

FEDERATION FOR ULSTER LOCAL STUDIES

AGM 2021

Trustees Report and Financial Statement 2020 – 2021

Trustees Report - Secretary's statement

The Trustees' Report and Financial Statement is one of two matters required by Companies House to be laid before the AGM, the other being the election of the Officers and Executive Committee.

Originally the Federation held its AGM in June but that changed to November when we lost government support and had to depend on volunteers to manage the Company. Because of the long period between June and November we now provide an 'in-year' update on activities and finance, a sort of mid-year state of play. They are for information only and do not need delegates' approval.

The Report reflects the impact of the Covid-19 epidemic that impacted the whole of the 2021-2022 period and since. All member Societies suspended their activities; all meetings and events cancelled. The Executive Committee also ceased regular activities, including planned Seminars and joint events with the Southern Federation. By the end of the year a handful of Societies were experimenting with virtual meetings and lectures. The Executive Committee resumed limited activities in October 2020 with virtual meetings using Zoom, holding five monthly meetings between October and March.

The Annual General Meeting was not possible, so the Executive Committee agreed to ask the members to approve the re-election of the existing Officers and Executive Committee, to approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Report and the Trustee's Report and Statement of Accounts for the 2019-2020 Financial Year. The recommendations were approved by 23 of the Societies

who also authorised the Executive Committee to re-appoint the existing Financial Examiner for the 2021 – 2022 Financial year.

Although little planning was possible, we continued to cooperate with government and voluntary where feasible e.g. virtual meetings with the Southern Federation on joint on-line seminars and joint visits when the restrictions eased.

We launched a new website with improved features.

The Executive Committee's primary objective was, and remains, to preserve the essential services needed for us all to return to as near normal historical activities as soon as possible

Pat Devlin

13 November 2021