

Discover Groomsport

Northern Ireland · Charity number 109362

Details

Status Received

Registered 2023-01-24

Register [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

Contact

Address 2 Cove View
Groomsport
Bangor
Bt19 6hr
BT19 6HR

Phone 07979 335 265

Email discovergroomsport@gmail.com

Website www.discovergroomsport.com

Activities

Purposes: PURPOSES Discover Groomsport is a community organisation in the village of Groomsport, County Down. Its Purposes are: (1) To celebrate and promote the advancement of the rich history and heritage of the village of Groomsport by organising exhibitions, lectures, guided tours, publications, other educational activities and events by associating with statutory authorities, voluntary and community organisations and the private sector. (2) To help preserve Cockle Row Cottages and some of the other important heritage buildings in Groomsport and to contribute to making the village an attractive and safe place for residents and visitors. (3) To work to ensure that future plans and developments for Groomsport are consistent with its heritage and uniqueness, encouraging residents to take an active interest in proposals for the future of the village and by helping them understand the roles and responsibilities of statutory and other agencies in respect of the village. (4) To strengthen the local community of Groomsport by increasing community participation and to promote social inclusion by encouraging and promoting open and accessible community activities.

What the charity does: The advancement of citizenship or community development, The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information, General charitable purposes

Who the charity helps: General public, General public

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£7,775	£5,093	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr David Martin		
Mr Jim McMullan		
Mr Peter Gibson		
Mr Roy Mcwhinney		
Mrs Audrey Thomas		
Mrs Maureen Irwin		
Mrs Sharon Goldie		
Ms Elaine Nixon		
Professor Rurh Fee		
Rev Dr David Irwin		

Discover Groomsport

Northern Ireland - Charity number 109362

Accounts

DISCOVER GROOMSPORT	109362	
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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	1 st APRIL 2024	To	31 st MARCH 2025
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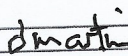
Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Ticket Sales	1,193	-	-	1,193	-
Grants ANDBC	-	3,385	-	3,385	2,831
Ulster Scots	-	130	-	130	-
Co-op	-	1,524	-	1,524	547
Donations - Talks	205	-	-	205	400
Donations - General	552	-	-	552	753
Donations - Walking Tours	572	-	-	572	154
Raffle	214	-	-	214	-
A1 Sub total (Gross income for the Annual Return)	2,736	5,039	-	7,775	4,685
A2 Asset and investment sales (see tables 1 and 2 in section 7 of the guidance).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,736	5,039	-	7,775	4,685
A3 Payments					
Halloween & Christmas Activities	463	-	-	463	-
Community Festival	-	1,149	-	1,149	-
Christmas Festival	-	-	-	-	830
Community Projects	435	473	-	908	1,021
IT Equipment	-	70	-	70	178
Running Costs	-	1,163	-	1,163	555
Printing Costs/Heritage Project	49	500	-	549	200
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	373
Eagle Wing Celebrations	792	-	-	792	-
A3 Sub total	1,739	3,354	-	5,093	3,157
A4 Asset and investment purchases (see tables 1 and 2 in section 7 of the guidance)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	1,739	3,354	-	5,093	3,157
Net of receipts/(payments)	997	1,685	-	2,682	1,528
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	1,528	-	-	1,528	-
Cash funds this year end	2,525	1,685	-	4,210	1,528

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		2,525	1,685	-	4,210	1,528
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total cash funds	2,525	1,685	-	4,210	1,528
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	Last year
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
	Total			-	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	Last year
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
	Total			-	-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details		Fund to which liability relates	When due (optional)	Amount due (optional)	Last year
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
	Total			-	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature


Print Name

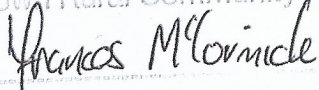
10 OCT. 2025 D. MARTIN

Date of approval

10/10/25

Independently examined by

County Down Rural Community Network

Signed: 

Date: 10/10/25

Discover Groomsport

Northern Ireland - Charity number 109362

Accounts

Charity Name

Charity No. (if any)

DISCOVER GROOMSPORT**109362****Receipts and payments accounts**For the period
from**01/04/2023**

To

31/03/2024**Section A Receipts and payments**

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants - ANDBC Grants	-	2,831	-	2,831	-
Donations - Walking Tours	547	-	-	547	-
Donations - Talks	400	-	-	400	-
Donations - General	753	-	-	753	-
Raffle	154	-	-	154	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
A1 Sub total (Gross income for the Annual Return)	1,854	2,831	-	4,685	-
A2 Asset and investment sales (see tables 1 and 2 in section 7 of the guidance).					
Proceeds from sale of fixed asset	-	-	-	-	-
Loan repayments received	-	-	-	-	-
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,854	2,831	-	4,685	-
A3 Payments					
Coronation Project	-	486	-	486	-
Heritage Project	-	535	-	535	-
Christmas Switch On	-	830	-	830	-
IT Equipment	178	-	-	178	-
Miscellaneous	173	200	-	373	-
Newsletter & Printing	-	200	-	200	-
General Running Costs	-	555	-	555	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
A3 Sub total	351	2,806	-	3,157	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases (see tables 1 and 2 in section 7 of the guidance)					
Purchase of investments	-	-	-	-	-
Loans made	-	-	-	-	-
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	351	2,806	-	3,157	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,528		-	1,528	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	1,528	-	-	1,528	-

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current account	1,528	-	-	1,528	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total cash funds <small>(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))</small>	1,528	-	-	1,528	-
	OK	OK	OK	ok	OK	

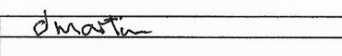
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets			-	-	-	-
			-	-	-	-
			-	-	-	-
			-	-	-	-
			-	-	-	-
				Total	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	Last year
B3 Investment assets			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	Last year
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			Total	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	When due (optional)	Amount due (optional)	Last year
B5 Liabilities				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
		Total		-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature


Print Name
 DAVID MARTIN

Date of approval
 11/9/24

Independently examined by
 County Down Rural Community Network
 Signed: Frances McEimich
 Date: 11/9/24

Discover Groomsport

Northern Ireland - Charity number 109362

Annual report



DISCOVER
GROOMSPORT

DISCOVER GROOMSPORT



Trustees' Annual Report 2023 - 2024



Second Report of the Trustees

For the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Charity Registration number: 109362

Address: 2 Cove View, Groomsport, County Down, BT19 6HR

Discover Groomsport was established at a public meeting in the village on 28th October 2023. At that meeting the Constitution was adopted and trustees were elected. The purposes of Discover Groomsport are as follows:

To strengthen the local community of Groomsport by increasing community participation and to promote social inclusion by encouraging and promoting open and accessible community activities.

To celebrate and promote the advancement of the rich history and heritage of the village of Groomsport by organising exhibitions, lectures, guided tours, publications, other educational activities and events by associating with statutory authorities, voluntary and community organisations and the private sector.

To help preserve Cockle Row Cottages and some of the other important heritage buildings in Groomsport and to contribute to making the village an attractive and safe place for residents and visitors.

To work to ensure that future plans and developments for Groomsport are consistent with its heritage and uniqueness, encouraging residents to take an active interest in proposals for the future of the village and by helping them understand the roles and responsibilities of statutory and other agencies in respect of the village.

The Trustees who served during the year were:

Elaine Nixon (Chair)

Prof. Ruth Fee (Vice Chair) - resigned 10th August 2023

Geoff McKeown – Vice Chair from 5th October 2023

Peter Gibson (Secretary)

David Martin (Treasurer)

Liz Barron

Rev. Dr. David Irwin

Maureen Irwin

Roy McWhinney

Audrey Thomas

Sharon Goldie – appointed 5th October 2023

Jim McMullan – appointed 5th October 2023

On 31st March 2024 there were 140 members of Discover Groomsport.

Public Benefit

When we registered as a charity, we identified the following Public Benefits that we would seek to achieve:

- a Advancing citizenship and community development.*
- b Promoting social inclusion.*
- c Enhancing the environment of the village of Groomsport.*
- d Ensuring that the historic Cockle Row Cottages are revived as a resource for village residents and visitors.*
- e Ensuring an increased appreciation of the history and heritage of Groomsport.*
- f Increasing Groomsport's identification with the historic voyage of Eagle Wing in 1636.*
- g Promoting volunteering.*

The Coronation Big Picnic and Big Clean-up took place over the Coronation weekend in May. The Big Picnic event, which was supported by a grant from Ards and North Down Council, attracted almost 1,000 people from the village and surrounding areas.

We held a children's activity event for **Hallowe'en** (funded from our own resources), in conjunction with Cockle Row Cottages. This was well attended and appreciated by the children and their parents.



The Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on event was held in early December, with financial support from the Council. Some 185 people attended the short Carol service which was held in the Parish Church before the switch-on and about 220 people attended the Parish Hall where food was served and 140 children visited Santa.

Link Committee

During the year we established a "Link Committee" consisting of most of the voluntary organisations and churches in the village. The committee enables the organisations to share their plans for community activities, with a view to avoiding clashes of dates. We anticipate that the committee will meet two or three times per year.

In addition to the above, Discover Groomsport nominated a member to serve on the **Groomsport in Bloom** committee which was established by the Groomsport Village Association. Members of Discover Groomsport helped with weeding and tidying up the village. The Coronation Big Clean-up also contributed to keeping the village tidy. We were very pleased that the village was awarded second place in the large village section of the 2023 Ulster in Bloom competition.

4 History Tours and Talks

During the year we developed and delivered:

- A Guided History Tour of the village;
- A leaflet for self-guided tours of the village; and
- An illustrated talk on the history of Groomsport.

All of the above were based on papers about the history of Groomsport which had been published on our website www.discovergroomsport.com .

The 90 minute **Guided History Tour** was run on nine Saturday afternoons in July and August and on both days of the European Heritage Open Days in September. Each tour had 20 places and all 11 tours were fully booked. In addition, a further 3 tours were run, on request, for the following organisations:

- North Down and Ards Family History Society
- Bangor Historical Society
- Columbanus Walkers

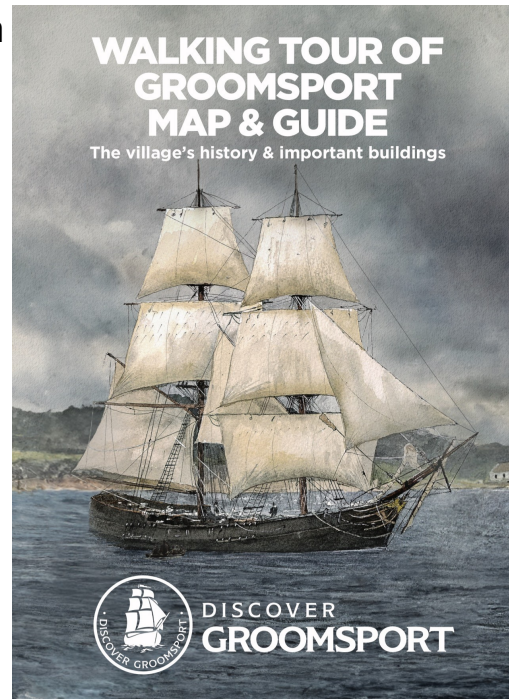
The guided tours attracted people from the village and from local towns (Bangor, Donaghadee and Newtownards) as well as a few from further afield. The tours were very well received and many people commented that they had not been aware of the importance of some of the buildings and locations visited on the tour.

An illustrated talk – “**Aspects of the History of Groomsport**”, based upon the tour was written. The talk was given to the following 6 organisations:

- Donaghadee Historical Society
- Cockle Island Boat Club

- Hollywood U3A History Group
- Bangor Abbey Mothers' Union
- Ballyholme Probus Club
- Bangor Probus Club
- Bayburn Historical Society

With the help of a Heritage Project Grant from Ards and North Down Council, we produced 2000 leaflets – “**Walking Tour of Groomsport – Map and Guide**”. This was generously designed by Dan Parson, a member of Discover Groomsport and an artist. The leaflet incorporated a QR (Quick Response) code to enable users to access further information on our website. These leaflets are available, all year round, from a display outside Cockle Row Cottages. As with the guided tour, the Map and Guide has been widely praised.



5 Digital Archive of Groomsport and its people

Through the good offices of one of our trustees, Prof. Ruth Fee, we had assistance from Ulster University’s Science Shop to help us establish a digital archive of the history of the village and its people. Three students worked with the trustees to create a website that will be the basis of the archive, on which the trustees will build. We anticipate that the digital archive will “go live” during 2024-2025 and that the project will take several years to complete.

6 Ulster-Scots Course

In conjunction with the Ulster-Scots Network, we ran a four week course “Introducing Ulster-Scots’ in September 2023. The course is at OCN level1. It was attended by 12 people and the feedback was very positive.

7 Engagement with Ards and North Down Council

We have acknowledged, above, that we benefitted from Council grants when delivering community activities and the walking tour leaflet.

In addition to this, we have worked with the Council's tourism and regeneration staff.

For the first time in several years, the Council, with our encouragement agreed to staff the Visitors Information Centre at **Cockle Row Cottages** and to organise activities on Sundays. Council tourism staff supported our guided history tour by providing training for guides and letting us use the cottages as the starting point of the tours. The tours were scheduled for Saturdays to complement the other Sunday activities.

We understand that the reopening of the cottages was a success and hope that their future as an information centre and small heritage centre is assured.

We also worked closely with Council regeneration staff who are revising the **Groomspoint Village Plan** for 2018-2023. We look forward to further engagement when a draft revised plan is issued.

8 Summary of Finances

Details of Discover Groomspoint's finances are available in our audited accounts for 2023-2024 – our first full year of operation. In summary:

- Our income was £4,685. The main sources of income were grants from Ards and North Down Council for a number of our projects, general donations and donations from individuals and organisations in respect of our guided history tours and illustrated talks.
- Our expenditure was £3,157, leaving a surplus for the year of £1,528.



Elaine Nixon

Chair of the Trustees of Discover Groomspoint

11 September 2024

Discover Groomsport

Northern Ireland - Charity number 109362

Annual return



County Down Rural Community Network

Ballywalter Village Hall
49-51 Main Street
Ballywalter
BT22 2PQ
Tel: 028 9182 8884

DISCOVER GROOMSPORT

Unqualified report for a charity that is not a company and has an income of £250,000 or less.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Charity Trustees of Discover Groomsport.

I report on the accounts of Discover Groomsport from its formation, covering the period 1st April 2023-31st March 2024 which are set out attached.

Respective responsibilities of Charity 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 Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- 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

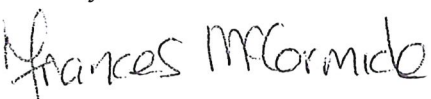
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

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.

Name: Frances McCormick

Relevant body: County Down Rural Community Network

Signed: 

Dated: 11th September 2024

Independently examined by

County Down Rural Community Network

Signed: 

Date: 11/9/24