

The John Hewitt Society

Northern Ireland · Charity number 102629

Details

Known as JHS

Status Overdue

Registered 2015-10-02

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

Contact

Address The John Hewitt Society
C/O The Mac - Level 3
10 Exchange Street West
Belfast
Bt1 2nj
BT1 2NJ

Phone 02890324522

Email hello@johnhewittsociety.org

Website www.johnhewittsociety.org

Activities

Purposes: The Company's objects are to advance for the public benefit education in and the exploration of the arts, culture and society of Ulster, Ireland, Britain and Europe inspired by and with particular reference to the life, work and ideals of John Hewitt.

What the charity does: The advancement of citizenship or community development, The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science, 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: Arts, Cross-border/cross-community, Cultural, Heritage/historical, Human rights/equality

Who the charity helps: General public, Interface communities, Unemployed/low income

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-03-31	£113,714	£126,991	£0	1

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Frank Ferguson		
Dr Myrtle Hill		
Dr Paul Maddern		
Mr Martin Tyrrell		
Mr Paul Mcavinchey		
Mr Ryan Cornett		
Ms Julie Andrews		
Ms Naomi Leitch		

The John Hewitt Society

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102629

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: NI041294 (Northern Ireland)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER:102629

**Report of the
Financial Statements
For the Year ended 31st March 2024
For
The John Hewitt Society Ltd**

Janet Jensen, ACMA, CGMA

Ekstra Accounting Solutions

2 Beechill Park South

Belfast, Co Antrim

BT8 6PB

The John Hewitt Society Ltd

Directors and other information

Directors	Dr Frank Ferguson Mr Ryan Cornett Dr Myrtle Hill Mrs Naomi Leitch Dr Paul Maddern Mr Paul McAvinchey Dr Martin Tyrell (appointed 21/10/2023) Ms Aoife Walsh (resigned 26/10/2024) Mr Anthony Kennedy (resigned 21/10/2023) Mr Paul Sweeney (resigned 21/10/2023)
Secretary	Naomi Leitch
Company Number	NI041294
Charity Number	NIC102629
Registered Office	10 Exchange Street West Belfast BT1 2NJ
Business address	The MAC – Level 3 10 Exchange Street West Belfast BT1 2NJ.

The John Hewitt Society
Contents of the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

	Page
Report of the Trustees	3
Independent Examiners Report	11
Statement of Financial Activities	12
Balance Sheet	13
Notes to the Financial Statements	14

The John Hewitt Society

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2024, which are set out on pages 12 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees (and also the director for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination it is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of the 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 directors given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland
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 concern in respect of matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Janet Jensen, ACMA CGMA
Ekstra Accounting Solutions



27th November 2024

The John Hewitt Society

**Statement of Financial Activities
For the Year Ended 31st March 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31.03.2024 Total Funds £	31.03.2023 Total Funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	23,502	90,212	113,714	111,616
Other income		-	-	-	4,313
Total		23,502	90,212	113,714	115,929
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Direct		20,774	106,217	126,991	125,249
Other		-	-	-	-
Total		20,774	106,217	126,991	125,249
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)					
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		2,728	(16,005)	(13,277)	(9,320)
Total funds brought forward		9,592	16,534	26,126	35,446
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		12,320	529	12,849	26,126

The John Hewitt Society
Balance sheet as at 31st March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31.03.2024 Total Funds £	31.03.2023 Total Funds £
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>					
Tangible assets	6	1,312	-	1,312	1,320
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>					
Cash at bank		20,155	529	20,684	24,925
Prepayments		-	-	-	1,055
Accrued Income	7		-	-	3,000
		<u>20,155</u>	<u>529</u>	<u>20,684</u>	<u>28,980</u>
<u>CREDITORS</u>					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(9,147)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(9,147)</u>	<u>(4,174)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>11,008</u>	<u>529</u>	<u>11,537</u>	<u>24,806</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>12,320</u>	<u>529</u>	<u>12,849</u>	<u>26,126</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>12,320</u>	<u>529</u>	<u>12,849</u>	<u>26,126</u>
<u>FUNDS</u>					
	9				
Unrestricted Funds				12,320	9,592
Restricted Funds				529	16,534
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>12,849</u>	<u>26,126</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2024.

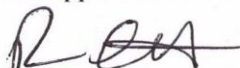
The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for :

- (a) Ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that 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 charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit 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 the financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies' regime

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of trustees on 28/11/24 and were signed on its behalf by

Name of Trustee 

Date 28/11/24

Name of Trustee 

Date 28/11/24

The John Hewitt Society

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year ended 31st March 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statement of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, has been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102)' Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)' Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland Companies Act 2006." The Financial statements have been prepared using the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has an entitlement to the funds, the income will probably be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, a transfer of economic benefits will probably be required in settlement and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to that 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.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life

Office Equipment	25%
------------------	-----

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 the funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature of and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

The John Hewitt Society

Notes to the financial statements ...continued For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
	Total	Total
	£	£
Donations	200	-
Busarries and Sponsorships	3,302	2,959
Ticket sales/Box office	18,146	11,606
Online Giving/Sales	1,853	971
Grant Funding	90,212	96,081
Total	113,714	111,617

3. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting)		
Depreciation- owned assets	<u>771</u>	<u>665</u>

4. TRUSTEE'S RENUMBERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustee's remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st March 2024 nor for the year ended 31st March 2023

Trustee Expenses

There were no trustee's expenses paid for the year ended 31st March 2024 nor for the year ended 31st March 2023

5. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows

	31.03.2024
Administration	<u>1</u>

No employees received enoluments in excess of £60,000

The John Hewitt Society

Notes to the financial statements ...continued
For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment	Computer Equipment	Totals
	£		£
COST			
At 1 April 2023	6,013	-	6,013
Additions	-	764	764
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31st March 2024	6,013	764	6,777
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2023	(4,694)	-	(4,694)
Charge for the year	(665)	(106)	(771)
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31st March 2024	(5,359)	(106)	(5,465)
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st March 2024	654	658	1,312
At 31st March 2023	1,319	-	1,319

7. ACCRUED INCOME

	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
	£	£
Belfast Charitable Society	-	1,000
Cathedral Quarter	-	2,000
	-	3,000

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
	£	£
Accrued Expenses	1,929	-
Trade Creditors	5,669	3,195
Payroll Creditors	1,549	980
Total Creditors : Amounts falling due within one year	9,147	4,175

The John Hewitt Society

Notes to the financial statements ...continued For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 01.04.2023 £	Prior Year Adjustment	Net Movement in funds £	At 31.03.2024 £
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	9,592		2,728	12,320
Restricted Funds				
Ards & North Down Borough Council	-	-	-	-
Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	(1,261)	1,261	-	(0)
Arts Council of Northern Ireland - General Revenue	9,510	(5,811)	(4,036)	(337)
Arts Council of Northern Ireland - Project	(0)		-	(0)
Belfast Charitable Society			-	-
Belfast City Council	-	5,811	(5,850)	(39)
Belfast Harbours Commissioners			-	-
Causeway Coast and Glens			-	-
Charity Aid Foundation	1,500	(1,261)	-	239
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade; Reconciliation Fund	-		-	-
Foras Na Gaeilge			-	-
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	-	-	-	-
Mid & East Antrim Council			500	500
National Lottery (NBF)	-		-	-
Newry Mourne & Down Borough Council	-	-	(155)	(155)
NI Community Relations	-	6,785	(6,580)	205
North Belfast Festival	6,785	(6,785)	-	-
North South Ministerial Council	-		116	116
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	-	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	16,534	-	(16,005)	529
TOTAL FUNDS	26,126	-	(13,277)	12,849

The John Hewitt Society

**Notes to the financial statements ...continued
For the Year Ended 31st March 2024**

Net Movement in Funds	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	23,502	(20,774)	2,728
Restricted Funds			
Ards & North Down Borough Council	500	(500)	-
Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	25,000	(25,000)	-
Arts Council of Northern Ireland - General Revenue	28,279	(32,315)	(4,036)
Arts Council of Northern Ireland - Project	5,271	(5,271)	-
Belfast Charitable Society	-	-	-
Belfast City Council	5,811	(11,661)	(5,850)
Belfast Harbours Commissioners	5,000	(5,000)	-
Causeway Coast and Glens	2,000	(2,000)	-
Charity Aid Foundation	-	-	-
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade; Reconciliation Fund	7,352	(7,352)	-
Foras Na Gaeilge	2,928	(2,928)	-
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	1,000	(1,000)	-
Mid & East Antrim Council	500	-	500
National Lottery (NBF)	1,000	(1,000)	-
Newry Mourne & Down Borough Council	2,570	(2,725)	(155)
NI Community Relations	(500)	(6,080)	(6,580)
North South Ministerial Council	2,000	(1,884)	116
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	1,500	(1,500)	-
Total Restricted funds	90,212	(106,217)	(16,005)
TOTAL FUNDS	113,714	(126,991)	(13,277)

The John Hewitt Society

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102629

Accounts

**Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements
For the Year ended 31st March 2023
For
The John Hewitt Society
Company limited by guarantee**

Janet Jensen, ACMA, CGMA

Ekstra Accounting Solutions

2 Beechill Park South

Belfast, Co Antrim

BT8 6PB

The John Hewitt Society

Company limited by guarantee

Directors and other information

Directors	Mr Anthony Kennedy Mr Ryan Cornett Dr Myrtle Hill Mrs Naomi Leitch Dr Frank Ferguson Dr Paul Maddern Mr Paul McAvinchey Mr Paul Sweeney Ms Aoife Walsh
Secretary	Naomi Leitch
Company Number	NI041294
Charity Number	NIC102629
Registered Office	10 Exchange Street West Belfast BT1 2NJ
Business address	The MAC – Level 3 10 Exchange Street West Belfast BT1 2NJ.

The John Hewitt Society
Contents of the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31st March 2023

	Page
Report of the Trustees	3
Independent Examiners Report	11
Statement of Financial Activities	12
Balance Sheet	13
Notes to the Financial Statements	14

The John Hewitt Society
Report of the Trustees
For the Year Ended 31st March 2023

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with independently examined financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2023, meeting the requirements for a directors' report and accounts in line with Companies Act 2006. The financial statements comply with all relevant legislation and with current recommended accounting practice.

Structure, Governance & Management:

The John Hewitt Society was formally incorporated in August 2001, as a not-for-profit limited liability company with charitable status, registered in N. Ireland at the company address. It is a long standing client of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

Established in 1987, the Society has run its core event the John Hewitt International Summer School (JHISS) for over thirty years, initially in Garron Tower School, Co Antrim, and since 2021 at The Market Place Theatre & Arts Centre Armagh. The JHISS is a literature, politics and arts festival which takes place annually on the last week in July. Each year it programmes approximately 55/60 events involving up to 70 artists, contributors and performers from Verbal, Visual and Performing Arts, politics and well-known local and international speakers. Under an annual theme, the festival is planned and coordinated by a voluntary Artistic programming committee of 16 members, who each bring with them a strong background expertise, experience and knowledge in their field, and project managed by the Company Director. Through the JHISS, the Society has proven its ability to deliver a large-scale event of national and international reputation, with relevant local interest as well as the ability to attract visitors and tourists from well beyond our borders.

Highly regarded as a celebrated high quality Literary and Arts festival of Local, National and International esteem, it is recognised by Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council as one of their flagship events receiving financial support from their International Tourism Event Fund (£15k), and since 2020, through a Service Level Agreement (£10k) for provision of cultural services within the borough.

In addition to sustaining and increasing the quality and popularity of the John Hewitt International Summer School, the Society provide a wide variety of activities through literary arts programme and creative writing workshops throughout the year, helping participants to explore issues of difference, identity and tolerance through literature and creative writing, and platforms for debate and discussion on those key political and cultural issues of the day.

The Society actively promotes cross community, intercultural and cross border links in collaboration with local Councils, schools, writing groups, community, cultural heritage and other arts organisations. February 2022 saw the launch of the debut Look North! North Belfast Festival, organised through a partnership network of 12 people, and individuals, from 8 organisations who reside, work or are associated with North Belfast, including Ulster University, and chaired by the Society's Tony Kennedy.

The Society is a registered arts charity with Charities Commission NI & Companies House, with professional membership of NICVA, Arts & Business NI and the Fundraising Regulator all of whom support the committee & board with information and training in best practice within financial controls, audience development and effective governance procedures

A number of best-practice policies are in place and reviewed every three years, including, Financial Controls & Expenses; Children, Young People & Vulnerable Adults; Health & Safety; Environmental; Equal Opportunities and a Risk Policy and Register which is reviewed annually. An Event Management plan and Risk Assessment matrix are implemented for all large-scale projects. While the JHS Friends scheme helps raise much appreciated additional funds, everyone who registers or books a ticket for an event online through Eventbrite are also invited to donate through a donation web portal.

The Society continues to build strong relationships with elected members and local Government Officers throughout Northern Ireland, as well as with a wide range of community & voluntary organisations within local Council areas, and through cross-community and cross-border organisations. To date, the Society has developed several longstanding relationships with an increasing number of funders and sponsors, with some spanning up to a decade or more, indicating that sponsors and stakeholders have confidence in the Society's ability to plan, execute and deliver high-quality literature arts events.

Board of Trustees

Chairperson: Anthony Kennedy, OBE
Deputy chair: Ryan Cornett
Treasurer: Ryan Cornett
Secretary: Naomi Leitch
Dr Myrtle Hill, Dr Frank Ferguson (appointed November 2022)
Dr Paul Maddern, Paul McAvinchey
Paul Sweeney, Aoife Walsh

Programme Committee:

Alex Catherwood (resigned November 2022), Ryan Cornett, Cahal Dallat, Frank Ferguson, Anne-Marie Fyfe, Byddi Lee (appointed November 2022), Myrtle Hill, Bill Jeffrey, Tony Kennedy, Naomi Leitch, Paul Maddern, Tess Maginess, Paul McAvinchey, Raquel McKee, Paul Sweeney, Aoife Walsh

Staffing:

Patricia Morris, Director.

The Director answers to the Board of Trustees.

The Chair of the Board line manages the Director.

Independent Examiner:

Janet Jensen, ACMA, CGMA
Ekstra Accounting Solutions Ltd
2 Beechill Park South
Belfast
Co Antrim
BT8 6PB

Public Benefit Statement:

Mission of The John Hewitt Society

to promote literature, arts, and culture inspired by the ideals and ideas of the poet John Hewitt.

Strategic aims

- To fortify The John Hewitt Society as one of Northern Ireland's main literary organisations, with an artistic reach across Northern Ireland.

- To strengthen the John Hewitt International Summer School as Northern Ireland's main literary event with an increased international programme.
- To develop new audiences, including developing a cohesive outreach and community development scheme to build a more diverse audience, reflective of society.
- To develop organisational capacity in order to sustain & develop our aims, focussing on staffing capacity, finance, membership and governance

Objectives

- Provide a high-quality Literary Arts programme which explores and celebrates the artistic and social power of poetry and prose, and an appreciation of our rich literary arts heritage.
- Increase new attendees at the Summer School by an additional 3% by promoting the bursary sponsorship scheme to the local community through cross-promotion of author readings to community outreach participants and other events and festivals across NI.
- Enhance the development of the literary arts through innovative partnerships and collaborations and encourage new attendees/bursary sponsorship applications from collaborative relationships developed throughout year-round programme of activities outside of the annual Summer School period.
- Re-establish the international output of the Summer School through staff utilising international funding opportunities for artist exchanges and travel bursaries.
- Further develop regional partnerships and cross-border opportunities by exploring new avenues of income e.g., trusts & foundations grant funding and sponsorship from local Councils, traders, businesses and individuals.
- Develop cultural tourism links through tourism contacts such as Tourism NI, Australian's Abroad and others.
- Attract, develop and retain a diverse cross-cultural demographic, local and global audience through our annual in person and online programme, digital and social networking platforms.
- Encourage the exploration of diversity, cultural and social identity by encouraging discussion and debate through the medium of the literary arts and creative writing.

Develop new audiences

- Engage with tourism opportunities, partnering with hospitality and/or accommodation providers to further develop links to promote cultural festivals as key attractions in attractive locations.
- Engage upwards of 100 new participants annually, across socially disadvantaged areas in the continuation of the Once Alien Here creative writing project as part of our community outreach programme.
- Programme ambitious and high-profile international poets/authors/speakers at the JHISS and at other literary events throughout the year to attract new audiences.
- Maintain and develop partnerships with established Literary organisations to maximise artistic potential of our programme, such as with Poetry Ireland and Belfast International Arts Festival

Achievements & Performance

The year saw the Society returning to its full range of activities, following the disruption of previous years due to the covid pandemic. We were delighted that our audiences slowly returned and built up again as people's confidence returned.

Activities:

- **Cushendun Big Arts Weekend**
30 April 2022: The Old Church Centre

Local musician Glenn Simpson joined Tony Kennedy to share Songs and Poetry of the area.

- **The 35th John Hewitt International Summer School**

Monday 25 - Saturday 30 July 2022: Market Place Theatre & Arts Centre Armagh.

The Society was thrilled to be able to return as normal to our festival home for a full week of culture, entertainment, discussion and collective celebration of the literature arts under the theme,

Finding the nation: redefining home and country for a shared future

This is my home and country. Later on perhaps I'll find this nation is my own...
John Hewitt, "Conacre", 1943.

The theme addressed issues of diversity, exploring how much "home", "country", "identity" and "nation" matter, or should matter in a shared future, and considering the experience of those who feel excluded from existing political structures.

Well known contributors drawn from Ireland and elsewhere included Val McDermid, Ardal O'Hanlon and David Park in a promising return to live events.

The opening address was given by Professor Olivette Otele, the UK's first black female Professor of History, distinguished research professor at SOAS London and previously Professor of the History of Slavery at Bristol University. Sponsored by the Commission for Victims and Survivors NI, Professor Otele in her talk explored the links between history, collective memory and geopolitics and how questions of citizenship, race and identity are addressed. During the week other talks featured Andy Pollak, sponsored by The Irish Association, addressing what the Republic needs to do to become more appealing to Unionists, Martin Collins, Co-Director of Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre and Traveller Rights activist for over 30 years, Professor Katy Hayward considering the impact of Brexit on North/ South and Ireland/ UK relationships, and Tara McEvoy delivered the annual John Hewitt lecture.

Belfast born Gareth Reid, Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the Year 2017, presented the Arts Lecture and launched an exhibition of his work in the Market Place Gallery, the first in Northern Ireland in a decade. A further exhibition on the foyer walls featured the work of Geraldine Hamoonga Michelo, born in Zambia and now resident in Northern Ireland.

Poetry was strongly represented with readings from the recently published *Queering the Green Anthology*, and from poets Richard Scott, Victoria Kennefick (sponsored by Poetry Ireland), Nandi Joli and Jessica Traynor. The Gallery Press event (sponsored by The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon) featured their published poets Alibhe Ní Ghearbhuigh, Molly Twomey and John McAuliffe. In a special online poetry event, Jamaican poets Dr Mervyn Morris and Dr Edward Baugh joined us live from the University of the West Indies (UWI) Jamaica, hosted in the UWI by JHS Committee member Raquel McKee. This event was sponsored by UWI, The High Commission of Jamaica in London and Poetry Ireland.

The Fiction events featured Jan Carson in discussion with Andrew Cunning, David Park speaking with Malachi O'Doherty, Louise Kennedy and Una Mannion with Michael Hughes, Bernie McGill and Wendy Erskine celebrating the short story with Paul McVeigh, and Audrey Magee in conversation with Emma Warnock. Suad Aldarra and Kerri Ní Dochartaigh talked to Maureen Boyle about their recent memoirs, while emerging authors Kathleen Murray, Olivia Fitzsimmons, and Kevin Doherty were in discussion with Jan Carson. The Crime Fiction Special featured the much celebrated and bestselling crime writing authors Val McDermid and Mark Billingham in conversation with local crime writer Stuart Neville. Later in the week BBC broadcaster William Crawley interviewed Irish comedian, actor, and author Ardal O'Hanlon about his latest book in the theatre.

There were two panel sessions - The Slugger O'Toole panel, chaired by Alan Meban, with Alex Kane, Lilian Seeno-Barr and Sorcha Eastwood based on the theme, and another panel discussion on Reporting The Troubles, from the new book of the same name, with journalists Gordon Adair, Deric Henderson, Ivan Little, Eric Villers, and David Lynas.

Evening performances included a Gala Concert Special performed by The West Ocean String Quartet, led by founder, composer, and musician Neil Martin. "Before," a new one man play by Pat Kinnevene directed by Fishamble Theatre

Company Dublin. The Mary Anne McCracken story in music and song with Jane Cassidy and Maurice Leyden, culminating in an evening of Musical Theatre with Misses Liffey from Dublin.

Once again the creative writing workshops offered support to existing and new writers, some of whom had the opportunity to read their work at the annual Creative Writing showcase at the end of the week. Three of the workshops were supported by Open University Ireland.

No Alibis Belfast, the festival bookstore, provided their annual pop-up book stall in the foyer, with numerous book signings by visiting authors. Two receptions were sponsored by the North South Ministerial Council and by the Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Councillor Paul Greenfield.

As in previous years, the Society was able to offer sponsored bursaries, residential and daily, to enable a wide range of people throughout the island of Ireland to experience, appreciate, and immerse themselves in the wide range of literature, politics and Arts events in the programme. This year our bursary awards were supported by the Community Relations Council NI, The Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Local Authorities, the Reconciliation Department: Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Investec and from several individuals/organisations who sponsor a bursary annually. In addition, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council provided awards for a small number of Council residents.

Our Festival celebration of Literature, politics, the arts, culture and debate was made possible through the partnership and financial support of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, The Commission for Victims and Survivors, The North South Ministerial Council, The Irish Association, Slugger O'Toole Blog, The Open University, No Alibis Bookstore, our many sponsors and advertisers. All of this support is much appreciated in these challenging times.

- **UK National Poetry Day**

6 October 2022: Robinson Library Armagh

To celebrate NPD 2022, poets Mel McMahon and Gráinne Tobin read from their work. In association with Armagh City Chapter Libraries NI Network and Poetry Ireland.

- **John Hewitt's Birthday Reading**

2 November 2022: John Hewitt Bar Belfast.

On the 60th Anniversary of Belfast International Arts Festival, we were thrilled to be able to return once again to the iconic John Hewitt Bar Belfast for our annual Poetry Reading to mark the birth date of the celebrated Belfast poet John Hewitt after which the Society is named.

Introduced by JHS Board member Dr Frank Ferguson, poets Rachel Hegarty and Annemarie Ní Chrurraín started by reading their favourite John Hewitt poem before going on to read from their own work. In association with Poetry Ireland and The Belfast International Arts Festival.

- **BOCAS UK Literary Tour 2022**

3 November 2022: No Alibis Bookstore Belfast.

Reading by Caribbean writers Celeste Mohammed, Nicholas Laughlin and hosted by JHS Committee member Raquel McKee. In association with BOCAS Literary Arts Festival Trinidad and Tobago and The Belfast International Arts Festival

- **QUB - The John Hewitt Public Lecture**

9 November 2022: The Peter Froggatt Centre, QUB.

“*Once Alien Here*”: *Languages Literatures and Identities*’ by Seamus Mc Kee, journalist, presenter and broadcaster.

How have writers dealt with the whole question of identity - from Joyce to Liz Lochhead, from Seamus Heaney to Zadie Smith, including those writers who are new to Northern Ireland. How do our young people respond to questions on issues of language, belonging, and being 'the other'.

In association with Queen's University Belfast Open Learning, World Literature: Global Voices Series 2022/23.

- **Selected Poems by John Hewitt Book Launch**

24 November 2022: Harrison Boutique Hotel Belfast.

New edition book launch of *The Selected Poems by John Hewitt*, with readings from the book by the editors - poets Frank Ormsby and Michael Longley. In association with Blackstaff Press and Harrison Boutique Hotel Belfast who officially opened their own newly named, John Hewitt hotel room, on the same night. John Hewitt and his wife lived in the house at a time.

- **Look North! The North Belfast Festival**

24 - 26 February 2023

For a second year, in partnership with a network of organisations, stakeholders and individuals, the jam-packed Look North! The North Belfast Festival 2023 took place throughout North Belfast on Friday – Sunday, 24 - 26 February. A new multi-arts and heritage festival weekend, Look North! brings great new opportunities for everyone to discover more about North Belfast's rich creative and cultural arts heritage.

Opening with a talk on community action, '*Saving the Shankill-Then & Now*,' by network member Jackie Redpath, the weekend included a number of walking heritage/arts tours and tours of heritage venues in North Belfast; workshops on digital skills, creative craft, and on creative writing; shared reading group discussions hosted by Libraries Ni and Duncairn Arts; and the second Look North! Short story competition awards ceremony for young people, 11 – 17 years, and adult short story writers.

North Belfast born author Bernard MacLaverty joined us online from Glasgow in conversation with Paul McVeigh; Hugh Odling-Smee hosted a Literary panel to celebrate the short story with local writers Anne Devlin and Wendy Erskine; Lucy Caldwell, Riley Johnson and Jan Carson discussed the life and times of Mary Beckett; Geraldine Connon, interviewed by Katy Radford, revealed her family connections to North Belfast in her book, *The Russian Tailor of Belfast*; while veteran author Malachi O'Doherty was in conversation with Duncan Morrow. A poetry reading event featured Nithy Kasa, Micheál McCann and Dawn Watson, and a poetry slam with a group of young emerging poets, hosted by Niamh McNally, was held in Cassidy's Bar North Belfast.

Dr Myrtle Hill gave a talk on the Women of North Belfast; Journalists Jim McDowell, Ivan Little, Allison Morris, and Gary McDonald joined a panel discussion relating their experiences on, *The Rise and Fall of Belfast's Fleet Street*; while politicians, and former North Belfast residents, Nuala McAllister and Philip Brett joined the Slugger O'Toole Blog political panel, chaired by David McCann.

Duncairn Arts joined in with their annual family join in Super Sunday Sessions, and the 100 Club hosted Alfi and her band supported by local musicians; A concert by the North Belfast Youth Choir and the Cairde Community Choir was followed by Siobhan Brown and her band; Oh Yeah Music Centre hosted All Points live music and film performances curated by AP:N; and there was a special film screening of *Belfast 1912* by Dominic O'Neill in the American Bar.

Anaka Women's Collective hosted a Cultural Evening upstairs in the Sunflower bar. Beyond Belfast hosted their monthly performance art workshop as part of the festival in St. Joes Sailortown. Visual artist Alice Maher gave a talk on her work before opening her exhibition at the Golden Thread Gallery.

The closing ceremony concluded with the launch of a copy of David Esler's stained glass window to John Hewitt's Man, Fish and Bird in The Duncan Arts, originally commissioned for and installed at Stormont.

Over the weekend the festival delivered 42 literature, heritage and arts events in 23 venues along the North Belfast Cultural Corridor including talks, walks, panels, poetry, shared readings, film, dance and musical performances, cultural exchanges, workshops (poetry, crime fiction, craft, novel writing, creative digital skills) and launched two exhibitions.

The Look North! North Belfast festival is planned, co-ordinated and managed by a network of members from Ulster University, Clifton House, The North Belfast Heritage Cluster, Duncairn Arts, Beat Carnival, Imagine Belfast, Spectrum Centre, and other invested individuals. It is supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, the National Lottery Community Fund, Belfast City Council Community Festivals fund, Belfast Charitable Society, Belfast Harbour and Destination CQ Bid Fund. We are grateful for their generosity, co-operation and support at this time.

- **40th anniversary of John Hewitt being awarded the Freedom of the City of Belfast**
2nd March 2023: Banquet Hall, Belfast City Council

Introduced by Belfast City Council's High Sheriff Dr John Kyle, who talked about the political and cultural legacy of John Hewitt in the City, it was followed by a talk by Anthony Kennedy, Chair of the John Hewitt Society, poet Niamh McNally who read her new poem on North Belfast, 'New Impressions', a rehearsed reading of Hewitt's play, 'Bloody Brae,' by a professional male actor and Claire Hanna MP, Dr Connal Parr gave a talk on Hewitt's connections with his grandfather, well known civil rights activist, writer and BCC Councillor Paddy Devlin, and told how as Lord Mayor he got this honour passed through Council at that time. The event culminated with readings by poets Michael Longley and Maureen Boyle who read from The Selected Poems by John Hewitt, edited by poets Frank Ormsby and Michael Longley.

Other Developments

During the year Byddi Lee joined the Artistic programme committee in November, while long-standing Artistic Committee member Alex Catherwood stepped down.

After another action-packed and inspiring year during which we had to endure the developing cost-of-living crisis, rising costs, uncertainty with arts funding, the continuing fall out from covid and post covid social anxiety, we were delighted that so many of our loyal followers turned out to support us in such large numbers, especially in Armagh during the JHISS.

We are grateful to our funders, supporters and partners, especially our core funders The Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council who continued to support us year on year. All of this support is much appreciated during these difficult financial times.

I would like to thank our Company Director Patricia Morris for steering us through the year, our many partners and volunteers for working with us, and of course my fellow Board and Committee members. Despite these difficult and challenging times, I am confident that with the support and the cooperation of our many friends, loyal followers and partners of the Society we will continue to build on our wide range of literary and arts activities be it on the local, regional or global stage. We look forward to another exciting, productive and successful year.

Plans for future periods

In my final report as Chair of The John Hewitt Society I look back with pride at what has been achieved with comparatively few resources, and with gratitude for the contributions made by past and present Board members, Committee members, staff, and partners and supporters. All that we have achieved is due to the way in which we have worked together. I believe that we have contributed to a better life for many through stimulating thought, encouraging talent, and showing the enjoyment that can be gained by working together.

I am confident that my successor, Dr Frank Ferguson supported by Patricia Morris, our company director, and our current Board and Committee will continue to keep alive the ideas and ideals of John Hewitt and to make significant contributions to literary, culture, and intellectual life in Northern Ireland and beyond.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 21/10/23 and signed on its behalf by:



Name of Trustee

TONY KENNEDY

Date 21/12/23

The John Hewitt Society

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees For the Year Ended 31st March 2023

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2023, which are set out on pages 12 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees (and also the director for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination it is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of the 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 directors given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland
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 concern in respect of matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Janet Jensen, ACMA CGMA
Ekstra Accounting Solutions



20th October 2023

The John Hewitt Society

Statement of Financial Activities
For the Year Ended 31st March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31.03.2023 Total Funds £	31.03.2022 Total Funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	14,535	97,081	111,616	93,969
Other income		-	4,313	4,313	1,057
Total		14,535	101,394	115,929	95,026
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Direct		19,489	105,760	125,249	95,296
Other		-	-	-	-
Total		19,489	105,760	125,249	95,296
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)					
Transfer between funds		(4,954)	(4,366)	(9,320)	(270)
		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		(4,954)	(4,366)	(9,320)	(270)
		14,546	20,900	35,446	35,716
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		9,592	16,534	26,126	35,446

The John Hewitt Society

Balance sheet as at 31st March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>					
Tangible assets	6	1,320	-	1,320	1,984
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>					
Cash at bank		8,391	16,534	24,925	37,692
Prepayments		1,055		1,055	-
Accrued Income	7	3,000	-	3,000	-
		12,446	16,534	28,980	37,692
<u>CREDITORS</u>					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	(4,174)	-	(4,174)	(4,230)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		8,272	16,534	24,806	33,462
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		9,592	16,534	26,126	35,446
NET ASSETS		9,592	16,534	26,126	35,446
FUNDS					
Unrestricted Funds	9			9,592	14,546
Restricted Funds				16,534	20,900
TOTAL FUNDS				26,126	35,446

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.


The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for :

- (a) Ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that 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 charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit 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 the financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies' regime

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of trustees on 21/10/23 and were signed on its behalf by

Name of Trustee

 - TONY KENNEDY Date 21/12/23

Name of Trustee

 - RYAN COLVETT Date 21/12/23

The John Hewitt Society

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year ended 31st March 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statement of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, has been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102)' Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)' Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland Companies Act 2006." The Financial statements have been prepared using the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has an entitlement to the funds, the income will probably be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, a transfer of economic benefits will probably be required in settlement and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to that 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.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life

Office Equipment	25%
------------------	-----

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 the funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature of and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

The John Hewitt Society

Notes to the financial statements ...continued
For the Year Ended 31st March 2023

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
	Total	Total
	£	£
Donations	-	489
Busarries and Sponsorships	3,930	1,403
Ticket sales/Box office	11,606	2,666
Grants	96,081	89,412
Total	<u>111,616</u>	<u>93,969</u>

3. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting)		
Depreciation- owned assets	<u>665</u>	<u>607</u>

4. TRUSTEE'S RENUMBERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustee's remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st March 2023 nor for the year ended 31st March 2022

5. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows

	31.03.2023
Administration	<u>1</u>

No employees received enoluments in excess of £60,000

The John Hewitt Society

Notes to the financial statements ...continued
For the Year Ended 31st March 2023

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment	Computer Equipment	Totals
	£		£
COST			
At 1 April 2022	6,013	-	6,013
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31st March 2023	6,013	-	6,013
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2022	(4,029)	-	(4,029)
Charge for the year	(665)	-	(665)
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31st March 2023	(4,694)	-	(4,694)
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st March 2023	1,319	-	1,319
At 31st March 2022	1,985	-	1,985

7. ACCRUED INCOME

	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
	£	£
Belfast Charitable Society	1,000	
Cathedral Quarter	2,000	-
	3,000	-

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
	£	£
Accrued Expenses	-	-
Trade Creditors	3,195	2,965
Payroll Creditors	980	1,266
Total Creditors : Amounts falling due within one year	4,174	4,231

The John Hewitt Society

Notes to the financial statements ...continued For the Year Ended 31st March 2023

	At 01.04.2022 £	Prior Year Adjustment	Net Movement in funds £	At 31.03.2023 £
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	14,546		(4,954)	9,592
Restricted Funds				
Ards & North Down Borough Council	-	-	-	-
Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	(4,024)	4,000	(1,237)	(1,261)
Arts Council of Northern Ireland - General Revenue	13,469	(3,959)	(0)	9,510
Arts Council of Northern Ireland - Project	-		(0)	(0)
Belfast City Council	-		-	-
Charity Aid Foundation	6,000	(3,000)	(1,500)	1,500
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade; Reconciliation Fund (C/fwd 2021)	5,114		(5,114)	-
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	800	(800)	-	-
Newry Mourne & Down Borough Council	-		-	-
NI Community Relations	4,000	(4,000)	-	-
North Belfast Festival	(4,459)	7,759	3,485	6,785
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	-		-	-
Total restricted funds	20,900	-	(4,366)	16,534
TOTAL FUNDS	35,446	-	(9,320)	26,126

	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Movement in funds £
Net Movement in Funds			
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	14,535	(19,489)	(4,954)
Restricted Funds			
Ards & North Down Borough Council	500	(500)	-
Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	28,999	(30,236)	(1,237)
Arts Council of Northern Ireland - General Revenue	33,550	(33,550)	(0)
Arts Council of Northern Ireland - Project	-	-	-
Belfast City Council	-	-	-
Charity Aid Foundation	-	(1,500)	(1,500)
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade; Reconciliation Fund (C/fwd 2021)	-	(5,114)	(5,114)
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	1,000	(1,000)	-
Newry Mourne & Down Borough Council	1,000	(1,000)	-
NI Community Relations	4,270	(4,270)	-
North Belfast Festival	28,575	(25,089)	3,485
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	1,501	(1,501)	-
North South Ministerial Council	1,500	(1,500)	-
Mid Ulster District Council	500	(500)	-
Total Restricted funds	101,394	(105,760)	(4,366)
TOTAL FUNDS	115,929	(125,249)	(9,320)

The John Hewitt Society

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102629

Annual report

The John Hewitt Society
Report of the Trustees
For the Year Ended 31st March 2023

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with independently examined financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2023, meeting the requirements for a directors' report and accounts in line with Companies Act 2006. The financial statements comply with all relevant legislation and with current recommended accounting practice.

Structure, Governance & Management:

The John Hewitt Society was formally incorporated in August 2001, as a not-for-profit limited liability company with charitable status, registered in N. Ireland at the company address. It is a long standing client of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

Established in 1987, the Society has run its core event the John Hewitt International Summer School (JHISS) for over thirty years, initially in Garron Tower School, Co Antrim, and since 2021 at The Market Place Theatre & Arts Centre Armagh. The JHISS is a literature, politics and arts festival which takes place annually on the last week in July. Each year it programmes approximately 55/60 events involving up to 70 artists, contributors and performers from Verbal, Visual and Performing Arts, politics and well-known local and international speakers. Under an annual theme, the festival is planned and coordinated by a voluntary Artistic programming committee of 16 members, who each bring with them a strong background expertise, experience and knowledge in their field, and project managed by the Company Director. Through the JHISS, the Society has proven its ability to deliver a large-scale event of national and international reputation, with relevant local interest as well as the ability to attract visitors and tourists from well beyond our borders.

Highly regarded as a celebrated high quality Literary and Arts festival of Local, National and International esteem, it is recognised by Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council as one of their flagship events receiving financial support from their International Tourism Event Fund (£15k), and since 2020, through a Service Level Agreement (£10k) for provision of cultural services within the borough.

In addition to sustaining and increasing the quality and popularity of the John Hewitt International Summer School, the Society provide a wide variety of activities through literary arts programme and creative writing workshops throughout the year, helping participants to explore issues of difference, identity and tolerance through literature and creative writing, and platforms for debate and discussion on those key political and cultural issues of the day.

The Society actively promotes cross community, intercultural and cross border links in collaboration with local Councils, schools, writing groups, community, cultural heritage and other arts organisations. February 2022 saw the launch of the debut Look North! North Belfast Festival, organised through a partnership network of 12 people, and individuals, from 8 organisations who reside, work or are associated with North Belfast, including Ulster University, and chaired by the Society's Tony Kennedy.

The Society is a registered arts charity with Charities Commission NI & Companies House, with professional membership of NICVA, Arts & Business NI and the Fundraising Regulator all of whom support the committee & board with information and training in best practice within financial controls, audience development and effective governance procedures

A number of best-practice policies are in place and reviewed every three years, including, Financial Controls & Expenses; Children, Young People & Vulnerable Adults; Health & Safety; Environmental; Equal Opportunities and a Risk Policy and Register which is reviewed annually. An Event Management plan and Risk Assessment matrix are implemented for all large-scale projects. While the JHS Friends scheme helps raise much appreciated additional funds, everyone who registers or books a ticket for an event online through Eventbrite are also invited to donate through a donation web portal.

The Society continues to build strong relationships with elected members and local Government Officers throughout Northern Ireland, as well as with a wide range of community & voluntary organisations within local Council areas, and through cross-community and cross-border organisations. To date, the Society has developed several longstanding

relationships with an increasing number of funders and sponsors, with some spanning up to a decade or more, indicating that sponsors and stakeholders have confidence in the Society's ability to plan, execute and deliver high-quality literature arts events.

Board of Trustees

Chairperson: Anthony Kennedy, OBE
Deputy chair: Ryan Cornett
Treasurer: Ryan Cornett
Secretary: Naomi Leitch
Dr Myrtle Hill, Dr Frank Ferguson (appointed November 2022)
Dr Paul Maddern, Paul McAvinchey
Paul Sweeney, Aoife Walsh

Programme Committee:

Alex Catherwood (resigned November 2022), Ryan Cornett, Cahal Dallat, Frank Ferguson, Anne-Marie Fyfe, Byddi Lee (appointed November 2022), Myrtle Hill, Bill Jeffrey, Tony Kennedy, Naomi Leitch, Paul Maddern, Tess Maginness, Paul McAvinchey, Raquel McKee, Paul Sweeney, Aoife Walsh

Staffing:

Patricia Morris, Director.

The Director answers to the Board of Trustees.

The Chair of the Board line manages the Director.

Independent Examiner:

Janet Jensen, ACMA, CGMA
Ekstra Accounting Solutions Ltd
2 Beechill Park South
Belfast
Co Antrim
BT8 6PB

Public Benefit Statement:

Mission of The John Hewitt Society

to promote literature, arts, and culture inspired by the ideals and ideas of the poet John Hewitt.

Strategic aims

- To fortify The John Hewitt Society as one of Northern Ireland's main literary organisations, with an artistic reach across Northern Ireland.
- To strengthen the John Hewitt International Summer School as Northern Ireland's main literary event with an increased international programme.
- To develop new audiences, including developing a cohesive outreach and community development scheme to build a more diverse audience, reflective of society.
- To develop organisational capacity in order to sustain & develop our aims, focussing on staffing capacity, finance, membership and governance

Objectives

- Provide a high-quality Literary Arts programme which explores and celebrates the artistic and social power of poetry and prose, and an appreciation of our rich literary arts heritage.
- Increase new attendees at the Summer School by an additional 3% by promoting the bursary sponsorship scheme to the local community through cross-promotion of author readings to community outreach participants and other events and festivals across NI.
- Enhance the development of the literary arts through innovative partnerships and collaborations and encourage new attendees/bursary sponsorship applications from collaborative relationships developed throughout year-round programme of activities outside of the annual Summer School period.
- Re-establish the international output of the Summer School through staff utilising international funding opportunities for artist exchanges and travel bursaries.
- Further develop regional partnerships and cross-border opportunities by exploring new avenues of income e.g., trusts & foundations grant funding and sponsorship from local Councils, traders, businesses and individuals.
- Develop cultural tourism links through tourism contacts such as Tourism NI, Australian's Abroad and others.
- Attract, develop and retain a diverse cross-cultural demographic, local and global audience through our annual in person and online programme, digital and social networking platforms.
- Encourage the exploration of diversity, cultural and social identity by encouraging discussion and debate through the medium of the literary arts and creative writing.

Develop new audiences

- Engage with tourism opportunities, partnering with hospitality and/or accommodation providers to further develop links to promote cultural festivals as key attractions in attractive locations.
- Engage upwards of 100 new participants annually, across socially disadvantaged areas in the continuation of the Once Alien Here creative writing project as part of our community outreach programme.
- Programme ambitious and high-profile international poets/authors/speakers at the JHISS and at other literary events throughout the year to attract new audiences.
- Maintain and develop partnerships with established Literary organisations to maximise artistic potential of our programme, such as with Poetry Ireland and Belfast International Arts Festival

Achievements & Performance

The year saw the Society returning to its full range of activities, following the disruption of previous years due to the covid pandemic. We were delighted that our audiences slowly returned and built up again as people's confidence returned.

Activities:

- **Cushendun Big Arts Weekend**

30 April 2022: The Old Church Centre

Local musician Glenn Simpson joined Tony Kennedy to share Songs and Poetry of the area.

- **The 35th John Hewitt International Summer School**

Monday 25 - Saturday 30 July 2022: Market Place Theatre & Arts Centre Armagh.

The Society was thrilled to be able to return as normal to our festival home for a full week of culture, entertainment, discussion and collective celebration of the literature arts under the theme,

Finding the nation: redefining home and country for a shared future

*This is my home and country. Later on
perhaps I'll find this nation is my own...
John Hewitt, "Conacre", 1943.*

The theme addressed issues of diversity, exploring how much "home", "country", "identity" and "nation" matter, or should matter in a shared future, and considering the experience of those who feel excluded from existing political structures.

Well known contributors drawn from Ireland and elsewhere included Val McDermid, Ardal O'Hanlon and David Park in a promising return to live events.

The opening address was given by Professor Olivette Otele, the UK's first black female Professor of History, distinguished research professor at SOAS London and previously Professor of the History of Slavery at Bristol University. Sponsored by the Commission for Victims and Survivors NI, Professor Otele in her talk explored the links between history, collective memory and geopolitics and how questions of citizenship, race and identity are addressed. During the week other talks featured Andy Pollak, sponsored by The Irish Association, addressing what the Republic needs to do to become more appealing to Unionists, Martin Collins, Co-Director of Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre and Traveller Rights activist for over 30 years, Professor Katy Hayward considering the impact of Brexit on North/ South and Ireland/ UK relationships, and Tara McEvoy delivered the annual John Hewitt lecture.

Belfast born Gareth Reid, Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the Year 2017, presented the Arts Lecture and launched an exhibition of his work in the Market Place Gallery, the first in Northern Ireland in a decade. A further exhibition on the foyer walls featured the work of Geraldine Hamoonga Michelo, born in Zambia and now resident in Northern Ireland.

Poetry was strongly represented with readings from the recently published *Queering the Green Anthology*, and from poets Richard Scott, Victoria Kennefick (sponsored by Poetry Ireland), Nandi Joli and Jessica Traynor. The Gallery Press event (sponsored by The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon) featured their published poets Alibhe Ní Ghearbhuigh, Molly Twomey and John McAuliffe. In a special online poetry event, Jamaican poets Dr Mervyn Morris and Dr Edward Baugh joined us live from the University of the West Indies (UWI) Jamaica, hosted in the UWI by JHS Committee member Raquel McKee. This event was sponsored by UWI, The High Commission of Jamaica in London and Poetry Ireland.

The Fiction events featured Jan Carson in discussion with Andrew Cunning, David Park speaking with Malachi O'Doherty, Louise Kennedy and Una Mannion with Michael Hughes, Bernie McGill and Wendy Erskine celebrating the short story with Paul McVeigh, and Audrey Magee in conversation with Emma Warnock. Suad Aldarra and Kerri Ní Dochartaigh talked to Maureen Boyle about their recent memoirs, while emerging authors Kathleen Murray, Olivia Fitzsimmons, and Kevin Doherty were in discussion with Jan Carson. The Crime Fiction Special featured the much celebrated and bestselling crime writing authors Val McDermid and Mark Billingham in conversation with local crime writer Stuart Neville. Later in

the week BBC broadcaster William Crawley interviewed Irish comedian, actor, and author Ardal O'Hanlon about his latest book in the theatre.

There were two panel sessions - The Slugger O'Toole panel, chaired by Alan Meban, with Alex Kane, Lilian Seenoi-Barr and Sorcha Eastwood based on the theme, and another panel discussion on Reporting The Troubles, from the new book of the same name, with journalists Gordon Adair, Deric Henderson, Ivan Little, Eric Villers, and David Lynas.

Evening performances included a Gala Concert Special performed by The West Ocean String Quartet, led by founder, composer, and musician Neil Martin. "Before," a new one man play by Pat Kinnevene directed by Fishamble Theatre Company Dublin. The Mary Anne McCracken story in music and song with Jane Cassidy and Maurice Leyden, culminating in an evening of Musical Theatre with Misses Liffey from Dublin.

Once again the creative writing workshops offered support to existing and new writers, some of whom had the opportunity to read their work at the annual Creative Writing showcase at the end of the week. Three of the workshops were supported by Open University Ireland.

No Alibis Belfast, the festival bookstore, provided their annual pop-up book stall in the foyer, with numerous book signings by visiting authors. Two receptions were sponsored by the North South Ministerial Council and by the Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Councillor Paul Greenfield.

As in previous years, the Society was able to offer sponsored bursaries, residential and daily, to enable a wide range of people throughout the island of Ireland to experience, appreciate, and immerse themselves in the wide range of literature, politics and Arts events in the programme. This year our bursary awards were supported by the Community Relations Council NI, The Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Local Authorities, the Reconciliation Department: Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Investec and from several individuals/organisations who sponsor a bursary annually. In addition, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council provided awards for a small number of Council residents.

Our Festival celebration of Literature, politics, the arts, culture and debate was made possible through the partnership and financial support of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, The Commission for Victims and Survivors, The North South Ministerial Council, The Irish Association, Slugger O'Toole Blog, The Open University, No Alibis Bookstore, our many sponsors and advertisers. All of this support is much appreciated in these challenging times.

- **UK National Poetry Day**

6 October 2022: Robinson Library Armagh

To celebrate NPD 2022, poets Mel McMahon and Gráinne Tobin read from their work. In association with Armagh City Chapter Libraries NI Network and Poetry Ireland.

- **John Hewitt's Birthday Reading**

2 November 2022: John Hewitt Bar Belfast.

On the 60th Anniversary of Belfast International Arts Festival, we were thrilled to be able to return once again to the iconic John Hewitt Bar Belfast for our annual Poetry Reading to mark the birth date of the celebrated Belfast poet John Hewitt after which the Society is named.

Introduced by JHS Board member Dr Frank Ferguson, poets Rachel Hegarty and Annemarie Ní Chrurraín started by reading their favourite John Hewitt poem before going on to read from their own work. In association with Poetry Ireland and The Belfast International Arts Festival.

- **BOCAS UK Literary Tour 2022**

3 November 2022: No Alibis Bookstore Belfast.

Reading by Caribbean writers Celeste Mohammed, Nicholas Laughlin and hosted by JHS Committee member Raquel McKee. In association with BOCAS Literary Arts Festival Trinidad and Tobago and Belfast International Arts Festival.

- **QUB - The John Hewitt Public Lecture**

9 November 2022: The Peter Froggatt Centre, QUB.

“*Once Alien Here’: Languages Literatures and Identities’* by Seamus Mc Kee, journalist, presenter and broadcaster. How have writers dealt with the whole question of identity - from Joyce to Liz Lochhead, from Seamus Heaney to Zadie Smith, including those writers who are new to Northern Ireland. How do our young people respond to questions on issues of language, belonging, and being 'the other'.

In association with Queen’s University Belfast Open Learning, World Literature: Global Voices Series 2022/23.

- **Selected Poems by John Hewitt Book Launch**

24 November 2022: Harrison Boutique Hotel Belfast.

New edition book launch of *The Selected Poems* by John Hewitt, with readings from the book by the editors - poets Frank Ormsby and Michael Longley. In association with Blackstaff Press and Harrison Boutique Hotel Belfast who officially opened their own newly named, John Hewitt hotel room, on the same night. John Hewitt and his wife lived in the house at a time.

- **Look North! The North Belfast Festival**

24 - 26 February 2023

For a second year, in partnership with a network of organisations, stakeholders and individuals, the jam-packed Look North! The North Belfast Festival 2023 took place throughout North Belfast on Friday – Sunday, 24 - 26 February. A new multi-arts and heritage festival weekend, Look North! brings great new opportunities for everyone to discover more about North Belfast’s rich creative and cultural arts heritage.

Opening with a talk on community action, ‘*Saving the Shankill-Then & Now,*’ by network member Jackie Redpath, the weekend included a number of walking heritage/arts tours and tours of heritage venues in North Belfast; workshops on digital skills, creative craft, and on creative writing; shared reading group discussions hosted by Libraries Ni and Duncairn Arts; and the second Look North! Short story competition awards ceremony for young people, 11 – 17 years, and adult short story writers.

North Belfast born author Bernard MacLaverty joined us online from Glasgow in conversation with Paul McVeigh; Hugh Odling-Smee hosted a Literary panel to celebrate the short story with local writers Anne Devlin and Wendy Erskine; Lucy Caldwell, Riley Johnson and Jan Carson discussed the life and times of Mary Beckett; Geraldine Connon, interviewed by Katy Radford, revealed her family connections to North Belfast in her book, *The Russian Tailor of Belfast*; while veteran author Malachi O’Doherty was in conversation with Duncan Morrow. A poetry reading event featured Nithy Kasa, Micheál McCann and Dawn Watson, and a poetry slam with a group of young emerging poets, hosted by Niamh McNally, was held in Cassidy’s Bar North Belfast.

Dr Myrtle Hill gave a talk on the Women of North Belfast; Journalists Jim McDowell, Ivan Little, Allison Morris, and Gary McDonald joined a panel discussion relating their experiences on, *The Rise and Fall of Belfast’s Fleet Street*; while politicians, and former North Belfast residents, Nuala McAllister and Philip Brett joined the Slugger O’Toole Blog political panel, chaired by David McCann.

Duncairn Arts joined in with their annual family join in Super Sunday Sessions, and the 100 Club hosted Alfi and her band supported by local musicians; A concert by the North Belfast Youth Choir and the Cairde Community Choir was followed by Siobhan Brown and her band; Oh Yeah Music Centre hosted All Points live music and film performances curated by AP:N; and there was a special film screening of *Belfast 1912* by Dominic O’Neill in the American Bar.

Anaka Women’s Collective hosted a Cultural Evening upstairs in the Sunflower bar. Beyond Belfast hosted their monthly performance art workshop as part of the festival in St. Joes Sailortown. Visual artist Alice Maher gave a talk on her work before opening her exhibition at the Golden Thread Gallery.

The closing ceremony concluded with the launch of a copy of David Esler’s stained glass window to John Hewitt’s Man,

Fish and Bird in The Duncan Arts, originally commissioned for and installed at Stormont.

Over the weekend the festival delivered 42 literature, heritage and arts events in 23 venues along the North Belfast Cultural Corridor including talks, walks, panels, poetry, shared readings, film, dance and musical performances, cultural exchanges, workshops (poetry, crime fiction, craft, novel writing, creative digital skills) and launched two exhibitions.

The Look North! North Belfast festival is planned, co-ordinated and managed by a network of members from Ulster University, Clifton House, The North Belfast Heritage Cluster, Duncairn Arts, Beat Carnival, Imagine Belfast, Spectrum Centre, and other invested individuals. It is supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, the National Lottery Community Fund, Belfast City Council Community Festivals fund, Belfast Charitable Society, Belfast Harbour and Destination CQ Bid Fund. We are grateful for their generosity, co-operation and support at this time.

- **40th anniversary of John Hewitt being awarded the Freedom of the City of Belfast**
2nd March 2023: Banquet Hall, Belfast City Council

Introduced by Belfast City Council's High Sheriff Dr John Kyle, who talked about the political and cultural legacy of John Hewitt in the City, it was followed by a talk by Anthony Kennedy, Chair of the John Hewitt Society, poet Niamh McNally who read her new poem on North Belfast, 'New Impressions', a rehearsed reading of Hewitt's play, 'Bloody Brae,' by a professional male actor and Claire Hanna MP, Dr Connal Parr gave a talk on Hewitt's connections with his grandfather, well known civil rights activist, writer and BCC Councillor Paddy Devlin, and told how as Lord Mayor he got this honour passed through Council at that time. The event culminated with readings by poets Michael Longley and Maureen Boyle who read from The Selected Poems by John Hewitt, edited by poets Frank Ormsby and Michael Longley.

Other Developments

During the year Byddi Lee joined the Artistic programme committee in November, while long-standing Artistic Committee member Alex Catherwood stepped down.

After another action-packed and inspiring year during which we had to endure the developing cost-of-living crisis, rising costs, uncertainty with arts funding, the continuing fall out from covid and post covid social anxiety, we were delighted that so many of our loyal followers turned out to support us in such large numbers, especially in Armagh during the JHISS.

We are grateful to our funders, supporters and partners, especially our core funders The Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council who continued to support us year on year. All of this support is much appreciated during these difficult financial times.

I would like to thank our Company Director Patricia Morris for steering us through the year, our many partners and volunteers for working with us, and of course my fellow Board and Committee members. Despite these difficult and challenging times, I am confident that with the support and the cooperation of our many friends, loyal followers and partners of the Society we will continue to build on our wide range of literary and arts activities be it on the local, regional or global stage. We look forward to another exciting, productive and successful year.

Plans for future periods

In my final report as Chair of The John Hewitt Society I look back with pride at what has been achieved with comparatively few resources, and with gratitude for the contributions made by past and present Board members, Committee members, staff, and partners and supporters. All that we have achieved is due to the way in which we have worked together. I believe that we have contributed to a better life for many through stimulating thought, encouraging talent, and showing the enjoyment that can be gained by working together.

I am confident that my successor, Dr Frank Ferguson supported by Patricia Morris, our company director, and our current Board and Committee will continue to keep alive the ideas and ideals of John Hewitt and to make significant contributions to literary, culture, and intellectual life in Northern Ireland and beyond.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 21/10/2023 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Name of Trustee

Date 21/12/2023

The John Hewitt Society

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102629

Annual return

The John Hewitt Society

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees For the Year Ended 31st March 2023

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2023, which are set out on pages 12 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees (and also the director for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination it is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of the 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 directors given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland
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 concern in respect of matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Janet Jensen, ACMA CGMA
Ekstra Accounting Solutions



20th October 2023

The John Hewitt Society

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102629

Accounts

The John Hewitt Society

Statement of Financial Activities
For the Year Ended 31st March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	5,359	88,610	93,969	89,538
Other income		1,057	-	1,057	-
Total		6,416	88,610	95,026	89,538
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities		6,204	89,092	95,296	79,191
Direct		-	-	-	-
Other		-	-	-	-
Total		6,204	89,092	95,296	79,191
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		212	(482)	(270)	10,347
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		212	(482)	(270)	10,347
Total funds brought forward		14,334	21,382	35,716	25,369
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		14,546	20,900	35,446	35,716

The John Hewitt Society

Balance sheet as at
31st March 2022

	31.03.2022	31.03.2021			
	Total	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted	Note
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	
	£	£	£	£	
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	1,985	1,537	-	1,985	6
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at bank	16,792	34,530	20,900	16,792	
	37,692	34,530	20,900	16,792	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	(4,231)	(351)	-	(4,231)	7
NET CURRENT ASSETS	12,562	34,180	20,900	12,562	
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	14,546	35,716	20,900	14,546	
NET ASSETS	14,546	35,716	20,900	14,546	
FUNDS					
8					
Unrestricted Funds	14,546	14,334		14,546	
Restricted Funds	20,900	21,382		20,900	
TOTAL FUNDS	35,446	35,716		35,446	

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for :

(a) Ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that 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 charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit 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 the financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies' regime

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of trustees on 13 Dec 22 and were signed on its behalf by

Name of Trustee	7. Kennedy	Date	13 Dec 22
Name of Trustee	L. Pitt	Date	13 Dec 22

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statement of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, has been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015). Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland Companies Act 2006." The Financial statements have been prepared using the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has an entitlement to the funds, the income will probably be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, a transfer of economic benefits will probably be required in settlement and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to that 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.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life

Office Equipment	25%
------------------	-----

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 the funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature of and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

The John Hewitt Society

Notes to the financial statements ...continued
For the Year Ended 31st March 2022

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

Donations
Busarries and Sponsorships
Ticket sales/box office
Grants
Total

	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
Total	93,969	89,538
Donations	489	427
Busarries and Sponsorships	1,403	5,372
Ticket sales/box office	2,666	2,563
Grants	89,412	81,176

3. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting)

	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
£	607	314

4. TRUSTEE'S REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustee's remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st March 2022 nor for the year ended 31st March 2021

Trustee Expenses

There were no trustee's expenses paid for the year ended 31st March 2022 nor for the year ended 31st March 2021

5. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows

Administration

31.03.2022	1
------------	---

No employees received enoluments in excess of £60,000

The John Hewitt Society

Notes to the financial statements ...continued
For the Year Ended 31st March 2022

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment	Computer Equipment	Totals
COST			
At 1 April 2022	4,959	-	4,959
Additions	-	1,055	1,055
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31st March 2022	<u>4,959</u>	<u>1,055</u>	<u>6,013</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2022	(3,422)	-	(3,422)
Charge for the year	(314)	(293)	(607)
Disposals			-
At 31st March 2022	<u>(3,736)</u>	<u>(293)</u>	<u>(4,029)</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st March 2022	1,223	762	1,985
At 31st March 2021	1,537	-	1,537

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Accrued Expenses	-	351
Trade Creditors	2,965	-
Payroll Creditors	1,266	-
Total Creditors : Amounts falling due within one year	<u>4,231</u>	<u>351</u>
	£	£
	31.03.2022	31.03.2021

The John Hewitt Society

Notes to the financial statements ...continued
For the Year Ended 31st March 2022

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 01.04.2021	Net Movement	At 31.03.2022
	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	14,334	212	14,546
Restricted Funds			
Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council FAP Grant 21/22	5,691	(9,715)	(4,024)
Arts Council of Northern Ireland - General Revenue	3,777	9,692	13,469
Arts Council of Northern Ireland - Project Revenue	-	-	-
Charity Aid Foundation	6,000	-	6,000
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade; Reconciliation Fund	5,114	-	5,114
Lisburn & Castlereagh County Council	800	-	800
NI Community Relations	4,000	4,000	4,000
North Belfast Festival	-	(4,459)	(4,459)
Total restricted funds	21,382	(482)	20,900
TOTAL FUNDS	35,716	(270)	35,446
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	6,416	(6,204)	212
Restricted Funds			
Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council FAP Grant 21/22	27,868	(37,584)	(9,715)
Arts Council of Northern Ireland - General Revenue	9,692	-	9,692
Arts Council of Northern Ireland - Project Revenue	33,550	(33,550)	-
Charity Aid Foundation	-	-	-
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade; Reconciliation Fund	-	-	-
Lisburn & Castlereagh County Council	-	-	-
NI Community Relations	4,000	-	4,000
North Belfast Festival	13,500	(17,959)	(4,459)
Total Restricted funds	88,610	(89,092)	(482)
TOTAL FUNDS	95,026	(95,296)	(270)

The John Hewitt Society

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102629

Annual report

The trustees of the Society are pleased to present their annual Director's report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2022, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with all relevant legislation and with current recommended accounting practice

Structure, Governance & Management:

The John Hewitt Society was formally incorporated in August 2001, as a not-for-profit limited liability company with charitable status, registered in N. Ireland at the company address.

Established in 1987, for over thirty years the Society has run its key event the John Hewitt International Summer School (JHISS), first in Garron Tower School, Co Antrim, and over the last two decades in The Market Place Theatre & Arts Centre Armagh. Until the disruption of the pandemic lockdown in March 2020, which resulted in our first-ever online virtual festival, the JHISS has run annually over six days at the end of July, featuring approximately 45-65 events involving over 70 artists, contributors, and performers from Verbal, Visual and Performing Arts, politics and individual speakers based on a theme. Highly regarded as a Literary and Arts event of Local, National, and International esteem, the John Hewitt International Summer School is recognised by Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council as one of their flagship events receiving financial support from their International Tourism Event Fund (£15k), and since 2020, through a Service Level Agreement (£10k) for provision of cultural services within the borough.

The Society has, through the management of the JHISS for over 30+ years, proven its ability to deliver a large-scale event of national and international reputation, with relevant local interest as well as the ability to attract visitors and tourists from well beyond our borders. The event is coordinated by the Director working closely with a diverse voluntary Arts programming committee with 15 members. The Society is a registered arts charity with Charities Commission NI & Companies House, with professional membership of NICVA, Arts & Business NI, and the Fundraising Regulator all of whom support the committee & board with information and training in best practice within financial controls, audience development, and effective governance procedures.

The Society has a number of best-practice policies in place which are reviewed every three years, including, Financial Controls & Expenses; Children, Young People & Vulnerable Adults; Health & Safety; Environmental; Equal Opportunities, and a Risk Policy and Register which the trustees review quarterly. An Event Management Plan and Risk Assessment matrix are reviewed for all large-scale projects. In 2020, the John Hewitt Society Friends scheme was launched to help raise additional funds. A new donations portal has now been added to the website and everyone who registers for an event online through Eventbrite can donate.

In addition to sustaining and increasing the quality and popularity of the John Hewitt International Summer School, the Society provides literary arts programming in collaboration with local Councils, schools, writing groups, community, cultural heritage, and arts organisations across Northern Ireland; cultural tourism opportunities with literary walks, workshops, and a bus tour, when requested, and an expansion into cross-community engagement using creative writing to explore cultural identity issues. As we emerged from lockdown, the Society revived its community engagement outreach activities for literary arts within Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council, and in partnership with others launched a new Literary, Arts and Heritage Festival in North Belfast over the last weekend in February.

The Society continues to build strong relationships with elected members and local Government Officers throughout N. Ireland, as well as with a wide range of community & voluntary organisations within local Council areas and outside, including cross-community and cross-border organisations. To date, the Society has developed several longstanding

relationships with an increasing number of funders and sponsors, with some spanning 10 years or more, indicating that sponsors and stakeholders have confidence in the Society's ability to plan, execute and deliver high-quality events.

Board of Trustees

Chairperson: Anthony Kennedy, OBE

Deputy chair: Ryan Cornett

Treasurer: Ryan Cornett

Secretary: Naomi Leitch

Dr Myrtle Hill, Dr Paul Maddern, Paul McAvinchey
Paul Sweeney, Aoife Walsh (formerly Fee)

Programme Committee:

Alex Catherwood, Ryan Cornett, Cahal Dallat, Frank Ferguson (appointed June 2021), Anne-Marie Fyfe, Stephen Gordon (resigned January 2022), Myrtle Hill, Bill Jeffrey, Tony Kennedy, Naomi Leitch, Paul Maddern, Tess Maginness, Paul McAvinchey, Raquel McKee, William Redpath (resigned May 2021), Paul Sweeney, Aoife Walsh (formerly Fee)

Staffing:

Patricia Morris, Director.

The Director answers to the Board of Trustees.

The Chair of the Board line manages the Director.

Independent Examiner:

Janet Jensen, ACMA, CGMA
Ekstra Accounting Solutions Ltd
2 Beechhill Park South
Belfast
Co Antrim
BT8 6PB

Public Benefit Statement:

Mission of The John Hewitt Society

to promote literature, arts, and culture inspired by the ideals and ideas of the poet John Hewitt.

Strategic aims

- Fortify The John Hewitt Society as one of Northern Ireland's main literary organisations, with an artistic reach across Northern Ireland.
- Strengthen the John Hewitt International Summer School as Northern Ireland's main literary event with an increased international programme.
- Develop new audiences, including developing a cohesive outreach and community development scheme to build a more diverse audience, reflective of society.

Objectives

- Provide a high-quality Literary Arts programme which explores and celebrates the artistic and social power of poetry and prose, and an appreciation of our rich literary arts heritage.
- Increase new attendees at the Summer School by an additional 5% by promoting the bursary sponsorship scheme to the local community through cross-promotion of author readings to community outreach participants and other events and festivals across NI.
- Enhance the development of the literary arts through innovative partnerships and collaborations and encourage new attendees/bursary sponsorship applications from collaborative relationships developed throughout year-round programme of activities outside of the annual Summer School period.
- Re-establish the international output of the Summer School through staff utilising international funding opportunities for artist exchanges and travel bursaries.
- Further develop regional partnerships and cross-border opportunities by exploring new avenues of income e.g., trusts & foundations grant funding and sponsorship from local Councils, traders, businesses and individuals.
- Develop cultural tourism links through tourism contacts such as Tourism NI, Australian's Abroad and others.
- To attract, develop and retain a diverse cross-cultural demographic, local and global audience through our annual in person and online programme, digital and social networking platforms.
- Encourage the exploration of diversity, cultural and social identity by encouraging discussion and debate through the medium of the literary arts and creative writing.

Develop new audiences

- Engage with tourism opportunities, partnering with hospitality and/or accommodation providers to further develop links to promote cultural festivals as key attractions in attractive locations.
- To establish a new weekend Literature, Heritage and Arts Festival in North Belfast in partnership with local Arts, Heritage, Community groups, Ulster University and individuals, based on the highly successful JHISS model, providing neutral spaces for the local community and individuals from throughout Belfast, NI, ROI & elsewhere, from different cultural and community backgrounds to allow them explore political and cultural issues through high profile literature, arts and heritage events, take part in creative writing taster workshops and engage with high quality artists, writers and speakers.
- Engage 50-100 new participants annually, across socially disadvantaged areas in the continuation of the Once Alien Here project as part of our community outreach programme.
- Programme ambitious and high-profile international poets/authors/speakers at the JHISS and at other events.
- Maintain partnerships with established Literary organisations to maximise artistic potential of our programme, such as with Poetry Ireland and Belfast International Arts Festival.

Achievements & Performance

After Covid lockdown when businesses were allowed to open up again with social distancing and other public health restrictions, the Committee planned a return to normal activities starting with a reduced 5-day JHISS programme from 9.45 am – 8.30 pm daily, as evening Theatre performance for the public were not allowed. Despite the various challenges, we were delighted to programme and stage our first hybrid JHISS at our festival base in the Market Place Theatre & Arts Centre Armagh, from 25-29 July 2021. Over the 5 days, we produced 5 digital and 5 hybrid events live to Artists in Finland, India, South Africa, Australia, UK, and Ireland, while the rest of the contributors were live and live streamed on stage in the Market Place Theatre in Armagh. All events were recorded and can be viewed on the John Hewitt YouTube Channel as part of our archive and for future audience development. As Theatres were not allowed to open to the public until 6pm on Tuesday 27 July, the first two days of Summer School events were held online, with in-house artists live streamed from the Theatre. In line with public health protocols at that time, including social distancing and a maximum audience of 90 per event enforced in the Theatre, our main audience were our bursary students with additional public audience making up to 90 people. Although we had over 150 online applications for the bursary sponsorship scheme, the

number of residential bursaries were constrained by reduced opportunities for sponsorship due to the financial challenges at that time. However, with all theatres closed for the previous 100 days, it was uplifting to see the excitement and enthusiasm of the bursary students and audiences who attended to be able to return to live events once again. An exciting addition to our programme during this period was the debut Look North! The North Belfast Festival (NBF) in which the Society was the lead organisation and was elected to chair the NBF network membership. This new weekend 3-day Festival was developed in partnership with local Arts, Heritage and Community groups including Belfast Charitable Society, The North Belfast Heritage Cluster and Ulster University

Activities:

- **The Big Arts Weekend, Cushendun.** 1 May 2021: Online.

Author Bernie Mc Gill in conversation with Tony Kennedy. Due to Covid regulations at that time, this event was live online through Zoom platform.

- **The 34th John Hewitt International Summer School**

Monday 26 - Friday 30 July 2021: The Market Place Theatre & Arts Centre Armagh.

This year's Festival programme was a mixture of the physical and the virtual with all events both live and live streamed to a global audience daily. Spread over 5 days and ending each night at 8.30 pm, due to continuing public health Covid regulations at that time, some contributors and audiences were back in the Market Place Theatre & Arts Centre Armagh, while others joined us online. With social distancing still in place and with a restricted Theatre audience, not only had we very reduced audience numbers but they were spread throughout the auditorium with every other row free.

The Summer School addressed Climate Change and Environmental issues with the theme *"The Environment: Staking the Future: politics, people, and planet"*, inspired by John Hewitt's poem, *'Because I paced my Thought'*.

The opening speaker Professor Pramod Nayyar contributed live streamed from the University of Hyderabad, India and gave a stimulating talk, after we resolved problems arising from a local electric storm in Mumbai. With the support of the Irish Association, John Fitzgerald former Chair of Ireland's Climate Change Advisory Board contributed from Galway on the response Ireland should be making to the climate emergency; Sam Mc Bride then of The Newsletter spoke of the RHI scandal; Pádraig Ó Tuama stimulated us with his talk on Partition, Poetry, Borders and Imagination, and Professor Conor Carville spoke on Heaney's Hewitt. The Arts talk by Rita Duffy involved deliberations on the climate crisis and the urgent need for change.

Alan Mehan introduced a panel discussing Inspiring a Sustainable Future comprising Professor John Barry, Emma Must, and Emmi Itäranta contributing live from Finland. The Slugger O'Toole panel consisted of Steven Agnew, Dawn Purvis, Joanne Stuart and considered the relationship between the environment and the economy. Poetry contributions were by Audrey Molloy - live from Australia - Caitiona Ní Chléirich, John Fitzgerald, all presented in association with The Gallery Press; Annmarie Ní Churraín, Lisa Kelly, Stephen Sexton, Kathleen McCracken, Rachel Hegarty and Jane Robinson, with special performance poetry event hosted by Raquel McKee, Colin Hassard, Nattasse Latcham and Tu Nokwe.

Prose writers were Billy O'Callaghan in conversation with Paul McVeigh, debut novelists Danielle McLaughlin and Fiona Scarlett, Nuala O'Connor in conversation with Maureen Boyle, Lucy Caldwell and Louise Kennedy in conversation with Jan Carson, and Jane Robinson speaking and reading. The Crime Fiction Special involved Claire Allen, Gerard Brennan, Brian McGilloway and Stuart Neville. Armagh Writers Victoria Catolla, Conor Carville, Sue Divin, and Byddi Lee shared their experiences with us. Glenn Patterson chaired a discussion about screen writing featuring Daragh Carville, Aislinn Carke and Declan Lawn. The centenary of Brian Moore birth was marked by a debate chaired by the

John Barry is Professor of Green Political Economy and Co-Director of the Centre for Sustainability, QUB, and Co-Chair Belfast Climate Commission. His areas of academic research include post-growth & heterodox political economy; the politics, policy, political economy of climate breakdown & climate resilience; socio-technical analyses of low carbon energy transitions.

Barry.

'Revolution, Letting Go and Moving On: Reconnecting People, Place and Planet through Poetry and Politics' by John Barry.

27 October 2021: QUB, Larmor Lecture Theatre.

• **QUB The John Hewitt Public Lecture**

The last showcase in a series of Once Alien Here (OAH) published books of creative writing by local ABC Council residents, in association with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Peace IV programme and the John Hewitt Society. Despite various challenges due to the pandemic, local community groups in Madden, Darkley, Keady and Armagh and two online groups completed our creative writing course over lockdown with a variety of in person (when allowed) and online workshops culminating in this showcase event. It was a rather nostalgic event due to the many challenges they all had to encounter, none more so than for the members of the two online groups who were able to meet each other for the first time. Hosted by ABC Council PIV and BFAM staff, it included workshop participants from each group, along with family members and friends who came to support them. A total of 8 participants (aged 16 – 70s) shared their writing from their book reading them for the first time on stage to high acclaim from the assembled audience and guests.

19 October 2021: Armagh City Hotel.

• **Creative Writing Programme: Once Alien Here Book Launch**

In association with the Libraries NI Armagh City Chapter in Armagh City Library. To celebrate NPD 2021, local poets Paul Jeffut and Lydna Tavakoli read from their work. This was the first live event for the poets since lockdown and, for some of the audience members. Due to ongoing indoor Covid 19 restrictions, numbers were limited to 18 as this event was socially distanced and audiences had to adhere to public health covid guidance.

7 October 2021: Armagh City Library.

• **UK National Poetry Day**

Despite all the challenges that we had to endure due to Covid restrictions, a total of 25 events with 66 contributors, including artists, academics and journalists, were live streamed from the auditorium by Silverink Belfast, assisted by the Market Place Theatre tech team. Over the 5 days, a total of 5 digital and 5 hybrid events, with contributors from Tampere - Finland, Hyderabad - India, Johannesburg - South Africa, Sydney - Australia, Dublin, Cork, Westport, Leitrim and Belfast, were live streamed to the Theatre throughout the week, while another 54 contributors were live on stage in the Theatre. In the 100 days since the first lockdown on 20 March 2020, the JHISS was the first of three live Theatre events which opened in N. Ireland to a public audience on Tuesday 27th July at 6pm. With social distancing and audience numbers limited to a maximum of 90 per event, this amounted to 23% of the normal total Theatre capacity. Despite this, it was a busy and rewarding week, while it was good to see the return of our bursary students, participants/audience members returning to the Theatre again.

School for the first time.

Joint Moore centenary project leader Professor Sinad Moynihan and featuring Malachi O'Doherty, Jan Carson, and Sharon Dempsey, each arguing the case for their favourite Moore novel. Exhibitions in the Gallery and on the foyer walls featured *Perceptions* by local artist Frances McKenna, and *Road Bowling* in Armagh and Cork by Colin Robins and Joonas Aittonurmi. With the support of The Open University creative writing workshops were both physical and virtual and featured Maureen Boyle, Paul Mc Veigh, Heather Richardson, Sue Divin, Malachi O'Doherty live in Armagh while Nessa O'Mahoney, Nicola Harlow, Sarah Moore-Fitzgerald, and Kathleen McCracken delivered online workshops for Summer School for the first time.

St Patrick's Symposium, in association with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and The Market Place Theatre, on the theme "Tending Our Planet". Hosted by former BBC Journalist Karen Patterson, it opened with a welcome message by the Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Alderman Glenn Barr. The keynote speaker was Professor John Barry, QUB. Karen Patterson chaired a youth panel of local climate change activists - Anna Kernahan, Cormac Matthews and Emer Rafferty in discussion (remotely) with Edwin Poots MLA, Minister of Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs. The symposium also featured live poetry readings by Mary Montague and Niamh McNally, with a musical interlude by singer songwriter Wendy Jack.

• At Home with St Patrick's Week Festival Symposium
15th March 2022: The Market Place Theatre & Arts Centre.

The debut Look North! North Belfast Festival, celebrating the arts and cultural heritage of North Belfast with a diverse programme of activities took place over 3 days on the last weekend in February. Chaired by Tony Kennedy, the John Hewitt Society, the festival was planned and organised through a network of organisations and individuals including the North Belfast Heritage Cluster, Ulster University, Libraries NI, Beat Carnival Centre, Spectrum Centre and Imagine Belfast, and sponsored by The National Lottery Community Fund, Belfast City Council Community Festivals Fund, Belfast Harbour Commissioners and The Arts Council of Northern Ireland, and Intercomm North Belfast. The Festival featured walking tours of John Hewitt's walk to School, Brian Moore's Belfast Clifton Street Cemetery and a social history of North Belfast, and talks and tours of Clifton Street Orange Hall and The Indian Community Centre. The opening talk was given by Dr Eamon Phoenix, and sessions included Eamon Hughes in Discussion with Bernard McLaverty, Ruth Carr and Raquel McKee with a poetry performance of the Life of Mary Ann McCracken, a 6x6 talk on Heritage Buildings in the Conflict, panel discussions on Brian Moore at 100, Literature and Religion, and Heritage and Regeneration. Gerald Dawe spoke on "A City Imagined". The first event Look North Short Story Awards were supported by Intercomm North Belfast and were enthusiastically received. Poetry readings were given by Colin Hassard, Jean Bleakney, Paula Cunningham, and Scott McKendry. Creative writing Workshops were delivered by Paul McVeigh, Malachi O'Doherty, Heather Richardson, Maureen Boyle and literary discussions by Jan Carson, Sharon Dempsey and Marnie Kennedy. Music was provided by St Malachy's College Traditional Music Group, a Music and Film Showcase in the Oh Yeah Music Centre. The String Ninjas Band in the John Hewitt Bar, with CaberGay Looks North rounding off the Festival in Union Street bar on Sunday night. Despite the backdrop of ongoing Covid challenges, the debut NBF 2022 delivered a total of 24 live events, one hybrid event and 4 creative writing workshops in 14 venues over 3 days along the new North Belfast Cultural Corridor.

• Look North! The North Belfast Festival
25 - 27 February 2022

Due to ongoing indoor Covid public health restrictions, and social distancing requirements, this annual event was moved for the first time from the John Hewitt Bar to Ulster University. A very appreciative live audience of over 40 attended a very enjoyable evening of readings by local poets - Siobhan Campbell and Gail McConnell and from Tom French who travelled from County Meath. Introduced by Dr Frank Ferguson, UU, each poet started by reading their favourite John Hewitt poem before going on to read from their own work. In association with Poetry Ireland and The Belfast International Arts Festival.

• John Hewitt's Birthday Reading
28 October 2021: Ulster University, Conor Lecture Theatre.

In the run up to the critical UN Climate Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, his presentation gave us an overview of the condition the globe is in and he offered some provocative suggestions and analyses as to what should be done, in particular highlighting the need for a broader set of tools and ways of understanding the planetary crisis. In association with Queen's University Belfast Open Learning, World Literature: Global Voices Series 2021/22.

- **Fusion Festival Armagh**
25 March 2022: Market Place Square Armagh

As part of the weeklong Fusion Festival, in association with ABC Council Peace IV Programme, we hosted an outside installation with two performances of - Armagh City as a Gallery - Poet, Piper, and Painter - featuring visual artist J. B. Vally, Armagh Pipers Club and poets Noel Monahan, and Kate Newmann.

Promotions:

Our new JHSS promo to attract a new and increasing global audience was launched as part of the opening address at the JHSS 2021 in July. With thanks to funding from The Arts Council of N. Ireland, The Department for Communities, Northern Ireland and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council.

- Filming & Editing: Corish Productions
- Voice Over: Ciarán Hinds
- Music & Score: Garth McConaghie

Other Developments

During the year, Dr Frank Ferguson agreed to join the Artistic Programme committee, while William Redpath and our long-standing Artistic Committee member Stephen Gordon both stepped down.

We are grateful to our funders, supporters and partners, especially to our core funders The Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council who continued to support us financially. We were delighted with significant financial support from the N.I. Housing Executive, match funded by the ABC Council, to enable us to live stream the JHSS to a local and global audience. With Theatre audience numbers limited to a maximum of 90 per event, 23% of the Theatre capacity, this had a significant impact on our income from Summer School. During the year we were successful in being included in the Blueprint Project organised by Arts and Business NI and as a result our Director has initiated improvements to our operations.

After another challenging and eventful year, managing the slow emergence from the worst of the Covid outbreak, maintaining our activities and initiating a major new Festival. I would like to thank our Director Patricia Morris for steering us through the year, our many partners and volunteers for working with us, and of course my fellow Board and Committee members. These remain challenging times for the arts, but I am confident that with the support and the cooperation of the many friends and partners of the Society we will continue to build the activities and impact of The John Hewitt Society both on a local, regional and global stage. We look forward to another interesting and productive year

Plans for future periods

The Society will build on the continuing success of the John Hewitt International Summer School and our other events, including a new partnership with Ulster University. Despite Covid still present within the community, we are pleased that audience confidence is slowly returning to attend live indoor events. We will continue to explore options for online activities to supplement the events, in line with potential funding opportunities and other developments. We will be monitoring the impact of inflation on our activities.

Following the success of the debut *Look North! The North Belfast Festival*, delivered in partnership with a new programming network, the NBF will once again take place on the last weekend in February 2023. It is hoped this event will help strengthen our cultural presence within Belfast City Council with a view to securing future funding from the Council.

With our new online presence as a direct result of the pandemic lockdowns, numbers to our socials and the JHS YouTube Channel have increased significantly. Having completed a new Digital Marketing Audience Strategy, we can now begin a

more targeted use of digital marketing platforms to increase a greater global awareness of the legacy of John Hewitt, the poet, curator, critic and political thinker and of our activities past and present.
We will aim to source additional funding towards staff resources, to stabilise the long-term future of the company and to meet the demands of our projected programme of activities as covid wanes and the new normal resumes. With increasing costs and reduced opportunities for sponsorship from companies/traders/individuals, the Society will complete our revised business plan to help plan and respond to the many financial challenges those in the Arts still face as we plan for the future. We look forward to continuing to develop our digital presence to promote the JHSS and The Society, and to put Northern Ireland's rich literary heritage on the global stage.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 13 Dec 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Name of Trustee J. Wainwright
Date 13 Dec 22

The John Hewitt Society

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102629

Annual return

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees
For the Year Ended 31st March 2022**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2022, which are set out on pages 12 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees (and also the director for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination it is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of the 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. The examination included a review of the accounting records 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That he accounts do not comply with accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland
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 concern in respect of matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Janet Jensen, ACMA CGMA
Ekstra Accounting Solutions



11th October 2022