Holywood Shared Town

Annual Report

For the year from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022



Holywood Shared Town is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland and a registered charity. Its company number is NI 617275, charity reference number NIC 101962 and HMRC charity number NI 00159.

The registered office is % 3 Bangor Road, Holywood, Co Down, BT18 0NT.

During the year the directors were: Fiona Anderson

Simon Bridge Gordon Crozier

Helen Dolk – appointed 2 November 2021

Tim Kerr Bill Lockhart Lauren Kendall Robin Masefield Nicola Murphy

Trevor Ringland – resigned 25 January 2022

John Woods

Sacha Workman – resigned 1June 2021

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of Holywood Shared Town (HST) is to help to build mutually supporting working relationships between the many organisations, groups, businesses and institutions in the Holywood area to encourage and enable them to work together to create a more cohesive, shared space which reflects and celebrates the diversity that exists within the community.

Our vision is that it will thus help to build within Holywood and the surrounding area the 'social capital' – the network of contacts which provide mutual support, advice, encouragement, information and other forms of assistance - which helps local groups to work better for the benefit of the community of those who live and work in the area.

In doing this our objective is the development of Holywood as a shared town which is:

- a) a safe and welcoming place for people to live, learn, work, socialise, raise children and do business;
- b) a place of high quality of life supported by a strong community and local economy;
- a place with a vibrant cultural scene and attractive physical appearance; and
- a place characterised by respect and toleration for difference and respect and pride in the locality's history and built and natural heritage and environment.

Covid-19 had made the previous year very challenging for us all but fortunately this year was better: there was less need to concentrate on personal support and more opportunities for group and creative facilitation. Our activity range increased with the Men's Shed reinvigorating, Patchwork resuming its meetings, a new fencing group (albeit occasioned by pandemic restrictions) and the launch of Holywood Resettlement Group and its efforts to resettle refugees. Our accompanying projects included new cultural initiatives, historic and natural heritage enhancement ventures, outdoor work for instance on gardens and walks and continuing efforts effort to move towards a more sustainable climate.

Also during the year Holywood Shared Town said goodbye to board members Sacha Workman and Trevor Ringland and we welcomed new member Helen Dolk. It always leaves a gap when people depart but organisations need to renew and evolve so new members are a welcome benefit – and we continue to aim for a proper gender balance and a more diverse age range.

In addition to the legal obligations that all boards are responsible for, we look to our board members to provide leadership in the things that they are enthusiastic about. Each board member takes responsibility for one of our diverse and connected activities and our project teams are made up of other board members and, critically, other members of the Holywood community. If you would like to become involved, please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you.

INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN

The initiatives undertaken and/or supported by Holywood Shared Town during the year from 1st April 2020 to 31 March 2021 fall into two main categories: activities and projects, with more detail in the subsequent paragraphs.

- <u>Activity membership</u>. Holywood Shared Town's activity members are members of groups which would otherwise find it onerous to organise and/or seek registration as separate entities. In 2021-22 the Holywood Men's Shed, Patchwork, the Holywood Resettlement Group and the Fencing Club were supported in this way.
- <u>Project Activity</u>. Holywood Shared Town undertakes a number of projects which it believes would be helpful for the town and surrounding area – particularly cultural and environmental activity. In the previous year Holywood Shared Town had delivered a number of projects which tried to help those most affected by Covid-19. Happily this appeared not to be as necessary in 2021-22.
 - Cultural activities. The arts and creativity are an important component of Holywood Shared Town's work. Their contribution to our community is much valued and it is our aim to generate high quality work that audiences can enjoy and in which they can participate. We endeavour to showcase local talent in combination with work by other renowned artists and we also look for opportunities to bring artists together, often from different disciplines, to collaborate in making new work. Our Creative Holywood Festival forms the backbone of our cultural calendar.
 - Environmental activities. As well as a range of initiatives to encourage the conservation, appreciation and use of Redburn County Park through Holywood Men's Shed, operating from the old stable yard at Redburn, Holywood Shared Town continued to work on initiatives for the adjoining Dunville Garden, the nearby Fiddle Field and the use of green spaces such as Ballymenoch Park. It also delivered a series of Holywood walk guides, facilitated the walking for health group and various other environmental tasks including Growing Food Growing Community.

ACTIVITY MEMBER GROUPS: Facilitating Group Activity

Holywood Men's Shed

Things gradually got back to more normality during 2021 as Covid restrictions eased. It was great to see people visit the Shed again and enjoy some of our hospitality. We had visits from the Minister of Agriculture Edwin Poots and MLAs Stephen Dunne, Andrew Muir, and Rachel Woods plus representatives from other political parties. We hosted a number of visits from people from other areas interested in starting men's sheds and were delighted to receive visits from other men's sheds once again. We also greatly benefitted with links with a number of Ards and North Down Social Farms and Gardens groups when we were able to share ideas and help each other out.

Members' training resumed again and we were able to update training and qualifications in areas such as health and safety, fire marshalling and first aid. This was all possible through our partnership with the Conservation Volunteers (TCV) who remain a constant source of support and encouragement.



Some members receiving training certificates from TCV

Work on the development of the Enchanted /Sensory Garden outside the Stable Yard continued apace. This was done with a further grant from Live Here, Love Here which was much appreciated. The garden continues to be well used particularly by families and young children and even attracts a mother and toddler group for a session each Wednesday.



The Enchanted and Sensory Garden

Unfortunately, the garden was subject to some vandalism during the year. Most of this was minor but it was particularly disappointing when we had a couple of quite serious attacks over the Christmas holiday period. The local community rallied round and showed their appreciation for the garden and the work of the Men's Shed by offering to raise money to help pay for the damage and install security cameras to help act as a deterrent. In a marvellous effort, led by Bronagh McShane, more than £1500 was raised through local donations. In addition, Redburn Youth Club made an extremely generous donation of £2000 towards the repairs and further enhancement of the sensory equipment. Our thanks must go to all who donated or volunteered their time. Hopefully the garden will be even safer in future and a place to be enjoyed by everyone.

Most of our wooden workshop sheds in the Stable Yard are second-hand and have been donated by members of the public. One drawback of this is that they had felt roofs which were not always watertight and subject to regular repair. In order to help overcome this we applied to the Community Foundation Northern Ireland for a Micro capital grant to allow us to replace the felt with metal sheeting. We were very thankful to be awarded the grant plus some money to replace wood-working machinery which was past its useful life. Members, at least the more able bodied ones, were able to successfully undertake the tricky work and we now have drier and more sustainable sheds. Our thanks go to the Community Foundation for its ongoing support for our work and to other funders, such as DEARA NI and Tesco.

Members have continued to busy themselves with various activities and enterprises. Still to the fore are various forms of woodworking, arts and crafts and gardening. We always try to get involved in undertaking work to the benefit of the community. After an approach from Habinteg Housing Association we have started planning a partnership with Tower Street Community Association in inner East Belfast to run a summer scheme with them based on environmental education for young people, which will hopefully see the development of the concept of a Kids Shed.

Patchwork

Patchwork classes resumed at the beginning of September 2021. However, due to the Covid 19 pandemic there were fewer members attending than in previous years but those who did attend were grateful that the classes had restarted even with restrictions.

They started off with learning how to make Log cabin squares. In October and November they covered English paper piecing and Prefect circles. They also learned how to make and use piping and how to insert a zip into a cushion. By the end of November all members had completed at least one appliqué Christmas cushion using these techniques. Also, they completed a patchwork Christmas cushion with hand embroidery.

There was an internal party at the last class before Christmas as no one felt ready to dine out just yet. Everyone brought along their own food. The party included bingo, a quiz, secret Santa and a show and tell of completed items and everyone had a good time.

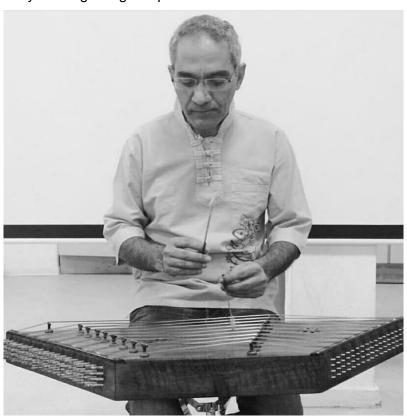
Classes commenced in January 2022 – stating with a Dresden plate table centre. After that the ladies spent some time on the technique of orange peel piecing and they made scissor cases which some members adapted to hold a pair of glasses. For Easter everyone made a stuffed bunny and the remaining classes were used to finish outstanding projects.

They are hoping numbers will increase in September 2022 as things begin to get back to normality. The facilitation of these classes is hugely important as it encourages these mostly elderly participants to come out of isolation - thus addressing issues associated with post-Covid lock downs and restrictions. They thoroughly enjoy the classes engaging both socially and mentally with others.

Holywood Resettlement Group

Holywood Resettlement Group was formed in October 2021 in response to the Afghan refugee crisis prompted by the withdrawal of American and British troops from Afghanistan in the summer of 2021. The group aimed to engage with the Home Office's Community Sponsorship scheme, whereby community groups can organise to welcome a refugee family to their community. The scheme operates across the UK, but so far only one group has resettled a (Syrian) refugee family in Northern Ireland, in Whitehead. The refugee family is identified by the Home Office and UNHCR, having been given the right to remain in UK and to work and receive benefits. The scheme involves fundraising, finding a house to rent for 2 years, providing interpreters, and helping with resettlement including with English language, schools, employment, and transport. Community Sponsorship groups work with a lead sponsor charity and Holywood Shared Town Board discussed the proposal and decided that this activity was very much within its ethos.

In the ensuing 6 months the group was formed, with approximately 20 people from Holywood interested in contributing their time and skills and enthusiasm. In regular meetings and by email, we shared out the tasks, prepared a leaflet and a piece for the website, engaged with the training available from RESET (a charity supporting community sponsorship groups across the UK), contacted other charities and services involved with refugees or people in need in NI, set up a "Localgiving" fundraising site, and prepared the application form for the Home Office. The application first needs to be approved by the (NI) Executive Office so Holywood Shared Town and Holywood Resettlement Group met with them at the end of January 2022, along with an Ormeau Rd group who are another community sponsorship group starting this journey with us. The Executive Office indicated their full support for us to go ahead and submit our provisional application form, which we aimed to submit by the beginning of April.



Behnam at the concert playing the Santoor

In March a concert was organised: a collaboration between Creative Holywood and the Resettlement Group (an example of the cross-linkages possible between different projects and activities of Holywood Shared Town) linking up with Beyond Skin, an NI charity which has been working with refugee musicians and with musicians across the world including in Afghanistan. The concert, held in Holywood Yacht Club, was well attended and included a number of newcomers in NI currently living in hotels awaiting refugee status. We look forward to further events of this nature to enrich the culture of Holywood.

Fencing Club

The fencing club was set up because, due to COVID restrictions, the local school Sullivan Upper could no longer host the club. In order to continue practicing HST established the fencers as an activity group who trained in Redburn Community Centre. While it was running two training nights took place each week, one for the under 18 juniors and another for the veterans.

At least in part because they were thus able to continue to practice three of the Redburn fencing club members have been selected to fence for Northern Ireland this summer in the Commonwealth Fencing Championships in London - which is an amazing accolade for the club and the fencers concerned.



Fencing Club members at the Irish Open in November 2021 at Derry

PROJECT ACTIVITY: Enhancing Holywood

Creative Holywood: a programme of creative and cultural activity

The restrictions that accompanied the Covid pandemic meant that our activities across much of this year were significantly curtailed. At the end of 2021 HST commissioned a dance-based film called *Entity | Spéirbhean*, in collaboration with Quotidian Word on the Street. It was written by the distinguished multi award-winning author, Myra Zepf (in Irish, with translation), The choreography was by the young emerging artist Clara Kerr who also danced in the piece. Jo Guthrie, the award-winning director and designer, directed and edited the piece. It was set to a new musical score composed by saxophonist Dafydd

Williams. With a cast of women and girls aged 8 to 80, the film illustrated how women of all ages can rejoice in the lifecycle of their bodies.

Following the lifting of Covid restrictions, *Entity | Spéirbhean* received its first public screening in Holywood in September 2021with two sell-out shows which were companied by a beautiful exhibition by the production's stills photographer, Macy Stewart. It was supported by The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland through the Community Arts, Culture & Heritage Fund; The Department for Communities, as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge; and Ards and North Down Borough Council.



Clara Kerr, choreographer & dancer, Entity | Spéirbhean - Photography, Macy Stewart

The Creative Holywood Festival took place across two weeks in March 2022. Its programme included a classical concert with the Ona Trio (piano, French horn and soprano) featuring the local up-and-coming opera singer Anna Gregg; Trú (a trio in a folk/traditional fusion who were shortlisted for this year's NI Album of the year); a dance performance with professional dancers and choreographers along with the Aisling School of Irish Dance that featured a new piece in collaboration with musician/composer Neil Martin; a concert given by international refugee musicians (in conjunction with the Holywood Resettlement Group – see above); and a jazz performance with local musicians, Linley Hamilton and Kyron Bourke. There were also two talks, Dave Kane & Brian Rowan in conversation with Mark Simpson; and a coffee tasting event.



Anna Gregg, soprano. A member of the Ona Trio at the Creative Holywood Festival.

Heritage Actions: helping to preserve, restore and/or appreciate Holywood's historic and natural heritage

During the year Holywood Shared Town continued to work on a number of initiatives which aimed to help to develop, care for and increase people's use, appreciation and/or enjoyment of Holywood's historic and natural heritage.

Dunville family history

In the previous year's annual report, an account was given on the very successful project to bring to life the history of the Dunville family at the former Redburn House. The project was facilitated through a community heritage grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It was completed in spring/early summer 2021, with the distribution of the updated community guides, and some of the DVDs of the film which contained recollections of descendants of those who had worked on the estate in the pre-war period, as well as many historic photographs and some unique film footage. Copies of the booklets and the DVDs are available in Holywood Library. A number of colourful information panels displaying the history were erected at locations close to the historic Redburn House Stableyard. The film, entitled *Redburn House and the Dunville Family*, can be viewed at this link: (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHBD4KMOfgs&feature=youtu.be).

Developing the Dunville Community Garden

The Community Garden is part of the old Dunville Family Kitchen Garden in their estate at Redburn House. It currently extends to circa 1 acre. Holywood Shared Town obtained a licence from the NIEA to develop it as a community garden for the benefit of all. It had lain largely untended since the 1940s and has been overgrown by trees, brambles and the like. During the early autumn of 2021 members of Holywood Men's Shed were able to begin a clearance of the garden and discovered a number previously undetected paths lying below ground level and the old ornamental pond – shown in early photographs of the garden.

Holywood Shared Town made an application to the Department for Infrastructure Living Places and Spaces Fund for money for materials and some machinery hire to take the work forward. We were delighted to learn in late March 22 that we had been successful in this bid for £10,000, which will make all the difference in allowing this work to move forward in the year ahead.

Through Social Farms and Gardens we received a total of £500 (two separate awards) towards a volunteer taster day on 19 March and the purchase of heritage fruit trees and bushes. We had a good turn out on the day with around 15 people attending, some of whom have expressed an interest in becoming long term volunteers. We were able to plant 10 apple and pear trees on the day and have some other trees and bushes still to plant. We continued with path clearing and barrowing bricks as part of the taster day. We then registered with Volunteer Now and have signed up 4 volunteers for the Dunville garden. It is hoped to work with these volunteers, along with the Conservation Volunteers (TCV), to further the forest garden plan kindly drawn up by Sacha Workman. The aim is to have at least weekly work sessions in the garden on Saturday mornings until we build up a "head of steam" and get even more people enthused.

We are always open to volunteers, regardless of ability and time that can be spared, it is a case of every little helps. We will supply training and equipment. We are keen that the local community takes ownership of the garden and has a real say in its development and maintenance.



Volunteers hard at work in the Dunville Community Garden on the Taster Day

Fiddle Field

Councils and Government departments across the UK are rethinking the role of parks and open spaces, especially given the escalating importance of our food security in the light of problems arising through issues such as Covid, Brexit, war and our climate crisis. Holywood Shared Town has continued work across the year on the development of allotments and community growing activity at Fiddle Field.

A public consultation has been undertaken and completed by Social Farms and Gardens and its findings and recommendations are due to be published. In short, the large majority of people welcomed the development of the site. There were also some concerns aired which have been taken into account in the reviewing and redesigning of the proposed site.

We are pleased that both the NI Environment Agency and Ards and North Down Borough Council are committed to their partnership in the project and whilst it is by its nature a slow, step-by-step process, we hope that it will proceed successfully over the coming year. We are sure that, as many others have proven, the establishing of allotments and the community management of food growing at Fiddle Field would bring many benefits and contribute to our community's health, and wellbeing.

Towards a Community Orchard

During the year, members of Holywood Shared Town were approached by Council officers to discuss potential locations for the establishment of the community Orchard in the town. The Council is looking to create a number of such orchards across the Borough, and HST would see Holywood as a good location for one. Discussions were continuing at the end of the reporting period.

Parks and green spaces

Holywood Shared Town has continued to liaise with Ards and North Down Borough Council about the management of Holywood's green spaces such as Ballymenoch and Glenlyon parks. An on-site meeting took place in Ballymenoch Park and a strategic plan for the management of the park has been promised. HST members also arranged a meeting with the consultant conducting the Borough Biodiversity action plan for the Council, along with Parks and Cemeteries officers. A constructive discussion took place, but the draft plan on which there was to be further public consultations is still awaited.

Holywood Walks

The idea of promoting walks in and around Holywood came from a discussion at our AGM 2020. Local walkers Charlie and Rachel Reid were approached about setting up a website to advertise these walks. They soon had a website called www.holywoodwalks.org established. Its purpose is to promote, develop and expand the walking routes in and around Holywood.

Fairly quickly five local walks were written up in some detail with maps explaining the routes, photographs, risk assessments, plus providing points of local history and environmental interest. The first five walks are King John's Progress, Greenways of Cultra, Kinnegar Wetlands, Postman's Walk and Urban Heights. There were no new walks added in 2021/22 but we are always open to ideas or for people to write up walks for potential inclusion. However the Kinnegar Wetlands Walk has been updated to recognise the very much appreciated drop kerbs installed at the Kinnegar Camp security barrier.

These are supplemented with Walks near Holywood (borrowed from Grand Day Out NI) and, in addition it has been possible to include other interesting information about places in Holywood, including Holywood Old Priory, Holywood Library / Old Sullivan Schools, the Old School House, St Colmcille's Church, the Parish Church of St Philip and St James and the Queen's Hall/Leisure Complex – plus Redburn Country Park, Seapark, Ballymenoch Park, Glenlyon Park and Holywood Nature Park.

Caring for our climate

At the end of the previous year Holywood Shared Town had published a report which explained how people in the Holywood area contribute to the climate crisis. It took a close look at the kinds of choices and decisions we make about what food we eat, how we move around, what we build and what we do with our land – in short, how we live. Following that, in 2021-22 Holywood Shared Town helped in a number of initiatives which aimed to enhance that awareness and/or encourage the adoption of more climate friendly approaches - while also being in keeping with other activities. For instance:

Men's Shed climate charter

We developed a Climate Charter with the Men's Shed to encourage recycling, reusing, energy conservation - and having a green champion.

"Growing Food Growing Community"

In the knowledge that food production can contribute significantly to our carbon footprint at the end of November 2021, Holywood Shared Town held the first stage of the "Growing Food Growing Community" project. This is a collaboration between Holywood Shared Town (HST), Holywood Transition Town (HTT), and Derry City & Strabane District Council (DCSDC) and is funded by the Community Foundation NI's Civic Innovation programme.

In the partnership Derry provides a top-down approach as they are a council and Holywood with the two-community groups has a bottom-up approach. Before we decided to work together, Derry was focused on the sociology of food, and Holywood was focused on Democracy and Climate Change, after much discussion and attending various workshops through the Community Foundation NI we settled on a joint project on, "Growing Food Growing Community". We want to strengthen the relationships between councils and communities and investigate how we can create change according to local priorities in food. How we produce, distribute, and consume our food has a significant impact on climate, living things, and the ecosystem.





Stage 1 has been about local people's opinions, wishes, and concerns. Local opinion is important to the group and will form how local food initiatives are shaped. The findings from that will feed into stage 2 which will be a much larger event with local people, experts, and representatives from the food and farming sector. Stage 3 will involve study visits, a response group between ANDBC and HST/HTT and developing a food charter with the aim of having some actual food initiatives in Holywood based on our discussions.

OTHER ACTIONS:

Children and Young People

Holywood Shared Town facilitates a network of agencies and groups who work locally with children and young people to help assess needs and develop opportunities and services in a strategic, joined-up way. The Network met three times by Zoom during 2021/22. It includes representatives from schools, youth organisations, churches, Street Pastors and PSNI. The Network is open to all who work with or have a policy interest in children.

Each meeting allows representatives to report what they have been doing or are planning to do. This helps reduce duplication and offers opportunities for synergies and partnership working. A number of emerging issues were identified by organisations which particularly impact on old teenagers and young adults. Mental health and self-harming were a growing issue; it was felt that we might be seeing the beginning of a wave exacerbated by the Covid pandemic.

For those 18-19 years old poverty was a real concern for many. Some could not afford food and to pay utility bills. A key issue was how we support such young people to ensure their basic needs are met and they are given support in accessing help and opportunities.

Walking for Health Group

Health Walks are intended to target people who are inactive or who do not take recommended levels of physical activity in order to benefit their health. A health walk is a purposeful, brisk walk undertaken on a regular basis. It has been shown to have many health benefits. Walking has been described as a near-perfect exercise:

- It is free and you do not need any special equipment. It is accessible, regardless of age, income and location.
- It is within the physical capabilities of most people and is a realistic goal for inactive people. It is easy to start, build up gradually and continue long-term.
- It combines the physical benefits of activity with an opportunity for social contact and support.

Holywood Shared Town decided to set up a Walking for Health Group which would be inclusive and open to all. With training and support from the Health Development Department of the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust we established a group which meets at the Maypole Bar corner in High Street in Holywood at 11am each Wednesday morning. The walk uses varied routes and lasts for about an hour. After that, group members have the option of going for a cup of coffee together.

Since the beginning of June 21 we have had a total of 38 walks, with 160 participants in total during that period. Numbers have steadily built up and now a typical attendance is between 12-15 walkers each week and more than 25 people registered. There is a regular statistical return and evaluation every 6 months to the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust. Bill Lockhart also attends any online training for walk leaders and receives updates on walk related issues, such as Covid guidance, etc.



The Walking for Health Group in Redburn Country Park

The vast majority of walkers come from a Holywood background and are interested in local history and reminiscing. Some have gone to primary school together and are catching up with each other. The majority are over 60 but there are several younger members who attend regularly. Social background is diverse. Feedback from the group has been good and, to date, no sessions have been missed due to adverse weather. More recently the group has become a bit more ambitious and has walked in Redburn Country Park and plans to "spread its wings" a little soon. Everyone is welcome and its free!

Sport

Our work in the area of sport has continued 'behind the scenes'. We have kept up our efforts to see that good quality sports facilities are available for all members of our community. Our role in helping the many Holywood sports clubs to avail of the best possible amenities will continue across the coming year.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND BENEFIT DELIVERED

The activity reports above indicate not only what HST did during the year but also why. Therefore HST's main achievement has been to continue to develop and enhance its contribution to Holywood, and the surrounding area, in accordance with its purpose and vision. The following table indicates how the key activities contributed to HST's objectives and therefore how they helped it to continue to deliver its projected public benefit.

HST's objectives	The year's activities – and their contributions
A safe and welcoming place for people to live, learn, work, socialise, raise children and do business	Holywood Shared Town's various activities have delivered a variety of community benefits. For instance the Men's Shed outreach work has continued to build community links, Patchwork has continued to provide social interchange and interest for people who might otherwise feel quite isolated and the Resettlement Group are preparing a Holywood welcome for refugees.
A place of high quality of life supported by a strong community and local economy	Holywood Shared Town's continuing initiatives, such as the climate crisis work and Growing Food Growing Community, have helped to build a better quality of community life
A place with a vibrant cultural scene and attractive physical appearance	Holywood Shared Town continues to programme a calendar of arts events and activities. These range from the commissioning of new work, such as the dance-based piece, <i>Entity Spéirbhean</i> to evening talks with Brian Rowen and Dave Kane. The Creative Holywood Festival in March brings a range of events over two weeks that this year drew full houses.
projection opposition	Also the work on the parks and the Redburn woods and the walking guides and group has continued to highlight and to stimulate the maintenance and enjoyment of Holywood's green spaces.
A place characterised by respect for difference and pride in the locality's history and built and natural heritage and environment	Projects such as those of the Men's Shed, operating from the old stable yard at Redburn, Dunville Digital and its history of Redburn House, the work on the Dunville Garden, the Fiddle Field developments, Holywood walks and others have all contributed to an appreciation of aspects of Holywood's environment and heritage.

ACCOUNTS AND RESERVES POLICY

Holywood Shared Town's accounts for the year are attached which show the charity's financial position. They indicate that, at the end of the year, the charity had funds of £13.603. Of this £150 was reserved for specific activities, having been raised for those purposes, which left unallocated reserves of £13,453. HST's policy is to ensure that it has enough reserves to cover contingencies such as having to close the company. However, as it has no outstanding liabilities and no staff with redundancy commitments, its obligations in such an eventuality would be minimal.

GOVERNANCE AND FUTURE PLANS

Holywood Shared Town's Board of Directors confirms that in its governance of the company it has had due regard to the Commission's guidance and its public benefit requirement.

The Board also confirms that Holywood Shared Town's future plans are to continue, as far as possible and as deemed appropriate, to deliver its service to Holywood and district and in particular to further its current projects and support its activity member groups.

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO THE EXAMINER

We, the directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of the Financial Statements as set out below and confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

- there is no relevant accounting information of which the company's auditors/examiners are unaware; and
- we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant accounting information and to establish that the company's examiners are aware of that information.

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, we also approve the strategic indications included therein, in our capacity as company directors.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Finally the Directors would like to thank all those who helped them in all their various endeavours. The activities reported above could not have been done without their assistance.

Date: 20th September 2022

On behalf of the board

Nicola Murphy

Chair of Holywood Shared Town Board of Directors

Holywood Shared Town

Accounts 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Cash Flow 1 Apr 2021 to 31 Mar 2022

		Notes	Amount
Brought forward: (from 2020-2021)			£8,109.53
Income:	Grants due for previous year's activity		£546.75
	Invoices due at start of year		0
	Grants paid for current year's activity	(1)	£10,109.60
	Donations and gift aid repayment	(2)	£12,632.17
	Other income (including activity membership)	(3) & (4) £1,220.00
			£24,508.52
Expendit	ure: On activities and projects	(5) & (6)	£20,795.71
	On administration	(7)	£1,184.17
			£21,979.88
Change in cash on hand and in bank:			£2,528.64
Carried for	orward: (to 2022-2023)		£10,638.17

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities 1 Apr 21 to 31 Mar 22

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds 2020-21
Incoming resources					
Grants	(1)		£11,349.60	£11,349.60	£37,160.00
Donations (inc gift aid)	(2)	£12,632.17		£12,632.17	£2,267.25
Activity membership	(3)	£1,220.00		£1,220.00	£48.00
Total Income		£13,852.17	£11,349.60	£25,201.77	£39,475.25
Resources expended					
On charitable activities:					
Grant repaid			£137.00	£137.00	0
Activities	(5)	£4,679.55	£5,515.43	£10,194.98	£6,538.56
Projects	(6)	£2,576.03	£6,163.00	£8,739.03	£30,697.26
Administration	(7)	0	£1,184.17	£1,184.17	£919.70
Total Expenditure		£7,255.58	£12,999.60	£20,255.18	£38,155.52
Net movement in funds		£6,596.59	-£1,650.00	£4,946.59	£1,866.48
Total funds brought forward		£6,856.28	£1,800.00	£8,656.28	£6,789.80
Total funds carried forward		£13,452.87	£150.00	£13,602.87	£8,656.28

Balance Shee	<u>et</u>	Note	at 31 Mar 22	at 1 Apr 21
Fixed assets				
	Men's Shed machinery	(8)	£1,724.70	0
Current Assets				
	Cash on hand (Men's She	d petty cash)	£201.42	£162.01
	Cash in Bank		£10,436.75	£7,947.52
	Debtors	(9)	£1,240.00	£546.75
			£11,878.17	£8,656.28
Creditors/Liabil	ities	(10)	£0.00	£0.00
Net Assets			£13,602.87	£8,656.28
Funds				
At start of ye	ear		£8,656.28	£6,789.80
Net increase	e/(decrease)		£4,946.59	£1,866.48
Funds at end	of year	(11)	£13,602.87	£8,656.28

For the year ending 31 March 2022 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. Further:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476, and
- The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

To the best of our knowledge these financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and also comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 2nd August 2022, and are signed on behalf of the board of Holywood Shared Town by:

SN Bridge

Nicola Murphy, Chair

Simon Bridge, Treasurer

Notes

1) Grant Income.

During the year the debts of £306.75 for the balance of the 2020-21 Community Development grant and £240.00 balance of the ANDBC Covid-19 relief SLA were received.

Also during the year the following grants were awarded and claimed:

ANDBC Community Development grant (80%)	£2,400.00
ANDBC Community Festival grant (80%)	£2,560.00
Community Foundation NI grant for Men's Shed repair and	
maintenance	£1,788.00
Live Here Love Here grant for Men's Shed Enchanted Garden	£2,500.00
DAERA grant for the Men's Shed	£411.60
Soil Association grant for the Men's Shed	£150.00

£10,109.60

£300.00

At the end of the year to following grant balances were due:

Social Farms and Gardens microgrant for Dunville Garden

The balance claimable from the Community Development grant £600.00

The balance claimable from the Community Festival grant £640.00

£1,240.00

Total £11,349.60

2) Donations and Contributions.

During the year the following donations were received:

Men's Shed	£6,699.96
Resettlement	£1,633.21
Fencing	£1,160.50
Creative Holywood	£2,733.49
Dunville Garden	£200.00
General	£205.01
Total	£12,632.17

3) Activity Membership(s).

Patchwork membership	£300.00
Men's Shed membership	£920.00
Total	£1.220.00

4) Other Income. There was no other income this year.

5) Activities.

Holywood Shared Town has a class of Activity Member so that it can assist particular groups who would struggle to incorporate and/or seek charity registration as separate entities. Currently the Patchwork, the Holywood Men's Shed, the Fencing class and the Resettlement Group are such activity membership groups and are accounted for as separate cost centres. Their income is recorded in the notes above and their costs are indicated in the following notes:

Patchwork – Patchwork had room hire and tutoring costs of £645 and room hire cost were paid from the Community Development grant.

Men's Shed – During the year the Men's Shed incurred costs of £10,048.68 for the following:

Power, heat and light £378.85
Insurance £806.11
Catering £299.17
Project costs (including the enchanted garden) £5,761.58

Fencing – The fencing group incurred costs of £1,110 for coaching and room hire and the participants contributed £1,165.50 – leaving a balance of £50.50.

Resettlement – The resettlement group raised £1,633.21 during the year and had costs of £176.

6) Projects.

During the year Holywood Shared Town carried out the following projects:

Live Here Love Here – The Men's Shed obtained a further Live Here Love Here grant of £2,500 from Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful. This was for additional work on the Enchanted Community Garden and the eco-learning space. the project was completed during the year.

Creative Holywood – Creative Holywood was awarded a Community Festival grant of £2,560 (80%) from ANDBC for its programme of activities and also used the project portion of the Community Development grant (£800 - 80%) for the community aspects of its March programme of activities.

Green Spaces – During the year there was continuing liaison with NIEA and ANDBC on the allotments proposed for the Fiddle Field area of Redburn. However the only costs incurred amounted to £90.10 for eco-seeds and a consultation meeting.

Holywood Fund – During the year there was no further activity for the Holywood Fund and a £5 donation – leaving £305 still available.

Dunville Digital – A project to produce a digital record of pictures and reminiscences of Redburn House and the Dunville family was started in 2020/21 and completed in this year. There was an underspend of £137 so this was returned to Heritage Lottery.

Dunville Garden – Work started to restore the Dunville garden at Redburn. £500 in grants and service payments was obtained to start this and £499.01 expended during the year.

7) Administration.

Apart from its identified activities and projects, Holywood Shared Town incurred the following administrative costs – which were covered by the ANDBC Community Development Grant.

Accounts checks	£36.00
Insurance	£916.00
Other expenses	£232.37
Total	£1,184.37

8) Fixed Assets.

During the year the Men's Shed purchased a cobra multi-tool, a chain saw, a band saw, a scroll saw and a router for a total of £1,724.70.

9) Debtors.

At the end of the year the following balances of grant payments were due:

The remaining portion of the ANDBC Community Development grant	£600.00
The remaining portion of the ANDBC Community Festival grant	£640.00

10) Liabilities.

At the end of the year Holywood Shared Town had paid all its debts and had no outstanding creditors/liabilities.

11) Allocation of Funds.

At the end of the year Holywood Shared Town's funds included some amounts it has allocated as designated for specific activities or projects:

For the Men's Shed (including petty cash of £201.42	
and machines of £1724.70)	£7,336.71
For Patchwork	£340.94
For the Resettlement Group	£1,457.21
For Fencing	£50.50
For Creative Holywood	£1,557.27
For Green Spaces	£141.76
For the Dunville Garden	£0.99
For the Holywood Fund	£305.00
	£11,190.38
Unallocated – and therefore in reserve	£2,412.49
Total	£13,602.87

12) Trustee Remuneration and Expenses.

One trustee received fees of £220 for a specialist service which needed to be delivered quickly and was charged at what was judged to be a proper and reasonable level.

Five trustees received expenses totalling £2,191.87 between then for credit card or cash purchases they made on behalf of the charity in circumstances where payment by cheque or on-line bank transfer was not practical.

13) Reserves.

HST's policy is to ensure that it has enough reserves to cover contingencies such as having to close the company. However, as it has no outstanding liabilities and no staff with redundancy commitments, its obligations in such an eventuality would be minimal. Therefore the main concern is being able to undertake projects where some of the funding is only paid in arrears – and this is monitored on a continuing basis.

14) Independent Accounts Examination.

As indicated above in Note 7 the fees paid for the independent examination of the accounts were £36.00.



NORTH DOWN COMMUNITY NETWORK

Charity Registration: XR37170

Company Number: NI050662

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Holywood Shared Town.

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2022, as 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 (NI) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- · examine the accounts under section 62 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 NI 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 of the accounts of the **Holywood Shared Town** and have no concerned in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission NI, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Maeve Killingbeck – Independent Examiner

For and on behalf of North Down Community Network

20th July 2022

Supported by:









