

**Northwest Archaeological & Historical Society**  
**Registered Charity No. NIC 102353**  
**Trustees Annual Report 2022**

The objectives of the Society are to further the education of the public in the archaeology, history, folklore and the antiquities of North-West Ulster and to undertake or assist in the undertaking of research into such subjects and the publication of useful results of such research. In 2022 the Society, now in its 47th year has continued its role in a very limited manner due to the ongoing effect that the Covid 19 pandemic had on our ability to hold meetings.

The trustees and several members of the Society have continued to co-operate and assist with several other organisations and groups to promote local history and increase understanding of our shared local heritage. We still continue to be involved in a major project in conjunction with the University of the Third Age, Causeway Coast branch. The project called "The Hervey Trail" has been examining the life and times of Frederick Hervey, Earl of Bristol and Bishop of Derry.

A reduced number of meetings have been held by means of the "ZOOM" video conferencing medium and several "in person" meetings have been held.

We continue to co-operate with the History & Religious Studies department of Lumen Christi College in Derry in their research into a structure in the college grounds which existed at the time of the Siege of Derry in 1688. Further research on this project has been delayed due to the pandemic, but work will resume when normality is restored. Analysis work on materials recovered from the site continues to be suspended due to the virus.

As in 2021 a full programme of monthly free lectures was planned for the period from January to June and from October to December. However, due to continued safety concerns we found that, due to the virus, people were largely concerned about attending meetings and the programme was suspended. The trustees will consider the possibility of resuming meetings in the near future and will also seek to rebuild our membership.

The trustees believe that no harm flows from its activities and members do not obtain any private benefit.

We shall continue to co-operate with NI libraries, the Federation for Ulster Local Studies the Public Record Office for Northern Ireland and local community groups when conditions allow.

We believe that society in general benefits from our various activities as we continue to make people aware of local history, of our shared heritage and culture and also to make history interesting and enjoyable.

**Finance.**

As can be seen from our Receipts and Payments statement the Society has ended the 2022 financial year with a total balance in our accounts of £948. As no meetings were held during 2022, we did not charge membership fees.

Our meeting place is No. 1 St. Columb's Court off Bishop Street in the centre of the Walled City, where the Dean of Derry has permitted us to meet free of charge, but the Society, when meeting, makes a contribution to cover the cost of light and heating expenses.

**Public Benefit.**

As well as the public benefits indicated above, the trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland guidance on Public Benefit. We have given careful consideration to the guidance to ensure that our activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to our beneficiaries.

R J Hamilton



D I Bartlett  
Trustees.

20th September 2023.