

Hillstown Rural Community Group

Northern Ireland · Charity number 102669

Details

Status Received

Registered 2015-08-10

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

Contact

Address C/O 223 Portglenone Road
Randalstown
Antrim
Bt41 3rp
BT41 3RP

Phone 07900608685

Email alannicholl@btinternet.com

Activities

Purposes: The objectives of the Group are to: • promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the Procklis, Crea and Ballymacilroy areas of Hillstown, Randalstown, Antrim (hereinafter described as “the area of benefit”) without distinction of age, sex, race, political, religious or other opinion. It will so do by associating the statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of the social welfare, education, recreation or other leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants; • to establish a Community Development Initiative and to co-operate with other relevant organisations in the promotion of activities by the Association and its constituent bodies in furtherance of the above objects. • to advance knowledge and appreciation of the Ulster-Scots language, Ulster-Scots and Ulster-British culture and to encourage understanding and acceptance of all indigenous cultures to the area of benefit.

What the charity does: The advancement of citizenship or community development, The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information, Community development, Cultural, Education/training, Heritage/historical, Rural development

Who the charity helps: Adult training, Community safety/crime prevention, General public, Men, Older people, Specific areas of deprivation, Voluntary and community sector, Women

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£6,455	£12,306	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Alan Nicholl		
Mr Alex Wallace		
Mr Gary Adair		
Mr Hubert Nicholl		
Mr Sheldon Murray		
Mrs Sharon Nicholl		

Hillstown Rural Community Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102669

Accounts

Hillstown Rural Community Group

Statement of Accounts 2024/25

Balance @ 31 March 2024

£ 18,933.33

Income:

Date	Narrative	Amount (£)
30 Apr 2024	Grant – Ulster Scots Agency (Small Events)	60.00
14 May 2024	Bann Maine West CC – Turbine Fund	2,000.00
14 May 2024	Hall Hire – Hillstown LOL 176	100.00
23 May 2024	Grant – Mid & East Antrim BC (Good Relations)	378.00
06 Jun 2024	Grant – Mid & East Antrim BC (Good Relations)	750.00
19 Jun 2024	Grant – Ulster Scots Agency (Small Events)	129.18
31 Oct 2024	Hall Hire – Building Bridges	96.00
01 Nov 2024	Grant – DAERA	1,979.83
25 Nov 2024	Hall Hire – Building Bridges	72.00
20 Dec 2024	Hall Hire – Building Bridges	48.00
20 Jan 2025	Hall Hire – Building Bridges	24.00
25 Feb 2025	Hall Hire – Building Bridges	72.00
19 Mar 2025	Grant – Northern Area Community Network	595.00
21 Mar 2025	Hall Hire – Building Bridges	72.00
28 Mar 2025	Hall Hire Catering – Bann Maine West CC	79.00

Total Income

£6,455.01

Expenditure:

Date	Narrative	Amount (£)
02 Apr 2024	Power NI (DD)	112.46
03 Apr 2024	Randalstown Pharmacies Ltd (Chq. No. 000239)	2,300.00
07 May 2024	Catering (Chq. No. 000241)	70.18
28 May 2024	TL Dallas Insurance (Chq. No. 000242)	822.93
07 Jun 2024	Bank Charges (DD)	13.75
28 Jun 2024	Power NI (DD)	101.90
23 Jul 2024	Audiologist (Chq. No. 000240)	75.00
06 Sep 2024	Bank Charges (DD)	10.88
11 Sep 2024	WR Kennedy & Co. (Chq. No. 000243)	741.77

30 Sep 2024	Power NI (DD)	105.42
04 Oct 2024	Go Pak Staging (Chq. No. 000244)	2,356.94
06 Dec 2024	Bank Charges (DD)	120.00
06 Dec 2024	Iris' Farmhouse Cuisine (Chq. No. 000246)	1,158.00
09 Dec 2024	Colin Slaine Musician (Chq. No. 000247)	10.45
30 Dec 2024	Power NI (DD)	142.42
14 Jan 2025	Randalstown Pharmacies Ltd (Chq. No. 000248)	1,100.00
24 Jan 2025	Rural Community Network (Chq. No. 000249)	20.00
07 Feb 2025	Go Pak Staging (Chq. No. 000250)	2,287.51
24 Feb 2025	Sarah Sloan Musician (Chq. No. 000251)	50.00
25 Feb 2025	Catering (Chq. No. 000253)	126.22
03 Mar 2025	Eileen Turner Optician (Chq. No. 000245)	75.00
05 Mar 2025	Liz Weir Storyteller (Chq. No. 000252)	300.00
06 Mar 2025	Delightful Bites Catering (Chq. No. 000254)	120.00
11 Mar 2025	Christmas Decorations (Chq. No. 000255)	72.96
14 Mar 2025	Bank Charges (DD)	12.62

Total Expenditure **£12,306.41**

Balance @ 31 March 2025 **£13,081.93**

Treasurer: *A Wallace* **Date:** 2 June 2025

Print Name: Alex Wallace

Auditor: *Allan Millar* **Date:** 2 June 2025

Print Name: Allan Millar

Position: Director - Slemish n tha Braid Credit Union

Hillstown Rural Community Group

Statement of Assets and Liabilities – Year Ended 31 March 2025

Funds Reconciliation	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Opening Balance 31 March 2024	0.00	18,933.33	18,933.33
Surplus/Deficit this Year End	0.00	5,851.40	5,851.40
Closing Balance 31 March 2025	0.00	13,081.93	13,081.93

Liabilities

This charity has no liabilities.

Assets

Kitchen Equipment & Utensils	£ 4,624.70
Cleaning Equipment	£ 2,333.89
Furniture	£ 8,017.26
Office Equipment	£ 2,728.55
Audio/Visual Equipment	£ 8,142.80
Health & Safety Equipment	£ 4,227.89
Music & Play Equipment	£ 533.43
Portable Stage	<u>£ 4,644.45</u>
Total Assets	£35,252.97

Treasurer: A Wallace Date: 9/6/2025

Hillstown Rural Community Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102669

Accounts

Hillstown Rural Community Group

Statement of Accounts 2023/24

Balance @ 31 March 2023

£ 9,315.43

Income:

Date	Narrative	Amount (£)
03 Apr 2023	Hall Hire – Bann Maine West Community	60.00
26 Apr 2023	Grant – Ulster Scots Agency (Small Events)	750.00
03 May 2023	Grant – Ulster Scots Agency (Small Events)	430.00
22 Jun 2023	Grant – Mid & East Antrim BC (Good Relations)	2,543.29
26 Jun 2023	Grant – CDHN (Building Community Pharmacy)	9,600.00
27 Oct 2023	Hall Hire – Hillstown LOL 176	100.00
20 Nov 2023	Grant – Ulster Scots Agency (Small Events)	250.00
18 Dec 2023	Hall Hire – Hillstown LOL 176	100.00
15 Jan 2024	Grant – Ulster Scots Agency (Small Events)	720.00

Total Income

£14,553.29

Expenditure:

Date	Narrative	Amount (£)
27 Apr 2023	Colin Urwin (Chq. No. 000224)	100.00
19 May 2023	WR Kennedy & Co. (Chq. No. 000227)	327.60
22 May 2023	Delightful Bites Catering (Chq. No. 000226)	234.00
31 May 2023	David Reid (Chq. No. 000225)	100.00
31 May 2023	Matthew Warwick (Chq. No. 000229)	100.00
09 Jun 2023	Bank Charges (DD)	18.85
09 Jun 2023	Rodney Clarke (Chq. No. 000211)	100.00
09 Jun 2023	TL Dallas Insurance (Chq. No. 000228)	783.74
03 Jul 2023	Power NI (DD)	120.79
21 Jul 2023	Ancre Somme Assoc. (Chq. No. 000230)	144.00
8 Sept 2023	Bank Charges (DD)	12.77
29 Sept 2023	Power NI (DD)	73.97
08 Dec 2023	Bank Charges (DD)	9.41
08 Dec 2023	Iris' Farmhouse Cuisine (Chq. No. 000232)	1,252.00
08 Dec 2023	ETNI Coach Hire (Chq. No. 000233)	425.00

29 Dec 2023	Power NI (DD)	132.25
24 Jan 2024	Delightful Bites Catering (Chq. No. 000234)	210.00
28 Feb 2024	Matthew Warwick (Chq. No. 000235)	100.00
04 Mar 2024	Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band (Chq. No. 000236)	400.00
08 Mar 2024	Bank Charges (DD)	12.01
14 Mar 2024	Neil Badger (Chq. No. 000238)	100.00
26 Mar 2024	Delightful Bites Catering (Chq. No. 000237)	179.00

Total Expenditure **£ 4,935.39**

Balance @ 31 March 2024 **£18,933.33**

Treasurer: *A Wallace*

Date: 3 June 2024

Print Name: Alex Wallace

Auditor: *Allan Millar*

Date: 3 June 2024

Print Name: Allan Millar

Position: Director - Slemish n tha Braid Credit Union

Hillstown Rural Community Group

Statement of Assets and Liabilities – Year Ended 31 March 2024

Funds Reconciliation	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Opening Balance 31 March 2023	0.00	9,315.43	9,315.43
Surplus/Deficit this Year End	0.00	9,617.90	9,617.90
Closing Balance 31 March 2024	0.00	18,933.33	18,933.33

Liabilities

This charity has no liabilities.

Assets

Kitchen Equipment & Utensils	£ 4,624.70
Cleaning Equipment	£ 2,333.89
Furniture	£ 8,017.26
Office Equipment	£ 2,728.55
Audio/Visual Equipment	£ 8,142.80
Health & Safety Equipment	£ 4,227.89
Music & Play Equipment	<u>£ 533.43</u>
Total Assets	£30,608.52

Treasurer: Alet Wallace Date: 27/1/2025

Hillstown Rural Community Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102669

Annual report



Trustees' Annual Report 2023/24

Charity Name: Hillstown Rural Community Group (HRCG)

Charity Reg. No: 102669

Correspondence Address: c/o 223 Portglenone Road
Randalstown
Co. Antrim
BT41 3RP

Premises Address: 130 Glebe Road
Randalstown
Co. Antrim
BT41 3DT

Trustees:

The following served as Charity Trustees during the year and up to the date of this Report:

Alan Nicholl
Gary Adair
Sharon Nicholl
Alex Wallace
Sheldon Murray
Hubert Nicholl

The Trustees have regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's Public Benefit requirement statutory guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant. In the Activities and Achievements section below, HRCG has reported on the activities the group has carried out to further its purposes for the Public Benefit.

Bankers: Ulster Bank
8 Market Square
Antrim
Co. Antrim
BT41 4AT

Governance: Hillstown Rural Community Group operates under its Constitution dated 12th June 2012.

Charity Purposes: Hillstown Rural Community Group was established to help improve the lives of the local community by offering a variety of activities within the local area that will increase community cohesion and reduce social isolation.

Charity Beneficiaries: Residents of Hillstown and surrounding district.

Financial Review: Throughout the year Hillstown Rural Community Group sourced funding from various funders. The Opening Balance at 1 April 2023 was £9,315.43. Income during 2023/24 Financial Year totalled £14,553.29 and Expenditure totalled £4,935.39, leaving a Balance at Year End of £18,933.33.

Activities and Achievements:

In the 2023/24 financial year Hillstown Rural Community Group (HRCG) continued with a ranges of activities and events aimed at improving the lives of the local community and surrounding district.

The first activity of the year was a celebration event in May for the Coronation of King Charles III at which entertainment and food, including a special Coronation Cake were provided. This event was supported by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and proved very popular with the local community.

During the 2023/24 year HRCG continued to deliver a number of events aimed at seniors in the local area. These events included information sessions delivered by the local Pharmacist on various health issues as part of the Community Development & Health Network, Building the Community Pharmacy Programme. The health issues discussed included: Blood Pressure; Home Health Monitoring; Keeping Healthy during the Winter; Rheumatoid Arthritis; Hearing; Pain Relief; Healthy Eating; Exercise; and Skin Conditions. These sessions proved popular and resulted in increased awareness by seniors in the local community regarding the services offered by these organisations.

Throughout the year we organised a number of reminiscence sessions which provided opportunities for the seniors within the local community to come together and reminisce. A number of these sessions were delivered by NI Screen which proved very popular. These sessions prompted discussion amongst the seniors and helped contribute towards reduced social isolation and promoted positive mental health and well-being. The seniors also enjoyed a visit to Arthur Cottage in Cullybackey where they learned about the history of the Arthur family and where they were also able to sample breads and apple tarts baked over the open fire in the cottage.

During the year group members participated in a Discover Ulster Scots Programme during which the group heard from various speakers and musicians from the Ulster Scots culture and tradition. The programme which was funded by the Ulster Scots Agency culminated in a visit to the Ulster Scots Discovery Centre in Belfast. A better understanding of the history, culture, music and language of the Ulster Scots tradition was achieved.

At Christmas we held our Annual Community Christmas Dinner with 70 people attending. The dinner provided opportunity for the community to come together and important relationship building has been achieved which has resulted in new people participating in other community events and activities.

We held a very successful Burns Night with Ulster Scots entertainment including Robert Burns' poetry, information on the life of Robert Burns, a Piper, and a Ceilidh Band as well as a traditional Burns Supper of Haggis, Neeps and Tatties.

For the first time HRCG hosted a Cushion Cover Block Printing Workshop at Hillstown which proved very popular and a number of new people attended this activity who hadn't previously engaged with our group.

Two of our group members continued to participate in a PEACE IV funded programme within the Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council area. The Key Institutions Programme was designed to bring communities from different backgrounds, religious beliefs and cultures together so the participants can increase knowledge and gain positive experiences across communities and cultures.

Throughout the year members of HRCG played an active role in the committee of Bann Maine West Community Cluster which involves various groups from the villages and rural areas west of Ballymena who work in partnership to organise and deliver various events and activities for the community. The focus this year was activities for seniors, activities to break down barriers with minority communities living in the local area, and the continuation of a men's monthly group meeting as well as other health and information sessions.

Throughout the year we shared information with the local community about various other events and activities being organised by other organisations in the wider local area. The

information sessions, activities and visits organised by HRCG throughout the year have resulted in positive relationship building and friendships have been forged within the group resulting in improved quality of life, mental well-being and reduced social isolation particularly for the older generation of Hillstown and the surrounding district.

Signed: Hubert Nicholl

Chairperson: Hubert Nicholl

Date: 27 January 2025

Hillstown Rural Community Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102669

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Hillstown Rural Community Group

I report on the Accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2024.

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. 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 Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

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

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

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

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

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



Allan Millar
Slemish n tha Braid Credit Union Board Member
54 Church Road, Randalstown. Co. Antrim BT41 3JW

Hillstown Rural Community Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102669

Accounts

Hillstown Rural Community Group

Statement of Accounts 2022/23

Balance @ 31 March 2022

£ 16,810.46

Income:

Date	Narrative	Amount (£)
27 Sept 2022	Grant - Building the Community Pharmacy	2,400.00
21 Feb 2023	Grant – Ulster Scots Agency (Small Events 2)	750.00

Total Income

£3,150.00

Expenditure:

Date	Narrative	Amount (£)
1 Apr 2022	Wet & Forget (Chq. No. 000193)	299.03
4 Apr 2022	R Christie Boiler Service (Chq. No. 000190)	52.00
4 Apr 2022	Galgorm Group (Chq. No. 000191)	66.73
4 Apr 2022	Power NI (DD)	156.06
6 Apr 2022	SJ McIntyre Groundworks (Chq. No. 000198)	1,116.00
7 Apr 2022	Homestyle Blinds & Interiors (Chq. No. 000199)	71.00
7 Apr 2022	Homestyle Blinds & Interiors (Chq. No. 000200)	365.00
8 Apr 2022	TWG Electrics (Chq. No. 000195)	390.00
8 Apr 2022	(Chq. No. 000197)	50.00
4 May 2022	Eurofire Systems Ltd (Chq. No. 000194)	336.60
17 May 2022	TL Dallas Insurance (Chq. No. 000202)	746.42
10 June 2022	Bank Charges (DD)	16.98
29 June 2022	Power NI (DD)	96.89
9 Sept 2022	Bank Charges (DD)	8.43
9 Sept 2022	Bank Charges – Unpaid Item Fee	10.00
28 Sept 2022	Power NI (DD)	237.88
6 Dec 2022	Rev. D. Kerr (Chq. No. 000206)	100.00
9 Dec 2022	Bank Charges (DD)	8.86
9 Dec 2022	Bank Charges – Unpaid Item Fee	20.00
21 Dec 2022	A Nicholl – Repayment Loan (Chq. No. 000207)	1,500.00
30 Dec 2022	Power NI (DD)	244.62
1 Feb 2023	Colin Urwin (Chq. No. 000205)	60.00

10 Feb 2023	The Tartan Bunting Co. (Chq. No. 000208)	100.00
15 Feb 2023	The Alister Scott Celidh Band (Chq. No. 000210)	360.00
22 Feb 2023	Miller Sisters Dancing (Chq. No. 000212)	200.00
2 Mar 2023	Delightful Bites Catering (Chq. No. 000209)	265.00
3 Mar 2023	A Fenton Piping (Chq. No. 000215)	100.00
10 Mar 2023	Bank Charges (DD)	11.33
14 Mar 2023	Iris' Farmhouse Cuisine (Chq. No. 000213)	1,200.00
14 Mar 2023	Iris' Farmhouse Cuisine (Chq. No. 000214)	396.00
24 Mar 2023	Sperrin Cultural Awareness (Chq. No. 000216)	450.00
27 Mar 2023	Power NI (DD)	12.90
28 Mar 2023	Nancy's Barn Restaurant (Chq. No. 000217)	137.83
28 Mar 2023	Doagh Famine Village (Chq. No. 000218)	101.42
28 Mar 2023	White Horse Hotel (Chq. No. 000219)	895.00
28 Mar 2023	White Horse Hotel (Chq. No. 000220)	14.90
28 Mar 2023	The Siege Museum (Chq. No. 000221)	50.00
28 Mar 2023	The Exchange Restaurant (Chq. No. 000222)	245.20
28 Mar 2023	Grail PR (Chq. No. 000223)	152.95

Total Expenditure **£ 10,645.03**

Balance @ 31 March 2023 **£ 9,315.43**

Treasurer: *A. Wallace* Date: *5/6/23*

Print Name: Alex Wallace

Auditor: *Allan Millar* Date: *5-5-23*

Print Name: Allan Millar

Position: Director - Slemish n tha Braid Credit Union

Hillstown Rural Community Group

Statement of Assets and Liabilities – Year Ended 31 March 2023

Funds Reconciliation	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Opening Balance 31 March 2022	0.00	16,810.46	16,810.46
Surplus/Deficit this Year End	0.00	(7,495.03)	(7,495.03)
Closing Balance 31 March 2023	0.00	9,315.43	9,315.43

Liability

This charity has no liabilities.

Assets

Kitchen Equipment & Utensils	£ 4,624.70
Cleaning Equipment	£ 2,333.89
Furniture	£ 8,017.26
Office Equipment	£ 2,728.55
Audio/Visual Equipment	£ 8,142.80
Health & Safety Equipment	£ 4,227.89
Music & Play Equipment	£ 533.43
Total Assets	£30,608.52

Treasurer: A. Wallace Date: 30.1.24

Hillstown Rural Community Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102669

Annual report



Trustees' Annual Report 2022/23

Charity Name: Hillstown Rural Community Group (HRCG)

Charity Reg. No: 102669

Correspondence Address: c/o 223 Portglenone Road
Randalstown
Co. Antrim
BT41 3RP

Premises Address: 130 Glebe Road
Randalstown
Co. Antrim
BT41 3DT

Trustees:

The following served as Charity Trustees during the year and up to the date of this Report:

Alan Nicholl
Gary Adair
Sharon Nicholl
Alex Wallace
Sheldon Murray
Hubert Nicholl

The Trustees have regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's Public Benefit requirement statutory guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant. In the Activities and Achievements section below, HRCG has reported on the activities the group has carried out to further its purposes for the Public Benefit.

Bankers: Ulster Bank
8 Market Square
Antrim
Co. Antrim
BT41 4AT

Governance: Hillstown Rural Community Group operates under its Constitution dated 12th June 2012.

Charity Purposes: Hillstown Rural Community Group was established to help improve the lives of the local community by offering a variety of activities within the local area that will increase community cohesion and reduce social isolation.

Charity Beneficiaries: Residents of Hillstown and surrounding district.

Financial Review: Throughout the year Hillstown Rural Community Group sourced funding from various funders. The Opening Balance at 1 April 2022 was £16,810.46. Income during 2022/23 Financial Year totalled £3,150.00 and Expenditure totalled £10,645.03, leaving a Balance at Year End of £9,315.43.

Activities and Achievements:

In the 2022/23 financial year Hillstown Rural Community Group (HRCG) activities were slow to get started because of the COVID pandemic with many older people still reluctant to get involved in face to face activities in the early months of the year. The first activity of the year was an outdoor walking activity at Antrim Castle Gardens in June 2022 following which regular activities got underway in the hall from July 2022 onwards when most older people were content to meet again inside for face to face social interaction. Between that and March 2023 there were various events and activities organised by HRCG for the benefit of the local community at Hillstown and surrounding district.

During the 2022/23 year HRCG continued to partnership with Grange Cross Community Association in delivering a number of events aimed at seniors in the local area. These events included information sessions delivered by the local Pharmacist on various health issues as part of the Community Development & Health Network, Building the Community Pharmacy Programme. There were also other information sessions delivered by the NI Consumer Council, PSNI Crime Prevention Officer, NI Fire & Rescue Service, and The North of Ireland Family History Society. These sessions proved popular and resulted in increased awareness by seniors in the local community regarding the services offered by these organisations.

Throughout the year we organised a number of reminiscence sessions which provided opportunities for the seniors within the local community to come together and reminisce. A number of these sessions were delivered by the Armstrong Storytelling Trust and funded by the Arts Council for Northern Ireland. These sessions culminated in an intergenerational activity with children at the local Groggan Primary School which proved very popular with both seniors and children. Similar reminiscence sessions were also provided by the NI War Memorial Museum and NI Screen. These sessions prompted discussion amongst the Seniors and helped contribute towards reduced social isolation and promoted positive mental health and well-being.

During the year group members participated in a Good Relations visit to Derry/Londonderry and Donegal where the group visited the Doagh Famine Village and the Siege Museum. The visit was funded by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and the group examined the history and impact of the Famine in Ireland and the 1688-89 Siege in Derry. A better understanding of these periods in history and their impact was achieved.

Two of our group members had opportunity to participate in a PEACE IV funded programme within the Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council area, the Key Institutions Programme was designed to bring communities from different backgrounds, religious beliefs and cultures together so the participants can increase knowledge and gain positive experiences across communities and cultures.

Throughout the year members of HRCG played an active role in the committee of Bann Maine West Community Cluster which involves various groups from the villages and rural areas west of Ballymena who work in partnership to organise and deliver various events and activities for the community. The focus this year was activities for Seniors, activities to break down barriers with minority communities living in the local area, and the commencement of a Men's monthly group meeting as well as other and other health and information sessions.

For the first time HRCG hosted a Christmas Wreath Making Workshop at Hillstown which proved very popular and a number of new people attended this activity who hadn't previously engaged with our group. We also hosted an event to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and an Ulster Scots Concert, both of which proved very popular events and were well attended.

At Christmas we held our Annual Community Christmas Dinner which was one of the first big community activities in the local area since COVID with over 60 people attending. The dinner provided opportunity for the community to come together and important relationship building has been achieved which has resulted in new people participating in other community events and activities.

The information sessions, activities and visits organised throughout the year have resulted in positive relationship building and friendships have been forged within the group resulting in improved quality of life, mental well-being and reduced social isolation particularly for the older generation. The Good Relations visit also offered the opportunity to visit new places and learn more about various places, cultures and history.

Signed: Hubert Nicholl

Chairperson: Hubert Nicholl

Date: 30 January 2024

Hillstown Rural Community Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102669

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Hillstown Rural Community Group

I report on the Accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023.

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. 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 Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

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

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

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

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

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



Allan Millar
Slemish n tha Braid Credit Union Board Member
54 Church Road, Randalstown. Co. Antrim BT41 3JW