Anne Marie Walsh	Safeguarding Officer	Jun 2018	
5	Berni Corr	Solo Dance Co-ordinator	Jun 2018	
6	Pat O'Hagan	Set Dance Co-ordinator	Jun 2019	
7	Kevin McCullagh	Music Co-ordinator	Jun 2022	
8	Conor Diamond	Data Visualisation Officer	Jun 2022	
11	Christine Dowling	Officer	Jun 2022	
12	Tom Clarke	Officer	Over 25 years ago	
	Nuala McBride	Administrator (Acting Secretary)	Nov 2023	

Structure, governance and management

How is the charity constituted?

The Society was formally constituted in 1991. It is a non-profit making organisation.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Under the Society Constitution the number of trustees for the purpose of law shall not be less than three and is not subject to any maximum. Trustees are elected to serve only until the next Annual General Meeting, at which they shall be eligible for re-election.

The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works

The executive committee members, who are also trustees for the purpose of charity law, and served during the year are listed in the table on page one. During the period under review the Committee met monthly and the present Committee was approved by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

A regular project that we expanded on this year was our annual Belfast Piping Tionól, we partnered with An Droichead and An Chomharchumann Phóbaireachta to deliver an enhanced programme with more events and an increased participation.

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit.

The goals and ethos of the society from its inception in 1991 have been to ensure that the shared traditions of Irish music, song and dance are available to anyone who wants to learn, with classes provided in a welcoming and neutral setting. Our students are aged 5-90 years, with the majority of our students being young adult and upwards in age.

We have now completed a full year of classes at Stranmillis University College. This prestigious institution provides the perfect environment for BelfastTrad's traditional arts programme and its custom-designed music and dance spaces.

BelfastTrad aims to:

- a) Promote and develop a knowledge and love of the traditional arts of traditional Irish music, song and dance, amongst the public in the area of benefit;
- b) Provide workshops, classes and training in all aspects of traditional Irish music skills and traditional Irish dancing;
- c) Organise performances of traditional music, song and dance and promote active participation in such arts;
- d) Advance the understanding and public appreciation of the links between Irish traditional music and dance and other genres of traditional music and dance.

The benefit which flows from the provision of traditional arts of Irish music and dance include education, social inclusion and artistic expression to the people through Northern Ireland that participate in the activities. The provision of workshops, classes, lectures and training in all aspects of traditional music and dancing skills to anyone in the area of benefit who wants to learn also provides the benefit of education, greater understanding of our shared culture and traditions and the attainment of musical skills.

We welcome people of all abilities. Through the organisation of the performance of traditional music, song and dance and promoting active participation in such arts provides direct benefits in supporting the arts, social cohesion and better health.

Summary of the purposes and principal activity of the charity as set out in its governing document

BelfastTrad was originally founded as Belfast and District Set Dancing and Traditional Music Society. Constituted in 1991, it was formed by a small cohort of like-minded dancers and musicians led by set dancer Mary Fox. The principal activity of the Society is to promote and develop a knowledge and love of the traditional arts of Irish Music and dance, and to advance its education and appreciation in the greater Belfast and district area.

Confirm trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

BelfastTrad Trustees confirm they have complied with their duty under charity law to have regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

Our annual programme for 2023-24, supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Lottery funding through the Arts Council, consisted this year of an average of 43 weekly classes per term with Spring Term '23, Autumn Term '23 and Winter Term '24 all happening in-person at Stranmillis University College. We were delighted to have full range of music, song and dance classes all in-person at the same venue for the entire year. BelfastTrad also held a range of special events including twelve workshops five bursaries for additional workshops at the TradFest Winter weekend, two singing sessions, four music sessions, a piper's chair, and two 'In Conversation With' events. We also continued our collaboration with Glengormley School of Music, hosting children's sessions at the new arts venue 2 Royal Avenue, Belfast.

Participation in our classes and events saw significant growth this year, with 765 students attending our weekly classes over the three terms, up from 733 last year - our highest student enrolment to date. This represents an approximate 4.37% increase in enrolment. Additionally, approximately 800 individuals engaged with us through other events such as workshops, lectures, sessions, concerts and collaborative events with other organisations. We maintained collaborations with various organisations, including the Belfast Song Gathering with an Droichead, our Piping Tionól supported by Na Píobairí Uilleann, An Droichead, and An Chomharchumann Phíobaireachta, and the Belfast Summer School of Traditional Music. BelfastTrad sponsored a bursary to the school last year, providing five young musicians the opportunity to attend three masterclasses each. The presence of high-quality events like Belfast Tardiest greatly benefits our students.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Committee considers it prudent to hold monies in reserve in the event that unforeseen circumstances should lead to financial difficulties which might put the users' well being and charitable work in jeopardy. The committee recognises that in the developing public sector funding climate, competition for future grant aid will be even more intense. Free reserves are stipulated by the Arts Council and defined by the trustees, as those funds are freely available for us as the society so determines and thereby exclude any restricted designated funds.

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period

The society is a non-profit making organisation. The results are set out in detail in our Charity accounts. The Charity recorded a surplus of £3,387 in the year, (2023: deficit of £11,751).

Income generated by the society activities totalled £89,338 (2023: £83,410) of which £37,448 (2023: £35,824) was received from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. This continues to fund a part-time administrative post within the Society. The remaining income was generated by term fees for a range of instrument classes at various levels, individual and set dancing classes, workshops, oblique masterclasses and end of term concerts/céilís.

The balance of funds at the year-end was £38,969 of which £38,969 was unrestricted.

The committee have discussed strategies for reducing any unnecessary expenditure and will apply these in the forthcoming programme of events.

Details of any deficit

Donated facilities and services (if any)

Chair's Report

Tom Clarke

First of all, I would like to thank the committee members for their commitment and support in all the work that running BelfastTrad entails. They are the reason for its growing success and expansion, BelfastTrad couldn't exist without them.

Secondly, the major event of the year has been the loss of Fíona Ni Mhearáin to the arts Council of Northern Ireland. She has been the prop and support of BelfastTrad since her appointment in 2019 and has worked with diligence on all aspects of our work. Our loss is ACNI's gain but, of course, she will be a great supporter of what we do in her present role. We are fortunate, however, to have in her replacement, Nuala McBride, a worthy successor. Nuala approaches everything she does with our core values central to her vision and works with great diligence, patience and efficiency.

Thanks are also due to our tutors who provide the very core of our tradition, teaching the music, song and dance to all who want and value it.

It has been another successful year with our established outreach partners. We have worked with and been supported by many organisations, in particular ACNI, An Droichead, Belfast TradFest, Stranmillis University College, AccessNI and Na Píobairí Uilleann. The usual broad range of classes, workshops and concerts was provided and some of the workshops from prominent musicians, singers and dancers were truly memorable.

In these financially difficult times BelfastTrad has again secured funding from ACNI for 2024/25, illustrating that it continues to recognise the value we represent to the traditional arts sector. This ensures that we are able to offer our full programme of classes, workshops and lectures.

We continue to need volunteers in an active role in BelfastTrad. By joining the committee, organising student events and sessions, and helping out at events and workshops, volunteers can play a vital role in the activities of BelfastTrad.

Treasurer's Report

Martin Dowling

From the treasurer's perspective, the year under review (2023-2024) saw BelfastTrad returning to levels of income and expenditure that were typical of the years preceding the Covid pandemic. In recent post-pandemic years, which also included our transition to Stranmillis University College, a full programme with lower than average enrolments, pre-pandemic fees, and higher rental costs cut significantly into the organisation's reserves. This year we returned to a more careful control of costs with a goal of returning to a pre-pandemic pattern of augmenting our reserves each year. In the year we also opened new accounts with the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), an online bank for registered charities in the UK, with a separate interest-bearing account for our reserves funds. We are maintaining our account with Ulster Bank because of its superior functionality for handling euro/ sterling transactions.

The result has been that, for the first time in many years, we were able to add very significantly to reserves. The accompanying table of quarterly income and expenditure shows a solid box office return (via the Stripe application embedded into the BelfastTrad website) and overall a net income of nearly £7,000. At the end of the year we transferred £10,000 to the savings account, the balance of which now stands at just over £35,000. This is roughly equivalent to the level of annual support received from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. The organisation is therefore in a strong position to weather any unexpected future storms with regard to public support we have received for many decades. It is envisioned to tailor our future programming to maintain reserves at this level.

The financial standing of the Society remains strong in an inflationary environment. We are in a position to expand our programme of weekend workshops in the coming year. However, the committee must continue to diligently monitor enrolment income for classes and workshops, and aggressively advertise our programme to the community to keep income at sustainable levels. Maintaining a financially healthy organisation is a collective effort. I would like to thank our new administrator, Nuala McBride, my fellow committee members, our dedicated tutors, our accountant, Bradley Accounting and Taxation, our members and sponsors, and especially the Arts Council of Northern Ireland for their support.

Safeguarding Report

Anne Marie Walsh

1. Background

Safeguarding is included as a reporting item at BelfastTrad AGM. This includes updates on training, policy review and notification of any incidents which may have arisen throughout the previous year.

2. Update on Activities - Summary

2.1 Volunteer Now continued to offer an annual programme of training in the area of Safeguarding throughout the past year using both the Zoom platform and in-person training. Our newly appointed administration officer attended Safeguarding Training on keeping Children and Adults Safe: Introduction (November 2023) and Keeping Children and Adults Safe: creating a Safe Environment (December 2023). BelfastTrad has a policy priority of mandatory attendance at Safeguarding training on a three year cycle and this year completes year 1 of the cycle with tutors having undertaken training during 2023. Copies of certificates of attendance are retained on record for audit purposes.

2.2 All tutors are requested to complete Access NI checks on a three year cycle and these were completed in June 2024.

2.3 Following a review of our policies by Volunteer Now in May 2023 we reported that there were six statements where it was reported that our policies did not show sufficient evidence to meet compliance. We have since engaged with volunteer Now and met with their representative to check our understanding of compliance - this meeting was attended by the Safeguarding Officer and Administration Officer. We were able to provide additional evidence and the number of statements of non-compliance were reduced to four thereby increasing our compliance rating to 94% (88.5% reported in our last annual report). The four areas where we are now including additional detail are as follows: listing what constitutes abuse; further information on confidentiality; reference to First Aid and reference to procedures to deal with emergencies. It was also advised by Volunteer Now that we develop an anti-bullying policy. Our policies will be reviewed next in 2026/27.

2.4 We have a meeting schedule in June with representatives of Stranmillis University College to review any emerging areas of risk and to agree mitigations where necessary.



3 Reporting of Safeguarding Incidents and or Concerns

One issue was reported during the year and an Incident record form completed. This was in relation o inappropriate communication rom a student which breached the Code of Conduct. The matter was Brought to the attention of the Committee and action was taken to suspend the student.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Tom Clarke	Martin Dowling
Position	Chairperson	Treasurer
Date	11/12/2024	11/12/2024

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100872

Annual return

BELFASTTRAD(TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY)

Independent Examiner's Report of the Committee of BelfastTrad(Traditional Music and Dance Society)

We report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 3 and 4.

Respective responsibilities of committee and examiner

The charity's committee consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 65(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

Examine the accounts (under section 65 of the Act).

To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 65(9)(b) of the Act)

To state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. . (under section 65(9)(b) of the Act)

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records

. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as committee members concerning any such matters

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view

The report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of our examination no matter has come to our attention:

1. that gives us reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
to keep accounting records in accordance with section 65 of the Act; and
to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008; have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Bradley Accounting & Taxation
Bradley Accounting & Taxation
Chartered Certified Accountants

Date:5th December 2024

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100872

Accounts

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

BELFASTTRAD (TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Charity Reference: NIC 100872

McGuire + Farry Limited

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

General Information

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	Tom Clarke	Chairperson
	Deirdre Kearns	Vice Chairperson
	Martin Dowling	Treasurer
	Anne Marie Walsh	Safeguarding
	Kevin McCullagh	Music Co-ordinator
	Berni Corr	Dance Co-ordinator
	Pat O'Hagan	Dance Co-ordinator
	Conal Mullan	Conall Mullan
	Conor Diamond	Data Visualisation Officer
	Robert Cuthbert	Officer
	Alison Morrow	Officer
	Christine Dowling	Officer
	Fióna Ní Mhearáin	Administrator/Secretary

REGISTERED OFFICE

Blick Shared Studios
51 Malone Road
Belfast
BT9 6RY

BANKERS

Ulster Bank
Belfast City Office 2 Branch
PO BOX 232
11-16 Donegall Sq East
Belfast
BT1 5UB

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

McGuire + Farry Limited
Emerson House
Ballynahinch Road
Carryduff
Belfast
BT8 8DN

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Report of the Executive Committee	4 - 6
Independent Examiner's Report	7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Income and Expenditure Account	9
Balance Sheet	10
Notes to the financial statements	11 - 16

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

Executive Committee Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

The Executive Committee present their report and the financial statements 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 and "Accounting and Reporting Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice".

Status and Administration

The BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society) is a charity under number NIC 100872 and is governed by an Executive Committee (also referred to as "Trustees"). The registered office of the charity is located at Blick Shared Studios, 51 Malone Road, Belfast, BT9 6RY.

Principle Activity

The principle activity of the society is to promote and develop a knowledge and love of the traditional arts of Irish music and dance and to advance its education in the greater Belfast and district area.

BelfastTrad was originally founded as Belfast and District Set Dancing and Traditional Music Society. Constituted in 1991, it was formed by a small cohort of like-minded dancers and musicians led by the set dancer Mary Fox. The goals and ethos of the Society from its inception have been to ensure that the shared traditions of Irish music and dance are available to anyone who wants to learn, with classes provided in a welcoming and neutral setting. Our students are aged 5-90, with the majority of our students being young adults and up.

We have now completed a full year of classes at Stranmillis University College. This prestigious institution provides the perfect environment for BelfastTrad's traditional arts programme, and its custom-designed music and dance spaces, set in a spacious tree-lined campus offers our growing membership great parking facilities, a café, performance spaces and more.

2022-23 saw an exciting year for the society with a full year of in-person classes, a return to pre-Covid enrolment numbers, a growth in programming events, an invitation to Áras an Uachtaráin, a student concert at Mandela Hall, a rebranding process and more!

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

Public Benefit

The benefit which flows from the provision of traditional arts of Irish music and dance include education, social inclusion and artistic expression to the people throughout Northern Ireland that participate in the activities. The provision of workshops, classes, lectures and training in all aspects of traditional music and dancing skills to anyone in the area of benefit who wants to learn also provides the benefits of education, greater understanding of our shared culture and traditions and the attainment of musical skills.

We welcome people of all abilities. Through the organisation of the performance of traditional music, song and dance and promoting active participation in such arts provides direct benefits of supporting the arts, social cohesion, and better health.

Achievements and performance

Our annual programme for 2022-23, supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Lottery funding through the Arts Council, consisted this year of an average of 43 weekly classes per term with Spring Term 22, Autumn Term 22 and Winter Term 23 all happening in-person at Stranmillis University College. We were delighted to have full range of music, song and dance classes all in-person at the same venue for the entire year. BelfastTrad also held a range of special events including 16 workshops in music, dance and song, 4 additional workshops at the TradFest Winter weekend, 3 illustrated lectures, 2 signing sessions, our music sessions, a piper's chair and 1 "In Conversation With" event. We also continued our collaboration with Glengormley School of Music to host 2 children's sessions at the new arts venue 2 Royal Avenue.

The level of participation in our classes and events grew significantly this year with 733 students attending our weekly classes over the three terms. This is a growth of 6.4% on last year's numbers and our highest student enrolment yet, higher even than our pre-Covid enrolments. Almost 800 more people engaged with us at our other events such as workshops, lectures, sessions, concerts, and collaborative events with other organisations.

We continue to engage and support the local community including schools and encourage all members of the public to enjoy the benefits provided from traditional music and dance.

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

Executive Committee Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Financial review

A statement of financial activities for the year is set out on page 7.

The Society is a non-profit making organisation. The results are set out in detail on pages 7 to 14. The Society recorded a deficit of £11,751 in the year, (2022: surplus of £834).

Income generated from Society activities totalled £83,410 (2022: £63,104) of which £35,824 (2022: £31,374) was received from Arts Council of Northern Ireland. This continues to fund a part-time administrative post within the Society. The remaining income was generated by term fees for a range of instrument classes at various levels, individual and set dancing classes, workshops, oblique masterclasses and end of term concerts/ceili's.

In the year under review, the management committee embarked on a rebranding exercise, appointing a subcommittee to steer the work of the Boom Clap Play Company to redesign our logo, promotional material, and website. This exercise required an investment of £5,000 from our reserves.

The balance of funds at the year-end was £38,969 of which £38,969 was unrestricted.

The committee have discussed strategies for reducing any unnecessary expenditure and will apply these in the forthcoming programme of events.

Reserves

The Committee considers it prudent to hold monies in reserve in the event that unforeseen circumstances should lead to financial difficulties which might put the users' well-being and charitable work in jeopardy. The Committee recognises that in the developing public sector funding climate, competition for future grant aid will be even more intense. Free reserves are defined by the trustees as those funds freely available for use as the society so determines and thereby excludes any restricted or designated funds.

Focus for the future

The society now looks forward to growing our programme and our audience over the next year as we build on the success of this year now we are firmly established in our new venue. We shall launch our re-branding before Autumn Term of this year which will further help consolidate our image and identity as the leading provider of traditional arts tuition in Belfast's Queen's Quarter and South Belfast and help gain new audiences.

Structure, governance, and management

The Society was formally constituted in 1991. It is a non-profit making organisation.

The executive committee members, who are also trustees for the purpose of charity law, and served during the year were:

Tom Clarke
Deirdre Kearns
Martin Dowling
Anne Marie Walsh
Kevin McCullagh
Berni Corr
Pat O'Hagan
Conall Mullan
Conor Diamond
Robert Cuthbert
Alison Morrow
Christine Dowling

During the period under review the Committee met monthly and the present Committee was approved by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

Under the Society Constitution the number of trustees for the purpose of law shall not be less than three and is not subject to any maximum. Trustees are elected to serve only until the next Annual General Meeting, at which they shall be eligible for re-election.

Taxation

The Society has no liability to taxation as a result of its charitable status.

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

Executive Committee Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Executive Committee Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. Under relevant legislation the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the net movement in funds for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principals in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume the charity will continue on that basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the applicable law and regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The executive committee report was approved by the Executive Committee and signed on their behalf by:



Tom Clarke
Chairperson

Date: 16/11/23

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

**Independent Examiner's Report
To the members of BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)**

I report on the financial statements on behalf of BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society) for the year-ended 31 March 2023, set out on pages 8 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the financial statements under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in general directions given to the commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.
- State whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity financial statements as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

Our examination included review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those on records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements 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. The accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the financial statements do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the financial statements do not comply with the methods and principles of the Charity Statement of Recommended Practice.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the direction of the Charities Commission of Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing your attention.



Brian R McGuire FCCA for and on behalf of

McGuire + Farry Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Emerson House
Ballynahinch Road
Carryduff
Belfast
BT8 8DN

Date: 16.11.23

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

Statement of Financial Activities
For the Year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<u>Income from:</u>						
Grants and Donations	2	-	-	35,824	35,824	31,374
Charitable Activities	2	47,512	-	-	47,512	31,730
Total Income		47,512	-	35,824	83,336	63,104
<u>Expenditure on:</u>						
Charitable Activities	3	46,440	-	22,449	68,889	39,744
Management and Administration	3	12,897	-	13,375	26,272	22,526
Total Expenditure		59,337	-	35,824	95,161	62,270
Net movement in Funds		(11,825)	-	-	(11,825)	834
Fund balances at 1 April 2022	10	50,720	-	-	50,720	49,886
Fund balances at 31 March 2023	10	38,895	0	0	38,895	50,720

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

Income and Expenditure Account

For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
Net Income			
Stripe Income		45,531	31,324
Instrument Hire		650	-
Box Office		760	-
Other Sponsorship		434	406
Refunds		211	-
Grants Receivable	2	35,824	31,374
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		83,410	63,104
		-----	-----
Net Expenditure			
Workshop/Ceili Expenses		6,170	4,934
Tudor Payments		35,436	31,403
Rent Payable		26,805	2,915
Depreciation – FF&E		479	479
Wages and Salaries		15,045	17,807
Training		380	-
Insurance		1,258	1,185
Instruments/Equipment/Storage		385	13
Administration Expenses		480	93
Marketing/Branding		5,000	30
Telephone		386	449
Digital Services		1,887	2,004
Accountancy Fees		660	660
Bank Charges		109	108
Misc and Refunds		621	1
Membership Fees		60	189
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		95,161	62,270
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year		(11,751)	834
		=====	=====

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	4		1,418		1,897
Currents Assets					
Debtors	5	5,022		9,129	
Cash at bank and on hand		55,804		59,171	
Petty Cash		-		-	
		<u>60,826</u>		<u>68,300</u>	
Creditors: Amounts falling					
due within one year	6	<u>23,275</u>		<u>19,477</u>	
<hr/>					
Net Current Assets			<u>37,551</u>		<u>48,823</u>
<hr/>					
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			<u><u>38,969</u></u>		<u><u>50,720</u></u>
<hr/>					
Income Funds					
Unrestricted Funds	9		38,969		50,720
Designated Funds	9		-		-
Restricted Funds	9		-		-
			<u>38,969</u>		<u>50,720</u>

The notes at pages 11 to 16 form part of these accounts

Approved and signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Tom Clarke

NAME: Tom Clarke

TITLE: Chairperson

Date: 16/11/23

Martin Dowling

NAME: Martin Dowling

TITLE: Treasurer

Date: 16/11/2023

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year ended 31 March 2023

1 Statement of Accounting policies

The following policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Charity's financial statements.

1.1 Nature of the Society

The Society is an unincorporated organisation with charitable status. The registered office is Blick Shared Studios, 51 Malone Road, Belfast, BT9 6RY

1.2 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice"

1.3 Incoming Resources

(i) Grants

Grants represent all amounts receivable during the year. Capital grants are included as incoming resources when receivable and categorised within designated funds. Depreciation is subsequently charged against the funds each year equivalent to the rates on the relevant assets in question.

(ii) Other Income

This includes all other income received and receivable during the year.

1.4 Resources Expended

(i) Direct charitable expenditure

This represents all expenditure directly attributable to charitable status.

(ii) Management and Administration

This includes all other expenditure not directly allocated above and a proportion of the overhead costs attributable to management and administration.

(iii) Overhead Costs

Overhead costs arising centrally which are directly attributable to other activities of the organisation have been apportioned to those activities on appropriate bases.

1.5 Tangible Fixed Assets

The cost of fixed assets is their purchase cost, together with any incidental costs of acquisition.

Depreciation of fixed assets is calculated to write off their cost or valuation less any residual value over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Fixtures & Equipment	10% straight line
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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

1.6 Taxation

No provision is required for taxation as the Society is defined as a charity for taxation purposes

1.7 Charitable Funds

The Society has various types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require separate disclosure.

These are as follows:

(i) **Restricted Funds**

Grants received which are earmarked by the donor for specific purposes. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the organisation.

(ii) **Designated Funds**

The society may at its discretion set aside funds for specific purposes which would otherwise form part of the general reserves of the Society.

(iii) **Unrestricted Funds**

Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Society in furtherance of the objectives of the Society. In addition, funds may be held in order to finance capital investments and working capital.

1.8 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

2 Income	£	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
Grants Received					
Arts Council	-	-	35,824	35,824	31,374
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>35,824</u>	<u>35,824</u>	<u>31,374</u>
Other Income					
Music/Dance Classes	45,531	-	-	45,531	31,324
Ceilis/Concerts/Instrument Hire	650	-	-	650	-
Other Events/Box Office	760	-	-	760	-
Sponsorship Donations	434	-	-	434	406
Refunds/Bank Errors	211	-	-	211	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u>47,586</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,586</u>	<u>31,730</u>

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year ended 31 March 2023

3 Expenditure	£	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
Direct Charitable Expenditure					
Workshops/Ceili	6,170	-	-	6,170	4,947
Dance/Music Tutors	24,985	-	10,450	35,435	31,403
Venue Rentals	14,806	-	11,999	26,805	2,915
Depreciation	479	-	-	479	479
	46,440	-	22,449	68,889	39,744
Management and Administration of the charity					
Wages & Salaries	1,671	-	13,375	15,046	17,807
Administration Expenses	480	-	-	480	93
Telephone	386	-	-	386	449
Marketing/Branding	5,000	-	-	5,000	30
Digital Services	1,887	-	-	1,887	2,004
Insurance	1,258	-	-	1,258	1,185
Bank Charges	109	-	-	109	108
Misc and Refunds	621	-	-	621	1
Accountancy	660	-	-	660	660
Training	380	-	-	380	-
Instruments/Equipment/Storage	385	-	-	385	-
Membership Fees	60	-	-	60	189
	12,897	-	13,375	26,272	22,526

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

4 Tangible Fixed Assets	£	£
	Fixtures & Equipment	Total
Cost		
At 1 April 2022	21,627	21,627
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2023	<u>21,627</u>	<u>21,627</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2022	19,730	19,251
Charge for the year	479	479
Released on disposals	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2023	<u>20,209</u>	<u>19,730</u>
Net Book Value		
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,418</u>	<u>1,897</u>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,897</u>	<u>1,897</u>
5 Debtors	£	£
	2023	2022
Debtors	4,090	8,292
Prepayments	932	837
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>5,022</u>	<u>9,129</u>
6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	£	£
Accruals	<hr/> <u>23,275</u>	<hr/> <u>19,477</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year ended 31 March 2023

7 Contingent Liabilities

There exists a contingent liability to repay, in whole or part, grants received if certain circumstances as set out in the letter of offer occurs following receipt of grants.

8 Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year.

9 Employee Numbers

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year amounted to 1 (2022: 1)

10 Movement in Income Funds

	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	2023
Fund balances at 1 April 2022	50,720	-	-	50,720
Profit/(Loss) for Year	(11,751)	-	-	(11,751)
Fund Balances at 31 March 2023	<u>38,969</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,969</u>

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100872

Annual report



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date				Period end date			
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	1	April	2022	To	31	March	2023

Reference and administration details

Charity name	BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)	
Registered charity number	NIC 100872	
Charity's principal address	Blick Shared Studios	
	51 Malone Road	
	Belfast	
Postcode:	BT9 6RY	

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Date joined	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Tom Clarke	Chair	Over 25 years ago	
2	Deirdre Kearns	Deputy Chairperson	Jun 2007	
3	Martin Dowling	Treasurer	Dec 2012	
4	Anne Marie Walsh	Safeguarding Officer	Jun 2018	
5	Berni Corr	Solo Dance Co-ordinator	Jun 2018	
6	Pat O'Hagan	Set Dance Co-ordinator	Jun 2019	
7	Kevin McCullagh	Music Co-ordinator	Jun 2022	
8	Conor Diamond	Data Visualisation Officer	Jun 2022	
9	Conall Mullan	Volunteer Co-ordinator	Jun 2018	
10	Robert Cuthbert	Officer	Jun 2021	
11	Christine Dowling	Officer	Jun 2022	
12	Alison Morrow	Officer	Jun 2022	
	Fíona Ní Mhearáin	Administrator (Acting Secretary)		

Structure, governance and management

How is the charity constituted?	The Society was formally constituted in 1991. It is a non-profit making organisation.
Trustee recruitment and appointment	Under the Society Constitution the number of trustees for the purpose of law shall not be less than three and is not subject to any maximum. Trustees are elected to serve only until the next Annual General Meeting, at which they shall be eligible for re-election.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	<p>The executive committee members, who are also trustees for the purpose of charity law, and served during the year are listed in the table on page one. During the period under review the Committee met monthly and the present Committee was approved by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>A regular project that we expanded on this year was our annual Belfast Piping Tionól, we partnered with An Droichead and An Chomharchumann Phóbaireachta to deliver an enhanced programme</p>

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit.	<p>The goals and ethos of the society from its inception in 1991 have been to ensure that the shared traditions of Irish music, song and dance are available to anyone who wants to learn, with classes provided in a welcoming and neutral setting. Our students are aged 5-90 years, with the majority of our students being young adult and upwards in age.</p> <p>We have now completed a full year of classes at Stranmillis University College. This prestigious institution provides the perfect environment for BelfastTrad's traditional arts programme and its custom-designed music and dance spaces.</p> <p>BelfastTrad aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Promote and develop a knowledge and love of the traditional arts of traditional Irish music, song and dance, amongst the public in the area of benefit;Provide workshops, classes and training in all aspects of traditional Irish music skills and traditional Irish dancing;Organise performances of traditional music, song and dance and promote active participation in such arts;Advance the understanding and public appreciation of the links between Irish traditional music and dance and other genres of traditional music and dance. <p>The benefit which flows from the provision of traditional arts of Irish music and dance include education, social inclusion and artistic expression to the people through Northern Ireland that participate in the activities. The provision of workshops, classes, lectures and training in all aspects of traditional music and dancing skills to anyone in the area of benefit who wants to learn also provides the benefit of education, greater understanding of our shared culture and traditions and the attainment of musical skills.</p> <p>We welcome people of all abilities. Through the organisation of the performance of traditional music, song and dance and promoting active participation in such arts provides direct benefits in supporting the arts, social cohesion and better health.</p>
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Summary of the purposes and principal activity of the charity as set out in its governing document

BelfastTrad was originally founded as Belfast and District Set Dancing and Traditional Music Society. Constituted in 1991, it was formed by a small cohort of like-minded dancers and musicians led by set dancer Mary Fox. The principal activity of the Society is to promote and develop a knowledge and love of the traditional arts of Irish Music and dance, and to advance its education and appreciation in the greater Belfast and district area.

Confirm trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

BelfastTrad Trustees confirm they have complied with their duty under charity law to have regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

Our annual programme for 2022-23, supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Lottery funding through the Arts Council, consisted this year of an average of 43 weekly classes per term with Spring Term '22, Autumn Term '22 and Winter Term '23 all happening in-person at Stranmillis University College. We were delighted to have full range of music, song and dance classes all in-person at the same venue for the entire year. BelfastTrad also held a range of special events including sixteen workshops in music, dance & song, four additional workshops at the TradFest Winter weekend, three illustrated lectures, two singing sessions, four music sessions, a piper's chair and one 'In Conversation With' events. We also continued our collaboration with Glengormley School of Music to host two children's sessions at the new arts venue 2 Royal Avenue.

The level of participation in our classes and events grew significantly this year with 733 students attending our weekly classes over the three terms. This is a growth of 6.4% on last year's numbers and our highest student enrolment yet, higher even than our pre-Covid enrolments. Almost 800 more people engaged with us at our other events such as workshops, lectures, sessions, concerts and collaborative events with other organisations. A regular project that we expanded on this year was our annual Belfast Piping Tionól, we partnered with An Droichead and An Chomharchumann Phíobaireachta to deliver an enhanced programme with more events and an increased participation.

BelfastTrad looks forward to growing our programme and audience over the next year as we build on the success of this year now and are firmly established in our new venue. We shall launch our re-branding before Autumn Term of this year which will further help consolidate our image and identity as the leading provider of traditional arts tuition in Belfast's Queen's Quarter and South Belfast and help gain new audiences.

A highlight of the last year included an invitation to BelfastTrad from Michael D. Higgins to join him at a special garden party at Áras an Uachtaráin celebrating traditional arts on the island of Ireland. Committee members and tutors were able to attend and were treated to music and song from leading practitioners in the traditional music scene. Another major highlight was our end of term student concert at Mandela Hall in January.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Committee considers it prudent to hold monies in reserve in the event that unforeseen circumstances should lead to financial difficulties which might put the users' well being and charitable work in jeopardy. The committee recognises that in the developing public sector funding climate, competition for future grant aid will be even more intense. Free reserves are defined by the trustees, as those funds are freely available for us as the society so determines and thereby exclude any restricted designated funds.

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period

The society is a non-profit making organisation. The results are set out in detail in our Charity accounts. The Charity recorded a deficit of £11,751 in the year, (2022: surplus of £834).

Income generated by the society activities totalled £83,410 (2022: £63,104) of which £35,824 (2022: £31,374) was received from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. This continues to fund a part-time administrative post within the Society. The remaining income was generated by term fees for a range of instrument classes at various levels, individual and set dancing classes, workshops, oblique masterclasses and end of term concerts/céilí's.

In the year 2022/23, the management committee embarked on a rebranding exercise, pointing a subcommittee to steer the work of the Boom Clap Play Company to redesign our logo, promotional material, and website. This exercise required an investment of £5,000 from our reserves.

The balance of funds at the year-end was £38,969 of which £38,969 was unrestricted.

The committee have discussed strategies for reducing any unnecessary expenditure and will apply these in the forthcoming programme of events.

Chair's Report

Tom Clarke

Over the past year BelfastTrad has returned to normality in its provision of face-to-face classes to students, and the society has settled into its new home at Stranmillis University College. Excellent feedback from students has indicated that they are satisfied with the service they are receiving.

The usual broad range of classes and workshops was provided, and some of the workshops from prominent musicians, singers and dancers were truly memorable. Our partnerships with TradFest, both last July and this February and our ongoing relationship with An Droichead has brought to Belfast the very best of traditional music, song and dance.

Our special thanks go to Fióna Ní Mhearáin who has worked with great diligence on all aspects of BelfastTrad's work, classes, programming, concerts and financial tasks, patiently and efficiently.

Treasurer's Report

Martin Dowling

From the treasurer's perspective, the year under review (2022-2023) saw BelfastTrad returning to a post-pandemic "normal" level of programming, income, and expenditure. With three full terms of face-to-face teaching, supplemented by numerous workshop weekends, the scope of our programme, the expenditure on it, and the income from it all were all significantly increased compared to the two pandemic years, and have returned to our historic levels. However, under these "new normal" conditions the costs of our programme have significantly increased. This is due almost entirely to the increased rental costs in Stranmillis University College compared to the Crescent Arts Centre. Also in the year under review, the management committee embarked on a rebranding exercise, appointing a subcommittee to steer the work of the Boom Clap Play Company to redesign our logo, promotional material, and website. This exercise required an investment of £5,000 from our reserves. The new brand will be launched over the summer leading in to the Autumn 2023 term.

For the first time in many years, we saw a significant reduction in our reserves, due to the impact of our rebrand and the increased rental costs in Stranmillis University College, compared to the previous years. The financial standing of the Society remains strong. However, with standstill funding from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, and a new higher cost basis for running our programme in Stranmillis College, the committee must continue to diligently monitor enrolment income for classes and workshops, and review our pricing structures, and aggressively advertise our programme to the community, in order to move back to a "new normal" where we are once again marginally augmenting our reserves year on year.

Maintaining a financially healthy organisation is a collective effort. I would like to thank my fellow committee members, our dedicated tutors, our accountants at McGuire + Farry, our members and sponsors, and especially the Arts Council of Northern Ireland for their support.

Safeguarding Report

Anne Marie Walsh

1. Background

Safeguarding is included as a reporting item at BelfastTrad AGM. This includes updates on training, policy review and notification of any incidents which may have arisen throughout the previous year.

2. Update on Activities - Summary

2.1 Volunteer Now continued to offer an annual programme of training in the area of Safeguarding throughout the past year using both the Zoom platform and in-person training. Eight tutors and two members of Committee completed Safeguarding training with Volunteer Now on 27th May 2023, 'Keeping Children and Adults Safe: An Introduction'; six other tutors attended training throughout the year and three received training over the summer break with Children in Northern Ireland. BelfastTrad has a policy priority of mandatory attendance at Safeguarding training on a three year cycle. The training focused on the following areas – Key definitions; Legal and Policy Context; Abuse Issues; Reporting Concerns and Code of Behaviour. Each participant received a certificate of attendance and copies of certificates are retained on record for audit purposes.

2.2 All tutors are requested to complete Access NI checks on a three year cycle and these have commenced and are in progress. Date for completion is September 2023.

2.3 We review all of our policies on a three year cycle. On 16 May 2023 Volunteer Now reviewed our policies. Feedback was received on 24 May 2023 on compliance against the nine standards (67 statements of compliance) set out by Volunteer Now in their document 'Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk'. In summary – of the eight standards and 52 statements that were applicable to BelfastTrad, we had a compliance rate of 88.5%. There were six statements where our policies did not show sufficient evidence to meet compliance and we are now engaging with Volunteer Now to understand how we may improve practice and fully evidence compliance. We aim to have our policies updated by the end of September 2023.

3 Reporting of Safeguarding Incidents and or Concerns

There were no reported incidences nor any concerns raised regarding safeguarding issues during this past year.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Tom Clarke	Martin Dowling
Position	Chairperson	Treasurer
Date	29/01/2024	29/01/2024

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100872

Annual return

BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

Independent Examiner's Report To the members of BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society)

I report on the financial statements on behalf of BelfastTrad (Traditional Music and Dance Society) for the year-ended 31 March 2023, set out on pages 8 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the financial statements under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in general directions given to the commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.
- State whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity financial statements as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

Our examination included review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those on records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements 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. The accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the financial statements do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the financial statements do not comply with the methods and principles of the Charity Statement of Recommended Practice.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the direction of the Charities Commission of Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing your attention.



Brian R McGuire FCCA for and on behalf of

McGuire + Farry Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Emerson House
Ballynahinch Road
Carryduff
Belfast
BT8 8DN

Date: 16.11.23