

GARVAGH MUSEUM LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023



The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities', issued in March 2005.

Objectives and activities

The principal activity of Garvagh Museum Ltd is to promote the benefit of collecting and preserving artefacts from the local area for the benefit of the local community and tourism. As part of a local community engagement programme the museum organises a wide variety of exhibitions within its own grounds as well as in other community venues. These exhibitions display items of local and regional significance and are designed to engender an informed appreciation and understanding of history of all the local communities. The museum offers opportunities for its members to develop and enhance their skills and abilities in the heritage sector, through running the museum, recording and cataloguing recent acquisitions, providing talks to local groups on museum activity, the preservation of artefacts and from being involved in the organisation of exhibitions.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake

Achievements and performance

The museum organises events and exhibitions in association with other community groups. The museum's collection grows solely from public donations and it currently comprises over 4,000 items, constituting one of the largest independent museum collections in Northern Ireland. The museum continues to grow its collection and to utilise this in following its aims and objectives. It remains one of the largest independent museums in Northern Ireland.

The museum continues to maintain its museum accreditation with Northern Ireland Museum Council and Arts Council in England. This ensures the collection and organisation are achieving requisite museum standards. This is a significant professional achievement for a voluntary organisation with no paid professional staff.

Financial review

Throughout the financial year visitor numbers steadily increased as the general public became more relaxed about visiting public places

- Museum - 892
- Exhibitions - 2
- Groups - 13
- Outreach Event - 2

The pool of volunteers prepared to facilitate visitors has slightly increased. Opening hours have returned to a pre Covid pandemic footing, every Saturday in June and September and every Thursday to Saturday in July and August.

The new group visit category called "the family group" continues to help increase visitor numbers to the museum by pre-booking for a visit at a daytime or evening slot to suit the family.

Volunteers continue to input significant additional hours worked to meet guidelines on extra cleaning of toilets, glass displays, ongoing outdoor maintenance e.g. grass cutting, removal of ivy from the walled garden etc. An approximate total of 609 volunteer hours was recorded.

In recognition of the voluntary efforts of the museum over the years, the museum entered into a strategic partnership with Causeway Coast and Glens Council. The museum receives financial support in return for providing heritage-based services and facilities for local groups, individuals and tourists.

It is the policy of the Charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six months' expenditure. The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the Charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

T Fleming	(Resigned 1 July 2022)
A Lytle	
M Bradley	
R Patterson	
M Garvin	
R McMurray-Nawn	
A Cole	
D McMeekin	
J McFetridge	
H Moore	

Trustees are appointed from the following community groups:

- Garvagh and District Development Association (has folded but ex member trustees continue to support the museum)
- Local Council Representatives
- Opted members from local community agreed by board
- Garvagh High School Staff & Board of Governors (as the school is now closed there is no new representation although the former staff and governors have remained on the board)

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The organisational structure of Garvagh Museum Limited is as following:

- Chairman- Mr D McMeekin
- Vice Chairman- Mrs P Hutchinson
- Treasurer- Mr I Davidson
- Secretary- Mr D McMeekin

Employee involvement

The Charity's policy is to consult and discuss with employees, through unions, staff councils and at meetings, matters likely to affect employees' interests.

Information of matters of concern to employees is given through information bulletins and reports which seek to achieve a common awareness on the part of all employees of the financial and economic factors affecting the group's performance.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

D McMeekin
Trustee

12 December 2023