

Annual Report & Report on Public Benefit

Hilltop Highland Dancers Dergina

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 107696

First Constituted as an Unincorporated Community Association: 21 May 2019
Constitution updated: 21 January 2021

Registered Office Address
C/O 15 Tirelughan Road, Aughnacloy, Co. Tyrone, BT69 6DB.

TRUSTEES

Mrs Wendy Beatty
Mrs Gillian Kelly
Mrs Leanne Law
Mrs Alma Marshall
Mr Ivan Duff
Mrs Beverley Hylands
Mr Leslie Hawe

PURPOSES

- 3.1 The Association is established to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the Mid Ulster District council area and its surrounding rural environs (hereinafter called the "area of benefit") without distinction of age, gender, sexuality, nationality, ethnic origin, political or religious opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance the Ulster Scots dance, Ulster Scots culture and heritage, health, wellbeing and education by providing or assisting in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants and in particular:
- a. To Provide Highland dance tuition to children and young people in the local area, encouraging children to get active and express themselves creatively, developing skills in self-discipline and exploring and becoming aware of their own unique culture.
 - b. To provide opportunities for members of the group to participate in events demonstrating the skills they have learned and therein promote the Ulster Scots Culture.
 - c.

BENEFICIARIES

The charity's beneficiaries are primarily the inhabitants of Dungannon and its surrounding environs within the Dungannon and South Tyrone area of Mid Ulster District Council.

ACTIVITIES

2024 provided our dancers with the opportunity to embark on weekly classes now held on Friday evenings (a decision made by the committee in the hope to keep some of our older dancers for longer as Saturdays became difficult for many of them to attend with part time work commitments and for others attending competitions).

This year brought the addition of an extra teacher to the team as Miss Sarah Hylands embraced the challenge of the beginner's classes at Hilltop whilst Kathryn Stewart continued teaching the intermediate and advanced classes. This dynamic duo worked together tremendously providing tuition that was indeed first class and for which the dancers are extremely grateful. Classes are a balance of challenge and fun something which is difficult to achieve at the same time!

The standard of this teaching obvious with the addition of a newly crowned Ulster Champion joining the ranks in our advanced classes. I have simply lost count of the achievements of the dancers in our group, travelling the country week after week achieving medal after medal, trophy after trophy and smashing personal bests, championships and pre championships time after time.

It was because of this standard of teaching that the group was nominated in the category of 'Top Performing Highland Dance School in NI' at The Inaugural Dance Awards held in the Culloden hotel in Belfast, coming runner up to our very own Kathryn Stewart School of Highland Dance.

Yet again we must acknowledge the generous financial support from The Ulster Scots Agency without which the group just could not function.

The committee again drove the group through another busy year balancing many things in the background, not least the numerous events the dancers were asked to perform at (too many to individually mention but details of which can be found on our social media platform), on top of the day to day running of classes, funding applications, the organising of our own competition, prize night celebrations all in a VOLUNTARY capacity whilst juggling busy family lives and careers. It would be remiss of me not to sincerely thank each member of our small but mighty committee for the dedication and support they have shown the group and to each other in individual roles which can sometimes prove time consuming and challenging.

This year I conclude the activities part of my report by saying how proud I am of our dance school made up of our teachers, our dancers, our volunteers and our committee and I look forward to another busy and successful year ahead.

ACHIEVEMENTS

HOW MAIN ACTIVITIES HAVE BENEFITED BENEFICIARIES

The overall aims of our annual activities are to provide direct benefits which flow from our purposes which include: preservation of Ulster Scots Culture and in particular Highland Dance. This in turn improves dance skills and promotes good / community relations, education, training, health and well-being outcomes, and reduced levels of social isolation, stress and anxiety, through the promotion of dance and Ulster Scots, culture, arts, heritage, recreation, education and training.

We did this by the Committee meeting regularly to run the charity behind the scenes, help raise funds for the Group and running weekly dance classes.

The Committee holds regular meetings with the full membership to plan events and avail of information, and to provide support and facilities to ease social isolation.

The Group socializes and meets with other similar groups in the local area, the local district and beyond to network and share information.

Guest Speakers give talks and information sessions on dance and related topics for the benefit of all the members.

The charity's beneficiaries are primarily the inhabitants of Dungannon and its surrounding environs within the Dungannon and South Tyrone area of Mid Ulster District Council.

These benefits are demonstrated through feedback from beneficiaries and attendees at our meetings, events, classes, and cultural activities using: surveys, verbal feedback, and evaluation of our activities.

A private benefit to Trustees may arise from our ongoing services and programmes of dance tuition, music, arts, cultural, educational, leisure and recreational activities: information, training, events, and networking visits. Through this, Trustees gain services, dance tuition, cultural awareness, information, skills, and experience which are transferable to other settings, and which may benefit their own community group or area. Our own Trustees receive information, tuition, services and activities in the same way as other beneficiaries, and are assigned support, information and services in the same ways as other beneficiaries.

These benefits are incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to our beneficiaries.

In providing a local point of social contact and activities for the community benefit there is no possibility of harm outweighing the benefit - there is no harm arising from any of the purposes.

FINANCIAL REVIEW AT END OF YEAR

FINANCIAL POSITION AT END OF YEAR: Despite cuts to funding programmes, the organisation remains in a strong financial position.

OUTSTANDING DEBTS OR LIABILITIES: There were no debts or outstanding debts or liabilities.

FUNDS IN MATERIAL DEFICIT & STEPS TAKEN TO MITIGATE: There were no funds in material deficit.

FINANCIAL MITIGATION: The Trustees ensured the organisation's finances were managed prudently and on an ongoing basis.

FUNDS HELD BY THE CHARITY AS A CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE: None – Not applicable.

RESTRICTIONS ON WHO CAN BENEFIT

There are no restrictions on who can benefit.

We do not charge any fees.

There are no charges to access any events or services.

There are no restrictions based on personal characteristics.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The direct benefits which flow from our purposes include improved: preservation of Ulster Scots Culture and in particular Highland Dance. This in turn improves dance skills and promotes good / community relations, education, training, health and well-being outcomes, and reduced levels of social isolation, stress and anxiety, through the promotion of dance and Ulster Scots, culture, arts, heritage, recreation, education and training

PRIVATE BENEFIT

There is no private benefit to any individual.

HARM

No harm has flowed from any of our Purposes.

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.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission NI's Public Benefit Guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Signed Chairperson: _____ Wendy Beatty

Date: