

# Lagan Currachs

Northern Ireland · Charity number 104209

## Details

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**Status** Received

**Registered** 2017-05-05

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

## Contact

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**Address** 72 Galwally Pk  
Belfast  
bt8 6ah  
BT8 6AH

**Phone** 07548943443

**Email** [lagancurrachs@gmail.com](mailto:lagancurrachs@gmail.com)

**Website** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1515101055418657/>

## Activities

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**Purposes:** The Association is established: To foster and promote the building and rowing/sailing of traditional boats for all abilities, providing opportunities for recreation and competition. To promote the maritime heritage of the Lagan and Belfast Lough (hereinafter described as the area of benefit) and to advance the engagement of the community in the conservation and celebration of the maritime heritage, and realise social, environment, community development and educational benefits without distinction of age, gender, race, political, religious or other opinion, disability, sexual orientation, marital status or those with or without dependents by associating with relevant organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to support the conservation of maritime heritage through education, learning, conservation projects and recreational activities.

**What the charity does:** The advancement of citizenship or community development

**How the charity works:** Arts,Community development,Community enterprise,Community transport,Cross-border/cross-community,Cultural,Disability,Economic development,Education/training,Environment/sustainable development/conservation,Gender,Heritage/historical,Sport/recreation,Urban development,Volunteer development,Youth development

**Who the charity helps:** Adult training,Asylum seekers/refugees,Children (5-13 year olds),Ethnic minorities,General public,Interface communities,Learning disabilities,Mental health,Older people,Parents,Physical disabilities,Sensory disabilities,Sexual orientation,Unemployed/low income,Women,Youth (14-25 year olds)

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£4,253	£7,213	£0	0

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alison Bogues		
Catherine		
Deirdre Brannigan		
Laura		
Miss Lisa Mc Kee		
Rachael		
Rebecca		
Susan		

**Lagan Currachs**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104209

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# Accounts

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## LAGAN CURRACHS

### Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023
<u>Receipts</u>					
Grant Income	100			100	300
Maritime Festival	0				700
Membership Fees	2,553			2,553	1,812
Fundraising	1,600			1,600	1,215
Compensation	0				0
	<u>4,253</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,253</u>	<u>4,027</u>
<u>Payments</u>					
Training	0				1,150
Equipment	105			105	129
Overheads (Insurance etc.)	2,329			2,329	1,524
Maintenance of equipment	541			541	1,488
Volunteer recognition	248			248	276
Expedition	1,445			1,445	499
Purchase of Assets	2,545			2,545	347
	<u>7,213</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,213</u>	<u>5,412</u>
<b>Net receipts/ (Payments) before transfers between funds</b>	(2,960)	0		(2,960)	(1,385)
Transfers between Funds				0	0
<b>Net Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	<u>(2,960)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(2,960)</u>	<u>(1,385)</u>
Cash Funds at beginning of year	6,780	0		6,780	8,165
Cash funds at end of year	<u>3,820</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,820</u>	<u>6,780</u>

## LAGAN CURRACHS

### Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Deposition of funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	
<b>Held as followings:</b>					
Bank Current Account	3,820	0	0	3,820	6,800
Cash in hand				0	0
	<u>3,820</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,820</u>	<u>6,800</u>

### **Assets retained for the charity's own use**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	
33ft Currach (1 no.)	15,000			15,000	15,000
25ft Currach (2 no.)	10,000			10,000	10,000
Trailer (2 no.)	3,800			6,000	6,000
Equipment	5,000			5,000	5,000
	<u>33,800</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>36,000</u>	<u>36,000</u>

The above valuation is based on the Trustee estimates and used for Insurance purposes.

### **Statement of Material Liabilities**

The Trustees are not aware of any material liabilities at the date of this Report

**Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:-**

*Susan Hughes*

*Catherine McKenna*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trustee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trustee

Date : 22/09/2025

Date : 22/09/2025

## **Notes to the Accounts**

### **Basis of Accounting under Receipts & Payments**

Revenue that the Charity is entitled to is recorded when received, expenditure that the Charity incurred is recorded when paid.

### **Purpose and nature of funds**

General unrestricted fund: These are funds that have been received carrying no restriction on their use and are put to purpose at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Charity.

Restricted funds: are funds subject to specific trusts, which are declared by the donor(s) and are expendable by the trustees in furtherance of some particular aspect(s) of the objects of the charity. These funds are subject to restriction (as to their use) imposed by those from whom the funds are obtained. Resources received but not yet expended at the end of the financial year are retained as a reserve.

Endowment funds: where there is no power to convert the capital into income, is known as a permanent endowment fund and the capital is normally held indefinitely. Where trustees have the power to convert endowment funds into income, such funds are known as expendable. Any funds held under this classification by the Charity are permanent.

### **Trustee benefits**

No trustee was in receipt of benefits from the Charity during the year ended 31st December 2022.

**Lagan Currachs**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104209

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# Accounts

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# **LAGAN CURRACHS**

## **Financial Statement of Account**

**for the year ended 31st December 2023**

CCNI Reg: 104209

# Independent Examiners Report

We report on the financial statements of Lagan Currachs for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

## Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner:

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 62(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to

- examine the financial statements under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general direction given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.
- to state whether particulars matters have come to my attention.

## Basis of the Independent examiner's statement

Our examination was carried in accordance with the general directions given by the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the Financial Statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a "true and fair" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

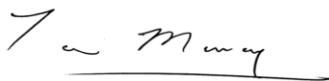
## Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention;

- 1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to kept accounting records in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act .
  - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2008.

have not been met or

- 2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached



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For and on behalf of  
Ian Murray & Co. Ltd, Chartered Certified Accountants  
27 Joymount, Carrickfergus, BT38 7DN

**Dated: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024**

## LAGAN CURRACHS

### Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022
<u>Receipts</u>					
Grant Income	0	300		300	1,200
Maritime Festival	700			700	1,000
Membership Fees	1,812			1,812	1,451
Fundraising	1,215			1,215	305
Compensation	0				0
	<u>3,727</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,027</u>	<u>3,956</u>
<u>Payments</u>					
Training	95	1,055		1,150	520
Equipment	129			129	46
Overheads (Insurance etc.)	1,524			1,524	2,842
Maintenance of equipment	628	860		1,488	1,230
Volunteer recognition	276			276	146
Expedition	499			499	
Purchase of Assets	0	347		347	3,961
	<u>3,151</u>	<u>2,262</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,412</u>	<u>8,745</u>
<b>Net receipts/ (Payments) before transfers between funds</b>	576	(1,962)		(1,385)	(4,789)
Transfers between Funds				0	0
<b>Net Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	576	(1,962)	0	(1,385)	(4,789)
Cash Funds at beginning of year	6,203	1,962		8,165	12,954
Cash funds at end of year	<u>6,779</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,780</u>	<u>8,165</u>

## LAGAN CURRACHS

### Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Deposition of funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	
<b>Held as followings:</b>					
Bank Current Account	6,800	0	0	6,800	8,165
Cash in hand				0	0
	<u>6,800</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,800</u>	<u>8,165</u>

### **Assets retained for the charity's own use**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	
33ft Currach (1 no.)	15,000			15,000	15,000
25ft Currach (2 no.)	10,000			10,000	10,000
Trailer (2 no.)	3,800			6,000	6,000
Equipment	5,000			5,000	5,000
	<u>33,800</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>36,000</u>	<u>36,000</u>

The above valuation is based on the Trustee estimates and used for Insurance purposes.

### **Statement of Material Liabilities**

The Trustees are not aware of any material liabilities at the date of this Report

**Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:-**

*Tim Bloomer*

*Ken Geary*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trustee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trustee

Dated: 05/02/2024

Dated: 05/02/2024

## **Notes to the Accounts**

### **Basis of Accounting under Receipts & Payments**

Revenue that the Charity is entitled to is recorded when received, expenditure that the Charity incurred is recorded when paid.

### **Purpose and nature of funds**

General unrestricted fund: These are funds that have been received carrying no restriction on their use and are put to purpose at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Charity.

Restricted funds: are funds subject to specific trusts, which are declared by the donor(s) and are expendable by the trustees in furtherance of some particular aspect(s) of the objects of the charity. These funds are subject to restriction (as to their use) imposed by those from whom the funds are obtained. Resources received but not yet expended at the end of the financial year are retained as a reserve.

Endowment funds: where there is no power to convert the capital into income, is known as a permanent endowment fund and the capital is normally held indefinitely. Where trustees have the power to convert endowment funds into income, such funds are known as expendable. Any funds held under this classification by the Charity are permanent.

### **Trustee benefits**

No trustee was in receipt of benefits from the Charity during the year ended 31st December 2022.

**Lagan Currachs**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104209

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# Annual report

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# **LAGAN CURRACHS**

## **TRUSTEES REPORT**

**for the year ended 31st December 2023**

CCNI Reg: 104209



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**In Compiling this Report the Trustees have had regard to the Northern Ireland Charity Commission's Public benefit requirements statutory guidance.**

### **Objectives and Activities**

The purpose of our club is to give people in greater Belfast experience of boatbuilding and rowing traditional boats on the River Lagan in teams of people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. It is open to anyone who is interested in joining and improves community life. Individuals' mental and physical health, fitness levels and wellbeing will be enhanced as a result of our regular rowing activity. Our activity reduces stress and increases a sense of belonging because it is open and accessible to individuals of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. Members will get an enhanced knowledge and understanding of traditional boat building, maintenance, rowing, boat handling, river and sea navigation, teamwork and communication skills. The public will be more aware of the river, its heritage, and its usefulness as an unclaimed space that can be used to unite divided communities. These benefits will be evidenced through surveying the participants and public asking how our activities have made a difference to them, and gathering case studies and impact stories.

The charity's benefits are delivered to the general public, women and lone parents, people with mental health problems, trauma, and sensory disabilities. The only private benefit flowing from this purpose is that some individual members will receive RYA training and this is incidental and necessary because we need to make the rowing activities as safe as possible.

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## **Public benefit Statement**

The direct benefit which flows from this purpose is to give traditional boat building and maintenance opportunities to people from diverse backgrounds. We will engage people who are unemployed, have disabilities, are from disadvantaged backgrounds, are elderly, and who may have no connection with boats or traditional skills. We are giving people a sense of pride and purpose, using the boat builds and maintenance as a way to bring people together. Now that the boats are built, we use them on the Lagan regularly, at least twice a week, taking bookings from community and voluntary groups. The only cost for this is a small donation for the maintenance of the boat and to cover insurance costs. We will train members to maintain the boats and to lead rows on the Lagan, open water expeditions and we will use the boats in Belfast Lough and around the coast of Northern Ireland. We will try to work with unemployed people long term on other boat builds, to share skills and give a sense of purpose. We will take part in maritime festivals and activities across Northern Ireland and will take part in annual activities in and around the river Lagan.

### **Health and Social Benefits, Mental Health Benefits**

Lagan Currachs club strives to build self-esteem and confidence from the development of new skills, by providing a regular accessible social outlet, and a diverse supportive community of members. Members have reported increased physical and mental health and improved wellbeing as a result of their involvement with Lagan Currachs. 40% of users have also reported an improved feeling of safety in Belfast. Due to the nature of this activity and diverse membership, rowers experience developing teamwork skills with people of age groups, backgrounds and abilities that they would not normally meet. This leads to an increased sense of community cohesion and connection with place.

Developing new skills, including rowing, skippering, navigation and boat maintenance contributes to members sense of wellbeing. Physical activity in a natural environment also decreases stress and anxiety and members have reported the positive impact their involvement with Lagan Currachs has had on their well-being and mental health.

### **Physical Health Benefits**

In a population which has a history of heart, stroke and diabetes problems, the physical benefits of rowing with the Lagan Currach club cannot be underestimated. The physical act of rowing in a Currachs helps facilitate increased muscle development, weight loss, cardiovascular exercise and build strength, promotes calmness and helps with sleep problems. Members have reported strengthening of back problems, weight loss and increased muscle mass as benefits of regular rowing sessions.

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### **Inclusion and Social Benefits**

Lagan Currachs is an equal opportunities organisation that encourages membership from all parts of Northern Ireland's diverse community. We strive to make the club as accessible as possible to disadvantaged communities by taking flexible approaches to club membership fees, working with established groups, organisations and charities to provide accessible rowing opportunities for the homeless and physically challenged communities in NI. During the reporting year we have held a number of outreach rows with RNIB to provide visually impaired users an experience they could not usually access. This has enabled the club to reevaluate or practice in terms of accessibility and risk management that prioritises the safety of visually impaired members. During the coming year Lagan Currachs will be supported by RNIB to ensure communication and social media are accessible and will continue to explore new opportunities to increase inclusion of differing abilities and marginalised groups.

### **Environmental Awareness and Civic Responsibility**

The nature of the club activity encourages our members to spend time outdoors. This has resulted in increased levels of environmental awareness and appreciation amongst our member base, as well as an increased vigour to protect and conserve the natural habitat of Northern Ireland. Growing awareness and an active approach to addressing issues of water littering, individual responsibility within outdoor habitats have resulted in club members actively cleaning litter from the River Lagan, ensuring no impact is left from rowing expeditions, both on water and on land, and involvement in events to help actively protect the outdoors. This responsibility has extended outside the confines of the club with members reporting an increased awareness of the problems of plastic use, littering, individual environmental impact and ocean and river conservation, as well as getting involved in activities such as beach and river clean ups. Information sharing with Sustrans and links to Healthy Oceans, Healthy Minds has improved members awareness of social responsibility in relation to environmental degradation and climate change.

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## **Achievements and Performance 2023**

The Lagan Currachs rowing club was set up in December 2015. It became a registered charity in May 2017. The primary objective of this not for profit organisation is to engage members of the Northern Ireland community in building and rowing of traditional Irish currachs, and participating in regular rowing sessions on the River Lagan and beyond. The twelve person currach, named Mamach Mor, was built over a nine month period, from March to November 2016, through the aid of over 80 volunteers with varying levels of experience and skill sets. Upon the launch of Mamach Mor on the 29th January 2017, the Lagan Currach rowing club has been managed and run by an evolving team of dedicated volunteers for the purpose of engaging with the broad and diverse community of Northern Ireland, and keeping a piece of Irish heritage alive. To date we have involved well over 1000 people in rowing on the river Lagan.

### **Activities and Participation**

During the 2023 reporting period Lagan Currachs has had 63 active, regular members. In addition we have welcomed numerous members of the public on taster rows and outreach events. Given the current cost of living crisis, the club has retained a flexible approach to membership fees so this does not become a barrier to participation.

Lagan Currachs members took part in maintenance of all three boats while they were out of the water during January and February 2023. This enabled members to develop their skills in cleaning the hull, treating wood and resurfacing the hull. The club had new signage erected at the boat compound. This will increase visibility of the club and attract new members.

Club members organised and took part in a rowing expedition starting at the south of Lough Neagh rowing via the Lower Bann to the north coast, finishing in Derry. We linked up with a number of groups along the way, such as Antrim Yacht Club, Lough Neagh Eel Fishery, Culmore community Centre, Culmore Yacht Club and the Foyle Paddlers. This was a great opportunities to further club members rowing experience and local maritime knowledge. We also formed links to the organisations mentioned and took members of these groups out for taster rows.

### **Outreach Activities**

Lagan Currachs continued to build skills and competency in the safe use of the currach and the club maintained a register of experienced skippers and core crews who are responsive to the specific needs and challenges of diverse groups. Communication, shared action and social time provided by rowing is beneficial both to participants and to those who facilitated the rows alike.

Lagan Currachs were involved in the Lagan River Festival (Feile na hAbhann) delivering taster sessions to residents of the lower Ormeau and members of the public. This

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provided an opportunity to attract new members and enable the public to connect with the river in new ways.

The group were also involved in delivering taster rows in collaboration with Healthy Oceans Healthy Minds and took part in the Santa row with other river users on the Lagan.

The club supported 15 RNIB service users to take part in weekly rows during Summer and Autumn 2023. Those involved benefitted from developing new skills and increasing access to outdoor activities.

In addition, several music rows were organised on the River Lagan, with local musicians playing traditional and Appalachian music on the boat to onlookers on shore.

These events help to build ties with local communities as well as providing income for the group for insurance and maintenance costs.

The club was involved in the Arts Ekta Equinox event rowing in Abercorn Basin in Belfast docks.

### **Training and Skills Development**

As a rowing club, training for safety and skills proficiency are of central importance. As such we sought to provide a robust and varied programme of training to all our members. Below is a summary of the training and skills development enjoyed by our members throughout 2023.

#### *Practical Training and Skills Development*

Practical rowing training was provided to our members during each row undertaken, overseen by a skipper and facilitated by experienced rowers on each crew. In addition, we ran a number of sessions throughout the year specifically dedicated to enhancing and perfecting rowing skills for our members and aiding in the avoidance of sports injury.

Two club members completed RYA Day skipper practical training which enables them to safely develop passage plans for expeditions in rivers, loughs and costal rowing across Ireland.

#### *Peer to peer skills development*

Peer to peer skills development continued to play an important role including in-house training amongst our membership base. Weekly skipper training, led by trained and experienced skippers, allowed our members to receive regular practical training on the water to enhance and develop the skills and confidence to skipper Mamach Mor on weekly rows. This skills exchange programme included training in manoeuvring and docking techniques, rope work, and safety on the water.

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Lagan Currachs

Report of the Trustees' for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023





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## **Financial**

### **Reserve Policy**

**Unrestricted General:** We aim to keep in reserve a minimum of the equivalent of 6 months expenditure to enable the charity's work to continue without interruption.

**Restricted Reserves:** These are held until such times that expenditure is made for the purpose that the donor(s) instructed.

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## **Structure Governance and Management**

### **Governing Document**

Lagan Currachs Constitution

### **Membership**

The club is managed exclusively by volunteers, with eight members sitting on the committee with roles ranging from chairperson and treasurer, to a rowing coordinator and a health and safety officer. Regular committee meetings are conducted throughout the year, with members taking weekly involvement in the ongoing running of the club. Regular members also play an extensive role in the regular administration of the club. This involves calling weekly rows, supporting taster rows and community outreach, seeking out new funding streams, boat maintenance and promoting the club to potential members.

### **Practical Training and Skills Development:**

As a rowing club, training for safety and skills proficiency are of central importance. As such we strive to provide a robust and varied programme of training to all our members. Practical rowing training is provided to our members during each row undertaken, overseen by a skipper and facilitated by experienced rowers on each crew. In addition, we run a number of sessions throughout the year specifically dedicated to enhancing and perfecting rowing skills for our members and aiding in the avoidance of sports injury. Peer to peer skills development plays a large role in Lagan Currachs culture, resulting in significant in-house training amongst our membership base. Weekly skipper training, led by trained and experienced skippers, allows our members to receive regular practical training on the water to enhance and develop the skills and confidence to skipper Mamach Mor on weekly rows. Specific training to support members with diverse needs, such as visual impairment, has been delivered during this year. Securing a microgrant from Belfast City Council enabled us to train 3 members in RYA day Skipper training to enhance the safety of our crew. Lagan Currachs has a register of experienced skippers who ensure that there is competent crew on each row and that weather conditions are suitable for the activity to take place.

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## **Reference and administrative details**

### **Name of Charity**

Lagan Currachs

### **Other names used by the Charity**

None

### **Charity number**

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland: NIC104209

### **Principal Address:**

28 Kirkliston Gardens Belfast BT5 6EE.

### **Points of Contact:**

Website: <https://lagancurrachs.wordpress.com/>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/lagancurrachs](http://www.facebook.com/lagancurrachs)

Instagram: @lagancurrachs

Tel: 07740374197

e-mail: [lagancurrachs@gmail.com](mailto:lagancurrachs@gmail.com)

## **Trustees**

(Being those in a position of governance)

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Susan Hughes

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Ken Geary

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Rachel Ludlow-Williams

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Tim Bloomer

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Deirdre Brannigan

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Rebecca Sylvest

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Catherine McKenna

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Laura McFall

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Ankur Saxena

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Lagan Currachs

Report of the Trustees' for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023



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**This report was approved by the Trustees on February 2024 and signed on its behalf by**

Tim Bloomer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Bloomer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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**Trustee**

Rachael Ludlow-Williams

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachael Ludlow-Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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**Trustee**

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**Lagan Currachs**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104209

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# Annual return

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# Independent Examiners Report

We report on the financial statements of Lagan Currachs for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

## Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner:

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 62(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to

- examine the financial statements under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general direction given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.
- to state whether particulars matters have come to my attention.

## Basis of the Independent examiner's statement

Our examination was carried in accordance with the general directions given by the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the Financial Statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a "true and fair" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

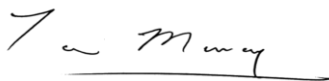
## Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention;

- 1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to kept accounting records in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act .
  - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2008.

have not been met or

- 2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached



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For and on behalf of  
Ian Murray & Co. Ltd, Chartered Certified Accountants  
27 Joymount, Carrickfergus, BT38 7DN

**Dated: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024**

**Lagan Currachs**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104209

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# Accounts

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## LAGAN CURRACHS

### Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021
<u>Receipts</u>					
Grant Income	0	1,200		1,200	11,000
Maritime Festival	1,000			1,000	700
Membership Fees	1,451			1,451	1,510
Fundraising	305			305	1,646
Compensation	0				0
	<u>2,756</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,956</u>	<u>14,856</u>
<u>Payments</u>					
Training	75	445		520	750
Equipment	46			46	0
Overheads (Insurance etc.)	2,801	41		2,842	814
Maintenance of equipment	980	250		1,230	431
Volunteer recognition	146			146	0
Expedition	0				0
Purchase of Assets	87	3,874		3,961	5,738
	<u>4,135</u>	<u>4,610</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,745</u>	<u>7,733</u>
<b>Net receipts/ (Payments) before transfers between funds</b>	(1,379)	(3,410)		(4,789)	7,123
Transfers between Funds				0	0
<b>Net Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	(1,379)	(3,410)	0	(4,789)	7,123
Cash Funds at beginning of year	8,257	4,697		12,954	5,831
Cash funds at end of year	<u>6,878</u>	<u>1,287</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,165</u>	<u>12,954</u>

## LAGAN CURRACHS

### Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Deposition of funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	
<b>Held as followings:</b>					
Bank Current Account	6,878	1,287	0	8,165	12,954
Cash in hand				0	0
	<u>6,878</u>	<u>1,287</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,165</u>	<u>12,954</u>

### **Assets retained for the charity's own use**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	
33ft Currach (1 no.)	15,000			15,000	15,000
25ft Currach (2 no.)	10,000			10,000	10,000
Trailer (2 no.)	3,800			6,000	3,800
Equipment	5,000			5,000	5,000
	<u>33,800</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>36,000</u>	<u>33,800</u>

The above valuation is based on the Trustee estimates and used for Insurance purposes.

### **Statement of Material Liabilities**

The Trustees are not aware of any material liabilities at the date of this Report

**Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:-**

*Tim Bloomer*

*Ken Geary*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trustee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trustee

Dated: 25/01/2023

Dated: 25/01/2023

**Lagan Currachs**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104209

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# Annual report

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# **LAGAN CURRACHS**

## **TRUSTEES REPORT**

**for the year ended 31st December 2022**

CCNI Reg: 104209



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**In Compiling this Report the Trustees have had regard to the Northern Ireland Charity Commission's Public benefit requirements statutory guidance.**

### **Objectives and Activities**

The purpose of our club is to give people in greater Belfast experience of boatbuilding and rowing traditional boats on the River Lagan in teams of people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. It is open to anyone who is interested in joining and improves community life. Individuals' mental and physical health, fitness levels and wellbeing will be enhanced as a result of our regular rowing activity. Our activity reduces stress and increases a sense of belonging because it is open and accessible to individuals of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. Members will get an enhanced knowledge and understanding of traditional boat building, maintenance, rowing, boat handling, river and sea navigation, teamwork and communication skills. The public will be more aware of the river, its heritage, and its usefulness as an unclaimed space that can be used to unite divided communities. These benefits will be evidenced through surveying the participants and public asking how our activities have made a difference to them, and gathering case studies and impact stories.

The charity's benefits are delivered to the general public, women and lone parents, people with mental health problems, trauma, and sensory disabilities. The only private benefit flowing from this purpose is that some individual members will receive RYA training and this is incidental and necessary because we need to make the rowing activities as safe as possible.



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## **Public benefit Statement**

The direct benefit which flows from this purpose is to give traditional boat building and maintenance opportunities to people from diverse backgrounds. We will engage people who are unemployed, have disabilities, are from disadvantaged backgrounds, are elderly, and who may have no connection with boats or traditional skills. We are giving people a sense of pride and purpose, using the boat builds and maintenance as a way to bring people together. Now that the boats are built, we use them on the Lagan regularly, at least twice a week, taking bookings from community and voluntary groups. The only cost for this is a small donation for the maintenance of the boat and to cover insurance costs. We will train members to maintain the boats and to lead rows on the Lagan, open water expeditions and we will use the boats in Belfast Lough and around the coast of Northern Ireland. We will try to work with unemployed people long term on other boat builds, to share skills and give a sense of purpose. We will take part in maritime festivals and activities across Northern Ireland and will take part in annual activities in and around the river Lagan.

### **Health and Social Benefits, Mental Health Benefits**

Lagan Currachs club strives to build self-esteem and confidence from the development of new skills, by providing a regular accessible social outlet, and a diverse supportive community of members. Members have reported increased physical and mental health and improved wellbeing as a result of their involvement with Lagan Currachs. 40% of users have also reported an improved feeling of safety in Belfast. Due to the nature of this activity and diverse membership, rowers experience developing teamwork skills with people of age groups, backgrounds and abilities that they would not normally meet. This leads to an increased sense of community cohesion and connection with place.

Developing new skills, including rowing, skippering, navigation and boat maintenance contributes to members sense of wellbeing. Physical activity in a natural environment also decreases stress and anxiety and members have reported the positive impact their involvement with Lagan Currachs has had on their well-being and mental health.

### **Physical Health Benefits**

In a population which has a history of heart, stroke and diabetes problems, the physical benefits of rowing with the Lagan Currach club cannot be underestimated. The physical act of rowing in a Currachs helps facilitate increased muscle development, weight loss, cardiovascular exercise and build strength, promotes calmness and helps with sleep problems. Members have reported strengthening of back problems, weight loss and increased muscle mass as benefits of regular rowing sessions.



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### **Inclusion and Social Benefits**

Lagan Currachs is an equal opportunities organisation that encourages membership from all parts of Northern Ireland's diverse community. We strive to make the club as accessible as possible to disadvantaged communities by taking flexible approaches to club membership fees, working with established groups, organisations and charities to provide accessible rowing opportunities for the homeless and physically challenged communities in NI. During the reporting year we have held a number of outreach rows with RNIB to provide visually impaired users an experience they could not usually access. This has enabled the club to reevaluate or practice in terms of accessibility and risk management that prioritises the safety of visually impaired members. During the coming year Lagan Currachs will be supported by RNIB to ensure communication and social media are accessible and will continue to explore new opportunities to increase inclusion of differing abilities and marginalised groups.

### **Environmental Awareness and Civic Responsibility**

The nature of the club activity means that our members now spend a significant portion of time outdoors. This has resulted in increased levels of environmental awareness and appreciation amongst our member base, as well as an increased vigour to protect and conserve the natural habitat of Northern Ireland. Growing awareness and an active approach to addressing issues of water littering, individual responsibility within outdoor habitats have resulted in club members actively cleaning litter from the River Lagan, ensuring no impact is left from rowing expeditions, both on water and on land, and involvement in events to help actively protect the outdoors. This responsibility has extended outside the confines of the club with members reporting an increased awareness of the problems of plastic use, littering, individual environmental impact and ocean and river conservation, as well as getting involved in activities such as beach and river clean ups. Information sharing with Sustrans and links to Healthy Oceans, Healthy Minds has improved members awareness of social responsibility in relation to environmental degradation and climate change.



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## **Achievements and Performance 2022**

The Lagan Currachs rowing club was set up in December 2015. It became a registered charity in May 2017. The primary objective of this not for profit organisation is to engage members of the Northern Ireland community in building and rowing of traditional Irish currachs, and participating in regular rowing sessions on the River Lagan and beyond. The twelve person currach, named Mamach Mor, was built over a nine month period, from March to November 2016, through the aid of over 80 volunteers with varying levels of experience and skill sets. Upon the launch of Mamach Mor on the 29th January 2017, the Lagan Currach rowing club has been managed and run by an evolving team of dedicated volunteers for the purpose of engaging with the broad and diverse community of Northern Ireland, and keeping a piece of Irish heritage alive. To date we have involved well over 1000 people in rowing on the river Lagan.

### **Activities and Participation**

During the 2022 reporting period Lagan Currachs has had 59 active, regular members. In addition we have welcomed numerous members of the public on taster rows and outreach events. Given the current situation of pandemic recovery, Brexit and the cost of living crisis, the club has retained a flexible approach to membership fees so this does not become a barrier to participation.

Lagan Currachs members took part in maintenance of all three boats while they were out of the water during January and February 2022. This enabled members to develop their skills in removing debris from the hull, treating wood and resurfacing the hull. Members also supported building a new steering oar for Mamach Mor. We also employed engineers to build a bespoke double trailer for the two smaller currachs so that these can be transported to events around the Island. The Committee worked to secure a compound and shipping container on the riverside between the Lagan weir and the Odyssey Complex. This will increase visibility of the club and attract new members during boat maintenance.

Club members took the racing Currach to the Ocean to City event in Cork and won a prize for the best handmade boat. This provided an opportunity for members to learn rowing skills and link up with a number of other Currach and rowing clubs from around Ireland. Club members also participated in the Skerries 3 island challenge race.

### **Outreach Activities**

Lagan Currachs continued to build skills and competency in the safe use of the currach and the club maintained a register of experienced skippers and core crews who are responsive to the specific needs and challenges of diverse groups. Communication, shared action and social time provided by rowing is beneficial both to participants and to those who facilitated the rows alike.



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Lagan Currachs were involved in the Lagan River Festival (Feile na hAbhann) delivering taster sessions to residents of the lower Ormeau and members of the public. This provided an opportunity to attract new members and enable the public to connect with the river in new ways.

The group were also involved in delivering taster rows at Sailortown Festival and took part in the Santa row with other river users on the Lagan.

The club supported 15 RNIB service users to take part in weekly rows during Summer and Autumn 2022. Those involved benefitted from developing new skills and increasing access to outdoor activities. Sessions were also facilitated for Sustrans volunteers who shared knowledge of alternative forms of sustainable transport with club members.

In addition, several music rows were organised on the River Lagan, with local musicians playing traditional and Appalachian music on the boat to onlookers on shore.

These events help to build ties with local communities as well as providing income for the group for insurance and maintenance costs.

### **Training and Skills Development**

As a rowing club, training for safety and skills proficiency are of central importance. As such we sought to provide a robust and varied programme of training to all our members. Below is a summary of the training and skills development enjoyed by our members throughout 2020.

#### *Practical Training and Skills Development*

Practical rowing training was provided to our members during each row undertaken, overseen by a skipper and facilitated by experienced rowers on each crew. In addition, we ran a number of sessions throughout the year specifically dedicated to enhancing and perfecting rowing skills for our members and aiding in the avoidance of sports injury.

Three club members completed RYA Day skipper training which enables them to safely develop passage plans for expeditions in rivers, loughs and costal rowing across Ireland.

#### *Peer to peer skills development*

Peer to peer skills development continued to play an important role including in-house training amongst our membership base. Weekly skipper training, led by trained and experienced skippers, allowed our members to receive regular practical training on the water to enhance and develop the skills and confidence to skipper Mamach Mor on weekly rows. This skills exchange programme included training in manoeuvring and docking techniques, rope work, and safety on the water.



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**Financial**

**Reserve Policy**

**Unrestricted General:** We aim to keep in reserve a minimum of the equivalent of 6 months expenditure to enable the charity's work to continue without interruption.

**Restricted Reserves:** These are held until such times that expenditure is made for the purpose that the donor(s) instructed.



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## **Structure Governance and Management**

### **Governing Document**

Lagan Currachs Constitution

### **Membership**

The club is managed exclusively by volunteers, with eight members sitting on the committee with roles ranging from chairperson and treasurer, to a rowing coordinator and a health and safety officer. Regular committee meetings are conducted throughout the year, with members taking weekly involvement in the ongoing running of the club. Regular members also play an extensive role in the regular administration of the club. This involves calling weekly rows, supporting taster rows and community outreach, seeking out new funding streams, boat maintenance and promoting the club to potential members.

### **Practical Training and Skills Development;**

As a rowing club, training for safety and skills proficiency are of central importance. As such we strive to provide a robust and varied programme of training to all our members. Practical rowing training is provided to our members during each row undertaken, overseen by a skipper and facilitated by experienced rowers on each crew. In addition, we run a number of sessions throughout the year specifically dedicated to enhancing and perfecting rowing skills for our members and aiding in the avoidance of sports injury. Peer to peer skills development plays a large role in Lagan Currachs culture, resulting in significant in-house training amongst our membership base. Weekly skipper training, led by trained and experienced skippers, allows our members to receive regular practical training on the water to enhance and develop the skills and confidence to skipper Mamach Mor on weekly rows. Specific training to support members with diverse needs, such as visual impairment, has been delivered during this year. Securing a microgrant from Belfast City Council enabled us to train 3 members in RYA day Skipper training to enhance the safety of our crew. Lagan Currachs has a register of experienced skippers who ensure that there is competent crew on each row and that weather conditions are suitable for the activity to take place.



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## **Reference and administrative details**

### **Name of Charity**

Lagan Currachs

### **Other names used by the Charity**

None

### **Charity number**

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland: NIC104209

### **Principal Address:**

28 Kirkliston Gardens Belfast BT5 6EE.

### **Points of Contact:**

Website: <https://lagancurrachs.wordpress.com/>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/lagancurrachs](http://www.facebook.com/lagancurrachs)

Instagram: @lagancurrachs

Tel: 07740374197

e-mail: [lagancurrachs@gmail.com](mailto:lagancurrachs@gmail.com)

## **Trustees**

(Being those in a position of governance)

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Ken Geary

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Susan Hughes

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Rachel Ludlow-Williams

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Tim Bloomer

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Christine Johnstone

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Cati Rojas

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Catherine McKenna

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Laura McFall

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**This report was approved by the Trustees on 7 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by**

Tim Bloomer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'T. Bloomer'.

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**Trustee**

Rachael Ludlow-Williams

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rachael Ludlow-Williams'.

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**Trustee**

**Lagan Currachs**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104209

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# Annual return

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# **LAGAN CURRACHS**

## **Financial Statement of Account**

**for the year ended 31st December 2022**

CCNI Reg: 104209

# Independent Examiners Report

We report on the financial statements of Lagan Currachs for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

## Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner:

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 62(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to

- examine the financial statements under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general direction given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.
- to state whether particulars matters have come to my attention.

## Basis of the Independent examiner's statement

Our examination was carried in accordance with the general directions given by the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the Financial Statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a "true and fair" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

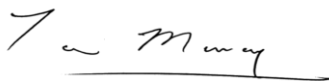
## Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention;

- 1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to kept accounting records in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act .
  - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2008.

have not been met or

- 2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached



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For and on behalf of  
Ian Murray & Co. Ltd, Chartered Certified Accountants  
27 Joymount, Carrickfergus, BT38 7DN

**Dated: 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023**

## LAGAN CURRACHS

### Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021
<u>Receipts</u>					
Grant Income	0	1,200		1,200	11,000
Maritime Festival	1,000			1,000	700
Membership Fees	1,451			1,451	1,510
Fundraising	305			305	1,646
Compensation	0				0
	<u>2,756</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,956</u>	<u>14,856</u>
<u>Payments</u>					
Training	75	445		520	750
Equipment	46			46	0
Overheads (Insurance etc.)	2,801	41		2,842	814
Maintenance of equipment	980	250		1,230	431
Volunteer recognition	146			146	0
Expedition	0				0
Purchase of Assets	87	3,874		3,961	5,738
	<u>4,135</u>	<u>4,610</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,745</u>	<u>7,733</u>
<b>Net receipts/ (Payments) before transfers between funds</b>	(1,379)	(3,410)		(4,789)	7,123
Transfers between Funds				0	0
<b>Net Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	(1,379)	(3,410)	0	(4,789)	7,123
Cash Funds at beginning of year	8,257	4,697		12,954	5,831
Cash funds at end of year	<u>6,878</u>	<u>1,287</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,165</u>	<u>12,954</u>

## LAGAN CURRACHS

### Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Deposition of funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	
<b>Held as followings:</b>					
Bank Current Account	6,878	1,287	0	8,165	12,954
Cash in hand				0	0
	<u>6,878</u>	<u>1,287</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,165</u>	<u>12,954</u>

### **Assets retained for the charity's own use**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	
33ft Currach (1 no.)	15,000			15,000	15,000
25ft Currach (2 no.)	10,000			10,000	10,000
Trailer (2 no.)	3,800			6,000	3,800
Equipment	5,000			5,000	5,000
	<u>33,800</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>36,000</u>	<u>33,800</u>

The above valuation is based on the Trustee estimates and used for Insurance purposes.

### **Statement of Material Liabilities**

The Trustees are not aware of any material liabilities at the date of this Report

**Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:-**

*Tim Bloomer*

*Ken Geary*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trustee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trustee

Dated: 25/01/2023

Dated: 25/01/2023

## **Notes to the Accounts**

### **Basis of Accounting under Receipts & Payments**

Revenue that the Charity is entitled to is recorded when received, expenditure that the Charity incurred is recorded when paid.

### **Purpose and nature of funds**

General unrestricted fund: These are funds that have been received carrying no restriction on their use and are put to purpose at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Charity.

Restricted funds: are funds subject to specific trusts, which are declared by the donor(s) and are expendable by the trustees in furtherance of some particular aspect(s) of the objects of the charity. These funds are subject to restriction (as to their use) imposed by those from whom the funds are obtained. Resources received but not yet expended at the end of the financial year are retained as a reserve.

Endowment funds: where there is no power to convert the capital into income, is known as a permanent endowment fund and the capital is normally held indefinitely. Where trustees have the power to convert endowment funds into income, such funds are known as expendable. Any funds held under this classification by the Charity are permanent.

### **Trustee benefits**

No trustee was in receipt of benefits from the Charity during the year ended 31st December 2022.