

Federation for Ulster Local Studies Ltd

Trustees' Report

Year ended 31 March 2024

Federation for Ulster Local Studies Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees present their Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year were as follows:

Mr Joseph McCoy	Mr Johnny Dooher
Mr Denvir Boyd	Mr Ian Elliott
Ms Aine NiDuibhne	Ms Elizabeth Hoy
Ms Bridie Bradley	Mrs Florence Chambers
Mr Robert Guthrie	

Registered Address

14 Corby Way
Belfast
BT11 8HY

Independent Examiner

Róisín Shanks
Fellow, Chartered Accounts Ireland
7 Foxleigh Wood,
Lurgan,
Co Armagh
BT 67 9GW

Bankers Allied Irish Bank

Charity

Registration NIC100526
Number

Company

Registration NI 027863
Number

Website www.fuls.org

Structure, Governance and Management

The Federation for Ulster Local Studies is a company limited by guarantee incorporated on 15 October 1993. The Company is governed by the terms of its memorandum and articles of association.

The Federation registered as a charity on 12 September 2014

Eight meetings were held (all in person) during the year in addition to the Annual General Meeting.

Attendance was good with an average attendance of 81% at meetings.

Trustee	Actual	Possible
Joe McCoy	8	8
Bridie Bradley	8	8
Johnny Dooher	6	7
Denvir Boyd	2	8
Aine niDhubhne	5	8
Robert Guthrie	3	3
Elizabeth Hoy	8	8
Ian Elliot	3	3

Introduction

This report covers the year from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic which reduced membership activity has finally with a lot more members beginning to meet again sometimes totally in person, sometimes totally virtual and sometimes a blend of both virtual and in person. This report sets out the very activities of the Executive Committee since 1st April 2022. All meetings were held in person.

Membership

Society Membership stands at 81, Individual Membership, 23. More societies became active during the year and societies ceased operations and three new societies admitted as members. A number of societies have still to renew their membership for the year despite several reminders.

The Executive Committee decided to continue the reduction of membership fees to a flat rate of £50.00 for the 2023-2024 year, however this needs to be reviewed as the income is currently not covering the costs of running the organisation with a gradual decline in our reserves.

Officers & Committee

Officers

Chairman: Joseph McCoy – Individual Member

Vice-Chairman: Denver Boyd - Individual Member

Secretary: Ian Elliott – South Belfast Historical Society

Treasurer: Bridie Bradley, West Belfast Historical Society

Executive Committee

Johnny Dooher – Strabane History Society

Elizabeth Hoy – Broughshane History Society

Aine NíDuibhne - Donegal Historical Society

At last years AGM, Johnny Dooher retired from the committee after many years. May we wish him good health and wellbeing in his well earned retirement. Johnny's contribution to local history has been immense and his input to the Federation will be greatly missed. Enjoy your retirement Johnny.

Administration

The Administrative Officer appointed in February 2022 continues in post and administers the day to day affairs of the Federation, including, membership, insurance, organisation of meetings etc and ensures that all key duties of the Federation are carried out in line with its responsibilities as a registered charity.

Ian Elliott RIP

Ian joined the Federation Executive in December 2022 and immediately took on the role of Secretary. However due to ill health he had resigned from the committee in September 2023 and passed away on 20th December 2023. May he rest in peace. Ian brought a freshness to the committee with his dynamism and interest in local history. He was a member of South Belfast Historical Society.

Ian was a housing consultant and formerly the Group Chief Executive of Choice Housing, the largest local social housing provider with over 10,000 social housing units throughout Ireland. Choice was also responsible for the largest portfolio in the provision of supported housing accommodation with 44 joint management partners, such as Charities who provide support for disability living. Ian was a graduate of both



Queen's University and the University of Ulster and was involved with providing support for refugees from Africa arriving in Northern Ireland and many other charities.

Insurance

The Federation continues to provide public liability insurance for its member societies in Northern Ireland. Insurance is negotiated every three years with the most recent negotiations taking place in March 2024. A small increase was agreed for the next three years resulting in societies being charged £30 per annum an increase of £5 on the previous year. This is still very cost effective when compared to insurance purchased by member societies individually.

Due North

Due to various reasons Due North wasn't printed in 2023. However with a revamped editorial committee Due North will reappear in 2024 in time for the Annual General Meeting. Thanks are due to all the contributors who provided the articles needed to make the publication possible. More articles from member societies would be greatly appreciated.

AGM 2023

The 2023 AGM was held on 9th December 2023 in The Seamus Heany Home Place, Main Street, Bellaghy. There was a good attendance

Website

Very little website activity happened during the year. A special meeting of the Trustees was held in August 2023 to review the website with the priority to update articles and revamp the website throughout the remainder of 2023 and early 2024. A lot of material regarding the Federation can be accessed on the website www.fuls.org.uk . One of our new Trustees is currently working on revamping the website and creating a FaceBook page.

News-letter

Two news-letters were issued during the year No 62 April 2023 and No 63 July 2023 updating members on the activities of the Federation and its member societies. Both news-letters can be obtained on the Federation website. However we can only issue newsletters if we get material from our member societies, To date very few societies supply us with information for the Newsletter. In fact no further Newsletters have been issued due to lack of material from member Societies. However after a recent appeal No 64 will issue in November 2024.

Financial Review

The Federation finances remain sound with adequate resources instantly available (bank current account). We continue to monitor our accounts regularly, and will take appropriate action if the occasion demands it. A detailed report will be provided by the Treasurer.

Income is generated from membership fees, insurance contributions and sales of Due North, all of which were maintained during the year. As a lot of member societies were only starting to get back to business after the Covid 19 pandemic during the year, substantial reductions on both membership fees and insurance contributions were given.

Independent Examiner

The Federation reappointed Mrs Roisin Shanks (FCA) as independent examiner for the ensuing year. Mrs Shanks has agreed to be reappointed for the incoming year 2024/2025

Signed

Joseph McCoy (Chair)

Date: 19th October 2024