

Cushendun Building Preservation Trust
Company limited by guarantee

Trustees' annual report (incorporating the director's report)
Period ended 31 March 2023

Trustees and directors

The trustees and directors who served the company during the period were as follows:

Fiona Lynch	
Maria McAllister	
James Skivington	
Frances Swail	
Gerard Anthony Swail	
Jude McNeill	
Julie Antonette Kinsella	
Paul O'Hara	
Philippa Katharine English	
Seana Frances McSparran	(Appointed 12 February 2023)
Anthony Kennedy	(Treasurer)
William Colvin	(Director and company Secretary)

Accountants

Park McKillop and Company
51 Springwell Street
Ballymena
Co. Antrim
BT43 6AT

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is run by a board of Directors/Trustees who are responsible for the general administration and governance of the charity. Following a review of the organisations governance and objectives, conducted by Blue Moss Consultants in early 2021, CBPT formally adopted an updated Memorandum and Articles of Association at the 2021 AGM 7/11/2021. The full Board meet monthly to to oversee general management and governance issues. Office bearers meet weekly to manage day to day issues.

Objectives and activities

To preserve for the benefit of the people of Cushendun and of the Nation, the historic, architectural and constructional heritage that may exist in and around Cushendun and to raise funds so to do. This objective includes managing The Old Church Centre for the promotion of heritage, art and for community benefit.

Staffing

The level of staffing has remained constant over the year. Sadly Maeve McAlister resigned from her position as Marketing and Programme Officer in October 2022 but her position was quickly filled by Seana McSparran. The team consists of Steven Byrne (Visitor and Centre Coordinator), Rosemary Farrell (Administrator) and Seana McSparran (Marketing and Programme Officer).

Statement of compliance

In setting out our objectives and carrying out our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit in order to ensure that the activities undertaken have helped the Cushendun Building Preservation Trust achieve its purposes as set out in the Memorandum and that it has provided a benefit to its beneficiaries.

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Achievements and performance

The organisation has successfully completed the restoration of the Cushendun Old Church now known as The Cushendun Old Church Centre. This has been achieved with funding from Heritage Lottery Fund, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and other funders who have acknowledged satisfactory completion of the project.

Financial review

The activities in the Old Church Centre continue to flourish and be popular amongst the community. We have weekly groups namely the Cushendun Painting for Pleasure Group, Cushendun Reading Circle and Yoga classes. We have had a number of high profile events at the centre over the year including Cushendun born actor Seamus O'Hara who had returned from Los Angeles the previous week with an Oscar for the short film An Irish Goodbye. Seamus, his colleague James Martin and the producer and director spent the day in the Centre and hosted 5 screenings of their film and took part in Q- sessions. The Centre played host to numerous events for Culture Month in September, the highlights being a chartered boat tour from Ballycastle to Cushendun learning about the aquatic history of the Sea of Moyle, storytelling workshops and a talk by the local Red Bay RNLI. Cushendun Big Arts Weekend continues to grow from strength to strength. While these events generate footfall and revenue which has the potential to meet the core running costs of the Centre they do require additional staffing costs.

Cushendun Building Preservation Trust depends on an amazing group of committee members and volunteers without whom the achievements of the last year would not have been possible. Thanks are due to every one of the team. CBPT also gratefully acknowledges the National Heritage Lottery Fund, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and all our other funders. The Centre continues to become busier and as the level of activity increases so do the demands on the management committee, volunteers and management systems that were put in place early in the life of the Centre. We look forward to the centre continuing its role as a thriving venue for Heritage, Arts and the Community at the heart of life in the Glens.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

This report was approved by the board of directors on 2 November 2023 and signed on behalf of the board by:



Anthony Kennedy
Trustee