

# Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association

Northern Ireland · Charity number 103784

## Details

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**Known as** MARCA

**Status** Received

**Registered** 2016-06-08

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

## Contact

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**Address** 59  
Derrybeg Drive  
Newry  
Co.Down  
Bt35 6es  
BT35 6ES

**Phone** 028 3024167

## Activities

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**Purposes:** The Association is established to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the Meadow and Armagh Road Area, Newry and its environs; to include: (Meadow) - The Fold, Clanrye Avenue, Clanrye Park, Helen's Terrace, Orior Road, Slieve Gullion Road, Iveagh Crescent, Killeavy Road, Derrybeg Drive, Ballinlare Gardens and (Armagh Road) – Violet Hill Avenue, College Gardens, Mountain View Drive, Clonmore, Lisdarragh (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") without distinction of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, class, marital status, political or religious opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, voluntary and community sector organisations and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance education, and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

**What the charity does:** The prevention or relief of poverty, The advancement of education, The advancement of citizenship or community development

**How the charity works:** Community development, Education/training, Sport/recreation

**Who the charity helps:** Adult training, Children (5-13 year olds), Older people, Specific areas of deprivation, Youth (14-25 year olds)

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£17,446	£15,055	£0	0

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Bobby Johnson		
Clare Carroll		
Darrelle Shields		
Gerry Mcdonald		
Johnny Franks		
Miss Ceallach Mcdonald		
Niall Quinn		
Noreen Rice		
Sinead Larkin		

**Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103784

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# Accounts

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Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association (NICL05784)  
Income Summary

Date	Source	Description	Amount (£)	Description
28/10/2024	INDIAN	Hall Hire	60.00	Community Centre Activities
01/11/2024	DFC running costs	Running costs	468.60	DFC Money for Running Costs
05/11/2024	USER GROUP	Hall Hire	180.00	Community Centre Activities
	User group	Hall Hire	350.00	Community Centre Activities
	birthday parties	Hall Hire	800.00	Community Centre Activities
02/12/2024	HOMESTART	Rent	510.00	Community Centre Activities
10/12/2024	USER GROUP	Hall Hire	170.00	Community Centre Activities
11/12/2024	INDIAN	Hall Hire	60.00	Community Centre Activities
18/12/2024	COMMUNITY	Hall Hire	60.00	Community Centre Activities
18/12/2024	POLISH SCHOOL	Hall Hire	485.00	Community Centre Activities
08/12/2024	HOMESART	Rent	120.00	Community Centre Activities
24/01/2025	WOMENSTEC	Hall Hire	335.00	Community Centre Activities
04/02/2025	HOMESTART	Rent	225.00	Community Centre Activities
12/02/2025	USER GROUPS	Hall Hire	567.02	DFC Money for Running Costs
28/02/2025	NMDC	Rent	435.00	Community Centre Activities
04/03/2025	HOMESTART	Rent	50.00	Community Centre Activities
12/03/2025	BOLSTER(HALL HIRE)	Hall Hire	335.00	Community Centre Activities
31/03/2025	HOMESTART	Rent	60.00	Community Centre Activities
31/03/2025	POLISH SCHOOL	Rent	1,242.92	DFC Money for Running Costs
04/04/2025	COUNCIL	Running costs	50.00	Community Centre Activities
04/04/2025	RUNNING COSTS	Running costs	315.00	Community Centre Activities
25/04/2025	NEL	Running costs	630.00	Community Centre Activities
30/04/2025	HOMESART	Rent	5,485.76	DFC Money for Running Costs
06/05/2025	USERGROUPS	Hall Hire	280.00	Community Centre Activities
15/05/2025	COUNCIL	Running costs	465.00	DFC Money for Running Costs
30/05/2025	RUNNING COSTS	Running costs	60.00	Community Centre Activities
30/05/2025	HOMESTART	Rent	700.00	Community Centre Activities
30/05/2025	NMDC	Rent	105.00	Community Centre Activities
25/06/2025	POLISH SCHOOL	Container hire	360.00	Community Centre Activities
30/06/2025	HOMESTART	Rent	200.00	Community Centre Activities
08/08/2025	POLISH SCHOOL	Hall Hire	1,861.73	DFC Money for Running Costs
12/08/2025	birthday parties	Hall Hire	410.00	Community Centre Activities
14/08/2025	User groups	Hall Hire	60.00	Community Centre Activities
18/09/2025	DFC Running costs	Running costs		
30/09/2025	Homesart	Rent		
23/06/2025	POLISH SCHOOL	Container hire		

CHAIRPERSON - *Gangamma*  
TREASURER - *Wan P.C.*

17446.03

Row Labels	Sum of Amount (£)
Community Centre Activities	7,355.00
DFC Money for Running Costs	10,091.03
(blank)	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>17,446.03</b>

Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association (NIC103784)  
 Expenditure Summary

Date out of Bank	Cheque Number / Date Cheque Issued (if applicable)	Details / Description	Amount (£)	Receipts	Description
02/10/2024	DD	BT	67.02	YES	Telephone
04/10/2024	DD	B/FEES	26.70	N/A	Bank Charges and Interest
14/10/2024	DD	CLEANING	183.66	YES	Running Expenses
29/10/2024	503247				Sundries
29/10/2024	503248	ROONEY	326.00		Sundries
29/10/2024	503248	B CRANNEY	150.00	N/A	Running Expenses
			150.00		Running Expenses
31/10/2024	DD	BT	67.02	YES	Telephone
02/12/2024	DD	BT	67.02	YES	Telephone
14/11/2024	503250	ELECTRIC	566.77	YES	Centre Activities Expenses
14/12/2024	503251	B CRANNEY	300.00	N/A	Running Expenses
14/12/2024	503252	GEMMA	300.00	YES	Audit & Prof Fees
14/12/2024	503253	GEMMA	300.00	YES	Audit & Prof Fees
12/01/2025	503254	BERNIE	288.00	YES	Running Expenses
12/02/2025	503255	B cranney	200.00	Donation	Running Expenses
12/02/2025	503256	B Johnson	200.00	Donation	Donations
04/02/2025	503257	B Cranney	135.00		Running Expenses
5/22/2025	503258	mg oills	1,098.00	yes	Centre Activities Expenses
26/02/2025	503259	B CRANNEY	300.00	N/A	Running Expenses
05/03/2025	503260	electric	864.00	yes	Centre Activities Expenses
06/03/2025	503261	mg oills	1,000.00	yes	Centre Activities Expenses
30/04/2025	503262	marsh	1,645.26	yes	Insurance
	503263	cancelled cheques			
15/04/2025	503264	b lrvine	360.00	yes	Running Expenses
	503265	cancelled cheques			
27/04/2025	503266	johnny franks	460.00	yes	Running Expenses
27/04/2025	503267	b cranney	300.00	n/a	Running Expenses
27/06/2025	503268	electric	789.40	yes	Centre Activities Expenses
11/05/2025	503269	b cranney	269.00	yes	Running Expenses
08/07/2025	503270	plumbing	150.00		Running Expenses
02/01/2025		bt	67.02	yes	Telephone
03/01/2025		b/fees	36.09		Bank Charges and Interest
22/01/2025		tv licence	169.60	yes	Running Expenses
03/02/2025		bt	67.02	yes	Telephone
04/03/2025		bt	67.02	yes	Telephone
14/03/2025		cleaning	282.00	yes	Running Expenses
01/04/2025		bt	67.02	yes	Telephone
07/04/2025		b/fees	26.63	n/a	Bank Charges and Interest
02/05/2025		bt	216.47	yes	Telephone
04/07/2025		b/fees	25.03	N/A	Bank Charges and Interest
10/07/2025	503271	J Franks	70.00	yes	Sundries
11/08/2025	503272	B lrvine		yes	Running Expenses
		3/months admin)	432.00		Running Expenses
12/08/2025	503275	alrstatic food	164.70		Centre Activities Expenses
12/08/2025	503276	prison island fees	385.20		Centre Activities Expenses
12/08/2025	503277	volunteers expenses	160.00		Centre Activities Expenses
12/08/2025	503278	prison island food	139.51		Centre Activities Expenses
12/08/2025	503279	Brian O'connor	120.00		Sundries
12/09/2025	503283	B cranneyx 2 months	300.00		Running Expenses
18/09/2025	503280	healthy snacks	100.00		Centre Activities Expenses
21/09/2025	503281	donation to kbrrt in lieu of flowers	50.00		Donations
12/09/2025	503282	electric	307.78	yes	Centre Activities Expenses
21/09/2025	503284	M G OILS	789.00		Centre Activities Expenses
16/09/2025	503273	B Cranney x 3 months	450.00		Running Expenses

Row Labels	Sum of Amount (£)
Bank Charges and Interest	116.45
Donations	250.00
Insurance	1,645.26
Sundries	515.00
Telephone	685.61
(blank)	
Running Expenses	4,879.16
Audit & Prof Fees	600.00
Centre Activities Expenses	6,364.36
Grand Total	18,098.84

**Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103784

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# Accounts

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Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association (NIC03784)  
Income Summary

Geary used 00000000000000000000  
W.A.R.C.O. Treasurer.

Date	Source	Description	Amount (£)	Description
17/10/2023	user groups	hall hire	260	Community Centre Activities
23/10/2023	Bobby Browne		1000	Contra
30/10/2023	claire	hall hire	80	Community Centre Activities
31/10/2023	Hornestart	Rent	880	Community Centre Activities
10/11/2023	NMDDC	Running costs	408.41	DFC Money for Running Costs
17/11/2023	DFC	Running Costs	251.64	DFC Money for Running Costs
20/11/2023	user groups	Hall hire	335	Community Centre Activities
30/11/2023	Hornestart	Rent	120	Community Centre Activities
29/12/2023	user group	Lodgement	200	Community Centre Activities
02/01/2024	Hornestart	Rent	710	Community Centre Activities
05/01/2024	NMDC		2760	DFC Money for Running Costs
16/02/2024	Birthday parties		490	Community Centre Activities
16/02/2024	DFC	Running costs	428.52	DFC Money for Running Costs
29/02/2024	Hornestart	Rent	295	Community Centre Activities
06/03/2024	Lodgement(100433	hall hire	60	Community Centre Activities
28/03/2024	Hornestart	Rent	470	Community Centre Activities
28/03/2024	NMDC	Grant	702.35	DFC Money for Running Costs
12/04/2024	polish school		160	Community Centre Activities
25/04/2024	Bowling	Rent	75	Community Centre Activities
25/04/2024	Lodgement(100435	Hall Hire	230	Community Centre Activities
30/04/2024	Hornestart	Rent	315	Community Centre Activities
03/05/2024	NMDC		4759.73	DFC Money for Running Costs
20/05/2024	Birthday Parties		470	Community Centre Activities
31/05/2024	Hornestart	Rent	490	Community Centre Activities
03/06/2024	Lodgement(183233)	Hall hire	80	Community Centre Activities
07/06/2024	Southern Trust	Hall Hire	130	Community Centre Activities
19/06/2024	re Bingo bus Hire		400	Community Centre Activities
19/06/2024	Birthday parties	Rent	560	Community Centre Activities
19/06/2024	polish school	container	60	Community Centre Activities
29/06/2024	Hornestart	Rent	560	Community Centre Activities
09/08/2024	DFC	Running costs	2062.62	DFC Money for Running Costs
11/09/2024	User groups	Hall Hire	350	Community Centre Activities
12/09/2024	Indian Group	Hall Hire	120	Community Centre Activities
17/09/2024	Polish School	Container hire	60	Community Centre Activities
30/09/2024	Hornestart	Rent	370	Community Centre Activities

Row Labels	Sum of Amount (£)
Community Centre Activities	8,130.00
DFC Money for Running Costs	11,569.27
Contra	1,000.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>20,699.27</b>

Meadow and Armonk Road Community Association (NIC103784)  
Expenditure Summary

Date out of Bank	Cheque Number / Date Cheque Issued (if available)	Details / Description	Amount (€)	Receipts	Description
03/10/2023	503190	b Irvine	320.00	N/A	Running Expenses
04/10/2023	503176	electric	408.41	yes	Centre Activities Expenses
06/10/2023	BANK FEES	Bank fees	27.87	N/A	Bank Charges and Interest
12/10/2023	DD	cleaning	173.08	yes	Running Expenses
17/10/2023	503188	food	500.00	yes	Centre Activities Expenses
17/10/2023	503191	gas	500.00	yes	Centre Activities Expenses
23/10/2023	CONTRA		1,000.00		Contra
24/10/2023	503195	mj oil	1,480.00	yes	Centre Activities Expenses
28/10/2023	503198	b Irvine	320.00	N/A	Running Expenses
31/10/2023	503193		400.00		Running Expenses
01/12/2023	503194	Affiliation	20.00	N/A	Audit & Prof Fees
04/12/2023	DD	BT	253.44	Yes	Telephone
08/12/2023	503189	B Cranney	150.00	N/A	Running Expenses
	503192		170.00		Running Expenses
19/12/2023	503198	B Cranney	150.00	N/A	Running Expenses
19/12/2023	503199	B Cranney	150.00	N/A	Running Expenses
20/12/2023	503197	B Irvine	400.00	N/A	Running Expenses
02/01/2024	503204	Pest Control	282.00	yes	Repairs
05/01/2024	BANK FEES	Bank fees	73.13		Bank Charges and Interest
15/01/2024	503203	Electric	753.82	yes	Centre Activities Expenses
22/01/2024	503201	TV Licence	159.00	yes	Running Expenses
28/01/2024	503200	MG oil	1,255.00	Yes	Centre Activities Expenses
02/02/2024	503205	B Irvine	400.00	N/A	Running Expenses
26/02/2024	503206		500.00		Centre Activities Expenses
28/02/2024	5032208	B Irvine	320.00	N/A	Running Expenses
29/02/2024	503201	MG OIL	1,037.00	Yes	Centre Activities Expenses
04/03/2024	DD	BT	183.97	Yes	Telephone
13/03/2024	DD	cleaning	218.00	yes	Running Expenses
22/03/2024	503211	dancers	400.00	yes	Centre Activities Expenses
25/03/2024	503215	B Irvine	400.00	N/A	Running Expenses
26/03/2024	503214	st patriks	300.00	yes	Centre Activities Expenses
27/03/2024	503210	Electric	820.08	yes	Centre Activities Expenses
28/03/2024	503207	B cranney	183.00		Running Expenses
28/03/2024	503209	B cranney/N/A	150.00		Running Expenses
28/03/2024	503218	B cranney	150.00	N/A	Running Expenses
08/04/2024	BANK FEES	B/Fees	24.78		Bank Charges and Interest
23/04/2024	503218	Kinney skp	240.00		Repairs
23/04/2024	503222	Indian dancers	350.00	yes	Centre Activities Expenses
24/04/2024	503221	Mersh	1,821.58	Yes	Insurance
25/04/2024	503212	Shu	150.00		Centre Activities Expenses
25/04/2024	503213	trad dancers	325.00		Centre Activities Expenses
26/04/2024		U/paid cheque	40.00		Sundries
30/04/2024	503225	B Irvine	400.00	N/A	Running Expenses
13/05/2024	503223	council licence	780.00		Audit & Prof Fees
13/05/2024	503224	newsp reporter	80.00		Postage, Stat, Adverts
28/05/2024	503228	B Irvine	400.00	N/A	Running Expenses
03/06/2024	DD	BT	201.08	Yes	Telephone
07/06/2024	503227	Electric	852.31	yes	Centre Activities Expenses
24/06/2024	503230	BIngo	400.00		Centre Activities Expenses
25/06/2024	503231	B Irvine	320.00	N/A	Running Expenses
03/07/2024	503226	B Cranney	198.00		Running Expenses
03/07/2024	503229	B cranney	150.00	N/A	Running Expenses
03/07/2024	503232	B cranney	150.00	N/A	Running Expenses
05/07/2024	BANK FEES	b/fees	38.57		Bank Charges and Interest
09/07/2024	503233	reimbursment b	62.00		Running Expenses
22/07/2024	503234	b Irvine	400.00	N/A	Running Expenses
01/08/2024	503235	b cranney	150.00	N/A	Running Expenses
23/08/2024	503239	B cranney	289.00	yes	Running Expenses
27/08/2024	503238	trade waste	447.20		Repairs
27/08/2024	503239	B Irvine	400.00	N/A	Running Expenses
02/09/2024	503240	Electric	401.58	yes	Centre Activities Expenses
02/09/2024	DD	BT	87.02	Yes	Telephone
03/09/2024	503244	DJ	100.00	yes	Centre Activities Expenses
03/09/2024	503245	Magdolan	200.00	yes	Centre Activities Expenses
04/09/2024	503243	MG OIL	1,052.00	yes	Centre Activities Expenses
11/09/2024	503210	stage door	215.00	yes	Centre Activities Expenses
12/09/2024	503220	b cranney power washing	250.00		Running Expenses
27/09/2024	503248	b Cranney	150.00	n/a	Running Expenses
30/09/2024	503247	b Irvine	200.00	N/A	Running Expenses
28/04/2024	BANK FEES	U/paid cheque	5.00		Bank Charges and Interest
		Power washing			Repairs
	503243	Bounoy pestlea	200.00	yes	Centre Activities Expenses

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0/5

Category	Amount (€)
Bank Charges and Interest	169.03
Insurance	1,621.56
Postage, Stat, Adverts	60.00
Sundries	40.00
Telephone	685.49
Running Expenses	7,712.16
Contra	1,000.00
Repairs	939.20
Audit & Prof Fees	770.00
Centre Activities Expenses	12,278.18
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>28,278.62</b>

**Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103784

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# Annual report

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NIC103784

Meadow / Armagh Road Community Association

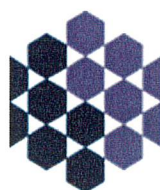
2023 to 2024

# Trustees Report



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

*Funded and Supported By:*



Department for

**Communities**



Comhairle Ceantair  
an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin  
Newry, Mourne and Down  
District Council



**ea** Education  
Authority



**CONFEDERATION OF  
COMMUNITY GROUPS**

*Geog. und. social  
n. A. Rice.*

*CHAIRPERSON.  
Treasurer*

# Charity Details

**Charity Name:** Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association

**Charity Number:** Registered Charity in Northern Ireland - NIC103784

**Purpose:** *The Association is established to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the Meadow and Armagh Road Area, Newry and its environs; to include: (Meadow) - The Fold, Clanrye Avenue, Clanrye Park, Helen's Terrace, Orior Road, Slieve Gullion Road, Iveagh Crescent, Killeavy Road, Derrybeg Drive, Ballinlare Gardens and (Armagh Road) – Violet Hill Avenue, College Gardens, Mountain View Drive, Clonmore, Lisdarragh (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") without distinction of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, class, marital status, political or religious opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, voluntary and community sector organisations and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance education, and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.*

## **Charity Trustees as of September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Mr Gerry Mc Donald (Chairperson)

Mr Brendan Cranny (Secretary)

Ms Noreen Rice (Treasurer)

Mr Niall Quinn

Mr Robert (Bobby) Johnson

Mr Peter Mc Donnell – retired during the year

Ms Helena Young – retired at AGM

Ms Megan Creggan – retired at AGM

Ms Clare Carroll

Ms Aóibheann Mc Corry – retired during the year

Mr Johnny Franks

Ms Aveen Trainor – retired during the year

Ms Darrelle Shields

Ms Sinead Larkin

Ms Dominika Wojciechowska

Note: No other Charity Trustees in the Year to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## **Accountant/Independent Examiner**

Gemma Doran

5 Bracken Close, Newry, Co. Down

## **Insurance Broker & Underwriter**

Marsh Insurance Ltd. (Ecclesiastical Brokers)

Bedford House, 16-22 Bedford Street, Belfast.

## **Bank**

First Trust, 42-44 Hill Street, Newry, Co. Down.

# Chairpersons Report

Welcome to our Annual Trustees Report for the period October 2023 to September 2024 and thank you all for taking the time to come along and listen to our report on activities and public benefit for the year. Like so many small grassroots charities we are feeling the demands on our volunteers and our services, and it has been challenging at times to ensure that we remain on top of everything. Sometimes people forget that we are all volunteers, giving our time and effort freely for the benefit of the local community; we are juggling work commitments, family and caring responsibilities, and our own personal lives. As Chair I am very proud of all we have achieved over this reporting period, and I would like to acknowledge and commend the hard work and dedication of everyone involved.

As most of you will be aware, we have management responsibility for a large community centre in the heart of our area of benefit which is owned by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC). We work hard to ensure that there is a direct benefit in terms of access to services and programmes for residents from the community centre base. We work in partnership with a range of like-minded organisations and are delighted to have anchor user groups such as Home Start and Bolster Community working from our centre.

We are grateful to the main funders who have continued to support the work of the Community Association and the development of the Community Centre, and we extend our thanks to the following:

- The Department for Communities & Newry Mourne & Down District Council – Neighbourhood Renewal Programme.
- Newry, Mourne & Down District Council for the funding provided through our Facilities Management Agreement (FMA) to cover essential running costs.
- All the User Groups in the Community Centre for contributing to our generated income streams; this vital money is directly used to support our local community.
- Confederation of Community Groups for 'hardship' support to provide financially struggling households, who meet strict referral criteria, support with utility costs.

I would also like to thank the following for their continued support:

Catherine O'Hanlon – Department for Communities who fund the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme and through it, the NR Outdoor Education Programme.

Julie Mc Cann & Laura Sage – Newry Mourne & Down District Council

Sean Mc Kevitt – Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator, Newry Mourne & Down District Council

Kerri Morrow – DEA Newry Mourne & Down District Council

Cathy Mc Mahon – Confederation of Community Groups

Martin Connell – Southern Health & Social Care Trust

Euan Morgan & Janet Naughton – Community Restorative Justice

Newry & Mourne Extended Schools

There are many challenges facing small grassroots charities such as us and one of them continues to be in attracting and recruiting new volunteers. The expectation and pressure on volunteers and community-based organisations only seems to increase, with more reporting and bureaucracy than ever before, and it can sometimes be difficult to stay on top of everything. I'd like to take a moment and thank all our charity trustees and volunteers; you are doing an incredible and often unseen job to keep the community centre running and operating at nearly full capacity, attending numerous meetings to ensure that the needs of our community are being raised and addressed.

I would like to take this opportunity to pass on our sincerest condolences to all those families who have lost loved ones over the past year; we continue to keep you all in our thoughts and prayers.

Finally, I will conclude by thanking our community, without your ongoing support for all that we do there would be little point in continuing. I encourage you to consider getting involved as a volunteer yourself and help develop new and innovative projects to benefit the local community as we move forward.

**Gerry Mc Donald**  
**Chairperson**



*Meadow / Armagh Road Community Centre*

## Financial Review

### Financial Performance

Financial performance over this reporting period has been down when compared to previous years figures. The loss of a long-term anchor tenant in the community centre has resulted in a significant drop in rental income for the period, whilst Trustees have worked hard to ensure that the venue is being hired and utilised as much as possible, we are aware of the need to attract longer term rental income.

Trustees did not apply for any additional external grants during this period, and this also explains a lower income level overall. When we combine this with the ever-escalating costs of utilities and general running expenses for the community centre it is a challenging financial landscape.

### Income:

Income receipts for the year totalled at £20,499 as compared to £32,209 in the previous financial period– see Charity Accounts / Independent Examiners Report for full breakdown of figures.

This income is derived from a variety of sources, with the main ones being.

- £8,130 from community centre activities, including venue hire/rental income.
- £11,369 from the Department for Communities, via Newry, Mourne & Down District Council for the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme (Running Costs).

The Community Association's income remains relatively consistent, and the Trustees are committed to redressing the balance in the next financial period.

### Expenditure

Expenditure for the year totalled at £25,277, compared to £30,236 in the previous financial period. – see Charity Accounts / Independent Examiners Report for the full breakdown of the financial spend.

Expenditure was largely in line with previous years, with the main items including:

- £12,278 community centre activities expenses.
- £11,369 running costs/expenses for the community centre.
- £1,622 for insurance costs.

### Funds Materially in Deficit

As of the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 the Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association had no funds in material deficit.

### **Major Risks**

Trustees have identified no major risks moving into the next financial period. However, as many organisations face their own funding cuts it is increasingly difficult to attract long term tenants to rent the facilities, and the short-term rentals create more insecurity in our income streams.

Trustees also note the inherent risk in trying to secure external funding streams as a means of sustainability, which is why alternative options are being explored.

### **Financial Management**

The Trustees maintain robust financial systems and have good financial management systems in place; all cheques must be signed by two out of our three cheque signatories. We have successfully held many grants and have always fulfilled all accounting, reporting and monitoring requirements; our annual accounts are independently examined and presented at the Annual General Meeting.

### **Statement of Assets and Liabilities**

The total assets of the Community Association, as of the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024, were £15,102, while liabilities were £3,764, leaving an accumulation fund of £11,338.

## Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees of the Meadow & Armagh Road Community Association confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 17 (5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and that the public benefit requirement has informed the activities of the Meadow & Armagh Road Community Association in the year to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

In evaluating public benefit, the Trustees note that membership is open to all residents in the 'area of benefit' – (Full members aged 18 and over, Junior members under 18) – and we strive to provide a range of activities that will cater for all ages but some necessary and reasonable restrictions have been put in place for example, our youth groups' personal development programmes which would not be age appropriate for primary school children; nor would the Over 50's Club be appropriate for the young people. However, many events, activities, seasonal events and fun days are open to all ages in the community.

### Summary of Main Activities

We have management responsibility for a large, Council owned Community Centre and, it is from this community base, that many of our main activities are delivered. Our community office is regularly open for residents to call in for information, signposting, social contact and access to Wi-Fi. Our community centre is open each day with different activities and services available, we are delighted to have both Home Start and Bolster Community operating consistently from the centre and offering additional services to benefit the local community.

The community centre continues to be a very popular venue for birthday parties, and other family celebrations and we encourage people to get their dates booked into our diary early to avoid disappointment.



Our volunteers and trustees have been busy delivering our own programme of activities, events and opportunities over the year. Our Tuesday night youth group continues to grow, and it is brilliant to see so many children turning up each week to get involved in a range of different games, team-building activities, arts & crafts and much more.



The weekly Community Bingo nights are as popular as ever and remain an important vehicle for bringing the community together, reducing isolation and providing a safe and warm place for new friendships to develop and for everyone to enjoy some light-hearted fun.



The community centre was buzzing for the annual Halloween Fancy Dress Disco, and we were delighted to see the array of costumes on display; we'd also like to thank all the parents/caregivers for getting involved in the spirit of the event and helping to make it such a success.



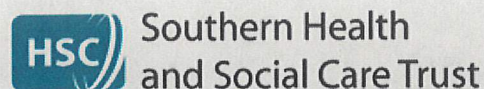
At Christmas time we ran a Craft Fayre in the community centre, and we were really pleased with the diverse range of stalls and



crafts available for purchase. It was heartening to see so many residents attend over the course of the day and they were treated to some fabulous entertainment from a local brass band, along with festive hot chocolate and marshmallows for the children and the young at heart.

We were delighted to be able to invite 130 senior citizens to our annual Christmas dinner at the Canal Court Hotel, Newry. This was a wonderful event and an excellent opportunity to bring so many isolated, older residents together for an afternoon of fabulous food and entertainment. Throughout the year, we have continued to run our older people's group and have had many different activities and opportunities available, as well as signposting them to other valuable services locally.

We have continued to work as active partners on the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and through the Neighbourhood Renewal Health Sub-Group and the Neighbourhood Renewal Outdoor Education Programme, we were able to get access to a wide range of health programmes for the Community Centre and provide children and young people access to outdoor activities. The physical activity programmes ran throughout the year in the community centre and offered the local community free opportunities with no barriers to participation. We are grateful to the Southern Health and Social Care Trust for managing this programme.



Throughout this reporting period there have been a range of additional opportunities on offer for children and young people, these have included:

- Arts & Crafts Workshops at different times of the year where the children got to make cards and decorations for upcoming seasonal events and celebrations.
- Valentines Disco.
- St Patrick's Day Celebrations.
- Four-week kids multi-sports programme which offered the children/young people



the opportunity to try out a whole range of different sports activities and engage in some fun competitions.

- Summer Scheme programme with a range of activities & games.

The family trip to Funtasia Theme Park, Drogheda was completely booked out;

thanks to the NR Outdoor Education programme for covering these costs.

Our annual Family Fun Day had an exceptional turnout, due in part to the glorious weather on the day, we were thrilled to have so many families choosing to spend their day with us and celebrating all that is good within our community. Everyone enjoyed the Magic Show and entertainment that followed, the outdoor games were energetic and competitive, the range of inflatables kept the children and young people busy, our face painters were exceptionally talented, and all thoroughly enjoyed the treats from the barbeque.

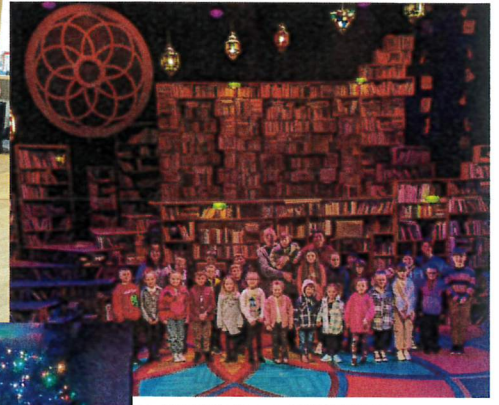
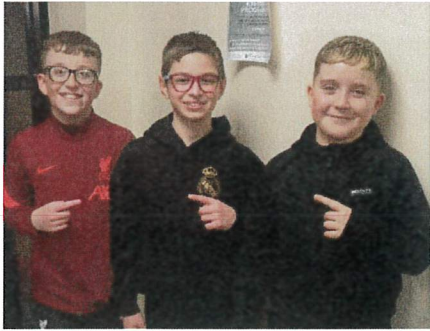
Trustees have also been mindful of the ongoing impact of the cost-of-living crisis on many households throughout this area; as a designated Neighbourhood Renewal area due to the high levels of multiple deprivations prevalent, these pressures are felt more acutely on already struggling households. We have maintained close working links with the local St Vincent de Paul chapter and have referred many families on for additional confidential support. Likewise with Community Advice for support with access to benefits and assistance with the completion of claim forms; and we have been working with Clanrye Group Ltd and have assisted with referrals and signposting to their Social Supermarket Scheme.

The Trustees of the Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association have continued representing the area on several different partnerships and networks to ensure that the needs of the area are being addressed through the proper channels. These include the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and associated sub-groups; Newry Mourne & Down District Council DEA Forum, Confederation of Community Groups, the NIHE Housing Community Network, and inter-agency meetings.

# Photographic Highlights



# Photographic Highlights





**Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103784

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# Annual return

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**Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association (NIC103784)**

**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 30 September 2024, which are set out on pages 02 to 06.

**Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

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.

**Basis of 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. 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.

**Independent examiner's statement**

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.

**Name:** Gemma Doran



**Relevant professional qualification or body:** Accountant Technician

**Address:** 5 Bracken Close  
Newry  
Co Down

**Date** 7th October 2025

**Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association (NIC103784)**

**Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended  
30th Sep 2024**

<b>Income</b>	<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>	
Community Centre Activities		8,130		26,359
Centre Act: Less: Centre Activities Exps	-	<u>12,278</u>	-	<u>19,721</u>
		4,148		6,638
DFC Money for Running Costs		11,369		3,738
DFC Expen: Less: Expenses	-	<u>11,369</u>	-	<u>3,738</u>
Foodbank Income		-		1,022
Foodbank   Less Expenses	-	<u>-</u>	-	<u>500</u>
		-		522
Deposit Interest		42		12
		<u>42</u>		<u>12</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>		<b>7,263</b>		<b>10,910</b>
<b>Less: Expenses</b>				
Postage, Stat, Adverts	-	60	-	104
Insurance	-	1,622	-	1,600
Bank Charges and Interest	-	179	-	380
Audit & Prof Fees	-	1,070	-	300
Running Expenses	-	7,712	-	6,825
Repairs	-	939	-	-
Telephone	-	685	-	1,017
Office Expenses	-	-	-	-
Donations	-	-	-	-
Sundries	-	<u>40</u>	-	<u>-</u>
		12,307		10,226
Depreciation	-	824	-	1,030
<b>Profit/Deficit for Year</b>		<b><u>- 5,868</u></b>		<b><u>- 346</u></b>

Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association (NIC103784)

Balance Sheet as at  
30th Sep 2024

	2024	2023
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
<u>Fixtures &amp; Fittings</u>		
Opening Balance C/Fwd	4,119	5,149
Additions	-	-
Depreciation Charge	- 824	- 1,030
Closing Balance B/Fwd	<b>3,295</b>	<b>4,119</b>
 <b>Current Assets</b>		
Bank Deposit Account	2,239	2,205
Bank Current Account	9,568	14,346
Cash In Hand		
Debtors		
	<u>11,807</u>	<u>16,551</u>
	<b>15,102</b>	<b>20,670</b>
 <b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Sundry Creditors	- 900	- 600
Trade Creditors	- 2,864	- 2,864
	<u>- 3,764</u>	<u>- 3,464</u>
	<u><b>11,338</b></u>	<u><b>17,206</b></u>
 <b>Represented By</b>		
Accumulation of Funds	17,206	17,552
Profit/Deficit for Year	- 5,868	- 346
	<u><b>11,338</b></u>	<u><b>17,206</b></u>
	- 0	

**Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association (NIC103784)**  
**Bank Reconciliation**

Opening Balance	14,345.98	
Lodgements	20,499.27	
Withdrawals		25,277.42
Closing Balance		<u>9,567.83</u>
	<u>34,845.25</u>	<u>34,845.25</u>

**Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103784

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# Accounts

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*George Winters*  
*N. A. Rice*  
 Chairman  
 Treasurer

Meadow & Armagh Road Community Association NIC103784

Accounts 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to 30 September 2023 – Expenditure

Date out of Bank	Cheque Number / Date Cheque Issued (If applicable)	Details / Description	Amount (£)	Receipts
03.10.22	503064 -	Mourne Trophies	160.00	Yes
03.10.22	DD	BT Group PLC	76.68	
06.10.22	BANK FEES		34.68	N/A
			79.12	
07.10.22	503084	Burrendale Hotel	100.00	Yes
07.10.22	503085	Burrendale Hotel	500.00	Yes
07.10.22	503089	Let's Play Bingo	72.00	Yes
10.10.22	503090	R Cahill	150.00	Yes
12.10.22	503086	Mourne Office Supplies	53.92	Yes
12.10.22	DD	Mourne Mist Bottle	170.97	Yes
14.10.22	503062	B Cranney	150.00	N/A
14.10.22	503074	B Cranney	150.00	N/A
14.10.22	503083	B Cranney	150.00	N/A
18.10.22	503087	Burrendale Hotel	700.00	Receipt for 570
26.10.22	503121	B Irvine	400.00	N/A
01.11.22	DD	BT Group PLC	227.94	
			365.00	Yes
08.11.22	503088	Yellow Line Coaches	2550.00	
08.11.22	503126	Lotto (Repaid Lodgement 003121 £3125)	300.00	Yes
17.11.22	503125	Crisis Café	120.00	Yes
22.11.22	503123	Cheque cashed for cash to pay for Okey Dokey Disco	188.00	
22.11.22	503127	Lets Play Bingo	150.00	N/A
28.11.22	503122	B Cranney	320.00	N/A
28.11.22	503128	B Irvine	150.00	N/A
28.11.22	503129	B Cranney	150.00	N/A
28.11.22	503130	B Cranney	174.00	N/A

Date out of Bank	Cheque Number / Date Cheque Issued (If applicable)	Details / Description	Amount (£)	Receipts
08.12.22	503133	MG Oil	1580.00	Yes
16.12.22	503124	T/Heat etc	1000.00	Yes
16.12.22	503132	Petty Cash	200.00	Receipts for £163
22.12.22	503131	Let's Play Bingo (Invoice 1984)	172.20	
29.12.22	503138	B Irvine	320.00	N/A
03.01.23	DD	BT Group PLC	151.56	
05.01.23	BANK FEES		38.76	
			56.26	
13.01.23	503139	B Irvine (Owed)	80.00	N/A
23.02.23	DD	TV Licence	159.00	Yes
24.01.23	503140	Electric Ireland	985.97	Yes
03.02.23	503137	B Cranney	150.00	N/A
03.02.23	503142	B Cranney	150.00	N/A
03.02.23	503143	N Quinn - For Oil	854.00	Yes
<b>06.02.23</b>	<b>503136</b>	<b>R Moore</b>	<b>1000.00</b>	
13.02.23	503141	B Irvine	400.00	N/A
02.03.23	503146	Bosco Drama	550.00	Yes
03.03.23	503144	Electric Ireland	976.24	Yes
10.03.23	Reversal of Credit		90.00	
10.03.23	503149	Bingo	205.00	
13.03.23	503147	B Irvine	320.00	N/A
15.03.23	DD	Mourne Mist Bottle	208.52	Yes
16.03.23	503148	B Cranney	233.00	N/A
28.03.23	503145	B Irvine	400.00	N/A
03.04.23	DD	BT Group PLC	227.64	
06.04.23	BANK FEES		37.01	
			39.18	

Date out of Bank	Cheque Number / Date Cheque Issued (If applicable)	Details / Description	Amount (£)	Receipts
12.04.23	503134	Cheque Cashed for cash to buy food / utility vouchers (CCG Funding)	500.00	Receipts for £460
12.04.23	503154	Bingo ???	139.99	
20.04.23	503153	Petty Cash – Heat Etc	530.00	Yes
28.04.23	503155	B Irvine	320.00	N/A
09.05.23	503152	Marsh Insurance	1599.77	Yes
15.05.23	503151	B Cranney	150.00	N/A
15.05.23	503156	B Cranney	150.00	N/A
18.05.23	503150	R Moore	1000.00	
26.05.23	503162	B Irvine	400.00	N/A
30.05.23	503161	Let's Play Bingo	179.59	Yes
01.06.23	DD	BT Group PLC	158.21	
05.06.23	503159	Dineens Office Supplies	49.99	Yes
07.06.23	503160	MG Oils	568.00	Yes
09.06.23	503163	B Cranney	150.00	N/A
14.06.23	503157	Electric Ireland	1243.24	Yes
25.06.23	503166	Bingo	318.58	
28.06.23	503167	B Irvine	320.00	N/A
06.07.23	BANK FEES		37.84	
			57.39	
			65.00	
13.07.23	503168	B Irvine (Running Costs)	400.00	Yes
24.07.23	503172	Sheepbridge	400.00	N/A
27.07.23	503173	B Irvine	150.00	N/A
08.08.23	503169	B Cranney	150.00	N/A
08.08.23	503174	B Cranney	750.00	Yes
11.08.23	503177	R Rossiter	400.00	N/A
17.08.23	503178	B Irvine	425.00	
18.08.23	503170	Bingo		

Date out of Bank	Cheque Number / Date Cheque Issued (If applicable)	Details / Description	Amount (£)	Receipts
18.08.23	503171	Bowling (Sheepbridge)	100.00	
01.09.23	DD	BT Group PLC	251.64	
07.09.23	503164	Petty Cash	100.00	Yes
07.09.23	503165	Petty Cash – Donation Gerry/Brendan	200.00	
07.09.23	503175	Petty Cash	100.00	Yes
07.09.23	503179	Slieve Gullion Bouncing Castles Ltd	160.00	Yes
07.09.23	503181	Claire – Face Painting	20.00	Yes
07.09.23	503182	Lynas	62.00	Yes
07.09.23	503183	Okie Dokie	80.00	Yes
07.09.23	503184	Petty Cash/Food	36.00	Yes
07.09.23	503185	Taste of Gullion	100.00	Yes
07.09.23	503186	Petty Cash	200.00	Yes
19.09.23	503187	Whitegates Shop	138.00	Yes

Meadow & Armagh Road Community Association NIC103784

Accounts 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to 30 September 2023 – Income

Date	Source	Description	Amount (£)
07.10.22			200.00
18.10.22			135.00
25.10.22	Happy Days Playgroup	Rental Income	450.00
18.11.22	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC)		1034.00
22.11.22			3125.00
02.12.22	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC)	NR Running Costs via DfC	1219.42
07.12.22	Happy Days Playgroup	Rental Income	40.00
			500.00
13.12.22	Polish Supplementary School	Rental Income	20.00
			20.00
			20.00
20.12.22	Happy Days Playgroup	Rental Income	20.00
			375.00
20.12.22	Home Start Newry	Rental Income	1315.00
22.12.22			90.00
25.01.23	Happy Days Playgroup	Rental Income	30.00
			425.00
27.01.23	Home Start Newry	Rental Income	410.00
03.02.23	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC)		452.83
07.03.23	Happy Days Playgroup	Rental Income	30.00
			425.00
10.03.23	Lodgment 100416		205.00
10.03.23	Lodgment 100418		90.00
10.03.23	Lodgment 100418		390.00
24.03.23	Lodgment 100420		325.00
29.03.23	Happy Days Playgroup	Rental Income	30.00
			500.00

<b>Date</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>
31.03.23	Home Start Newry	Rental Income	850.00
06.04.23	Confederation of Community Groups	Community Response Funding – Food/Utilities	500.00
12.04.23	Venue Hire	Hire of Large Hall	160.00
12.04.23	Lodgment 100421		140.00
12.04.23	Lodgment 100423		1000.00
21.04.23	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC)		1580.00
28.04.23	Womens Tec	Venue Hire	30.00
28.04.23	Home Start Newry	Rental Income	260.00
09.05.23	Venue Hire	Hire of Large Hall	200.00
12.05.23	Happy Days Playgroup	Rental Income	30.00
			325.00
12.05.23	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC)		2150.53
24.05.23	Bolster Community	Venue Hire	60.00
25.05.23	Bingo (Invoice 2127)		180.00
30.05.23	Happy Days Playgroup	Rental Income	20.00
			525.00
31.05.23	Home Start Newry	Rental Income	515.00
02.06.23	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC)		2400.00
09.06.23	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC)		1500.00
16.06.23	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC)		125.52
19.06.23	Polish Supplementary School	Rental Income	20.00
			20.00
			20.00
27.06.23	Happy Days Playgroup	Rental Income	40.00
			450.00
30.06.23	Home Start Newry	Rental Income	30.00
			315.00
28.07.23	Confederation of Community Groups	Community Response Funding – Food/Utilities	521.50
04.08.23	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC)	NR Running Costs via DfC	568.00
10.08.23	Bolster Community	Venue Hire	110.00

<b>Date</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>
18.08.23	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC)	NR Running Costs via DfC	1451.44
25.08.23	Womens Tec	Venue Hire	150.00
30.08.23	Lodgment 115899	Indian Community	150.00
01.09.23	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC)		1968.92
11.09.23	Lodgment - 115901		50.00
11.09.23	Home Start Newry	Rental Income	120.00
19.09.23	Venue Hire – July/August		117.00
19.09.23	Ryan's second cheque		1000.00
27.09.23	Women's Tec	Venue Hire	180.00
28.09.23	Confederation of Community Groups	Community Response Funding – Food/Utilities	500.00



**Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103784

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# Annual report

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NIC103784

Meadow / Armagh Road Community Association

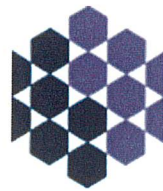
2022 to 2023

# Trustees Report



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

*Funded and Supported By:*



Department for

**Communities**



Comhairle Ceantair  
an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin  
**Newry, Mourne and Down**  
District Council



**CONFEDERATION OF  
COMMUNITY GROUPS**



**ea** Education  
Authority

*George Underwood, CHAIRPERSON*  
*M.A. Rice - TREASURER*

# Charity Details

**Charity Name:** Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association

**Charity Number:** Registered Charity in Northern Ireland - NIC103784

**Purpose:** *The Association is established to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the Meadow and Armagh Road Area, Newry and its environs; to include: (Meadow) - The Fold, Clanrye Avenue, Clanrye Park, Helen's Terrace, Orior Road, Slieve Gullion Road, Iveagh Crescent, Killeavy Road, Derrybeg Drive, Ballinlare Gardens and (Armagh Road) – Violet Hill Avenue, College Gardens, Mountain View Drive, Clonmore, Lisdarragh (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") without distinction of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, class, marital status, political or religious opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, voluntary and community sector organisations and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance education, and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.*

## **Charity Trustees as of September 30<sup>th</sup> 2023**

Mr Gerry Mc Donald (Chairperson)

Mr Brendan Cranny (Secretary)

Ms Noreen Rice (Treasurer)

Mr Niall Quinn

Mr Robert (Bobby) Johnson

Mr Peter Mc Donnell

Ms Helena Young

Ms Megan Creggan

Ms Clare Carroll

Ms Aóibheann Mc Corry

Mr Johnny Franks

Ms Aveen Trainor

Ms Darrelle Shields

Ms Sinead Larkin

Ms Dominika Wojciechowska

Note: No other Charity Trustees in the Year to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## **Accountant/Independent Examiner**

Gemma Doran

5 Bracken Close, Newry, Co. Down

## **Insurance Broker & Underwriter**

Marsh Insurance Ltd. (Ecclesiastical Brokers)

Bedford House, 16-22 Bedford Street, Belfast.

## **Bank**

First Trust, 42-44 Hill Street, Newry, Co. Down.

# Chairpersons Report

This has been another demanding year for our voluntary Charity Trustees and volunteers; not only have we been ensuring our charity continues to meet the needs of local residents and indeed provides a public benefit for as many residents as possible, but we also have management responsibility for a busy community centre which is owned by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC). We work hard to ensure that through our management function we are also ensuring that there is a direct benefit in terms of access to services and programmes for residents. As you will see later in the Report, we have anchor groups in the community centre such as the Happy Days Playgroup, Homestart Newry & Mourne, and the Polish Supplementary Group, who all facilitate local access to their services.

The Community Association are grateful to the main funders who have continued to support the work of the Community Association and the development of the Community Centre, and we extend our thanks to the following:

- The Department for Communities & Newry Mourne & Down District Council – Neighbourhood Renewal Programme.
- All the User Groups in the Community Centre.
- Confederation of Community Groups for Hardship funding to provide financially struggling households, who meet strict referral criteria, support with utility costs.

I would also like to thank the following for their continued support:

Catherine O'Hanlon – Department for Communities who fund the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme and through it, the NR Outdoor Education Programme.

Julie Mc Cann & Rita Lewis – Newry Mourne & Down District Council

Sean Mc Kevitt – Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator, Newry Mourne & Down District Council

Kerri Morrow – DEA Newry Mourne & Down District Council

Cathy Mc Mahon – Confederation of Community Groups

Martin Connell – Southern Health & Social Care Trust

Euan Morgan & Janet Naughton – Community Restorative Justice

Newry & Mourne Extended Schools

There are many challenges facing small grassroots charities such as us and one of them continues to be in attracting and recruiting new volunteers. The expectation and pressure on volunteers and community-based organisations only seems to increase, with more reporting and bureaucracy than ever before, and it can sometimes be difficult to stay on top of everything. I'd like to take a moment and thank all our charity trustees and volunteers; you are doing an incredible and often unseen job to keep the community centre running

and operating at nearly full capacity, attending numerous meetings to ensure that the needs of our community are being raised and addressed.

I would like to take this opportunity to pass on our sincerest condolences to all those families who have lost loved ones over the past year; we continue to keep you all in our thoughts and prayers.

Finally, I will conclude by thanking our community, without your ongoing support for all that we do there would be little point in continuing. I encourage you to consider getting involved as a volunteer yourself and helping shape our plans for moving forward.

**Gerry Mc Donald**  
**Chairperson**

## **Financial Review**

### **Financial Performance**

Financial performance over this reporting period has been largely in line with Trustee's expectations although it should be noted that there are difficulties in maintaining anchor groups in the community centre as their own funding streams are being curtailed and there is increased pressure on all resources. When we combine this with the ever-escalating costs of utilities and general running expenses for the community centre it is a challenging financial landscape. Trustees were disappointed not to receive a 'financial lift' from the Department for Communities in this reporting period, as this made a significant difference in terms of easing financial pressures in the previous financial period.

### **Income:**

Income receipts for the year totalled at £32,209 as compared to £36,224 in the previous financial period – see Charity Accounts / Independent Examiners Report for full breakdown of figures.

This income is derived from a variety of sources, with the main ones being;

- £26,358 from community centre activities, including venue hire.
- £3,738 from the Department for Communities, via Newry, Mourne & Down District Council for the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme (Running Costs).
- £1021 from the Confederation of Community Groups, Hardship Funding.

The Community Association's income is healthy overall and remains reasonably consistent with previous years.

### **Expenditure**

Expenditure for the year totalled at £30,236, compared to £41,518 in the previous financial period. – see Charity Accounts / Independent Examiners Report for the full breakdown of the financial spend.

Expenditure was largely in line with previous years, with the main items including:

- £19,720 community centre activities expenses.
- £6,825 running costs/expenses for the community centre.
- £1,599 for insurance costs.
- £1,016 for telephone and broadband.

### **Funds Materially in Deficit**

As of the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 the Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association had no funds in material deficit.

### **Major Risks**

Trustees have identified no major risks moving into the next financial period. However, Trustees do note the inherent risk in trying to secure external funding streams as a means of sustainability, which is why alternative options are being explored.

### **Financial Management**

The Community Association maintain robust financial systems and have good financial management systems in place; all cheques must be signed by two out of our three cheque signatories. We have successfully held many grants and have always fulfilled all accounting, reporting and monitoring requirements; our annual accounts are independently examined and presented at the Annual General Meeting.

### **Statement of Assets and Liabilities**

The total assets of the Community Association, as of the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, were £20,670, while liabilities were £3,464; leaving an accumulation fund of £17,206.

## **Public Benefit Statement**

The Trustees of the Meadow & Armagh Road Community Association confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 17 (5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and that the public benefit requirement has informed the activities of the Meadow & Armagh Road Community Association in the year to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

In evaluating public benefit, the Trustees note that membership is open to all residents in the 'area of benefit' – (Full members aged 18 and over, Junior members under 18) – and we strive to provide a range of activities that will cater for all ages but some necessary and reasonable restrictions have been put in place for example, our youth groups' personal development programmes which would not be age appropriate for primary school children; nor would the Over 50's Club be appropriate for the young people. However, many events, activities, seasonal events and fun days are open to all ages in the community.

### **Summary of Main Activities**

Our volunteer Charity Trustees have management responsibility for a large, Council owned Community Centre and, it is from this community base, that many of our main activities are delivered. The community office was opened 4 mornings per week and residents can call in for information, social contact, and access to computers/wi-fi. We are pleased to report that once again the Community Centre was open an average of five days and evenings per week with a vast array of activities, groups, opportunities and events on offer.

There were several anchor groups based in the community centre over this reporting period, and they have provided a range of services to benefit the local community.

The Happy Days Playgroup operated morning and afternoon sessions five days a week, with each session full.

The Polish Supplementary School operated weekly throughout this period, providing support and social opportunities for members of the wider Polish community across Newry City.

Home Start Newry & Mourne joined us as an anchor group and offered group sessions and various training opportunities for parents from the community centre base.

The community centre continues to be a very popular venue for birthday parties, and other family celebrations and we encourage people to get their dates booked into our diary early to avoid disappointment.

We were delighted to welcome Women's Tec to the centre as a more casual booking, they offered practical DIY classes and opportunities for local women.

We have continued working in partnership with our neighbours in Bolster Community and have welcomed them to the centre on a few occasions to facilitate programme and project opportunities.

Our volunteers and trustees have been busy delivering our own programme of activities, events and opportunities over the year. The weekly Community Bingo nights are going from strength to strength, with numbers increasing weekly. These nights are all about the community coming together, reducing isolation and providing a safe and warm place for new friendships to develop and for everyone to enjoy some light-hearted fun.



We have launched a Tuesday night youth group and are heartened to see so many children and young people turning up each week. We have offered a range of different games, team-building activities, arts & crafts and much more.



We were delighted to be able to offer the children and young people the opportunity to go and see the local Bosco Drama Group production of *The Addams Family*.



The community centre was a hub of activity over both the Halloween and Christmas periods when we offered the local community a range of events and activities. Thanks to the NR Health subgroup we were able to offer the children and young people a Dance Camp over their midterm break where they got the opportunity to learn the Thriller Dance under the guidance of a professional dancer. This was then showcased at the end of the week for wider family members to come along and enjoy. Families also came together and enjoyed the fancy dress disco at Halloween, with all the children and young people getting a treat bag.

For Christmas time, we had a visit from Santa who toured around the area of benefit, bringing some much-needed festive cheer and distributing selection boxes along the way. Our senior citizens thoroughly enjoyed a Christmas dinner at the Canal Court Hotel. Indeed, our older people's group have continued to meet weekly in the community centre and enjoy both the social opportunity provided and the chance to learn some new skills at the different activity classes on offer.

The Community Association, through the Neighbourhood Renewal Health Sub-Group and, through the Neighbourhood Renewal Outdoor Education Programme, was able to get access to a wide range of health programmes for the Community Centre and provide children and young people access to outdoor activities. The physical activity programmes ran throughout the year in the community centre and offered the local community free opportunities with no barriers to participation.

We are grateful to the Southern Health and Social Care Trust for managing this programme.



Throughout this reporting period there have been a range of additional opportunities on offer for children and young people, these have included:

- A Funk Soul Media workshop with Ruairi Cahill
- Jamming Sessions at the Crisis Café where everyone got the opportunity to learn some basic drumming and guitar techniques.
- Trip to the Sheepbridge for bowling and a bite to eat.
- Trip to Formula Karting for Championship go-karting.
- Fun Fitness Week
- Exploring Sports – a good relations sports programme offering taster sessions in a range of different sports.

We also ran a Family trip to Newcastle which was a brilliant day out for everyone. Our senior citizens also got a day trip to Carlingford, then onto the ferry, travelling onwards to Newcastle, then the Spelga Dam and stopping off in Hilltown on the way home for a well-deserved dinner at the Downshire Arms.

Our Summer Festival offered something for all ages over the three-day period. We held a fancy-dress parade to launch the festival and families joined in as we walked through the area, the weather may not have been favourable, but it didn't dampen our spirits.





We'd like to offer a special word of thanks to Meadow man, Marty Carroll, for his very generous donation of burgers and sausages for our Family Fun Day BBQ.

We have also been developing links with the local Indian community and have been delighted to welcome the Indian Arts Club to the community centre on a regular basis.



Trustees have also been mindful of the ongoing impact of the cost-of-living crisis on many households throughout this area; as a designated Neighbourhood Renewal area due to the high levels of multiple deprivations prevalent, these pressures are felt more acutely on already struggling households. We have close working links with the local St Vincent de Paul chapter and have referred many families on for additional confidential support. Likewise with Community Advice for support with access to benefits and assistance with the completion of claim forms; and we have been working local foodbank at The Larder to facilitate referrals. Thanks to Hardship funding received from the Confederation of Community Groups we were able to provide immediate support to struggling households with top up vouchers for gas or electricity.

The Trustees of the Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association have continued representing the area on several different partnerships and networks to ensure that the needs of the area are being addressed through the proper channels. These include; the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership, and associated sub-groups; Newry Mourne & Down District Council DEA Forum, Confederation of Community Groups, the NIHE Housing Community Network, Community Restorative Justice, Policing in the Community Forum and inter-agency meetings.

# Photographic Highlights



# Photographic Highlights



# Photographic Highlights



# Photographic Highlights



**Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103784

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# Annual return

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**Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association (NIC103784)**

**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 30 September 2023, which are set out on pages 02 to 06.

**Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

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.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

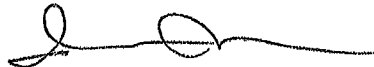
I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. My examination included a review of the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

**Independent examiner's statement**

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.

Name: Gemma Doran



Relevant professional qualification or body: Accountant Technician

Address: 5 Bracken Close  
Newry  
Co Down

Date 10th December 2024

Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association (NIC103784)

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended

30th Sep 2023

Income	2023		2022	
Community Centre Activities	26,359		26,507	
Less: Centre Activities Exps	- 19,720	6,638	- 18,405	8,102
DFC Money for Running Costs	3,739		8,597	
Less: Expenses	-	3,739	-	8,597
Foodbank Income	1,022		1,120	
Less Expenses	- 500	522	- 4,681	3,561
Deposit Interest	12	12	-	-
<b>Gross Profit</b>		<b>10,910</b>		<b>13,138</b>
<b>Less: Expenses</b>				
Postage, Stat, Adverts	- 104		- 1,127	
Insurance	- 1,600		- 1,460	
Bank Charges and Interest	- 380		- 330	
Audit & Accountancy	- 300		- 300	
Running Expenses	- 6,825		- 7,684	
Repairs	-		- 80	
Telephone	- 1,017		- 1,559	
Office Expenses	-		-	
Donations	-		- 300	
Sundries	- - 10,226		- 834 - 13,675	
Depreciation	- 1,030		- 1,287	
<b>Profit/Deficit for Year</b>		<b>- 346</b>		<b>- 1,825</b>

Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association (NIC103784)

Balance Sheet as at  
30th Sep 2023

	2023	2022
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
<u>Fixtures &amp; Fittings</u>		
Opening Balance C/Fwd	5,149	2,534
Additions	-	3,902
Depreciation Charge	- 1,030	- 1,287
Closing Balance B/Fwd	4,119	5,149
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Bank Deposit Account	2,205	3,194
Bank Current Account	14,346	12,374
Cash In Hand		-
Debtors		-
	16,551	15,567
	20,670	20,716
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Sundry Creditors	- 600	- 300
Trade Creditors	- 2,864	- 2,864
	- 3,464	- 3,164
	17,206	17,552
<b>Represented By</b>		
Accumulation of Funds	17,552	19,377
Profit/Deficit for Year	- 346	- 1,825
	17,206	17,552

Meadow and Armagh Road Community Association (NIC103784)

Bank Reconciliation 30th Sep 2023

Opening Balance	12,373.71	
Lodgements	32,209.16	
Withdrawals		30,236.89
Closing Balance		<u>14,345.98</u>
	<u>44,582.87</u>	<u>44,582.87</u>