

# Country Comes To Town

(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

**AND**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER – NIC 102271

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER – NI074062

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

**Country Comes To Town**  
[Company Limited By Guarantee]

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**Country Comes To Town**  
**[Company Limited By Guarantee]**

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS OFFICERS  
AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS**

<i>Registered charity name</i>	Country Comes to Town
<i>Charity number</i>	NIC 102271
<i>Company registration number</i>	NI074062
<i>Principal office</i>	TADA Rural Support Network Carn Industrial Estate Craigavon Co Armagh
<i>Registered office</i>	TADA Rural Support Network Carn Industrial Estate Craigavon Co Armagh
<i>Trustees</i>	Mr B F McLaughlin Mr T E Fleming Mrs A M Culbert Mr J H Wilson
<i>Secretary</i>	Mr B F McLaughlin
<i>Independent Examiner</i>	WHR Accountants Ltd Chartered Certified Accountants Statutory Auditors 56 English Street Armagh Co Armagh BT61 7LG
<i>Bankers</i>	Danske Bank 45 High Street Portadown Co Armagh BT62 1LB

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**  
**YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, have pleasure in presenting their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2024.

**Reference and Administrative Details**

Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of members of the board and professional advisers, officers and professional advisers on page 1 of the financial statements.

**The Trustees**

The trustees who served the company during the period were as follows:

Mr B F McLaughlin  
Mr T E Fleming  
Mrs A M Culbert  
Mr J H Wilson MBE

**Structure, Governance and Management**

The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice [SORP] "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in 2005 in preparing the report and financial statements of the charity. They have also had regard for any other information required by law or the charity's governing document.

**Governing Document**

Country Comes to town is constituted as a charity under a trust deed dated 30 September 2010 and is recognised as a charity by HM Revenue & Customs (reference number NI074062), and The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (Reference Number NIC 102271).

**Objectives and Activities**

The objectives and principal activities of the charity are to promote good community relationships and social cohesion between the different communities, both ethnic and local, and to attract visitors from all ages and backgrounds into the town of Portadown. Thereby benefiting all the inhabitants of Craigavon District and surrounding areas by holding an annual community festival, celebrating rural life and activity, past and present.

**Continued ..... TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

**Achievements and Performance**

Established since 1999, as Portadown's only major outdoor cross-community festival, last years event attracted in excess of 30,000 visitors into the town centre on 21 September 2024. The event, as usual, ran smoothly, due to extensive pre-planning and working in partnership with statutory agencies such as ABC Borough Council, PSNI, Translink, Roads Service and HSC Team etc. And the co-operation of town centre traders was also invaluable; along with the financial support they provided. The event organisers were pleased to host a group of representatives from the Ballina Salmon Festival in Co. Mayo; a group with which Country Comes To Town has had long-established links. Subsequent analysis of the CCTT events activities revealed that approximately 50% of visitors came from the Greater Craigavon Area with around 20% from the town of Portadown itself. A further 30% of visitors were attracted from all other parts of N Ireland, with notable coachloads arriving from locations such as Ballymena, Omagh Enniskillen and Ards. The remainder were made up of visitors from ROI counties such as Donegal, Meath, Monaghan, Louth, Galway and Dublin. There were also coaches from Scotland and an 80 strong motorhome group from all over Ireland. Once again, one family actually travelled from Ontario in Canada!

**Public Benefit**

There are a number of public benefits that accrue from the CCTT festival. The first of these relates to the substantial amount of community co-operation and interaction that it engenders in what is still, even in 2024, a significantly fractured political society within Portadown. The second public benefit to arise is the close involvement of civic, commercial and community groups, working in unison to ensure the annual success of this very large event. A third benefit is drawn from the craft exhibits and living history demonstrations that are a feature of the Country Comes To Town festival. These provide increased education and knowledge of history and culture for young people through artefacts, activities and demonstrations. These events also create points of stimulation and commentary from older visitors who may have grown up in an era when such activities as woodturning, blacksmithing, thatching, home butter-making and threshing were everyday events.

**Demonstrating the Benefits**

In Portadown and its environs, there are still many communities and organisations that tend to restrict their activities to their own district, or to other like-minded groups with similar cultural or political backgrounds as their own. Anyone familiar with Portadown, hearing titles such as Garvaghy Road, Churchill Park, Brownstown or Killicomaine, will immediately be able to visualise the lamppost flags and painted footpaths within those areas, even today in 2024. Groups encouraged to participate in CCTT are afforded otherwise rare opportunities to meet with others whose backgrounds and environments differ from their own. Feedback from such interactions indicates that individuals from such intermixing groups are more likely to reflect on the nature of their cultural, political and/or religious differences in a non-threatening and neutral environment. And, equally importantly, take advantage of the CCTT activities to identify the numerous areas of common interest on show. Some such will frequently include shared interest in e.g. country music; vintage vehicles and home crafts. In the years before COVID, the CCTT organisers had taken the opportunity to facilitate local migrant groups as participants within the festival. In the past, peoples from Lithuania, Poland, East Timor, Bulgaria, Portugal, Morocco, Nigeria and Brazil have all taken featured spots in the event. In 2024, it was a group from Kenya who came along to occupy a centre spot from which they could showcase their music, food, dance, costume, culture and crafts. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were very well received. They also made many new friends.

**Continued ..... TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

Citizens able to work together at the same level with professional civic officers regularly report to CCTT directors that such interceptions permit community activists the opportunity to learn how civic action is created and managed. The converse also applies. Council Officers report that working with community teams affords some excellent opportunities to observe, at first hand, the desires and priorities of local communities.

The three-way spirit of support and co-operation between the town's commercial sector, its civic management and its communities can be further evidenced by the spirit of goodwill that is engendered by Country Comes To Town through the positive manner that charities and church groups report that they are received on the stands and pitches that the festival organisers provide for them.

**Is there harm?**

It is highly unlikely that the positive nature of these purposes would be likely to create harm.

**Beneficiaries**

The beneficiaries of the purposes of Country Comes To Town are, primarily, the groups and individuals from all over Ireland and further afield, who attend the festival as visitors, traders and entertainers. The longer-term benefits of the festival lie in the closer relationships that involvement in CCTT participation brings to broadening the cross-community friendship bonds that are thus created.

**Private Benefit**

Arising from the very large numbers of people attending Country Comes To Town, there are private financial benefits that accrue to both temporary street traders and resident retailers - through increased trade in the town. However, this is incidental to the main purposes of holding this festival in order to enhance the quality of the town's community relations. The CCTT directors are all volunteers and accrue no financial benefits.

**Financial Review**

It is the policy of the charity to maintain restricted reserves which match the needs of the trust, both at the current time and for the foreseeable future. This provides sufficient funds to cover running costs which include management, administration, and support costs. Restricted reserves must be spent in accordance with the donor's wishes.

**Plans for Future Periods**

It is the intention of Country Comes To Town to further enhance the experience for visitors to the Festival by enlarging the programme on the day of the festival. The management team is always looking for more diverse exhibitors and entertainers. In 2025, the team will be extending the events by expanding the already broad range of farm and exotic animals that are available for youngsters and adults to 'meet and greet'. This Festival is vitally important for the social cohesion, community well-being, and the economic benefits of The Greater Portadown Area.

**Country Comes To Town**  
[Company Limited By Guarantee]

Continued ..... TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Photos from the Festival



**Continued ..... TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

**Responsibilities of the Trustees**

The trustees [who are also the directors of Country Comes To Town for the purposes of company law] are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards [United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice].

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Independent Examiner**

WHR ACCOUNTANTS LTD has been re-appointed as independent examiner for the ensuing year.

**NEW Registered Office**

COUNTRY COMES TO TOWN  
TADA Rural Support Network  
Carn Industrial Estate  
CRAIGAVON  
Co Armagh

**Signed by order of the trustees**



**B F McLaughlin**  
**Company Secretary**

**23 May 2025**



**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF COUNTRY COMES TO TOWN**  
**YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

We report on the Accounts of the Charity for the Year Ended 30 September 2024 set out on page 15.

**Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner**

The charity's trustees [who are also the directors of Country Comes To Town for the purposes of company law] are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. Having satisfied ourselves that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is our responsibility to state – on the basis of our examination – whether particular matters have come to our attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement**

Our 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 trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view'.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention :

- 1 which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that :
  - proper books of account are kept [in accordance with Section 386 of the Companies act 2006];
- and*
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the books of account and comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice : Accounting and Reporting by Charities;
- or*
- 2 to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

  
**WHR Accountants Ltd**  
**Independent Examiner**  
56 English Street , Armagh, BT61 7LG

**23 May 2025**

**Country Comes To Town**  
[Company Limited By Guarantee]

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

		<u>Year Ended 30 9 24</u>	<u>Year Ended 30 9 23</u>
		<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
	Notes	£	£
<hr/>			
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>			
Incoming resources from charitable activities	2	<u>29,665</u>	<u>31,405</u>
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<u>29,665</u>	<u>31,405</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>			
Charitable activities	3 / 4	28,364	21,644
Governance costs		<u>708</u>	<u>600</u>
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		<u>29,072</u>	<u>22,304</u>
<b>NET INCOMING / (OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR</b>		<u>593</u>	<u>9,101</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
<b>Total Funds brought forward</b>		15,528	6,427
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u>16,121</u>	<u>15,528</u>

The Notes form part of these financial statements

**Country Comes To Town**  
[Company Limited By Guarantee]

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

	Notes	Year Ended 30 9 24 Total Funds      £	Year Ended 30 9 23 Total Funds      £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>5</b>		
Tangible Assets		252	252
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>6</b>		
Debtors		-	-
Cash at Bank		<u>25,083</u>	<u>18,455</u>
		<b><u>25,083</u></b>	<b><u>18,455</u></b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>	<b>7</b>		
Amounts falling due within one year		9,189	3,179
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b><u>15,894</u></b>	<b><u>15,276</u></b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>16,121</b>	<b>15,528</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b><u>16,121</u></b>	<b><u>15,528</u></b>
<b>FUNDS</b>	<b>8</b>		
Restricted Funds		16,121	15,528
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b><u>16,121</u></b>	<b><u>15,528</u></b>

The Notes form part of these financial statements

**Country Comes To Town**  
**[Company Limited By Guarantee]**

**continued .....      Balance Sheet - At 30 September 2024**

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Article 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 30 September 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2024, in accordance with Article 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

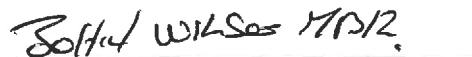
The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for :

- a. Ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006, and
- b. Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficient for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 23 May 2025,  
and were signed on its behalf by:

  
B F McLaughlin – Trustee

  
J H Wilson – Trustee

**The Notes form part of these financial statements**

**NOTES ON AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Accounting Convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provision of Section 1A "Small Entities" of Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006.

These financial Statements have been prepared under the Historical Cost Convention.

**Incoming Resources**

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

**Resources Expended**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

**Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.  
Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity.  
Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.  
Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**Tangible Fixed Assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rate in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life :  
Fixtures and Fittings - 10% on reducing balance.

**Country Comes To Town**  
[Company Limited By Guarantee]

*Continued .....*      **NOTES ON AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**2. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Year Ended 30 9 24 Total Funds      £	Year Ended 30 9 23 Total Funds      £
Grants – ACB & CB Council	14,850	14,550
Pitch Licence Fees	13,400	15,475
Sponsorship & Donations	1,415	1,380
	<u>29,665</u>	<u>31,405</u>

**3. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES BY FUND TYPE**

	Year Ended 30 9 24 Total Funds      £	Year Ended 30 9 23 Total Funds      £
Annual Festival	<u>29,072</u>	<u>22,304</u>

**4. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES BY ACTIVITY TYPE**

	Year Ended 30 9 24 Total Funds      £	Year Ended 30 9 23 Total Funds      £
Annual Festival	<u>29,072</u>	<u>22,304</u>

**Country Comes To Town**  
[Company Limited By Guarantee]

Continued ..... **NOTES ON AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Fixtures & Fittings    £	Total    £
<b><i>COST</i></b>		
At 1 10 23	444	444
Additions	-	-
At 30 9 24	444	444
<b><i>DEPRECIATION</i></b>		
At 1 10 23	192	192
Charge for Year	25	25
	217	217
<b><i>NET BOOK VALUE</i></b>		
At 30 9 24	227	227
At 30 9 23	252	252

**5(a). TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration nor other benefits for the year ended 30 September 2024 or for the year ended 30 September 2023.

**6. DEBTORS : AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	Year Ended 30 9 24 Total Funds    £	Year Ended 30 9 23 Total Funds    £
Trade Debtors	-	-
Other Debtors	-	-
	-	-

**Country Comes To Town**  
[Company Limited By Guarantee]

Continued .....

**NOTES ON AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**7. CREDITORS : AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	Year Ended 30 9 24 Total Funds	£	Year Ended 30 9 23 Total Funds	£
Trade Creditors		8,589		2,579
Other Creditors		-		-
Accruals		600		600
		<b>9,189</b>		<b>3,179</b>

**8. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS**

	Balance at 30 9 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Balance at 30 9 2024 £
Restricted Funds	15,528	593	16,121

**9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

No transactions with related parties were undertaken such as are required to be disclosed under Financial Reporting Standard 8.

**10. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

On a winding-up, members may be required to contribute a maximum of £1.



**Country Comes To Town**  
[Company Limited By Guarantee]

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

	Year to 30 9 24 £	Year to 30 9 23 £
<b><u>INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</u></b>		
Grants, Sponsorship, Donations and Stall-holder fees	29,665	31,405
<b><u>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</u></b>	<b><u>29,655</u></b>	<b><u>31,405</u></b>
<b><u>RESOURCES EXPENDED CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</u></b>		
Advertising	3,789	4,298
ACB&CB Council Pitch fees & Park Hire	611	332
Security and First Aid	3,180	2,051
Traffic Management	1,187	1,139
Events and Entertainment	15,627	9,655
Travel expenses	612	648
Printing, Stationery and Postage	1,043	1,187
Insurance	1,160	1,160
Telephone	400	324
Set Up and Clean Up	-	311
Pitch Fee Refund	265	110
Sundry Expenses	161	-
Professional Fees – Survey	170	220
Bank fees	134	181
Depreciation of Fixtures and Equipment	25	25
	<b><u>28,364</u></b>	<b><u>21,644</u></b>
<b><u>GOVERNANCE COSTS</u></b>		
Accountancy fees	708	660
<b><u>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</u></b>	<b><u>29,072</u></b>	<b><u>22,304</u></b>
<b><u>NET INCOMING / (OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR</u></b>	<b><u>593</u></b>	<b><u>9,101</u></b>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements