

# Belfast Charitable Society (Incorporated 1774)

## PRESIDENT

Sir Ronald Weatherup  
(elected January 2018)

## BOARD MEMBERS

(1 October 2017 to 30 September 2018)

	Originally Elected to Board	<b>BOARD:</b>	Originally Elected to Board
<b>OFFICE-BEARERS</b>			
<b>Chairman:</b>		Ms D Graham	2010
Mr D Watters	2011	Mrs S Ferguson (resigned July 2018)	2014
<b>Hon Secretary:</b>		Mr A Money Penny	2014
Mrs U Macauley	2012	Mr C Graham	2014
<b>Hon Treasurer:</b>		Mr A Maitland (resigned May 2018)	2015
Mr W Osborne	2010	Mr N Harkness (co-opted May 2018)	
		Mrs N Sinte (co-opted July 2018)	

## MANAGEMENT TEAM

**Chief Executive Officer** – Ms Paula Reynolds (Responsible Person to June 2018)

**Homes Manager** – Mrs Frances McKernon (Residential Home transferred to Radius Housing at 31 March 2018)

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC104998





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# Chair's Report



David Watters

I am delighted to present my report for the year 2017/18 for Belfast Charitable Society and its subsidiaries, Clifton Care Home and Clifton House Centre.

In January the AGM welcomed our new President, Sir Ronald Weatherup, into the Society. His commitment to and interest in the Society are already evident and much appreciated.

This was another year of transformation and change. In March we transferred the delivery of our Residential Care Services back to Radius Housing. Much work was completed to ensure residents, their families and staff were fully consulted and content and on 31 March 2018 the transfer was seamless.

The Society released its final grant payment to Northern Ireland Hospice in April, enabling the Hospice to change how it delivers its services to best meet the needs of its patients and service commissioners within an ever changing environment.

We continued to work with key partnerships to benefit and transform the lives of those affected by social and economic disadvantage, through our Barbour Fund and

the Building Better Futures Fund. The uptake and success of the latter has been overwhelming and almost all of the £1 million BBF fund had been approved in small grants by the end of September.

We secured funding from Heritage Lottery Fund through its Great Places Scheme to help us take forward our regeneration effort in the local area. Working with the North Belfast Heritage Cluster we hope to improve economic regeneration, physical infrastructure, community opportunities, learning and the image of the area.

We continue to share the story of philanthropy, social reform and the need to assist those less fortunate through the talks and tours delivered by Clifton House Heritage Centre. We remind people about all that has been done to address disadvantage in the past and how this work is still needed today.

In conclusion, I want to thank all those involved in this busy year: the Trustees and Directors for their time and commitment, Paula's staff team, and Frances and her team in the Residential Home.

I commend to you this report for the year.



# Treasurer's Report



Bill Osborne

As Treasurer, I am pleased to present the highlights of the financial statements for the year ending 30 September 2018 on the three sets of accounts and note the improvements in financial governance, management and operations across all three.

In March the Society transferred the delivery of the Residential Home services back to Radius Housing due to its risk for the voluntary management board and the charity itself. Therefore I present Clifton Care Home's audited accounts for a six month period. The company made a surplus of £35,159 in the period demonstrating continued financial improvements, while continuing to deliver high quality care services. The accounts are audited and unqualified.

Clifton House Centre Limited, which we set up to manage the Heritage Centre as a conference venue and visitor attraction, and ultimately create another income stream for the charity, continued to make a small surplus. The Society used this revenue to ensure the need for addressing disadvantage and philanthropy is as relevant today as it has been since 1752.

This is significant as the activities and expenditure of the company have changed so much in recent years. The company now supports five posts (two of the postholders are from the local area) and all of the costs associated with running this venue, hosting tours and developing the archive. In summary, the auditors have given it a clean audit report.

The investment portfolios performed well with the total value increasing by almost £14,107.

The Pension Scheme liability continued to exercise the Board's time and thoughts; we have been in direct liaison with NILGOSC and appointed an independent expert advisor to assist our decision-making. Discussions with NILGOSC are ongoing.

In summation, the Belfast Charitable Society (BCS) accounts are audited and unqualified. The Accounts will be presented to the AGM.



# CEO's Report

This past year has been another busy one and I am grateful to the staff and volunteers who continue to work tirelessly to deliver a wide range of services to a very high standard.

We were sorry to transfer the running of the Residential Home to Radius Housing and to break the ties with the residents and staff. The Home has been such an important part of what we had done for so long. However we appreciate that direct care provision brings an unacceptable level of risk to the Charity and in this day and age is best delivered by those with the sole focus of care.

I am proud and delighted with the overall output and effect of our work across the year. I am conscious that we are a small team but through a handful of robust working partnerships, we have been able to make substantial social and economic impact in areas of disadvantage.

I am grateful to the Board with the mix of skills, expertise and experience they bring to help guide the work of the Society. They too feel great pride and responsibility in moving this 266 year old organisation forward while always ensuring we meet our objects and further our charitable purposes for public benefit by delivering:



Paula Reynolds

- relief to those in need by reason of disadvantage, including age and ill health;
- advancement of education by promoting, sustaining and increasing individual and collective knowledge and understanding of the history of the Charity and its influence on the development of Belfast.

This work is guided by our Strategic Plan, 'Making our Past our Future', which was revised in May 2018.

The following report summarises much of what was achieved in the year and hopefully gives a flavour of the new and exciting activities to come.

In preparing this report, the Belfast Charitable Society's Board gave due regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on Public Benefit and annual reporting.

# Activities and Achievements

## *Aim 1 - To lead and influence how philanthropy is developed and delivered - Belfast Charitable Society :*

- Continued to support the Building Better Futures Fund, in partnership with the Building Change Trust and Ulster Community Investment Trust to enable small organisations within the community, voluntary and social economy sectors to access small unsecured loans to work directly at the grassroots level to address social and economic disadvantage.
- Supported people, through the Barbour Fund, from disadvantaged parts of North Belfast and Lisburn to improve their employability through bursaries and direct employment related training, and to reduce the isolation felt by older people through provision of funded activities. It also provided educational resources for young people suffering from life-threatening or terminal illnesses.
- Grant-aided the NI Hospice for the final year of a three year revenue programme to enable it to help those suffering from ill health and those who required palliative care by transforming its service delivery to more accurately reflect the current needs of its commissioning bodies.
- Supported the work of others including the NI Trust Group, the Association of Charitable Foundations and the Institute of Fundraising in facilitating discussion about how best to deliver, encourage and influence philanthropy.

- Continued to chair and support the North Belfast Heritage Cluster, a group of heritage organisations using their assets to help regenerate one of the most deprived parts of Belfast.
- Was successful, as the lead partner, in bidding for a three year grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund Great Place Scheme. It has committed to cover 10% of the costs associated with this project which involves 14 other local heritage-led, asset-owning voluntary organisations. The Scheme centres on using these organisations' assets and histories to create a broader catalyst for regeneration.



Building Better Futures Fund – Healthy Kidz Programme

*Aim 2 - To preserve and promote the heritage of the Society; to inform, educate and entertain; to address disadvantage; to profile the Society's work; and to keep the message of the need for philanthropy alive today.*

Key activities and achievements include:

- Clifton House Centre Ltd delivered 135 tours to around 1,800 members of the general public and to historical and community and voluntary sector groups. External talks reached over 600 additional individuals.
- A series of lectures on the Decade of Centenaries was delivered over a six week period by renowned and respected local historians.
- Support of the conservation and safeguarding of the Society's Archive, dating back 266 years. A comprehensive conservation plan and associated policies and procedures were put in place and accreditation of same began.
- Social media coverage in the year increased to 2,238 Facebook Likes, 1,023 followers on Twitter and 117 followers on Instagram (commenced in May 2018).
- The development of working relationships with Tourism NI, Visit Belfast, Institute of Tourguiding, Belfast City Council, Heritage Lottery Fund and local history groups including NI Family History Society.
- The hiring out of the venue to host over 110 events ranging from meetings, presentations, training sessions and conferences. Regular clients included Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Northern Ireland Environment Link,

Royal Society of Ulster Architects, Department for the Economy and Ulster Community Investment Trust.



Presentation on the Life and Times of Mary Ann McCracken and her relevance today – July 2018



Plots and Plotters Tour (1798 Rebellion) – Easter 2018

Other strategic heritage work included:

- Enabling the local community to tell their story through a HLF (Heritage Lottery Fund) Our Heritage grant programme which funded the purchase of museum quality display cases.
- Ongoing development of a 'White Badge' tour guiding training programme, the first in Northern Ireland which will provide employment opportunities for members of the local community.



*Launch of HLF Great Place North Belfast project*

From left: Pleasance Perry, Society of Friends, Paula Reynolds, CEO of Belfast Charitable Society and Angelina Fusco, NI Trustee, Heritage Lottery Fund

***Aim 3 - To continue to deliver high quality residential care services for older people and to determine the future of the Residential Home.***

The Society continued to manage the 27 bed residential home until the end of March 2018. This was delivered through its charitable company, Clifton Care Home Limited. The associated service agreement ended and reverted back to Radius Housing which had been the principal agent on the joint management agreement. The Society now facilitates the delivery of care through its physical assets as opposed to hands-on delivery. It also leases its buildings to Runwood Homes to enable the delivery of nursing care in the area. Key activities and achievements included:

- One RQIA Care Inspection was carried out with only minor areas for improvement. The report overall commented on the high standard of the Home and care provided by the staff.
- The delivery of an extensive programme of activities organised to meet the social and physical needs of residents. These included weekly arts and crafts, Bingo sessions, musical entertainment, weekly outings and movie nights. Fortnightly events included reminiscence sessions and cookery classes.
- 99% occupancy was maintained throughout the period with a constant waiting list for admission.

- A refurbishment programme was completed on all bedrooms and communal areas.
- All policies and procedures were updated within the period prior to transfer.
- All staff completed a full programme of mandatory and site specific training.
- Full consultation carried out with staff, residents and families, stakeholders including RQIA, Heath and Social Care Trusts, Charity Commission Northern Ireland and suppliers prior to transfer.
- The final financial reconciliation was completed and residual funds transferred to the Society for restricted use for older people's projects.



Trinity College school choir singing for the residents during the festive period

***Aim 4 – To develop a creative, sustainable and robust organisation focused on tackling disadvantage and poverty.***

- Governance was effective and robust.
- Business Implementation Plan for Clifton House Centre was drafted.
- The Board revisited its Strategic Plan in May 2018 and a new strategic aim was introduced focused on the creation of the Mary Ann McCracken Foundation. This will reimagine her work with the poor and disadvantaged in today's society.
- All financial reporting and monitoring were completed on time and reported as appropriate including to the Audit and Risk Committee.
- The monitoring and evaluation of Building Better Futures Fund loans and Barbour Fund were undertaken to ensure they are having an impact on tackling disadvantage.
- All internal support was completed in terms of administration, finance, marketing and HR to enable the delivery of the Operational Plan.
- Development of an accredited training programme which was promoted in the local area to recruit a pool of trained volunteers.

In conclusion, all of the above activities enable the delivery of the Society's Mission and bring it a step closer to achieve its Vision. Significantly they demonstrate how the Society remains true to the 'objects' of its founding members and modernised Acts of Parliament in pursuing charitable activities which advance the interests of those we consider to be disadvantaged.

# Stakeholder Comments

## Conference Clients

*A huge thank you from all of us at Oak Foundation for making our meetings at Clifton House last week such a great success. The attention to detail and support with organising everything, from the IT and setting up the rooms, the terrific catering, recommending such a great tour guide, the wonderful introduction, and your kind staff being on hand to provide such a warm welcome and support throughout our time with you was very much appreciated. It was a pleasure to be hosted by you, and we want to pass on our thanks to everyone who contributed to making that possible. We look forward to visiting Clifton House again, and recommending it to our partners.*

**Eileen O’Sullivan, Programme Officer,  
Oak Philanthropy (UK) Ltd**

*I just wanted to drop you a note to thank you for all the hard work and effort you put in to making our workshop such a success. It was a pleasure to work with you and nothing seemed to be too much trouble even though there were some last minute requests. Everything was arranged just as we requested and the catering was excellent.*

*We received a lot of positive feedback about the venue and I suspect you may see us again in the near future.*

**Gillian McIntyre, Department for Infrastructure**

*It was so great to work with a venue who were well organised and absolutely willing to do whatever was required to ensure we had a successful event.*

**Gary Kernahan, Think Consulting Solutions**

*Thank you for hosting our event in the magnificent surroundings of Clifton House – all went well and we hope to be back in Belfast with you soon.*

**Institute of Historic Building Conservation**

*As always a pleasure to have our event at Clifton House.*

**Belfast Healthy Cities**

*Lucy – thanks for all your efforts for our Board meeting – the doughnuts went down well!*

**Freight Transport Association**

## Tours

*Excellent historical tour of Clifton House and Graveyard. I highly recommend this tour of Clifton House and nearby graveyard where you will discover many interesting facts about early Belfast society given by a very enthusiastic and informative guide, Aaron.*

**J Dowds, Tripadvisor**

*I absolutely loved the tour of Clifton Street Cemetery highly recommend it also looking forward to visiting Clifton House.*

**Ann Mullan (Facebook)**



## **Group Tours**

*On behalf of all of us at Rutgers University, many thanks for an extraordinary visit to Clifton House and the cemetery. The presentation by Eamon Phoenix was beyond compare, pulling together so many themes of our week long visit in Belfast.*

**Catherine Charlton, Resident Director UK & Ireland, Rutgers University Study Abroad**

*The tour my conference group had at Clifton House, led by the highly knowledgeable and very personable Jim, was extremely enjoyable and definitely left me wanting to return.*

**Catherine Coffey (Facebook)**

## **Partnership Funding: Barbour Fund**

*"The added activities helps to keep residents involved and occupied and gives them a purpose and ownership of their home.*

*Our activities person works well with them with all sorts of projects."*

**Nurse Manager, Lisadian Care Home**

*"Thank you so much for helping to provide opportunities for our children who would otherwise miss out due to not being able to attend mainstream school. You improve the lives of children every day."*

**Kathy Boyle, Acting Principal, Belfast Hospital School**

*"The Foundation Degree in Science, Health and Social Care was a course that attracted me and one which I was inspired to pursue further during my travels to a rehabilitation clinic in Spain/Salou, as a missionary volunteer worker."*

**Hayley Hunter, Belfast Metropolitan College**

## **BCS Grants: Institute Of Fundraising Northern Ireland**

*"Great to have the support of Belfast Charitable Society/Clifton House enabling us to continue our philanthropy journey."*

**Nadine Campbell, Institute of Fundraising NI**

## **BCS Grants: Building Better Futures Fund**

*"The Centre was established as a social enterprise with a café and gift shop and has created a mechanism for the organisation to work towards becoming more sustainable. The investment has resulted in the creation of a number of new jobs and training opportunities for emerging artists, childcare workers and those working within the hospitality sector.*

*Most importantly the centre has provided children from across Newry and Northern Ireland with an original and safe space to play, learn and explore their own creative potential."*

**Grainne Powell, CEO, Sticky Fingers Arts**

## **Archive Services**

*"My experience of consulting the archives in Clifton House recently was very useful, I was made welcome with a minimum*



*of fuss and red tape. I was able to consult documents in a very pleasant surrounding at my leisure and the help and co-operation of the staff was first rate."*

**John Gribben, Playwright research**

*"The Archive in Clifton House was a crucial resource for me when I was researching the life of Mary Ann McCracken to write a collection of poems about her and her contemporary, Dorothy Wordsworth (whom she never met). Being able to gain access to the minutes of the Women's Committee and to avail of the artefacts and historical ambience of the house itself were invaluable. I have also found the staff to be very helpful and well informed, and am delighted that the charity is making fuller use of its archive."*

**Ruth Carr, Editor, facilitator and Poet**

### **Clifton House Residential Home Residents**

*"I am settling in very well and have been made to feel very welcome by the staff. The food is nice and I am looking forward to the activities and will give sewing a go."*

**BH, October 2017**

*"The food is very good & the staff are brilliant. The activities are different every day and very enjoyable. The home is nice and clean. I know Frances, the manager very well and can ask her for anything. I have no complaints at all."*

**LR, January 2018**

*"I am very happy here, the staff are pleasant, helpful and really caring and the activities are great. I would like a fry for breakfast on a Saturday or Sunday as always had one at the weekend."*

**EH February 2018**

*"I am keeping fine and love the food. The staff are very friendly. I enjoy the activities in-house and outside – the home is as good as Buckingham palace - could not be any better."*

**PF, March 2018**

### **Clifton House Residential Home Relatives**

*"What a wonderful place. The staff are caring and always go above and beyond for the patients in their care."*

*"The activities and interaction with staff and other residents is excellent and I am more than happy with the care and attention."*

*"It's like a home from home and I couldn't wish for a better placement for my mum."*



Local primary school children working with Clifton House residents

# Thanks

Belfast Charitable Society and its subsidiaries, Clifton House Centre and Clifton Care Home, would like to take the opportunity to thank its members, clients, volunteers and all of those who have supported our work in tackling disadvantage, philanthropy, heritage and caring for older people including:

Belfast Arts for All  
Belfast Building Trust  
Belfast City Council  
Belfast Junior Chamber of Commerce  
Belfast Music Society  
Ben Madigan Preparatory School  
Building Change Trust  
Bunscoil Mhic Reachtáin  
Cavehill Community Choir  
Cavehill Primary School  
Consarc Design Group  
Dr Eamon Phoenix  
Dr Margaret Ward  
Edmund Rice College  
Father Eugene O'Neill  
Flax Day Centre  
Glenwood Primary School  
Grand Opera House

Heritage Lottery Fund  
Hilden District Nursing Society  
Holy Family Primary School  
Little Flower Girls School  
Members of the North Belfast  
Heritage Custer  
Memories Café  
Milibern Trust  
Mrs Diana Fitzsimons  
Mr Jim McDermott  
Mr John Gray  
Mr Philip Orr  
New Lodge Arts Programme  
NI Tour Guide Association  
NI Water  
North Belfast Ethical Investment  
(Social Investment Fund)  
Play Resource Arts for Older People

Professor Laurence Kirkpatrick  
Queen's University Belfast  
Radius Housing  
Rev Campbell Dickson  
Sandy Mac  
Sean McCafferty  
Shared Reading Scheme  
Spectrum Centre  
Spring Chickens Older People's  
Workshop  
St Malachy's College  
St Paul's School  
Stevie Stevenson  
Strand Arts Centre  
Ulster Community Investment Trust  
Ulster Scots Ceile Band  
Ulster University  
Volunteer Now



# A Year In The Life Of Belfast Charitable Society



