

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 Mallory,
Kent, ME19 4JQ

BELFASTTRAD (TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY)
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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

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 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 Glenglormley 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', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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) 2008I 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
<u>Fixed Assets</u>		
Fixtures & Fittings	21,627	21,627
Less Depreciation	<u>20,564</u>	<u>20,209</u>
	<u>1,063</u>	<u>1,418</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>		
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>
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Accruals	<u>16,904</u>	<u>23,275</u>
Net Assets	<u>42,356</u>	<u>38,969</u>
<u>Sources of Capital</u>		
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.

