

# Decorum NI

Northern Ireland · Charity number 101142

## Details

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**Status** Received

**Registered** 2015-04-08

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

## Contact

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**Address** 26 Balloo Avenue  
Bangor  
County Down  
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**Website** [www.decorumni.co.uk](http://www.decorumni.co.uk)

## Activities

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**Purposes:** The Organisation is established to advance health, education and citizenship whilst promoting human rights, reconciliation and equality in our society and the relief of those in need due to sickness and disablement who are ex-members of the security forces and their families/dependants of those who served in Northern Ireland from 1969 – 2007 (hereinafter called the “area of benefit”) without distinction of age, gender, sexuality, nationality, ethnic origin, political or religious opinion, by associating with the statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and the membership, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said membership and in particular:- A) To establish and maintain a means of contact and mutual support between all who served in the security forces including their families/dependants B) To provide opportunities for “the area of benefit” i. to improve their mental and physical health ii. to improve their educational attainment through provision of courses and signposting to further education resources iii. to participate in reconciliation, equality and dealing with the past events and processes iv. to provide process mechanisms and practical support to individuals in need due to sickness and disablement

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

**How the charity works:** Advice/advocacy/information, Counselling/support, Cross-border/cross-community, Disability, Education/training, Human rights/equality, Medical/health/sickness, Research/evaluation, Volunteer development, Welfare/benevolent

**Who the charity helps:** Addictions (drug/solvent/alcohol abuse),Adult training,Carers,Men,Mental health,Older people,Physical disabilities,Sensory disabilities,Unemployed/low income,Victim support,Volunteers,Women

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£41,384	£39,400	£0	2

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Carol		
Fiona		
Gerry		
Mr David Crabbe Obe		
Mr William Wesley Wilson		
Mrs Hazel Busby		
Stephen		
Yvonne		

**Decorum NI**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101142

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# Accounts

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## Independent Examiner's Report to the charity trustees of Decorum NI

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on the attached pages.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act [2] follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (i state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's report

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

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe.

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act

2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records

3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner's statement:

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

Signature: Stewart Hughes

Name: STEWART HUGHES

Date: 6 January 2026

Relevant Professional Qualification or Body: RETIRED BANK MANAGER

Address: 4 BUNSIDE PARK CRAWFORDS BUN BT 19 1JW

**Decorum NI Balance Sheet 2024-25**

Income			Expenditure		
Item	2023 -24	2024-25	Item	2023-24	2024-25
Rent Grant	£4,000.00	£3,999.96	Rent	£3,999.96	£3,999.96
Fees		£0.00	Fees	£73.54	£58.97
Running Costs		£0.00	Running Costs	£1,529.77	£4,651.77
Maintenance		£0.00	Maintenance	£1,052.35	£1,210.38
Events	£8,815.15	£4,660.50	Events	£8,341.12	£4,050.34
Welfare		£0.00	Welfare	£115.00	£55.00
Donations	£3,492.77	£5,235.33	Donations		£0.00
Grants	£2,628.70	£2,117.98	Grants	£2,604.44	£2,117.98
Temp Loans	£389.00	£13,115.15	Temp Loans	£200.00	£11,000.00
Dublin		£5,069.28	Dublin		£5,069.28
Bundoran		£7,186.73	Bundoran		£7,186.73
Bursary	£1,000.00	£0.00	Bursary		£0.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£20,325.62</b>	<b>£41,384.93</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£17,916.18</b>	<b>£39,400.41</b>
<b>Balance</b>			<b>Balance</b>	<b>£2,409.44</b>	<b>£1,984.52</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£20,325.62</b>	<b>£41,384.93</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£20,325.62</b>	<b>£41,384.93</b>
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>£22,653.14</b>	<b>£25,062.48</b>	<b>Bank</b>	<b>£24,943.98</b>	<b>£27,047.00</b>
<b>Balance C/F</b>	<b>£2,409.44</b>	<b>£1,984.52</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>£118.50</b>	
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£25,062.58</b>	<b>£27,047.00</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£25,062.48</b>	<b>£27,047.00</b>

~~£25,062.58~~

~~£27,047.00~~

*Bank*

~~£25,062.58~~

Date	Received From	RV No	Cash	Bank	Rent	Fees/Int	Running Costs	Maintenance	Events	Dublin	Welfare	Donations	Grants	Temp Loans	Bundoran	Merdith Bursary
01/04/2024	Brought Forward		£118.50	24,943.98												
03/04/2024	HMRC	1		43.75								43.75				
03/04/2024	HMRC	2		55.00								55.00				
04/04/2024	Hetherington Dublin	3		100.00						100.00						
04/04/2024	Geff Russell	4		30.00					30.00							
05/04/2024	Sylvia Frew Dublin	5		50.00						50.00						
06/04/2024	Haire Donegal	6		100.00											100.00	
16/04/2024	Goodhub	7		218.04								218.04				
18/04/2024	Haire Cinema	8		30.00					30.00							
10/05/2024	Donation	8A	£0.35									0.35				
10/05/2024	Cash to bank	8A		118.85												
10/05/2024	Donations	9		62.55								62.55				
10/05/2024	Donations	10		64.51								64.51				
14/05/2024	Veterans Foundation	11		1,858.00								1,858.00				
14/05/2024	Goodhub	12		208.30								208.30				
15/05/2024	Transfer Decorum	13		852.44								852.44				
04/06/2024	HMRC	14		56.64								56.64				
04/06/2024	HMRC	15		283.21								283.21				
04/06/2024	E McBurney	16		50.00						50.00						
04/06/2024	E McBurney	17		50.00						50.00						
06/11/2024	Hetherington Dublin	18		100.00						100.00						
06/11/2024	Kirby K-D/DUBLIN KENNETH KIRBY	19		100.00						100.00						
06/11/2024	GRAY N-J/DUBLIN KENNETH KIRBY	20		100.00						100.00						
06/11/2024	BRESLAND Dublin BRESLAND M&PML	21		100.00						100.00						
06/11/2024	Dublin trip	22		100.00						100.00						
06/12/2024	SYLVIA DUBLIN MS SYLVIA FREW	23		50.00						50.00						
06/12/2024	suzi Dublin s Waddell	24		50.00						50.00						
06/13/2024	4 July event - B & A Haire	25		10.00					10.00							
06/14/2024	203402 GOODHUB PLAT FMQ	26		130.42								130.42				
06/14/2024	PIV Transfer DECORUM NI	27		6,115.15									6,115.15			
06/20/2024	5 July event - B & A Haire	28		10.00					10.00							
06/20/2024	JERSEY MS LINDA WISHART	29		20.00					20.00							
06/24/2024	ATM payment Bloomfield ADM	30		85.00								85.00				
06/24/2024	BGC 773653 Dublin Trip	31		1,358.00						1,358.00						
06/24/2024	Dublin Trip Payments	32		300.00						300.00						
06/24/2024	Dublin Trip Payments	33		710.00						710.00						
07/15/2024	203402 GOODHUB PLAT FMQ	34		295.72						295.72						
07/26/2024	DHG BURLINGTON ROAD LTD	35		229.34						229.34						
07/31/2024	Sunday/lunch B & A Haire	36		30.00					30.00							
08/01/2024	David Orr Irish Night	37		20.00					20.00							
08/02/2024	medieval do EVELYN WILLIS	38		20.00					20.00							
08/05/2024	NIO0762 HMRC CHARITIES	39		33.75								33.75				
08/06/2024	FIONA GRAY GRAY F	40		40.00					40.00							
08/09/2024	NIO0762 HMRC CHARITIES	41		53.75								53.75				
08/12/2024	Bingo & Somme Centre	42		30.00					30.00							
08/13/2024	203402 GOODHUB PLAT FMQ	43		179.30								179.30				
08/22/2024	medieval do EVELYN WILLIS	44		30.00					30.00							
08/29/2024	Medieval banquet -Haire	45		30.00					30.00							
08/31/2024	FIONA GRAY GRAY F	46		60.00					60.00							
09/04/2024	BGC 773654 Sunday Lunch payments	47		514.00					514.00							
09/04/2024	Sunday Lunch Payments	48		90.00					90.00							
09/05/2024	Cath Russell Rem Bkfst	49		20.00					20.00							
09/06/2024	Remembrance 11/11 Haire	50		20.00					20.00							
09/10/2024	NIO0762 HMRC CHARITIES	51		46.25								46.25				
09/10/2024	Repaid Loan VSP DECORUM NI	52		7,000.00									7,000.00			
09/10/2024	203402 GOODHUB PLAT FMQ	53		276.25								276.25				







Date	Paid To	Ch No	PV No	Cash	Bank	Rent	Fees/Int	Running Costs	Maintenance	Events	Dublin	Welfare	Donations	Grants	Temp Loans	Bundoran	Meredith Bursary
02/04/2024	Deriscal		1		£333.33	£333.33											
08/04/2024	PIV Loan		2		£1,000.00									£1,000.00			
10/04/2024	Clayton Hotel Dublin		3		£1,938.35						£1,938.35						
16/04/2024	M Bresland		4		£44.02				£44.02								
22/04/2024	Haire Trip Refund		5		£100.00						£100.00						
25/04/2024	PIV Loan		6		£5,000.00									£5,000.00			
30/04/2024	Danske Bank		7		£3.95	£333.33	£3.95										
01/05/2024	Deriscal		8		£118.85												
10/05/2024	Cash to bank		9														
14/05/2024	Ink World		10		£51.80			£51.80									
14/05/2024	Photo Monkey		11		£36.00			£36.00									
20/05/2024	Currys Bangor		12		£1,768.00									£1,768.00			
20/05/2024	VSP Account		13		£2,000.00			£2,000.00									
22/05/2024	Ink World		14		£66.00				£66.00								
24/05/2024	B&Q		15		£40.23				£40.23								
31/05/2024	Danske Bank		16		£3.35	£333.33	£3.35										
03/06/2024	Deriscal		17		£12.99				£12.99								
03/06/2024	TK Maxx		18		£16.98					£16.98							
06/06/2024	Ink World		19		£78.00			£78.00									
07/06/2024	Larmour Butchers		20		£223.00					£223.00							
06/14/2024	D8T: Dublin Trip Clayton Hotel		21		£1,201.59						£1,201.59						
06/27/2024	Currys Bangor		22		£114.96									£114.96			
06/28/2024	Fees		23		£3.59		£3.59										
07/01/2024	O2 UK PAY AND GO		24		£30.00			£30.00									
07/01/2024	Deriscal Rent		25		£333.33	£333.33											
07/08/2024	BOOKER LTD		26		£83.57			£83.57									
07/19/2024	Wreath Debra Hoyle		27		£25.00					£25.00							
07/24/2024	Ray Grahams Ltd		28		£70.28				£70.28								
07/31/2024	Fees		29		£8.39		£8.39										
08/01/2024	Deriscal Rent		30		£333.33	£333.33											
08/01/2024	Agnew Dublin Trip Agnew Travel		31		£1,200.00						£1,200.00						
08/01/2024	Dublin Trip Refund W Haire		32		£229.34						£229.34						
08/05/2024	eBay		33		£179.24				£179.24								
08/05/2024	Eco Leaf Products		34		£34.77				£34.77								
08/08/2024	AMAZON		35		£26.99				£26.99								
08/08/2024	AMAZON		36		£17.97				£17.97								
08/13/2024	Lunch + Outing 29 Event Catering		37		£620.00					£620.00							
08/27/2024	Sainsburys		38		£2.35			£2.35									
08/27/2024	Sainsburys		39		£31.45			£31.45									
08/27/2024	Speedi Wash		40		£35.00					£35.00							
08/30/2024	Fees		41		£2.95		£2.95										
09/02/2024	Deriscal Rent		42		£333.33	£333.33											
09/04/2024	TVLICENSING.CO.UK		43		£169.50			£169.50									
09/04/2024	Bottles Ampulla Limited		44		£66.96			£66.96									
09/18/2024	Clives Country Corne		45		£15.00												
09/18/2024	J Mcdonald Florist		46		£20.00							£15.00					
09/19/2024	MEDIA DESIGN & PRINT		47		£48.00			£48.00				£20.00					
09/19/2024	Sainsburys		48		£106.42									£106.42			
09/20/2024	SumUp Simple Simon		49		£76.60									£76.60			
09/20/2024	TESCO STORES		50		£52.00									£52.00			
09/21/2024	Maintenance M Bresland		51		£27.50				£27.50								
09/25/2024	SQ THE SOMME ASSOCI		52		£105.00					£105.00							
09/26/2024	Homebase Ltd		53		£51.00					£51.00							
09/27/2024	AMZNMarketplace		54		£12.99			£12.99									
09/30/2024	Fees		55		£3.25		£3.25										
10/01/2024	Deriscal Rent		56		£333.33	£333.33											
10/09/2024	B & Q 1355		57		£45.00					£45.00							





**Decorum NI**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101142

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# Accounts

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Decorum NI Balance Sheet 2023 -24			
Item	Income	Item	Expenditure
Rent Grant	£4,000.00	Rent	£3,999.96
		Fees	£73.54
		Running Costs	£1,529.77
		Maintenance	£1,052.35
Events	£8,815.15	Events	£8,341.12
		Welfare	£115.00
Donations	£3,492.77	Donations	
Grants	£2,628.70	Grants	£2,604.44
Temp Loan	£389.00	Temp Loans	£200.00
Bursary	£1,000.00		
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£20,325.62</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£17,916.18</b>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>Balance</b>	<b>£2,409.44</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£20,325.62</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£20,325.62</b>
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>£22,653.14</b>	Bank	£24,943.98
<b>Balance C/F</b>	<b>£2,409.44</b>	Cash	£118.60
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£25,062.58</b>		<b>£25,062.58</b>

Steven Hye  
1/10/24

Expenditure 2023 -2024

Date	Paid To	Ch No	PV No	Cash	Bank	Rent	Fees/Int	Running Costs	Maintenance	Events	Jersey Trip	Welfare	Donations	Grants	Temp Loans	Meredith Bursary
03/04/2023	Deriscal		1		£333.33	£333.33										
04/04/2023	NICVA Membership		2		£30.00			£30.00								
06/04/2023	The Old Inn		3		£100.00					£100.00						
06/04/2023	Robert Peters Art		4		£800.00									£800.00		
24/04/2023	Poundland		5		£6.00					£6.00						
26/04/2023	Danske Bank		6		£14.78		£14.78									
28/04/2023	Amazon - Rollator		7		£118.35										£118.35	
02/05/2023	Deriscal		8		£333.33	£333.33										
02/05/2023	S Waddell Refund		9		£200.00						£200.00					
02/05/2023	F Craig Refund		10		£185.00					£185.00						
12/05/2023	The Old Inn		11		£515.35						£515.35					
24/05/2023	Homebase		12		£24.00				£24.00							
31/05/2023	Danske Bank		13		£5.25		£5.25									
01/06/2023	Deriscal		14		£333.33	£333.33										
05/06/2023	Homebase		15		£14.00				£14.00							
05/06/2023	McKees Store		16		£44.97				£44.97							
12/06/2023	Clives Corner		17		£15.00							£15.00				
12/06/2023	LPC Caravan (Gas)		18		£35.00			£35.00								
19/06/2023	Stephen Lowe (Internet)		19		£74.37			£74.37								
21/06/2023	Coates Engineering		20		£60.00				£60.00							
29/06/2023	29 Event Catering		21		£860.00					£860.00						
30/06/2023	Danske Bank		22		£3.10		£3.10									
03/07/2023	Deriscal		23		£333.33	£333.33										
05/07/2023	Speediwash		24		£33.00				£33.00							
05/07/2023	Tesco		25		£15.00					£15.00						
25/07/2023	Robert Peters Art		26		£700.00									£700.00		
27/07/2023	Stephen Lowe		27		£179.00			£179.00								
31/07/2023	Danske Bank		28		£3.10		£3.10									
01/08/2023	Deriscal		29		£333.33	£333.33										
21/08/2023	Berthas Bar		30		£558.45					£558.45						
21/08/2023	TV Licence		31		£159.00			£159.00								
30/08/2023	C McVeigh (Carpet)		32		£50.00				£50.00							
30/08/2023	G Barr (Carpet)		33		£170.00				£170.00							
31/08/2023	Danske Bank		34		£7.10		£7.10									
31/08/2023	GC Carpets		35		£625.00				£625.00							
01/09/2023	Deriscal		36		£333.33	£333.33										
07/09/2023	Sainsburys		37		£25.90					£25.90						
18/09/2023	Tesco		38		£94.30									£94.30		
18/09/2023	Tesco		39		£32.85									£32.85		
20/09/2023	Iceland		40		£64.00					£64.00						
25/09/2023	Tesco		41		£15.90					£15.90						
25/09/2023	Tesco		42		£22.00				£22.00							
28/09/2023	Amazon		43		£25.99				£25.99							
28/09/2023	Booker Ltd		44		£45.91			£45.91								
29/08/2023	Danske Bank		45		£3.25		£3.25									
29/09/2023	Amazon		46		£16.04				£16.04							
02/10/2023	Deriscal		47		£333.33	£333.33										
02/10/2023	Amazon		48		£6.99				£6.99							
02/10/2023	J Francey PAT Test		49		£78.99				£78.99							
03/10/2023	Amazon		50		£93.42				£93.42							
04/10/2023	Amazon		51		£9.90				£9.90							



01/03/2024	Deriscal		105		333.33	333.33											
04/03/2024	E Bay		106		20.54				20.54								
04/03/2024	E Bay		107		18.90				18.90								
04/03/2024	E Bay		108		18.10				18.10								
04/03/2024	Cutprice		109		41.87				41.87								
05/03/2024	Regent Tea Rooms		110		60.00				60.00								
06/03/2024	Cash		111		120.00												
06/03/2024	Event		112	120.00					120.00								
14/03/2024	Danske Bank		112		£6.00	£6.00											
20/03/2024	IKEA		113		£33.25				£33.25								
26/03/2024	PIV Loan		114		£200.00								£200.00				
27/03/2024	Haldane Fisher		115		£67.50			£67.50									
28/03/2024	Danske Bank		116		£3.70	£3.70											
28/03/2024	Amazon		117		£159.98				£159.98								
29/03/2024	VSP Loan		118		£5,000.00								£5,000.00				
31/03/2024	Closure Jersey Trip		119							£303.15							
	<b>Sub Totals</b>				£120.00	£31,374.88	£3,999.96	£73.54	£1,529.77	£1,677.35	£8,341.12	£1,018.50	£115.00	£0.00	£2,604.44	£12,318.35	£0.00
	<b>Balances</b>				£118.60	£24,943.98	£0.04	£0.00	£0.00		£1,348.03	£0.00		£3,522.77	£24.26	£189.00	£1,000.00

**Income 2023 -2024**

Date	Received From	RV No	Cash	Bank	Rent	Fees/Int	Running Costs	Maintenance	Events	Jersey Trip	Welfare	Donations	Grants	Temp Loans	Merdith Bursary
01/04/2023	Balance B/F		£0.25	£22,652.89											
04/04/2023	P Bresland	1		£16.00						£16.00					
11/04/2023	Karadoo Finance	2		£174.03								£174.03			
25/04/2023	Donation Jersey	3		£800.00						£450.00		£350.00			
26/04/2023	Donation	4		£83.73								£83.73			
26/04/2023	Donation	5		£142.24								£142.24			
09/05/2023	Karadoo Finance	6		£57.81								£57.81			
11/05/2023	HMRC	7		£15.05								£15.05			
15/05/2023	V Craig	8		£20.00					£20.00						
06/06/2023	Karadoo Finance	9		£125.55								£125.55			
08/06/2023	David Orr	10		£20.00					£20.00						
14/06/2023	Donation ATM	11		£75.49								£75.49			
06/07/2023	HMRC	12		£15.00								£15.00			
06/07/2023	HMRC	13		£15.12								£15.12			
06/07/2023	HMRC	14		£32.50								£32.50			
10/07/2023	Karadoo Finance	15		£77.08								£77.08			
13/07/2023	HMRC	16		£45.41								£45.41			
17/07/2023	L Wishart	17		£20.00					£20.00						
20/07/2023	David Orr	18		£20.00					£20.00						
20/07/2023	Victor Craig	19		£20.00					£20.00						
25/07/2023	Donation	20		£1,502.20					£811.60	£461.60				£229.00	
25/07/2023	Donation	21		£48.40					£48.40						
25/07/2023	Donation	22		£272.00						£22.00		£250.00			
27/07/2023	VSP Loan Repaid	23		£5,000.00										£5,000.00	
04/08/2023	F Gray	24		£42.50					£42.50						
08/07/2023	Event	25		£18.50					£18.50						
10/08/2023	L Wishart	26		£38.90						£38.90					
14/08/2023	Karadoo Finance	27		£106.28								£106.28			
15/08/2023	ACNI Lottery	28		£246.70									£246.70		
08/09/2023	Donations + Carpet	29		£1,225.00				£625.00	£600.00						
08/09/2023	B Greenwood	30		£50.00								£50.00			
08/09/2023	Donations	31		£98.31								£98.31			
08/09/2023	Donation	32		£40.00								£40.00			
11/09/2023	Karadoo Finance	33		£87.01								£87.01			
12/09/2023	HMRC	34		£27.50								£27.50			
13/09/2023	HMRC	35		£20.00								£20.00			
13/09/2023	David Orr	36		£20.00					£20.00						
14/09/2023	Linda Wishart	37		£20.00						£20.00					
15/09/2023	David Orr	38		£20.00					£20.00						
15/09/2023	David Orr	39		£10.00					£10.00						
15/09/2023	Linda Wishart	40		£10.00						£10.00					
18/09/2023	David Orr	41		£6.00					£6.00						
18/09/2023	Fiona Gray	42		£20.00					£20.00						
18/09/2023	Katrina Norton	43		£20.00					£20.00						
21/09/2023	AntrimBC	44		£147.00									£147.00		
05/10/2023	Katrina Norton	45		£24.00					£24.00						
10/10/2023	Goodhub Plat	46		£164.49								£164.49			
13/10/2023	D Hanna	47		£80.00					£80.00						



16/03/2024	Servis D Day	97		£30.00					£30.00						
20/03/2024	VSP rent	98		£4,000.00	£4,000.00										
22/03/2024	Haire Dublin	99		£100.00					£100.00						
25/03/2024	Bailey Dublin	100		£50.00					£50.00						
25/03/2024	McBurney Dublin	101		£50.00					£50.00						
25/03/2024	Gray Dublin	102		£100.00					£100.00						
25/03/2024	Kirby Dublin	103		£100.00					£100.00						
28/03/2024	Cunningham - Dublin	104		£200.00					£200.00						
29/03/2024	Bresland - Dublin	105		£100.00					£100.00						
31/03/2024	Closure Jersey Trip	106							£303.15						
31/03/2024	Repayment Rollator	107	£118.35											£118.35	
	<b>Sub Totals</b>		£238.60	£56,318.86	£4,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£625.00	£8,815.15	£1,018.50	£0.00	£3,492.77	£2,628.70	£12,507.35	£1,000.00
	<b>Balances</b>		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£73.54	£1,529.77	£1,007.75	£874.35	£0.00	£115.00	£30.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	<b>Final Totals</b>		£238.60	£56,318.86	£4,000.00	£73.54	£1,529.77	£1,632.75	£9,689.50	£1,018.50	£115.00	£3,522.77	£2,628.70	£12,507.35	£1,000.00

**Decorum NI**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101142

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# Annual report

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Charity No. NIC101142

# Decorum NI

*Remembering the Past – Building the Future*

## **Chair's Report 2023-2024**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to our 9<sup>th</sup> AGM, and I want to thank you for taking the time to come along tonight. It is my duty as Chair of Decorum NI to report to you on the correct management and success, or otherwise, of the group for the year ending 31 March 2024.

The purpose of Decorum NI is to provide support to those who served, and their families, during the period of Operation Banner, in Northern Ireland. Our motto is 'Remembering the Past, Building the Future; but I like to think that we are also about supporting each other to live as positively as we can in the present. Decorum now has around 910 members.

This past year we have been able to carry out our activities as normal. Following on from the success of the previous year, the Personal Development Groups have continued with allocated times, days, and spaces to accommodate everyone wanting to use the facilities. I am glad to be able to report that Decorum has continued to fulfil its purpose and worked hard to provide an excellent service to all our members and thereby meeting – and, in most cases exceeding – all targets set by the funders.

### **FACILITIES**

The Senior Management Team continue to meet quarterly and the committee meet monthly.

As required by our funders, we have continued to prepare and submit anonymised records of attendance and this has had the added benefit of allowing us to see how many different people are using our services and to review the services we provide, enabling us to continue to respond to members requests.

Throughout the year the Senior Staff Officer has continued to consult with Group Leaders to assess how the current rota has been working out, and this has allowed us to slot in new interest groups as requested by members.

We have also carried out a comprehensive review of the policy documents and the committee are indebted to John McKillen and Carol Hutton for undertaking this task. Since these policies are 'working documents', going forward these will be reviewed and updated as required.

In August 2023, members of the committee met with Sir Declan Morgan, the then Chief Commissioner Designate for the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery (ICRIR) in order to put forward our members views and raise our concerns about the process. We felt that he had listened to us and he agreed with much that we said. We have continued to 'keep in touch' with the process.

We had a comprehensive Governance Review including a site visit, which went well, and any requested amendments were acted on promptly.

Your committee also seek to learn and expand their knowledge in order to provide a safe and holistic environment for all. Mandatory Training was undertaken in: -

Safeguarding - Keeping Adults Safe

Mental Health First Aid

Suicide Awareness

Basic First Aid

Health & Safety Awareness

Use of a Defibrillator

### **H&WBCW**

In order to maintain good emotional wellbeing, our Health and Wellbeing case worker incorporates the 5 Step Model in all her planning of activities and support of the members. The 5 Steps in the model are:

#### Connect

We encourage our members to 'Connect' with each other and with others, particularly, by providing a warm welcome at our Drop-In facility where people, can come in, relax, feel secure, seek help and find camaraderie.

#### Keep Learning

Decorum NI has aided our members in their learning through our Personal Development Groups: Crochet, Friendship & Support, Music, Craft, Flower Arranging, Horticulture, Fishing, Creative Minds and Voices and Darts. Leisure courses are also on offer through the Victims and Survivors Service (VSS).

#### Be Active

Decorum NI does provide many different ways for our members to 'be active'. Whether it's coming to the many weekly, fortnightly or monthly groups mentioned previously or participating in and with other community groups such as Mid and East Antrim Veterans Group.

#### Take Notice

It's important to be aware of what's going on around you with family, community, and the wider contexts of politics, government and change. Decorum NI have sought out speakers to talk to groups of members on wide-ranging subjects so that members are well-informed and can take notice of what is going on.

#### Give

Our members are encouraged to 'Give' of their time, perhaps money and certainly giving of themselves which is important in being a valued and valuable member of society. Having come from professions that were about helping others, our members naturally are selfless givers of their time, of their skills and of themselves, to help others both inside and outside our organisation.

### **FUTURE STRATEGY**

Our on-going strategy as a group has four aims:

To make and promote Decorum NI as a first-class provider of support and services.

To ensure services and support provided by Decorum NI are meeting the needs of our members.

To ensure there is sufficient funding for Decorum NI to provide the support and services needed by our members now and for the future.

To educate others in the mission of Decorum NI and ensure the legacy of sacrifice is acknowledged and remembered.

This strategy has continued to guide the Committee in deciding on how to prioritise the use of resources to meet member's needs in the best way. In addition to surveying our members about their needs, we also obtain feedback from them on the support and events provided. This is then used to make sure we are not only doing the right things for members but also doing them right. I am glad to report that 99% of the time, such feedback has been positive throughout the year. Negative feedback is viewed as an opportunity to learn and improve future service.

We have always been conscious of the growing agenda of some sections of society to re-write the history of our pasts. And although it isn't always easy, or comfortable, for us to do so, Decorum continues to engage with different groups, media outlets, and to participate in research and so on, to ensure that our stories, our perspective is not omitted in these articles and that we do not become a footnote in history. Our president appears regularly on Radio Ulster and he and Debra have been engaging for some time on the production of the Conflict and Legacy Interpretive Network website which is now up and running and on which Decorum NI has a space.

## **FUNDING**

As I think most people are by now aware, funding across all sectors of voluntary service has come under increasing pressure with budgets having been ruthlessly cut back. This has resulted in a significant reduction in what we are being given in grants and quite a bit of uncertainty about future provision.

Since 2023 we have relied on 'gap-funding', funding put in place to cover the period between Peace 4 and 21<sup>st</sup> May this year when Peace Plus has commenced. This funding covers all the work of the Health & Wellbeing Caseworker. Our good work has led to Decorum NI being seen as a 'trusted provider' of services and led to the organisation being accepted as a 'partner' with VSS in the Peace Plus funding stream.

We are very grateful to the Victims and VSS for its continued support in the Victims Support Programme (VSP) which covers the Drop In centre the SSO and some of the social events and activities although many of the events and activities organised are self-funded but all happen in a seamless fashion so members do not need to worry themselves with the bureaucracy involved. During the year we have also applied for other 'one-off' grants – rent, electric and mandatory training from the VSS, solar panels for the allotment from the Veterans Foundation and a new cooker and dishwasher wish was bought partly by the Veterans Foundation and the Crochet and Knitting class. A grant was also received from the Black Santa appeal.

All the money we receive through grants is earmarked for specific, named projects. This does not finance all our services and so, although not a fundraising organisation, we are especially grateful to those members who have personally donated funds on a regular and irregular basis for which we are extremely grateful. Thank you to all those who have given and, in anticipation, those who will give, after this appeal.

I know that money is tight for everyone, but I want to specifically appeal to each one to consider giving on a one-off or on a monthly basis and details of how to do this through 'GoodHub' are available on our private Facebook page.

## **STAFF**

Decorum NI have only two salaried full-time staff. They are our Senior Staff Officer, Mitch Bresland, and our Health and Well-being Caseworker, Linda Gillies.

The role of the Senior Staff Officer is to plan and manage the Drop-In Centre and all ongoing projects as well as directing and supporting volunteers and he is directed and supported in his role by the Committee. Whilst Mitch is very good at what he does, keeping all the plates spinning, and as well as the plaudits for a job well-done, his can be a frustrating and thankless job. It is he who must ensure that while the rest of us swan about enjoying ourselves, he ensures we comply with all the regulations, the record keeping and the guidelines. The Committee acknowledge the dedication and work of the SSO in making Decorum NI successful.

And, of course, alongside the SSO, is Linda Gillies bringing her warmth and enthusiasm to the role. The role of the Health and Well-being Caseworker is to support members and others referred to her by VSS in assessing their needs and sourcing the needed help. The committee were delighted when her work was again held up as an example of excellence to others earlier this year. She also sources appropriate resources for members such as gym memberships and complimentary therapies. She was instrumental in setting up a counsellor, on-site, one day a week from January 2024 and all referrals to this service are made through her.

Under a memorandum of understanding we also have an officer provided by SEFF to advise members on General Benefits advice and the Troubles Permanent Disablement Payment Scheme.

In June 2023 we introduced a welfare service overseen by Linda. Members who are unwell or in hospital can request a phone call or visit.

It was especially gratifying when Linda was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Kings' first Birthday Honours, in recognition of her work with Decorum NI for Veterans in NI. This is the first individual award linked directly to Decorum NI. We congratulate her warmly.

The Committee thank both members of staff for their individual work but also their ability to work together to make such a success of what we do.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Members of Decorum NI who want to help others are encouraged to become Volunteers within the group. The committee recognises that these volunteers are the backbone of the organisation. They include those in formal roles such as the Committee, the official volunteers who sign up for specific roles – Housekeeping, and Maintenance support. As well as the volunteers with expertise who run the many specific interest groups, right through to the less formal roles of members who volunteer as requested, helping to set up, or clear up after, events. These volunteers are managed and supported by our Senior Staff Officer, and their contribution was acknowledged at our Annual Awards night in September 2023.

The Committee thanks all these volunteers and acknowledge we would not be so successful if it was not for their efforts.

## **Personal Development Groups**

Our volunteers have used their interests, expertise and knowledge to form activity groups, previously mentioned, for other members to enjoy and gain new skills and interests. The groups meet weekly, bi-weekly or monthly and are all supported by good attendance of members. The groups vary in size but all are successful in what they do.

A Musical group for musicians of all levels of ability has been commenced in the past year and has been very successful and has entertained the rest of us on several occasions. The choir, while not coming together regularly, has remained in good voice and put on special performances, eg at Christmas.

Then we have provided Drop-in for coffee and a chat, lunches with a huge variety of cuisine; and Coffee Mornings. We provided Christmas Dinner and made-up Hampers for distribution to members.

I also want to give you a quick overview of the one-off events of the last year. 2023 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Greenfinches, this was marked with commemorative events across NI at which some of our members were able to participate. This included an Exhibition in our premises from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July.

We held a Remembrance Day Service and Breakfast on our premises as well as having representation at some of the local Cenotaphs. And, as we do every year, we participated in Holocaust Memorial Week.

We welcomed in the better weather with our 'Hello Summer' evening; tried our voices at the Karaoke night; and relived all our yesterdays at a 50's, 60's & 70's night. Some enjoyed a short break to Killough; and others showed our knowledge (or lack of it) at the Quiz Night.

There was the Allotment Open Day, a BBQ, Fishing Competitions, and special Lunches. Some of us went on a train trip to Castlerock. We had a Christmas Show (with lots of talent among our members) and a Christmas Coffee morning. We saw in the New Year at a party night and donned our tartan for Burns Night. For the more refined among us, there was a cultural trip to Kilkeel and Afternoon Tea with pianist accompaniment. There was a trip to the Cinema and a Food Demonstration.

Some members also participated in a Shared History event visiting sites in Derry/ Londonderry.

Then there are the courses. We have hosted both Creative Writing and Creative Arts projects and ran a very successful Citizenship Course with 10<sup>th</sup> Bangor Boys Brigade and 14<sup>th</sup> Bangor Girl Guides.

I am sure you will agree that we have fitted a lot into a year!

Members have also attended other, external events on Decorum's behalf such as; Bravo 22; courses on offer from Peninsula Veterans; and Mid and East Antrim Veterans Walking Group.

We have continued to encourage visits from other groups to our site including the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and the Staff give a Decorum NI presentation at locations as requested, the most recent being Ballyholme Probus.

### **SPECIALIST SUPPORT**

Volunteers within the membership provide specialist support and advice to members who have specific needs. For instance, one volunteer provides support and guidance in IT matters. As our members have connections with service within the Security Forces, many have legacy issues from the times of the Troubles in NI. We are grateful of the advice, support and guidance provided by the Advocacy Support officer to offer support in filling in the applications for a pension.

### **THANK YOU**

Now, I must take time to give a big Thank You to all those who have been instrumental in the success of Decorum NI.

Externally, I must thank our Mayor, VSS, Stormont for GAP funding, Ards and North Down Borough Council, SEFF, Ulster Human Rights Watch (UHRW), WAVE, the Veterans Foundation and others who have supported us so well.

Internally, our Senior Staff Officer, who with his dedication, commitment and enthusiasm kept us on track and our Health and Well-being Caseworker for the excellent support to members in all its forms.

On behalf of members, I would also like to thank our President, the Senior Management Team and the members of the Committee for giving of their time, energy and commitment to keeping the ship afloat and heading in the right direction.

I thank our Treasurer and Secretary for their work in maintaining our accounts and maintaining our processes.

I offer a big Thank You to all our Volunteers who give selflessly of themselves so that services and events run so smoothly and efficiently. As we know volunteers are paid nothing but are priceless. Lastly, but certainly not least, thank you to our members who participate in what we do and who make things worthwhile.

#### **FUTURE**

For the future, we wait for confirmation about our funding from VSS and Peace Plus, but our own Group Funds are reasonably healthy. We look forward to things continuing and our many and diverse groups being able to continue in strength.

I believe that through Decorum NI, we have touched peoples' lives for the better and pray that we all have the health and strength to continue for many years to come.

Fiona (Gray) Craig

Chair  
Decorum NI

**Decorum NI**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101142

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# Annual return

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## Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Decorum NI

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on the attached pages.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act [2] follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (i state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's report

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

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### Independent examiner's statement

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

Name and Signature: STEWART HUGHES 

Relevant Professional Qualification or Body: RETIRED BANK MANAGER

Address: 4 BALSILDE PARK, CRAWFORDS BURN BT 19 1JW

**Decorum NI**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101142

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# Accounts

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Annual Balance Sheet for Decorum Group Account 2022 -2023			
Item	Income	Item	Expenditure
Donations	£6,123.72		
HMRC Gift Aid	£525.15		
Events	£4,263.00	Events	£6,262.75
		Bank Fees	£60.73
Rent Grant	£1,667.00	Rent	£4,019.96
		Maintenance	£666.53
		Welfare	£286.44
Grants	£4,542.34	Grants *	£3,253.06
		Running Costs **	£2,088.60
Jersey Trip	£16,575.00	Jersey Trip ***	£17,259.00
Temp Loans (VSP & PIV)	£27,885.35	Repaid Temp Loans (VSP & PIV)	£24,000.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£61,581.56</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£57,897.07</b>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>Balance</b>	<b>£3,684.49</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£61,581.56</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£61,581.56</b>
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>£18,968.65</b>		
<b>Balance C/F</b>	<b>£3,684.49</b>		
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£22,653.14</b>		

\* Further expenditure from Grants in this year.

\*\* includes capital costs: new Laptop, Defibrillator parts, QAVS cabinet

\*\*\* Jersey Trip in May to be reconciled -further transactions in April / May 2023

Income 2022 - 2023

Date	Received From	RV No	Cash	Bank	Rent	Fees/Int	Running Costs	Maintenance	Events	Jersey Trip	Welfare	Donations	Grants	Temp Loans
01/04/2022	B/F			£18,968.65										
11/04/2022	Karadoo Fin	1		£79.10								£79.10		
30/04/2022	W Greenwood	2		£150.00					£150.00					
12/05/2022	PIV Repayment	3		£1,366.62										£1,366.62
12/05/2022	PIV Repayment	4		£4,518.73										£4,518.73
16/05/2022	Karadoo Fin	5		£59.10								£59.10		
18/05/2022	HMRC Gift Aid	6		£10.00								£10.00		
26/05/2022	HMRC Gift Aid	7		£207.65								£207.65		
30/05/2022	ANDBC	8		£490.63									£490.63	
30/05/2022	D Orr	9		£30.00					£30.00					
01/06/2022	F Gray	10		£50.00					£50.00					
08/06/2022	Cash from Bank		£80.00											
13/06/2022	Karadoo Fin	11		£59.10								£59.10		
14/06/2022	Cash from Bank		£90.00											
14/06/2022	VSP Repayment	12		£3,000.00										£3,000.00
23/06/2022	HMRC Gift Aid	13		£10.00								£10.00		
25/06/2022	Darren Kennedy	14		£10.00								£10.00		
29/06/2022	F Gray	15		£10.00								£10.00		
07/07/2022	ADM	16		£85.32								£85.32		
07/07/2022	Events	17		£565.00					£565.00					
07/07/2022	Events	18		£180.00					£180.00					
07/07/2022	Cash	19		£604.00								£604.00		
10/07/2022	Karadoo Fin	20		£59.10								£59.10		
11/07/2022	Art Course Refund	21		£340.78									£340.78	
15/07/2022	Fiona Gray	22		£20.00					£20.00					
18/07/2022	HMRC Gift Aid	23		£10.00								£10.00		
22/07/2022	David Orr	24		£20.00					£20.00					
28/07/2022	Repaid Loan	25		£5,000.00										£5,000.00
15/08/2022	Karadoo Finance	26		£40.00								£40.00		
23/08/2022	Nuala Malone	27		£30.00					£30.00					
30/08/2022	ANDB Council	28		£1,000.00									£1,000.00	
06/09/2022	HMRC Gift Aid	29		£10.00								£10.00		
14/09/2022	Karadoo Finance	30		£40.00								£40.00		
15/09/2022	Cash from Bank		£40.00											
15/09/2022	ADM	31		£130.00								£130.00		
16/09/2022	Adrian Woodley	32		£30.00								£30.00		
23/09/2022	David Orr	33		£75.00					£75.00					
10/05/2022	HMRC Gift Aid	34		£10.00								£10.00		
14/10/2022	Karadoo Finance	35		£611.63								£611.63		
17/10/2022	Adrian Woodley	36		£30.00								£30.00		
22/10/2022	VSP Loan	37		£5,000.00										£5,000.00
27/10/2022	J Elliott	38		£5.00								£5.00		
27/10/2022	Fiona Gray	39		£20.00								£20.00		



14/03/2023	L Wishart (Jersey)	84		£32.00						£32.00				
21/03/2023	Nuala Malone	85		£25.00								£25.00		
<b>31/03/2023</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>		£260.00	£80,550.21	£1,667.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£4,263.00	£16,575.00	£0.00	£6,648.87	£4,542.34	£27,885.35
	<b>Balance</b>				£2,352.96	£60.73	£1,927.60	£852.97	£1,999.75	£684.00	£195.00			
	<b>Final Total</b>		£260.00	£80,550.21	£4,019.96	£60.73	£1,927.60	£852.97	£6,262.75	£17,259.00	£195.00	£6,648.87	£4,542.34	£27,885.35





01/02/2023	Deriscal Rent		95	£333.33	£333.33										
02/02/2023	Refund VSP		96	£276.89				£276.89							
06/02/2023	Bryansburn Inn		97	£205.20				£205.20							
06/02/2023	Bryansburn Inn		98	£248.95				£248.95							
14/02/2023	Holiday Savers Jersey		99	£200.00					£200.00						
20/02/2023	Asda		100	£51.95				£51.95							
24/02/2023	Ikea		101	£38.25			£38.25								
28/02/2023	Danske Bank		102	£16.02		£16.02									
01/03/2023	Deriscal Rent		103	£333.33	£333.33										
08/03/2023	Screwfix		104	£54.99				£54.99							
15/03/2023	Dell Products Laptop		105	£449.00			£449.00								
16/03/2023	Holiday Savers (Jersey)		106	£12,184.00					£12,184.00						
28/03/2023	VSP Account		107	£5,000.00											£5,000.00
28/03/2023	Tables (Refund SSO)		108	£99.98			£99.98								
29/03/2023	EBay		109	£8.05				£8.05							
29/03/2023	Ink World		110	£27.98			£27.98								
30/03/2023	Belleek World		111	£75.00					£75.00						
31/03/2023	Danske Bank		112	£3.65		£3.65									
<b>31/03/2023</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>			£259.75	£57,897.32	£4,019.96	£60.73	£2,088.60	£666.53	£6,262.75	£17,259.00	£286.44	£0.00	£3,253.06	£24,000.00
	<b>Balance</b>			£0.25	£22,652.89								£6,648.75	£1,289.28	
	<b>Final Total</b>			£260.00	£80,550.21	£4,019.96	£60.73	£2,088.60	£666.53	£6,262.75	£17,259.00	£286.44	£6,648.75	£4,542.34	£24,000.00

## Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Decorum NI

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on the attached pages.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act [2] follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (i state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's report

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

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the account9 presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### Independent examiner's statement

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

Name and Signature:

STEWART HUGHES



Relevant Professional Qualification or Body:

DANCE BOX MANAGER (CERTIFIED)

Address:

4 BURNSIDE PARK

CRAWFORDS ROAD BT19 1JW

**Decorum NI**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101142

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# Annual report

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Charity No. NIC101142

# Decorum NI

*Remembering the Past – Building the Future*

## Chair's Report 2022-2023

### **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to our AGM, and I want to thank you for taking the time to come along tonight.

It is my duty as Chair of Decorum NI to report to you on the correct management and success, or otherwise, of the group for the year ending 31 March 2023.

The purpose of Decorum NI is to provide support to those who served, and their families, during the period of Operation Banner, in Northern Ireland. Our motto is 'Remembering the Past, Building the Future; but I like to think that we are also about supporting each other to live as positively as we can in the present. Decorum now has 870 members.

From Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 we began to gradually return to normal. Personal Development Groups had allocated times, days, and spaces to accommodate everyone wanting to use the facilities. I am glad to be able to report that Decorum has continued to fulfil its purpose and worked hard to provide an excellent service to all our members.

### **FACILITIES**

Over the year we have gradually adjusted to the easing of restrictions with a return to 'in person' events.

There are positives to take from the whole experience of lockdown, whilst a difficult and troubling time, many of us discovered reserves of strength and resilience we hadn't appreciated we possessed; and more accurate identification of attendees and a review of the services we provided have enabled us to continue to respond to members requests.

In August the committee carried out a Moving Forward Survey, met with Group Leaders to assess how the current rota was working out, and a new regime was implemented from 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

We also formalised our Code of Conduct, sending a copy to existing members and one to every new member going forward.

Your committee also seek to learn and expand their knowledge in order to provide a safe and holistic environment for all. Training was undertaken in:-

A Brief by Ulster Human Rights Watch

Keeping Adults Safe

Mental Health & Suicide Awareness

Basic First Aid

### **H&WBCW**

Our Health and Wellbeing case worker continues to follow the Take 5 Model.

This model sets out the way to help and encourage others to help themselves. Decorum NI adopted this model in its planning and budgeting. The 5 Steps in the model are:

Connect

We encourage our members to 'Connect' with each other and with others, particularly, by providing a warm welcome at our Drop-In facility where people, can come in, relax, feel secure, seek help and find camaraderie.

#### Keep Learning

Decorum NI has aided our members in their learning. With writing courses, genealogy courses, augmented by crochet classes, craft work, photography classes, IT tuition, and other development classes, we ensure our members have been able to learn, develop, create, and very importantly, enjoy stretching themselves in their knowledge and learning of new skills.

#### Be Active

Decorum NI does provide many different ways for our members to 'be active'. Whether it's coming to the many weekly or monthly groups, including activities such as fishing, photography, flower arranging, and many others, all to keep and improve our member's activity.

#### Take Notice

It's important to be aware of what's going on around you with family, community, and the wider contexts of politics, government and change. Decorum NI have sought out speakers to talk to groups of members on wide-ranging subjects so that members are well-informed and can take notice of what is going on.

#### Give

Our members are encouraged to 'Give' of their time, perhaps money and certainly giving of themselves which is important in being a valued and valuable member of society. Having come from professions that were about helping others, our members naturally are selfless givers of their time, of their skills and of themselves, to help others both inside and outside our organisation.

During the past year we have successfully applied for additional funding for one-off projects to enhance social connections and these have proven to be most enjoyable for all who have participated.

### **FUTURE STRATEGY**

Our on-going strategy as a group has four aims:

To make and promote Decorum NI as a first-class provider of support and services.

To ensure services and support provided by Decorum NI are meeting the needs of our members.

To ensure there is sufficient funding for Decorum NI to provide the support and services needed by our members now and for the future.

To educate others in the mission of Decorum NI and ensure the legacy of sacrifice is acknowledged and remembered.

This strategy has continued to guide the Committee in deciding on how to prioritise the use of resources to meet member's needs in the best way. In addition to surveying our members about their needs, we also obtain feedback from them on the support and events provided. This is then used to make sure we are not only doing the right things for members but also doing them right. I am glad to report that 99% of the time, such feedback has been positive throughout the year. Negative feedback is viewed as an opportunity to learn and improve future service.

We have always been conscious of the growing agenda of some sections of society to re-write the history of our pasts. Decorum continues to engage with different groups, media outlets, and to participate in research and so on, to ensure that our stories, our perspective is not omitted in these articles and that we do not become a footnote in history.

### **FUNDING**

As I think most people are by now aware, funding across all sectors of voluntary service has come under increasing pressure with budgets having been ruthlessly cut back. Decorum NI has been fortunate in that the Victims and Survivors Service remains our core funders and a new application will be submitted at the end of 2023 to take us forward for another 5 years – if successful. This funding is for the running of the drop in centre, a small work programme and the SSO salary.

Peace IV finished in November and is being replaced in January 2024 by Peace Plus. The interim period is being covered by Gap Funding from local government at Stormont. This funding is to cover the Health & Wellbeing Caseworker.

We are, however, fortunate to be seen as a 'trusted provider' of services and this puts us in a strong position when we apply for funding.

We are very grateful to the Victims and Survivors Service (VSS) for all their support. During the year we have also applied for other 'one-off' grants.

All the money we receive through grants is earmarked for specific, named projects. This does not finance all our services and so any additional fund-raising by our members is very welcome for the 'extras', although we are not and do not want to become a fundraising group.

I know that money is tight for everyone, but I want to specifically appeal to each one to consider giving on a one-off or on a monthly basis through our 'Invest My Community' page if and when you can.

We are especially grateful to those members who have personally donated funds. Thank you to all those who have given and, in anticipation, those who will give after this appeal.

## **STAFF**

Decorum NI have only two salaried full-time staff. They are our Senior Staff Officer and Health and Well-being Caseworker.

The role of the Senior Staff Officer is to plan and manage the Drop-In Centre and all ongoing projects as well as directing and supporting volunteers and he is directed and supported in his role by the Committee. Whilst Mitch is very good at what he does, keeping all the plates spinning, and as well as the plaudits for a job well-done, his can be a frustrating and thankless job. It is he who must ensure that while the rest of us swan about enjoying ourselves, he ensures we comply with all the regulations, the record keeping and the guidelines. The Committee acknowledge the dedication and work of the SSO in making Decorum NI successful.

And, of course, alongside the SSO is Linda.

The role of the Health and Well-being Caseworker is to support members and others referred to her by VSS in assessing their needs and sourcing the needed help. The committee were delighted when her work was again held up as an example of excellence to others earlier this year. She also sources appropriate courses for members such as Equine Therapy and Carers Respite Breaks.

The Committee thank both members of staff for their individual work but also their ability to work together to make such a success of what we do.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Members of Decorum NI who want to help others are encouraged to become Volunteers within the group. The committee recognises that these volunteers are the backbone of the organisation. They include those in formal roles such as the Committee, the official volunteers who sign up for specific roles – housekeeping, DIY, IT support. As well as the volunteers with expertise who run the many specific interest groups, right through to the less formal roles of members who volunteer as requested, helping to set up, or clear up after, events. These volunteers are managed and supported by our Senior Staff Officer, and were rewarded during Volunteer Week on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at La Mon.

The Committee thanks all these volunteers and acknowledge we would not be so successful if it was not for their efforts.

## **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

Our volunteers have used their interests, expertise and knowledge to form activity groups for other members to enjoy and gain new skills and interests. The groups meet weekly, bi-weekly or monthly and are all supported by good attendance of members. The groups vary in size but all are successful in what they do.

Groups currently running for members are:

Crochet & Knitting Group  
Crafts Group  
DIY  
Felting Group  
Genealogy Group  
Flower Arranging Group  
Horticulture Group  
Fishing Group  
Creative Minds & Voices Group / Creative Writing  
Photography Group

The choir has not, so far, started again permanently, but who could forget the excellent programme they put on at Christmas?

Just recently a new monthly Friendship & Support Group has been established.

Then we have provided Drop-in for coffee and a chat, lunches with a huge variety of cuisine; and even soup and a roll, on occasions. We provided Christmas Dinner and made up Hampers for distribution to members.

I also want to give you a quick overview of the one-off events of the last year.

In 2022 we went to Islandbridge, in Dublin to lay a wreath for the IRBL for their Remembrance Day Service and the following day we were guests of the Taoiseach's office to Ireland's National Day of Remembrance. Both were very moving events. This was the first time these had been held since the start of the pandemic.

We held a Remembrance Day Service and Breakfast on our premises as well as having representation at some of the local Cenotaphs.

And as we do every year, we participated in Holocaust Memorial Week.

There was a Mystery Bus Trip, a jaunt to Fermanagh, an overnight stay in Dumfries, a visit to the RUCGC Garden at Knock and a Cultural Trip to Carrickfergus.

We had a Film, Wine and Cheese night, attended a Pantomime, relived all our yesterdays with Clubsound in Concert. We had Sing-a-Longs and Storytelling.

There was the Allotment Open Day, a BBQ, Fishing Competition, Platinum Jubilee Lunch. Some of us attended the Blue Grass Music Festival in Omagh and the Bord Bia Bloom 2022 (largest gardening festival in Ireland).

We had a Christmas Show (with lots of talent among our members) and a Christmas Coffee morning. We donned our tartan for Burns Night.

We made apple tarts and showed our knowledge (or lack of it) at the Mayor's Table Quiz.

Then there are the courses. We have hosted a Ukelele Course, a Painting Course, Beginners Calligraphy, Canoe Course, Creative Writing and ran a Citizenship Course with Millisle Youth Forum.

We facilitated some of our members to participate in an Equine Therapy Course.

An impressive list when heard like this.

Members have also attended other, external events on Decorum's behalf; European Victims Day; UK Veterans Family Study and so on.

### **SPECIALIST SUPPORT**

Specialist support and advice to members who have specific needs is provided by SEFF in relation to benefits and the Troubles Pension. They also provide an Advocacy Worker in relation to Legacy issues. Both have been very successful.

### **THANK YOU**

Now, I must take time to give a big Thank You to all those who have been instrumental in the success of Decorum NI.

Externally, I must thank our Mayor, VSS and Peace IV, Ards and North Down Borough Council, SEFF and others who have supported us so well.

Internally, I thank the lynchpin of our group, our Senior Staff Officer, who with his dedication, commitment and enthusiasm kept us on track. I also thank our Health and Well-being Caseworker for the excellent support to members in all its forms.

On behalf of members, I would also like to thank our President, the Senior Management Team and the members of the Committee for giving of their time, energy and commitment to keeping the ship afloat and heading in the right direction.

I thank our Treasurer and Secretary for their work in maintaining our accounts and maintaining our processes.

I offer a big Thank You to all our Volunteers who give selflessly of themselves so that services and events run so smoothly and efficiently. As we know volunteers are paid nothing but are priceless.

Lastly, but certainly not least, thank you to our members who participate in what we do and who make things worthwhile.

## **FUTURE**

For the future, we wait to find out about our funding from VSS and Peace Plus, but our own Group Funds are reasonably healthy. We look forward to things continuing in our new normal and our many and diverse groups being able to continue in strength.

I believe that through Decorum NI, we have touched peoples' lives for the better and pray that we all have the health and strength to continue for many years to come.

Fiona (Gray) Craig

Chair

Decorum NI

**Decorum NI**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101142

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# Annual return

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## Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Decorum NI

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examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act [2] follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (i state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

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### Independent examiner's statement

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Name and Signature:

STEWART HUGHES



Relevant Professional Qualification or Body:

DANCE BANK MANAGER (CERTIFIED)

Address:

4 BURNSIDE PARK

CRAWFORDS ROAD BT19 1JW