

Report of the Trustees and

Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

for

Murlough House

ASC Wylie UBU Ltd  
Qualified Accountants, Tax & Business Advisors  
7 Lisburn Street  
Royal Hillsborough  
Co. Down  
BT26 6AB

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for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

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The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Objectives and aims**

Our primary objective is the advancement of religion, specifically the Christian Faith, and as such are aims are:

1. An improved sense of wellbeing and the spiritual, moral and intellectual development for those attending the organised activities at Murlough House, as they enjoy fellowship with others and receive teaching from the Bible.
2. The promotion of Christian values for the benefit of individuals, with those using the various facilities available at Murlough House encouraged to adopt a moral framework where they are good citizens.

Murlough House as a charity offers facilities for private retreat, respite, group retreat, and conference facilities to church and para-church groups and individuals in sympathy with our Christian ethos.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Significant activities**

The reach of our charitable activities is still being affected by the mental turmoil following the pandemic, and also by the increase in costs which we have had to pass on through an increase in our prices. Coming to Murlough House is viewed by many as a luxury rather than a necessity and as such, when money is tight we drop off the radar, understandably. All this being said, for those who are coming the smaller numbers has given rise to great benefit as visitors are more focused on their aims and their group sessions operate at a deeper spiritual level as people are more willing to be open with one another.

Besides increased running costs, the greatest challenge we face remains a lack of manpower. Recruiting staff, in the hospitality sector, remains very challenging, as a consequence we are having to take breaks in the diary to enable staff to have much needed time off, to ensure that in looking after others, we ourselves do not fall apart, due to pressure of work.

Our finances are healthy, but only due to the generous donations from individuals and corporate supporters, again this year. The house is not meeting its own running costs due to the reduction in numbers and also those who most need to come to the house are normally the least able to pay and therefore we have used the donation kindly given to help both individuals and groups.

The costs of managing an old property are always high but we have once again had to invest quite heavily in repairs and maintenance, mainly on keeping a roof over our heads following the increased intensity of rain fall this year which has overwhelmed our spouting system causing ingress of water on the first floor. All the guttering are needing replaced along with the downspouts. However since these have to be in accordance with historic building regulations, this is a capital expenditure we can not currently afford.

The most noticeable change over the last year has been the number of group cancellations. We have had more cancellations during this year that we had in the previous 10 years. These have been financially devastating as they have occurred often within days of their due date meaning that we have not been able to find replacements.

The most notable change during the year was the launch of our Imbibe Coffee shop which opened in September and had to shut again in May. This was disappointing for some but was the right thing to do, as the project did not work out as intended. Our ambition was to have space for people to come and enjoy the surroundings as well as the coffee, but primarily for it to be a safe space where those who were lonely, could come and enjoy the company of others and feel appreciated. What actually happened was it became a favourite spot for those who have time to go out for lunches. Interestingly some people loved it so much they did not want others to come but wished to keep it to themselves. It never got to a level of traffic to be financially viable and if it had, it would have had disastrous consequences for those coming on retreat seeking peace and tranquility. Also the National Trust, who had originally been very supportive as they viewed it as an asset to the nature reserve, then asked us to close it because they claimed that a high percentage of visitors were stating they were going to the coffee shop to avoid paying the entrance fee. We now use the coffee shop as another space for people to book for gatherings of various sorts, as part of the overall product offering of the house.

### **Public benefit**

The public benefit is always hard to measure with a facility like Murlough House, however many of those coming, have reported their experience as being highly significant to them and of great spiritual and physical benefit.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Volunteers**

We currently have two volunteers sporadically, to whom we are very grateful for their help and endeavours, one in the garden and one in the house.

Finding individuals willing to volunteer is again difficult as the work is manual labour and not very rewarding.

## **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

### **Fundraising activities**

About half of the funds required to maintain our charitable activity comes from our trading position which is a dramatic reduction, but we have received several gifts to help us to continue our work.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Financial position**

Due to the COVID19 pandemic there has been a significant reduction in income during the financial year but the cost of maintaining the utilities and services has remained.

## **FUTURE PLANS**

Our plans for the future have changed in line with the needs and the experience of the last two years. With reduced numbers we do not need the whole house for retreat and as a consequence have been able to segregate the servants quarters for respite rather than retreat. We have made this change as we are getting more requests from individuals who need to be able to come on a longer basis than a couple of days during the week. Also it means we can still have room at weekends even when there is a group in the house for those who are unable to come on retreat on weekdays.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

## **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

### **Registered Company number**

NI608913 (Northern Ireland)

### **Registered Charity number**

106814

### **Registered office**

7 Robin Hill  
Dundrum  
Newcastle  
Down  
BT33 ONU

### **Trustees**

The Trustees have not changed during the year

### **Company Secretary**

D Preston

Murlough House

Report of the Trustees

for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Independent Examiner**

ASC Wylie UBU Ltd

Qualified Accountants, Tax & Business Advisors

7 Lisburn Street

Royal Hillsborough

Co. Down

BT26 6AB

Approved by order of the board of trustees on .....03/06/24..... and signed on its behalf by:

.....*Deirdre Forbes.*.....

JKH Forbes - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
Murlough House

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 30 September 2023, which are set out on pages six to sixteen.

**Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees (and also the directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, 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 Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of the 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. The 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland
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.



Mr ASC Wylie FCA

ASC Wylie UBU Ltd  
Qualified Accountants, Tax & Business Advisors  
7 Lisburn Street  
Royal Hillsborough  
Co. Down  
BT26 6AB

Date: .....3 June 2024.....

Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

	Notes	2023 Unrestricted fund £	2022 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies		124,297	25,808
Other trading activities	2	68,528	88,197
Investment income	3	5	-
Other income		-	160
<b>Total</b>		<u>192,830</u>	<u>114,165</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
Cost of generating voluntary income		16,819	15,218
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Support costs		122,182	91,392
Governance costs		15,741	14,520
<b>Total</b>		<u>154,742</u>	<u>121,130</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		38,088	(6,965)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward		146,909	153,874
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u><u>184,997</u></u>	<u><u>146,909</u></u>



	Notes	2023 Unrestricted fund £	2022 Total funds £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible assets	9	103,273	114,954
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	10	-	4,688
Cash at bank and in hand		85,235	28,201
		<hr/> 85,235	<hr/> 32,889
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(3,511)	(934)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<hr/> 81,724	<hr/> 31,955
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<hr/> 184,997	<hr/> 146,909
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<hr/> <hr/> 184,997	<hr/> <hr/> 146,909
<b>FUNDS</b>	12		
Unrestricted funds:			
General fund		<hr/> 184,997	<hr/> 146,909
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<hr/> <hr/> 184,997	<hr/> <hr/> 146,909

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30 September 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

Murlough House

Balance Sheet - continued

30 September 2023

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on .....31.06.2024..... and were signed on its behalf by:



JKH Forbes - Trustee

## **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

### **Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The charitable company has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows;
- the requirement of paragraph 3.17(d);
- the requirements of paragraphs 11.42, 11.44, 11.45, 11.47, 11.48(a)(iii), 11.48(a)(iv), 11.48(b) and 11.48(c);
- the requirements of paragraphs 12.26, 12.27, 12.29(a), 12.29(b) and 12.29A;
- the requirement of paragraph 33.7.

### **Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

### **Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

### **Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Improvements to property	- 2% on cost
Plant and machinery	- 20% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% on cost

### **Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

**Fund accounting**

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits**

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

**2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fee income	1,053	3,914
Retreat income	66,202	82,875
Conference income	1,041	1,408
Other Income	232	-
	<u>68,528</u>	<u>88,197</u>

**3. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deposit account interest	5	-
	<u>5</u>	<u>-</u>

**4. SUPPORT COSTS**

	Management	Governance	Totals
	£	costs £	£
Support costs	105,596	1,586	107,182
Governance costs	11,681	4,060	15,741
	<u>117,277</u>	<u>5,646</u>	<u>122,923</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

**4. SUPPORT COSTS - continued**

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

**Management**

	Support costs	Governance costs	2023 Total activities	2022 Total activities
	£	£	£	£
Wages	54,574	-	54,574	40,054
Pensions	537	-	537	529
Rent, rates, water	-	-	-	330
Insurance	7,809	-	7,809	5,993
Light and heat	13,855	-	13,855	15,060
Phone, internet & website	2,069	-	2,069	1,621
Post, stationery & office	568	-	568	699
Advertising	-	-	-	504
Sundries	1,116	-	1,116	819
Motor & travel	5,906	-	5,906	4,241
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	-	11,681	11,681	12,275
Repairs & maintenance	19,162	-	19,162	20,572
	<u>105,596</u>	<u>11,681</u>	<u>117,277</u>	<u>102,697</u>

**Governance costs**

	Support costs	Governance costs	2023 Total activities	2022 Total activities
	£	£	£	£
Legal & professional	1,586	-	1,586	655
Accountancy	-	4,060	4,060	2,245
	<u>1,586</u>	<u>4,060</u>	<u>5,646</u>	<u>2,900</u>

**5. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)**

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	11,681	12,275
Surplus on disposal of fixed assets	-	(160)
	<u></u>	<u></u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

**6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30 September 2023 nor for the year ended 30 September 2022.

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30 September 2023 nor for the year ended 30 September 2022.

**7. STAFF COSTS**

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
Administration	6	6
	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

**8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted fund £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>	
Donations and legacies	25,808
Other trading activities	88,197
Other income	160
<b>Total</b>	<u>114,165</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>	
Cost of generating voluntary income	15,218
<b>Charitable activities</b>	
Support costs	91,392
Governance costs	14,520
<b>Total</b>	<u>121,130</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	(6,965)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>	
Total funds brought forward	153,874

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

**8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued**

Unrestricted  
fund  
£

**TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED  
FORWARD**

146,909

**9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Improvements to property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
<b>COST</b>				
At 1 October 2022 and 30 September 2023	90,218	66,087	33,383	189,688
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
At 1 October 2022	13,533	42,044	19,157	74,734
Charge for year	902	7,934	2,845	11,681
At 30 September 2023	14,435	49,978	22,002	86,415
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>				
At 30 September 2023	75,783	16,109	11,381	103,273
At 30 September 2022	76,685	24,043	14,226	114,954

**10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	-	4,688

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

**11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	3,511	934
	<u>3,511</u>	<u>934</u>

**12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1/10/22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30/9/23 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	146,909	38,088	184,997
	<u>146,909</u>	<u>38,088</u>	<u>184,997</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>146,909</u>	<u>38,088</u>	<u>184,997</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	192,830	(154,742)	38,088
	<u>192,830</u>	<u>(154,742)</u>	<u>38,088</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>192,830</u>	<u>(154,742)</u>	<u>38,088</u>

**Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 1/10/21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30/9/22 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	153,874	(6,965)	146,909
	<u>153,874</u>	<u>(6,965)</u>	<u>146,909</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>153,874</u>	<u>(6,965)</u>	<u>146,909</u>



Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

**12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	114,165	(121,130)	(6,965)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>114,165</u>	<u>(121,130)</u>	<u>(6,965)</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1/10/21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30/9/23 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	153,874	31,123	184,997
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>153,874</u>	<u>31,123</u>	<u>184,997</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	306,995	(275,872)	31,123
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>306,995</u>	<u>(275,872)</u>	<u>31,123</u>

**13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 30 September 2023.

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Donations	124,297	25,808
<b>Other trading activities</b>		
Fee income	1,053	3,914
Retreat income	66,202	82,875
Conference income	1,041	1,408
Other Income	232	-
	<hr/> 68,528	<hr/> 88,197
<b>Investment income</b>		
Deposit account interest	5	-
<b>Other income</b>		
Gain on sale of tangible fixed assets	-	160
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	192,830	114,165
 <b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Cost of generating voluntary income</b>		
Bank interest	105	2,660
<b>Other trading activities</b>		
Consumables and provisions	16,714	12,558
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Donations	15,000	315
<b>Support costs</b>		
<b>Management</b>		
Wages	54,574	40,054
Pensions	537	529
Rent, rates, water	-	330
Insurance	7,809	5,993
Light and heat	13,855	15,060
Phone, internet & website	2,069	1,621
Post, stationery & office	568	699
Advertising	-	504
Carried forward	79,412	64,790

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Management</b>		
Brought forward	79,412	64,790
Sundries	1,116	819
Motor & travel	5,906	4,241
Improvements to property	902	2,707
Plant and machinery	7,934	6,011
Fixtures and fittings	2,845	3,557
Repairs & maintenance	19,162	20,572
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	117,277	102,697
 <b>Governance costs</b>		
Legal & professional	1,586	655
Accountancy	4,060	2,245
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5,646	2,900
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total resources expended	154,742	121,130
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<u>38,088</u>	<u>(6,965)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements