

Ancre Somme Association

Annual Report and Receipts and Payments Account

For the period ended 30th September 2024

Northern Ireland Charities Number: 108368

Trustees' Annual Report for the period ended 30th September 2023

The trustees present the annual report and accounts for Ancre Somme Association for the year ended 30th September 2023.

Objectives and Activities

Educate our communities about our Armed Forces history from WWI, WW2 and all subsequent wars and conflict's. Organise or assist in organising meetings, lectures, classes and exhibitions, and publish or assist in publishing reports, periodicals, recordings, books or other documents or information. Remember the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who have paid the ultimate sacrifice from WWI to the present day.

Promote and carry out, or assist in promoting and carrying out research, surveys and investigations and publish the useful results thereof.

Recruit and train volunteers with relevant skills to carry out the purposes of the Charity. Support our Armed Forces and our Armed Forces charities and leave a legacy for future generations.

Achievements & Performance

Nov 2022 we had our annual pilgrimage to Stormont as we remembered Lord and Lady Craigavon. Jan 2023 we unveiled a memorial plaque in memory of our past members.

April 2023 our charity announced Squadron Leader Graham Dodds MBE DL as our new UK Ambassador. In the same month we also agreed to help with the purchase of new trees for the repopulation of Thiepval Wood.

May 2023 we opened our Empire Poppy Store. The store is a Community Interest Company. Our Coronation brooch appeared on ITV's This Morning programme.

July 2023 we presented a portrait of Field Marshall Sir Henry Hughes Wilson, 1st Baronet, GCB, DSO to Carol Walker MBE the director of the Somme Association. The portrait now adorns the wall in Ulster Tower, France.

August 2023 we held the inaugural meeting of the Bernard McQuirt VC Mem Committee to explore the possibility of erecting a memorial in his place of birth, Donaghcloney.

Sep 2023 we launched our Purple Poppy Memorial Fund which will create the first memorial in N Ireland to animals served in WWI.

Sep 2023 we also hosted a Service of Thanksgiving, giving thanks for the life of Queen Elizabeth II. This was attended by various dignitaries including Vice Lord Lieutenant of Co Armagh Mr Richard Hamilton-Stubber. Lord Mayor, MPs, Councillors and MLAS also attended.

Financial Review

The charities funds continue to grow and remain strong allowing it to carry out its activities and objectives.

Going Concern

The trustees have reviewed their financial position and are in a position to continue running events next year. The nature and number of events will be dependent on the what funding opportunities arise and how they fit in with the groups aims and objectives. As such the financial statements for the year ended 30th September 2023 can be signed off as a going concern.

Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity

The charity is governed by its constitution.

Recruitment and Appointment of Volunteers

The Trustees welcome new volunteers to help with the running of the charity, any new volunteers initially meet with the Trustees so they have a understanding of the work involved are given training and support.

Organisational Structure

The governing body of the charity is the board of trustee's who are listed on the information page. The charity is run by the trustee's who work together to make decisions regarding the running of the charity.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustee's Report and the Statement of Receipts and Payments and Statement of Assets and Liabilities in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to Charities in Northern Ireland with income of less than £250,000 requires the Trustees to prepare a statement of Receipts and Payments and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities for each financial year.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the Assets and Liabilities of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the Assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement as to disclosure to our examiners

In so far as the trustees are aware at the timing of approving our trustees' annual report:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees are satisfied that it adheres to the public benefit test set out by the Charities Commission of Northern Ireland due to the objectives it provides.

Independent Examiner

The examiner, W J McClelland & Co have indicated their willingness to continue in office.

On behalf of the Trustees

M Jameson - Trustee

G Bleakney - Trustee

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 30th September 2024 which are set out on pages 5-6.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

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; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of 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.

My 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 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
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.

WJ McClelland
Certified Public Accountants
7A Gilford Street
Tandragee
County Armagh
BT67 2DA
Date: 28 July 2025

Statement of Receipts & Payments for the period ended 30th September 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income from:					
Donations		11,600	0	11,600	1,165
Fundraising	2	24,992	0	24,992	42,659
Grant Funding	3	12,025	0	12,025	8,588
Total income		48,617	0	48,617	52,412
Expenditure on:					
Fundraising	4	40,047	0	40,047	95,958
Charitable Activities	4	29,866	0	29,866	5,128
Total expenditure		69,913	0	69,913	101,086
Net income / (expenditure) resources		(21,295)	0	(21,295)	(48,674)

Statement of Assets & Liabilities- Period Ended 30th September 2024

	2024	2023
Reconciliation of funds at 31st Sep 2024		
Total funds brought forward	59,164	53,271
Surplus/(deficit) this year end	<u>-21,295</u>	<u>-2,893</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>37,869</u>	<u>50,378</u>
Bank & Cash Balances		
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>59,164</u>	<u>59,164</u>
	<u>59,164</u>	<u>59,164</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted funds	59,164	59,164
Restricted funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Funds	<u>59,164</u>	<u>59,164</u>

Notes on pages 7 to 8 are an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 5 to 6 were approved by the Board of Trustees on 3 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Mark Jameson - Chair Person

Gillian Bleakney - Treasurer

Notes to the financial statements for the period ended 30th September 2024

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Preparation of accounts on a going concern basis

The Group meets its financial obligations mainly from income received at events the Group run and also from making grant funding applications for specific purposes. The Group has some reserves and so if there was a fall in income then it could still continue but with reduced activity. The expenditure relating to grant income is mostly dependent on the funding being successful and as such if this income dropped then the group would also have a drop in expenditure. Therefore these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

b) Income

Income is accounted for on a cash receipts basis as the amount is collected and are allocated as either restricted or unrestricted funds according to the terms of the donation.

c) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on a cash payments basis.

d) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts.

i) Funds

Funds are classified as either restricted funds or unrestricted funds, defined as follows:

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific requirements as to their use which may be declared by the donor or with their authority or created through legal processes, but still within the wider objects of the Group.

Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. If parts of the unrestricted funds are earmarked at the discretion of the trustees for a particular purpose, they are designated as a separate fund. This designation has an administrative purpose only and does not legally restrict the trustees' discretion to apply the fund.

2. Fundraising

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
Service Collection	841		841	841
Sale of Merchandise	14,127		14,127	31,873
Trip	20,608		20,608	100
McGrath Festival	1,015		1,015	9,845
	<u>36,592</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>36,592</u>	<u>42,659</u>

3. Grants

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
Grants	12,025		12,025	8,588
	<u>12,025</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12,025</u>	<u>8,588</u>

4. Analysis of Expenditure

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
Fundraising				
Purchases	62,363		62,363	25,601
Total	62,363	0	62,363	25,601

Charitable Activities

Donations	350		350	275
Printing, Postage & Stationery	745		745	59
Trip Refund			0	200
Rent, Heat & Light	3,504		3,504	3,504
To Empire Poppy Store			0	1,105
Bank Charges	136		136	109
Grant Refund	7		7	150
General Expenses	2,808		2,808	879
Bench Deposit Refund			0	275
Henry Wilson Framing			0	120
McGrath Festival			0	461
Empire Poppy Store			0	9,681
Band/Singer			0	0
Bus Hire			0	0
Wreaths			0	0
Total	7,550	0	7,550	16,818

5. Taxation

Ancre Somme Association is not subject to taxation on its charitable activities.

6. Analysis of trustee remuneration and expenses.

No Trustee received any payments other than for out of pocket expenses incurred on behalf of the group