



Newcastle Community Cinema

34 Main Street, Newcastle, County Down. BT33 0AE. NIC:102474

Trustees' Report 2024

Period of report: 1 January 2023 to 30 December 2024

NCC Charity Trustees

NCC's Trustees during the reporting period are:

Chairman	Mr Rob Manley
Treasurer	Ms Felicia Matheson
Secretary	Mr Matthew Grainger
Trustee	Dr Lucy Royal-Dawson

No other trustees served in this year.

How is the charity constituted and our governing document

Newcastle Community Cinema is a constituted charitable organisation operating under its Constitution dated 9 January 2023.

Summary description of our purposes

The Charity's objects are specifically restricted to the following:

- a) To establish and manage the premises of St Mary's Hall, Newcastle as a community asset for the benefit of the inhabitants of the area of South Down.
- b) Independently and by association with statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, businesses and others, to promote cinema, culture, sports, education, entertainment, social and community group activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for all and community cohesion.
- c) To promote film, cinema, the arts and culture by:-
 - i. organising, promoting and delivering a programme of film, film-related events, arts and cultural events, including without limitation, film screenings, concerts, performances, workshops, exhibitions and discussions;
 - ii. using film and cinema as a means of engaging the inhabitants of the area in communal activities;

- iii. advancing the education of the public in the knowledge and understanding of film and cinema, and arts and culture more broadly.
- d) To promote these and other charitable purposes as may from time to time be determined for public benefit to wide and diverse audiences in Newcastle, Co. Down and its environs without distinction of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion.
- e) To advance environmental protection and conservation in our charitable purposes by promoting:-
 - i. recycling and sustainable waste management;
 - ii. sustainable means of operating and developing our charitable purposes.

Activities for the public benefit in 2024

Public cultural events

NCC provided weekly events for the public offering a varied and stimulating programme for many different sectors of the local community. Our main activities were film screenings and film-based events:

Film Screenings

NCC's regular screening profile continued with between 5 and 10 screenings a month, depending on our capacity to run them. We introduced two new screening threads to the existing six threads (Friday Fright Night, Select, World, Toddler Club, Relaxed autism-friendly and Family): Wee Storybook To Film, a storybook-themed film, storytime and activity for 1-6 year olds; and Young Programmers for younger cinephiles 16 to 26. We will start another new thread in the new year: Classics with Cake. Seasonal programmes for Easter, Halloween and Christmas were again important features of the annual programme.

Teaming up with NI Science Festival, BFI Collective and the local Eats and Beats Music and Food Festival, we also screened films to tie in with concurrent community and national events.

Full Moon Film Festival November 2024

In November 2024, we ran our annual film festival, screening 19 films over one week, attracting good audience numbers and feedback. We teamed up with Into Film to offer free screenings to schools, and programmed several additional extras, such as a talk about the folk horror genre linked to local history, a sea-swimming event with special guests and cake, and three Q&As with directors of films. We also ran lego and clay stop-motion workshops for adults and children. We received sponsorship from local businesses to fund the event.

Additional events of public benefit

In 2024, we continued to increase the availability of NCC to local cultural, social and community groups to offer a more varied, and locally relevant programme of events. These events attract people from all quarters of the local district. These included:

NCC Markets

Every month, we held NCC Markets indoors and outside giving local entrepreneurial producers and craftspeople a location to sell their wares and produce.

Awareness-raising events

NCC worked with local groups to hold awareness-raising events around important social issues such as the cost of living crisis, and health matters with the local GP surgery.

Community group activities

NCC provides a central location for local community groups to hold their annual competition fund-raising or prize-giving events, such as an annual drama festival, the local boxing clubs

competitions, the local netball club prize-giving, fund-raising events for the local foodbank and a youth public speaking competition.

Theatrical productions

This year we hosted Banyan Puppet Theatre who performed four of their plays aimed at younger audiences.

Amateur Dramatics

NCC has a large proscenium-arch stage well-suited for theatrical productions. We hosted local two amateur dramatics groups who performed their plays 'Little Hills' and 'Dinner 4 Six.'

Regular hires

Our regular hall users expanded to five weekly classes.

Volunteer mobilisation

We operate with the support of a strong volunteer base and offer opportunities for people to get involved in running a cinema and community events. In 2024, we continued to offer meaningful placements to volunteers qualifying for Duke of Edinburgh awards. In addition, we attracted a number of young cinephiles interested in running a new screening thread 'Young Programmers.'

Achievements of NCC

Staffing

Sadly, our Art Work employee stepped down in April 2024, but fortunately we were able to replace him to continue to disburse the DfC Art Work grant until June 2025. We recruited one full-time and one part-time staff members, NCC Coordinators. Their presence has allowed NCC to flourish again with an increase in activities and presence in the town.

Fundraising

We held two quiz nights which raised about £4000.

Independent programming

For the first time, we ran our own summer season programme. In the past we have worked with other promoters or organisations, but this year, we took on the planning, contracting, marketing and event management ourselves. The programme was varied to suit the many visitors and younger audiences in Newcastle for the summer. We received a lot of positive feedback and will continue to programme the summer ourselves.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy remains active and we continue to hold a reserve to address any future short-fall due to unforeseen closure and to cover emergency repairs to high-value essential equipment.

Declaration

As Trustees of NCC, we declare that we have had regard of the Charities Commission of Northern Ireland guidance on public benefit and hereby report on the activities that have been carried out to further NCC's purposes for the public benefit.

Trustees' signatures and positions



Robert Manley
Chairman
2 October 2025



Felicia Matheson
Treasurer
2 October 2025



Matthew Grainger
Secretary
2 October 2025



Lucy Royal-Dawson
Trustee
2 October 2025