

Knocknagin Hall Committee

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report and Public Benefit Reporting for Year 1st May 2022 to 30th April 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report of the charity for the year 1st May 2022– 30th April 2023

Reference and administrative details,

Registered charity name: Knocknagin Hall Committee

Charity registration number: NIC107121

Company registration number: NI645386

Principal office and registered office: 53 Knocknagin Road
Desertmartin
Magherafelt
BT45 5LQ
Co Derry

The trustees:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Mr. Gerard Walls | Chair |
| Ms. Kathleen Mallon | Secretary |
| Mr. Seamus O'Hagan | Vice Treasurer |
| Fr. Dermott McGirr | |
| Mrs. Annie McGuigan | |
| Mr. Bernard Walls | |
| Miss Olive Walls | |
| Mrs. Mary Wilson | |
| Mr. Michael Higgins | |

Non-trustee committee members

Mrs Catherine Ferguson Treasurer
Mrs Anne Moran
Mr Patrick McQuillan
Michael Hegarty

Independent examiner:

PFS Accountants and Auditors Ltd
Chartered Certified Accountants
122 Main Street Dungiven
Co Derry
BT47 4LG

Bankers:

Santander
9 Rainey Street
Magherafelt
BT45 5DA

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 24th April 2017 and registered as a charity on 15th August 2018. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association adopted: February 2017, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of the Management Committee. There are three additional non-trustee members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

PURPOSES:

The main objectives of Knocknagin Hall Committee, as set out in our Articles of Association, are to manage Knocknagin Hall on behalf of the wider community in order to provide effective and necessary services and activities for our isolated rural community. To advance education, including vocational training, relieve poverty and to conserve and protect the local environment and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for all the inhabitants of the Desertmartin area without distinction of gender, race or of political, religious or other opinions.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

With the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, Knocknagin Hall Committee (KHC) focussed on providing classes to promote health and wellbeing. The following activities were provided:

- Knit & Natter- 35 x 1.5 hr sessions
- Chair based exercises- 39 x 1.5hr sessions
- Line dancing - 42 x 1.5hr sessions
- Flower arranging - 2 x 2hr sessions
- Social Dancing –monthly session since June 2022
- Christmas Craft Fare
- Boxing Day Dance

In addition the hall committee and additional volunteers hosted the following events:

- 3 funeral dinners
- Facilitated 5 sessions of the Derry Diocesan Synod Working Group.
- 100th anniversary commemoration
- Charity dance for Air Ambulance

Towards the end of the financial year the committee were in discussion with Helena Quinn of Mid Ulster NHSCT Health Wellbeing Team with a view to setting up a "Read Yourself Well initiative" in the Hall.

In addition, the number of functions and activities in the Hall has been gradually increasing, and there is more demand from groups seeking to make use of the facilities, The following groups regularly use the facilities:

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- Gymnastics Club which ran for 43 weeks in the year
- Knocknagin Primary School, as well as their regular P.E. classes, they also ran sessions of Mental health programme, Drama & Story Telling, Yoga, Dance and Sporting activities
- Friends of Knocknagin PTA, organised a Big breakfast, fun bingo session, retro disco night in aid of Knocknagin PS.
- Sarsfield's Accordion Band
- SPRED Group as well as fortnightly meetings held a coffee morning and a Christmas party.
- SGARA as well as their monthly meetings they organised two very successful Sunday afternoon tea dances
- Céilí Club organised 3 Céilís including one for charity in aid of Macmillan Nurses & Cancer research

During the year the local community continued to leave clothes for recycling, which continued to be a significant fund raiser.

In the previous financial year, a project was initiated with the aim of regenerating the 'Old Footsticks Walkway', a pathway used by our ancestors to access Desertmartin from the foothills of Slieve Gallion. This project seeks to provide a safe and desirable environment for taking part in outdoor recreation by creating a relatively natural and relatively un-obstructed / car free walking path from Longfield Road to the new, recently completed play park in Iniscarn forest and wider Slieve Gallion area. Although this project has the support of local groups and the community at large, due to the lack of attracting grant funding and the steep increase in costs due to inflation, it has been put on hold for the foreseeable future.

With the gift of land from a local farmer, the plans to modify an existing outdoor area behind the community premises began in October 2022. A group of 12 volunteers have repositioned the boundary fence and oil tank as well putting down 12³ meters of concrete. This is an ongoing project and it is hoped that funds permitting, the remaining concrete and other improvements to fully develop this area, will continue to evolve over several years.

With plans also in the pipeline to further renovate the area under the stage, these projects will enhance our community hub allowing the committee to offer more and varied activities and services to our local community.

During the financial year, we repaid the final £5,000 of the £50,580.00 interest free loans we received from the local community, for refurbishment of the hall, with the final cheque only being cashed in early June 2023. The total outlay was £20,700 as £29,880.00 of the debt was generously donated back into the hall funds. We express our gratitude to the generosity of the community for their contributions and help in securing the funding to refurbish the hall, especially to those who donated their loan back into the hall funds.

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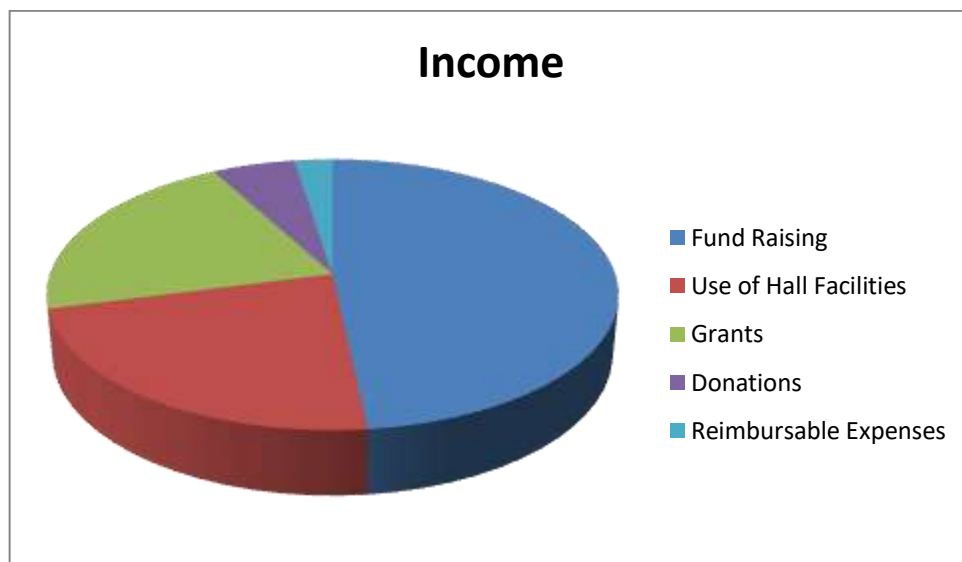
FUNDING

- June 2022; Mid Ulster District Council - Community Venues Grant 2022-23approved £1,500 towards running cost;
- December 2022; DAERA -Rural Micro Capital Grant Programme 2022-Phase9. - awarded £1,485.00 towards Cavity Wall Insulation.
- December 2022; MUDC – Cost Of Living Grant 2022-2023 – awarded £500 towards the increase in cost of living
- January 2023. Power NI on behalf of the Government’s support for the cost of living– issued £600, help towards the increase in cost of living

Table 1 and Fig 1 below show the income generated over the year with the most income generated by Fund Raising. However after expenses, the income generated by Fund Raising is actually reduced to £5569.70, the breakdown of which is shown in Table 2/Fig 2. The hall is now widely used by many groups and also by individuals and funding generated (£4370) contributes greatly to much needed funds. During the year KHC applied and were successful in attracting grant funding to the value of £3485. A further government grant of £600 (no application required) was awarded by the Government to help with the increased cost of living expenses. All grant income awarded is restricted and was spent as per application (described in paragraph above).Income from reimbursable expenses was obtained for refreshments and courses facilitated by KHC and do not contribute to the funds of KHC.

| Table 1 | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Income (£) | |
| Fund Raising | 9330.55 |
| Use of Hall Facilities | 4370.00 |
| Grants | 4085.00 |
| Donations | 1047.00 |
| Reimbursable expenses | 482.23 |
| Total | 19314.78 |

Fig1



Knocknagin Hall Committee

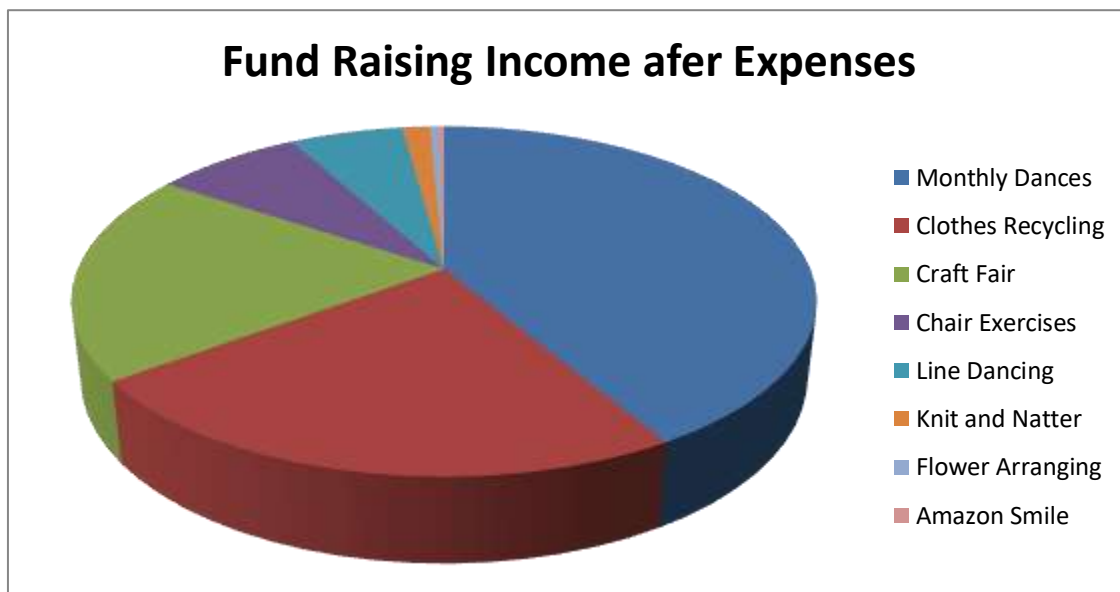
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Table 2 and Fig 2 display the breakdown of income accrued through Fund Raising events. Since the reinstatement of the Social Dances in June 2022, most income is generated by this method of fund raising, while at the same time increasing health and wellbeing in keeping with the ethos of KHC.

| Table 2 | |
|---|---------|
| Actual Fund Raising Income after Expenses (£) | |
| Social Dances | 2312.35 |
| Clothes Recycling | 1303.05 |
| Craft Fair | 1082.52 |
| Chair Exercises | 424.00 |
| Line Dancing | 327.00 |
| Knit and Natter | 80.00 |
| Flower Arranging | 25.00 |
| Amazon Smile | 15.78 |
| Total | 5569.70 |

Fig 2



Knocknagin Hall Committee

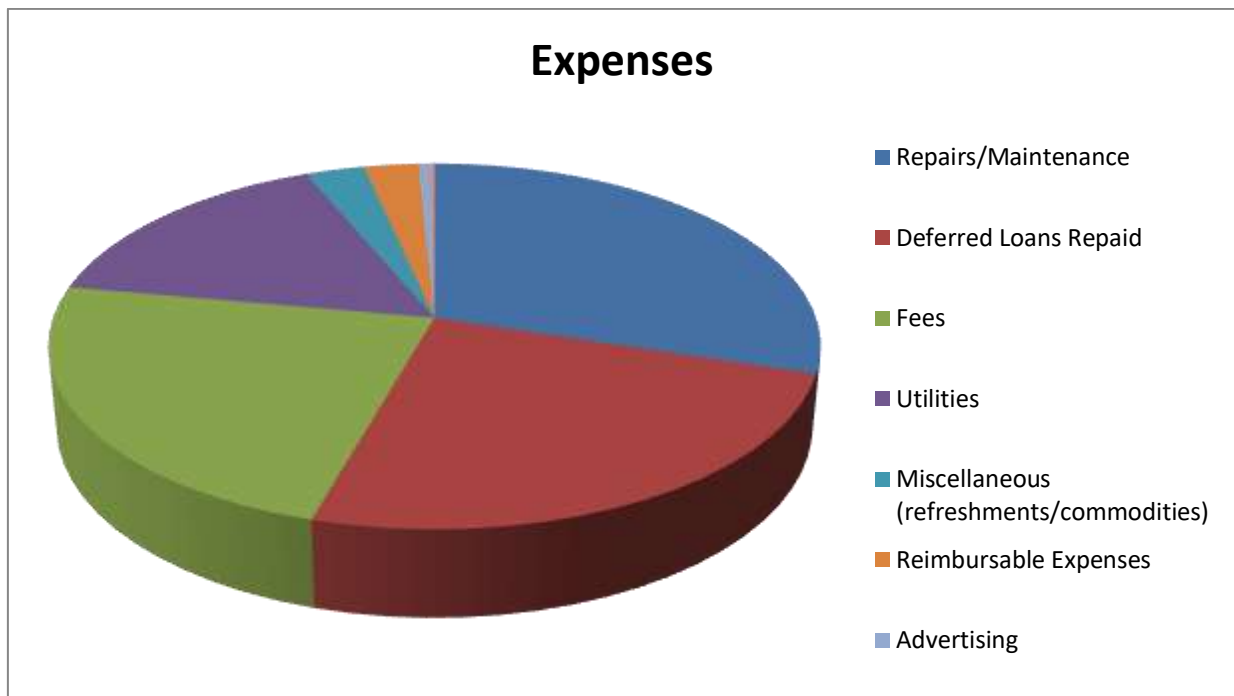
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Table 3 and Fig 3 display the expenses incurred in the financial year with repairs and maintenance being the greatest expense. Total expenses for the year were up 133% on the previous year, although this figure is artificially inflated due to the repayment of deferred loans. When the deferred loans are omitted, the increase in expenses is 77% and is largely due to increased use of the facilities and inflationary challenges. Total income during the year increased 17.5% on the previous year but this is insufficient to offset the increased costs.

| Table 3 | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Expenses | |
| Repairs/Maintenance | 5466.35 |
| Deferred Loans Repaid | 4500.00 |
| Fees | 4285.00 |
| Utilities | 2910.27 |
| Miscellaneous | 524.85 |
| Reimbursable Expenses | 482.23 |
| Advertising | 96.00 |
| Awards and Grants | 50.00 |
| Total Expenses | 18314.70 |

Fig 3



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BENEFITS and BENEFICIARIES

The benefits that flow from our purpose include provision of a safe recreational facility, which can be accessed freely by people of all ages and abilities within the rural community of Desertmartin and surrounding areas. The benefit of this extends to local people being able to fully identify their needs and allow them to develop local solutions to improve the quality of life for people living within the community. This helps the area tackle issues around environmental issues, rural isolation, poverty and deprivation. Our work creates a space in which people can meet in a safe environment and has positive implications for the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of local people. By improving their health and wellbeing and reducing their social isolation, this contributes to a healthy, vibrant and sustainable community, thus reducing levels of stress and anxiety.

The benefits of the work also include building civic pride within the local community. Through this work, people are animated about their local community and are given opportunities to volunteer and contribute to the social and cultural life within the area.

The charity's beneficiaries are primarily people of all ages and abilities living in and around Desertmartin and surrounding rural hinterland area of Mid Ulster District Council, who have been identified as being rurally isolated and / or socially excluded.

The benefits of our charity are demonstrated through feedback from all users and regular evaluation of our services. The benefits of our work are also evidenced by the demand for our charitable activities and wide community support through our fund-raising events.

RESTRICTIONS ON WHO CAN BENEFIT

There are no restrictions on who can benefit. All activities and services are open to all regardless of, ability, race, gender, creed, or of political, religious or other opinions.

HARM

No harm has flowed from any of our Purposes.

PRIVATE BENEFIT

There is no private benefit to any individual.

SERIOUS INCIDENT REPORTING

There are no serious incidents to report.

VULNERABLE BENEFICIARIES

Appropriate Policies, Procedures and Training are in place such as POCVA Policy & Procedures.

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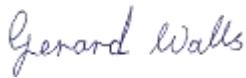
STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

Small company provisions

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

The trustees' annual report was approved on 31 August 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Mr Gerard Walls
Director