



DRUMBO & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL YEAR 1 JANUARY 2024 – 31 DECEMBER 2024

Structure Governance and Management

Registered Charity Name	Drumbo & District Community Association (DDCA)
Charity Registration Number	107237
Trustees	Hazel Thompson (Chairperson)
	Alex Swan (Vice Chairperson)
	Margaret McCormick (Honorary Secretary)
	Gillian Mayhew (Honorary Treasurer)
	Darren Moore
	Ian Douglas
	Shirley McGregor
	Desi Reid
	Eric Wilkinson
	Paul Allison

The constitution of the Committee was adopted on the 28 November 2002, and amended on 11 March 2019. The Charity is made up of Individual Members. Organisations within the area of benefit, whether community, voluntary or statutory may upon application to and with the approval of the Committee be admitted as Affiliated Members. The Management Committee consists of a minimum of 8 people who are Individual members of the Association, elected at an Annual General Meeting.

Objectives and Activities

The purpose of the Association is to promote rural regeneration and social wellbeing for the benefit of the inhabitants of Drumbo and the surrounding area (the area of benefit) to

promote the protection and preservation of health and to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the area of benefit without distinction of age, gender, sexuality, nationality, ethnic origin, disability, political or religious opinion by associating with the statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide or assist in providing facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreation or other leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the condition of life for the said inhabitants.

Drumbo & District Men's Sheds is affiliated to the Association and its aim is to promote men's health and development while putting something back into the community. It aims to create an environment for men to learn new skills and exchange ideas and for members to support each other and build friendships.

The Trustees have regard to the Charities' Commission Public Benefit requirement statutory guidance. The public benefit arising from the Association's work is the creation of social cohesion and its offering chances for people to meet, develop skills and increase social interaction.

Summary of activities undertaken in the year to 31 December 2024

The Community Association, with the Drumbo Presbyterian Church continues to run the monthly Connect Coffee mornings which have a regular attendance of around 40 to 50 senior citizens. It provides a valuable time for them to come together and socialise over refreshments.

In February, a very successful Connect Community warm lunch of vegetable or potato and leek soup followed by jam sponge and custard was held, with over 50 local senior citizens attending. Philip Osbourne from the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service spoke to the group about fire safety in the home.

In March another Connect Community warm lunch was held consisting of stew followed by apple tart and custard. Once again this was very well supported and any left over meals distributed to those unable to attend. A big thank you to all those from the Community Association and Drumbo Church who came together to set up both this and the February meal. Our thanks also to Sandra McCormick who cooked the delicious food enjoyed by all.

Towards the end of March, 50 senior citizens came on the spring bus trip. After scones and coffee in the church hall, this trip took folk to Stormont Parliament building for a guided tour, followed by a tour of the Ards peninsula and a lunch at the Quays restaurant in Portavogie.

In May, Drumbo and District Community Association participated in a "make your own hanging basket" event run by Lisburn and Castlereagh Council. Those attending greatly enjoyed the evening and were able to pick up tips from the Council gardening team members on the best plants to select and how to arrange them.

In June, Drumbo and District Community Association, along with other interested parties, was invited on two occasions, to attend the village plan update. Attendees were able to participate fully in the discussions about improvements needed, in general and in specific areas, of both the village and surrounding areas, with the Council representatives taking many of these onboard. A village "tidy up" was also carried out to clean up the area around the centre of the village.

In August the second bus trip of the year took nearly 50 folk to the Moravian village outside Ballymena followed by a buffet lunch in Tullyglass Hotel and a return trip to Drumbo via the Antrim coast road. Once again the bus trip organised prove to be very well supported.

The Association worked with council representatives to have new signage placed on the roadside at the Rural Cottages and Ballycairn Cottages. It was also reported that stonework on the new wall along the at the Drum Hill car parking spaces was becoming loose. This was reported to council representatives.

In November the country concert starring Boxcar Brian, Kenny Archer and Country Harmony took place. £709.50 was raised for the Mayor's charity.

In December, the switching on of the Christmas tree lights was held with a visit from Santa. Our thanks to Santa and to the Principal and pupils from Carr Primary for their delightful singing. The connect coffee morning took on a Christmas theme with everyone enjoying festive food and a Christmas treat.

Men's Shed

The Men's Shed is based in Drumbo and meets at a dedicated workshop incorporating a light engineering shed and a woodturning shed. This enables a woodworking area, a classroom / meeting place, and a seating / social area. The Shed is affiliated with the UK Men's Shed Association, which provides national level support and guidance.

Through organising a variety of outings and meaningful activities for Men's Shed members the Shed achieves its aims of delivering a friendly, safe, and inclusive environment where each man can choose to work at his own pace or in the companionship of others.

During the year the Men's Shed spent a National Lottery Grant of £9,985 on upgraded tools for engineering, woodworking, and woodturning activities, as well as essential safety equipment.

Over the year the Men's Shed continued to reach out to schools and community groups with the district and engaged in several projects with such groups. Projects undertaken include refurbishing patio furniture, repairing garden benches, producing wooden bowls.

During the year the Shed organised several group outings that strengthen bonds and offer new experiences. Highlights included a visit to Alexander's Markethill, a trip to Rathlin Island and the annual Christmas lunch.

The Community Association incorporating the Men's Shed continue to be grateful for the support of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (LCCC).

Financial Review

The Association, incorporating the Men's Shed, operates on a receipts and payments basis.

Total receipts for the year were £11,538 mainly from Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, and from organised activities. Total payments were £20,186, which were incurred to run organised activities and for administration of the charity, and on the equipment grant received from the Heritage Lottery Fund in December 2023.

The Association recorded a deficit for the year to 31 December 2024 of £8,647 (prior year surplus £10,855). The reason for the size of the deficit this year is that during the 31 December 2024 all of the £9,985 received by the Men's Shed in December 2023 for equipment from the National Lottery Community Fund was spent. The income was recorded in the 2023 accounts.

The Association's cash at bank and in hand balance as at 31 December 2024 was £7,322. The Association has no other assets.

Future Plans

The Association intends to continue its charitable activities, with a format of activities which has been successful over many years.


Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Hazel Thompson

Chairperson

Drumbo & District Community Association

29 September 2025