



LIMERICK  
CIVIC TRUST



Annual Report & Heritage Review

2016

### **Trustees**

Pat Daly  
Gerry Griffin  
Seumas Gubbins  
William Peacocke

### **Auditors**

Grant Thornton

### **Legal Advisors**

Leahy & Partners

### **Registered Office**

The Bishops Palace,  
Old Church Street,  
Kings Island,  
Limerick.

**Tel:** 061 313 399

**Email:** [info@limerickcivictrust.ie](mailto:info@limerickcivictrust.ie)

**Web:** [www.limerickcivictrust.ie](http://www.limerickcivictrust.ie)

### **Executive Board**

Gillian Barry  
Ken Bergin  
Donal Creaton  
Terence Cusack  
Colm de Barra  
David Deighan  
John Elliott  
Alec Gabbett  
Jennifer Gabbett  
Elenora Hogan  
Marian Hurley  
John Leonard  
Brian McLoughlin / *Chairman*  
Cian O'Carroll  
Jim O'Donnell  
Thomas Quinlan  
Patricia Roberts  
Thomas Wallace O'Donnell / *Vice Chairman*  
Gabrielle Wallace O'Donnell

### **CEO**

David O'Brien

### **Committees Responsible to the Board**

Audit, Legal & Finance Committee, chaired by **Alec Gabbett**

Projects Committee, **James O'Donnell**

Events & Activities & Fundraising Committee, chaired by **Jennifer Gabbett**

Bishops Palace Museum Board, chaired by **Hiram Wood**

Bishops Palace Collections Committee, chaired by **Colm deBarra**

Historical Committee, chaired by **Cian O'Carroll**



## **A Note from our Chair**

This is my first report as Chair of Limerick Civic Trust, written as the Trust enters its 35th year. The report covers our financial year from January to December 2016. During this period the Trust's finances have improved considerably mainly due to a number of successful fundraising events at which c. €27,000 was raised and a growth in membership by 20%. There was a net increase in cash generated during the year of c. €19,000 and this resulted in the amount of cash at bank and in hand increasing to c. €54,000 at year end. This puts the Trust in a satisfactory financial position and positions it to expand the number and type of projects to be undertaken in the coming years.

Although Limerick has been my proudly adopted home since 1995, I am aware of the longer and deeper influence of many people in the Trust's activities. I begin with some tributes, therefore. I was motivated to join the Trust through the example of Denis Leonard, our founding Director. His legacy is evident from the many successful projects which he initiated.

I would like to think that in the 34 years since its formation, the Trust has had considerable influence on the evolution of the city. We have many supporters of our work, as is visible in the growth in the Trust's corporate and individual membership. I would like to thank all our members for their valued support. Membership supports our conservation, environmental protection and education programmes which benefit everyone in our community as well as those who visit our city.

Many of our projects are undertaken through collaboration and partnership arrangements with organisations like Limerick City and County Council, The National Parks and Wildlife Services, local communities and parishes in various parts of Limerick, The Hunt Museum, Limerick Markets Trustees, and St Mary's Cathedral. We are sincerely grateful for their support, co-operation and encouragement.

Our ability to deliver on so many projects is reliant on our supervisors and participants in the CE Schemes. They are to be commended for their Trojan work.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank our hardworking Board and Committee members for their efforts over the year. David Deighan, my predecessor as Chairman, made a significant contribution to the Trust

and although his term as Chairman ended in 2016, I am delighted to say that he continues to play a big role having agreed to stay on the Board.

In 2015, David O'Brien joined us as our new Chief Executive. He has overseen a number of exciting initiatives including the reinstatement of the Autumn Lecture Series in association with UL and put a successful membership drive in place. Under David's leadership, and with increasing help and support from members, I believe we can look forward to some exciting developments in the years ahead. In a short space of time, he has ensured that the Civic Trust's voice has been clearly heard in the city and beyond.

David is keen to utilise the expertise of our members and aims to create more opportunities for them to get involved in discussion about, and action on, city and county issues. By providing opportunities for dialogue, we strengthen the Trust's voice, whilst acknowledging the inevitable diversity of views across our membership.

## Protecting & Enhancing Our Heritage

These discussions are taking place at a time when the challenges facing our city are substantial. Recently, a drive is evident to have areas of the city improved for the City and for its residents. It is a welcome move but the repair work must be done sensitively and protect and restore Limerick's historic buildings rather than sweep them away.

We welcomed Limerick City & County Council's proposal to produce a Heritage Plan. We made a submission on the draft plan and highlighted the need for the financial resources to be allocated to ensure the implementation of the Plan. Otherwise it will have limited value.

We are increasingly concerned about cuts in resources for public bodies. The consequences for the care of the city centre are there to be seen in decreasing standards of cleaning and rubbish collection. We are delighted we can offer support through our successful 'Street-a-Week' campaign and will continue to assist in every way we can to protect Limerick's environment.

For many people, the heart of the Civic Trust is still in the Georgian House, No 2 Pery Square, which was restored by the Trust, and they would like this wonderful and rare example of a fine Georgian building to once again be fully



accessible to the public. We would also be interested in cooperating with other interested parties in restoring other Georgian houses in a sensitive manner while making them suitable for modern living or commercial use.

We have a wonderful stock of historical plaques commemorating Limerick's events, buildings, and individuals. Visitors and residents are more likely to see these than any other evidence of the Trust's work, so the Board is grateful for the efforts of our members to catalogue and enhance such locations. A preliminary exercise has identified a good number of plaques that are damaged or missing. We are grateful for donations towards their renovation and will

continue to fundraise so we can add new plaques to the stock as appropriate.

Castle Green, opposite King John's Castle, is coming into bloom and we hope that the fence can be taken down and the area opened to the public. It makes for a lovely approach to the Castle and Nicholas Street area. The Trust is also busy promoting positive developments on Nicholas Street; for the Exchange Wall we have proposed opening the arches, removing the fill and allowing light to flood through from the Cathedral on to Nicholas Street; we have also proposed an end use for the site of Dr White's House (The Fire Place site).



With the development of a Tourism strategy for Limerick City and County, the Trust is very keen to see greater engagement with the river and in particular the Limerick Docks site. This is a major area of special heritage and given the success of other cities across Europe in opening up such locations, this could once again become a key part of the local economy.

### Looking Forward

The turnaround in the Trust's finances is very positive and positions it for growth and strengthens its aspirations to undertake a number of large projects in the coming years.

The steady growth in membership is heartening. But we must not be complacent. We would welcome many more members, many more letter writers, many more donors, many more enthusiastic people to walk Limerick's streets and spot threats and opportunities and many many more volunteers to help our programmes to protect and enhance this wonderful city. Tell your friends and colleagues!

In the coming year, we look forward to a number of new member events, some vibrant speakers for the autumn lecture series and progress on a visitor attraction at St Munchin's Church. Also, some necessary renovation work was undertaken in Bishop's Palace last year and this paves the way for our plan to complete its conversion from an office to a visitor centre. Assessments are currently underway to examine how we can restore some historical buildings for the purpose of modern living, while a site is being sought for a special commemoration for the Limerick people who fell in the Great War as the 100th anniversary of the armistices approaches in 2018.

Having provided over 45,000 hours of service to improving the local environment last year, and anticipating the same again for 2017, the everyday effect the Trust, through the participants in its CE Schemes, has on the local environment is considerable.

Limerick is a remarkable place - a vibrant forward-looking economy firmly embedded in one of Europe's most historic cities. It is a place where people rightly take pride in their surroundings.

All around us is the evidence of over 1,200 years of the city's story. Protecting this heritage whilst sustaining our economy means watching out for threats and striking a delicate

balance between competing demands. Vigilance and thoughtful debate can help to craft the best way forward and this lies at the heart of the Civic Trust's role.

The Civic Trust is a membership organisation which, since 1983, has provided a means for all those interested in the future of Limerick to share their views and seek to influence change. Striking a balance between the needs of conservation and those of a thriving city will always be difficult and we aim to provide a forum where the issues can be debated, public views shared and proposals for solutions sought. Sometimes delivering those solutions is achieved by consultation with, for instance, Limerick City and County Council. In other circumstances, our members make a difference by fundraising with a view to enhancing the city and county directly by delivering projects which would not otherwise get done. These vary from minor environmental improvements right up to the operation of our own Bishop's Palace.

The strength of the Civic Trust lies in its membership. Members can get directly involved or simply express their support by enjoying and engaging with some of our projects. But it is your membership that helps ensure that the voice of the Civic Trust is heard as we seek to ensure that Limerick continues to be a place that is loved and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. If you care about the future of Limerick, we would be delighted to have you on board. The easiest way to do this is to click on 'Join' for more information about how to join us at [www.limerickcivictrust.ie](http://www.limerickcivictrust.ie)

**Brian McLoughlin**

Chairman



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## CEO's Report

In our 2015 report, I referred to the fact that there were signs of optimism in Limerick and this seems to have come to pass. The core remit of the Trust is the conservation of our heritage, in all its many guises, and the protection of our environment through civic pride. Limerick Civic Trust, as in the past, will continue to seek opportunities to highlight how heritage can be protected and enhanced as part of the development of our region.

During 2016, our brilliant team spent 45,000 man-hours cleaning our city's streets, restoring key sites and improving river walks, graveyards and public spaces. This has all been made possible through the dedication of our CE scheme workers. It has also been made possible by the external support we receive through partnerships, sponsors, and members. Among this group we need to acknowledge the support of Limerick City & County Council, Department of Social Protection, Limerick Regeneration, Shannon Group, McMahons, Ervia, UL, LIT and all our members, friends, and colleagues.

We started our drive on increasing membership and made some good in-roads but there are other roads yet to be explored. The programmes we offer are unique within the social space, offering members and friends access to public engagement and the opportunity to some of their ideas on how to preserve and enhance various aspects of our regional heritage.

The success of the Limerick Civic Trust Autumn Lecture Series has left no doubt that it will return in 2017. Many long-hours went into organising the six part series over September and October, but the excellent feedback received from our speakers, audience, and sponsors made it all worthwhile.

We brought some exceptional commentators to Limerick for our Autumn Lecture Series - some more controversial than others it appears, but that was deliberate. The Autumn Lecture Series sought to educate, inspire, and inform public discourse and I for one think we achieved our aim.

We were particularly pleased with the positive feedback from our



other events last year, especially the Christmas Lunch, and the discussions that have followed. Central to these discussions is the future of the historic fabric of the city and county and how we might better engage with the public, business professionals, the state and its officials. Having closed 2015 with a commentary about striking the balance between the preservation of historic city centres while creating space for modern living, we found Minister Coveney delivering a very similar message at our 2016 Christmas lunch.

This is a message we wish to amplify and would like to engage with all the related agencies and other partners to commence the process of addressing this as a priority.

Over seventy people are involved in the delivery of the Trusts ambitions and I would like to thank each and every one of them for their invaluable contributions. Whether they were involved in the restoration of the church at Mount Saint Lawrence, the maintenance and cleaning of the canal, the graveyards, or working in Bishop's Palace, their assistance and hard work helped us promote the good name of the Limerick Civic Trust. More details of these projects can be found below.

Last, but not least, there is the board, who give so much of their time and effort to guide and support the management of the Trust under the leadership of our Chairman, Brian McLoughlin. Brian's steady hand and patient manner have been an invaluable support in 2016 and very important during this period of growth at the Trust. He directs guides and inspires all at the same time.

Finally, it is an honour to be CEO of Limerick Civic Trust. The board, directors, and trustees have all been very supportive and often emboldened by the task before us.

**David O'Brien**  
CEO







## Project Review 2016

When reviewing our activities in 2016 we need to acknowledge that it was largely down to the assistance of the Scheme supervisors Ger Imbusch, Bernard O'Reilly, and John Collopy who were ably assisted by Caroline Madden and the team in the office. During the year our communications plan ensured that Limerick Civic Trust and its work was profiled across various mediums such as print, online, and social media. With almost 50,000 people reached through one Facebook story alone, the effect of this new approach tells us the Trust is becoming more widely known. The merits of using social media to fully inform people may be debated, but it has, at the very least, put our name and core message in front of thousands more than would have been aware of us in the past.

**The Canal Bank Walk:** The Trust has continued to maintain the Park Canal and in 2016 completed the new path on the Corbally bank finishing the loop between the Abbey river and the Guinness Bridge.

**The Limerick Markets:** The LCT provides six members of the CE Scheme to the Limerick Market Trustees. They assist with the smooth running of the markets.

**Kings Island Community Gardens:** The garden is again in full bloom and open to visitors.

**Castle Garden:** We were granted a licence by Limerick City & County Council to develop a park at Castle Green. Once a derelict site it is now full of colour with a little frivolity with the giants head rising out of the ground surrounded by upland crocuses.

**Mill Road:** A new fairy garden with another trademark Civic Trust monster head rising out of the ground is bringing joy to lots of children in Corbally.

**Mount Saint Lawrence Cemetery:** Our maintenance programme is continuing with over 300 graves now attended to. The main entrance gates at Mount Saint Lawrence were also spruced up. This work is a particularly good example of what the Limerick Civic Trust can achieve. Serenity and peacefulness has returned to the graveyard which has in turn encouraged so many more people to make more regular visits there - if only for a walk or to visit the graves of loved ones.

**Maintaining Ancient Burial Sites:** St. John's (C of I), John's Square, St. Michael's, St. Patrick's, St. Munchin's (C of I) to name just a few. In 2016 we completed repairs to the roof and building of the prayer house in the Jewish burial grounds while maintaining and tending to the grounds themselves.

**Boardroom:** Making the most of our resources, we have made our stunning boardroom available for hire to organisations looking for alternative off-site venues.

**Floral Display in Church St.:** Window boxes are out and blooming and will be maintained for the spring, summer and autumn months bringing colour to Church Street and The Bishop's Palace.

**Walking tours of Medieval Limerick:** While the walking tours have grown in small numbers it is hoped that in 2017 the impact of the work done over the winter with the assistance of Failte Ireland will pay dividends and the numbers will improve over 2017.

**Purple4Polio:** We planted 5,000 purple crocus corms at various locations around Limerick in support of the Rotary Club of Limerick & Shannon's Purple 4 Polio campaign.

**Monument:** The monument commemorating the champion weight thrower, John O’Grady from Ballybricken, was restored at the Fair Green.

**Street-a-Week:** Our campaign continues and it is envisioned that in 2017, with the assistance of the local authority and others, this activity will grow and have an even greater impact around the city and county of Limerick.

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### Autumn Lecture Series

Our six-part lecture series was kicked off in September with Quentin Peel, commentator with the Financial Times. Angus Mitchell, Professor John O’Brennan, Robert Ballagh, Colm O’Gorman and Dr Ed Walsh also participated in the series which was sponsored by UL’s Kemmy Business School and supported by Limerick City and County Council. Each lecture examined the various issues that are shaping Europe or Ireland’s place in Europe.

I would like to thank the Kemmy Business School for their invaluable sponsorship; Dr Michele O’Dywer and Dean Philip O’Regan for moderating the lectures and their enthusiasm for the lecture series; Limerick City & County Council for their very kind support; the Dean and staff at St Mary’s Cathedral for the wonderful venue; Jackie Costello at The Locke Bar; Eoin McMahon for persuading me to resurrect the series and to all the wonderful staff at Bishop’s Palace for their support throughout the series.

### Treaty of Limerick Commemoration

Limerick Civic Trust organised a number of events to mark the 325th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Limerick. A walking tour and two lectures took place on Saturday 8th October, kicking off what we hope will become an annual commemoration of the signing of the 1691 Treaty.

Many thanks to John Elliott for leading the walking tour, John Irwin for delivering his lecture on the famous Jacobite soldier Patrick Sarsfield, to Padraig Lenihan for his illustrated lecture on the military campaign of the Williamite sieges and to St Mary’s Cathedral for being our wonderful hosts once again.





## Business Lunches

Two fixtures in the Events Programme which should get special mention are the Ladies lunch and the Christmas Lunch, both held at 1 Pery Square. Keynote speaker Dr Niamh Hourigan gave a very engaging speech about the opportunities for Limerick at the Ladies Lunch. In December, Minister Simon Coveney, addressed a packed No. 1 Pery Square for our annual Christmas lunch.

These events serve two extremely useful purposes; firstly raising much needed funds for the Trust and secondly, providing an opportunity for interested parties to hear about the Trusts activities and the challenges facing the City and County of Limerick. Beyond that, they are also occasions for members to meet informally and to talk to members of the Board. The success of these events also owes much to Jennifer Gabbett and her team.



## Golf Classic

Another key fundraiser is the annual Golf Classic. Organised and managed by Pat Moriarty, this event has grown form strength to strength and the prospects for the 2017 outing look very positive.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

At our AGM last year, we spoke about how we needed to develop our Corporate Membership programme in order secure essential funding to allow us to continue our conservation, protection and education programmes.

A new Corporate Membership brochure detailing three membership options was designed and printed to aid us on this project.

Furthermore, the appointment of a dedicated person to assist with the running of all matters relating to membership has supported the membership drive. In the coming year, we will see greater growth and more activity in the members office.

In 2016 we commenced distribution of a quarterly newsletter. This is a key communication piece helping to keep our members and stakeholders informed. If you are not receiving the newsletter, please inform the office.

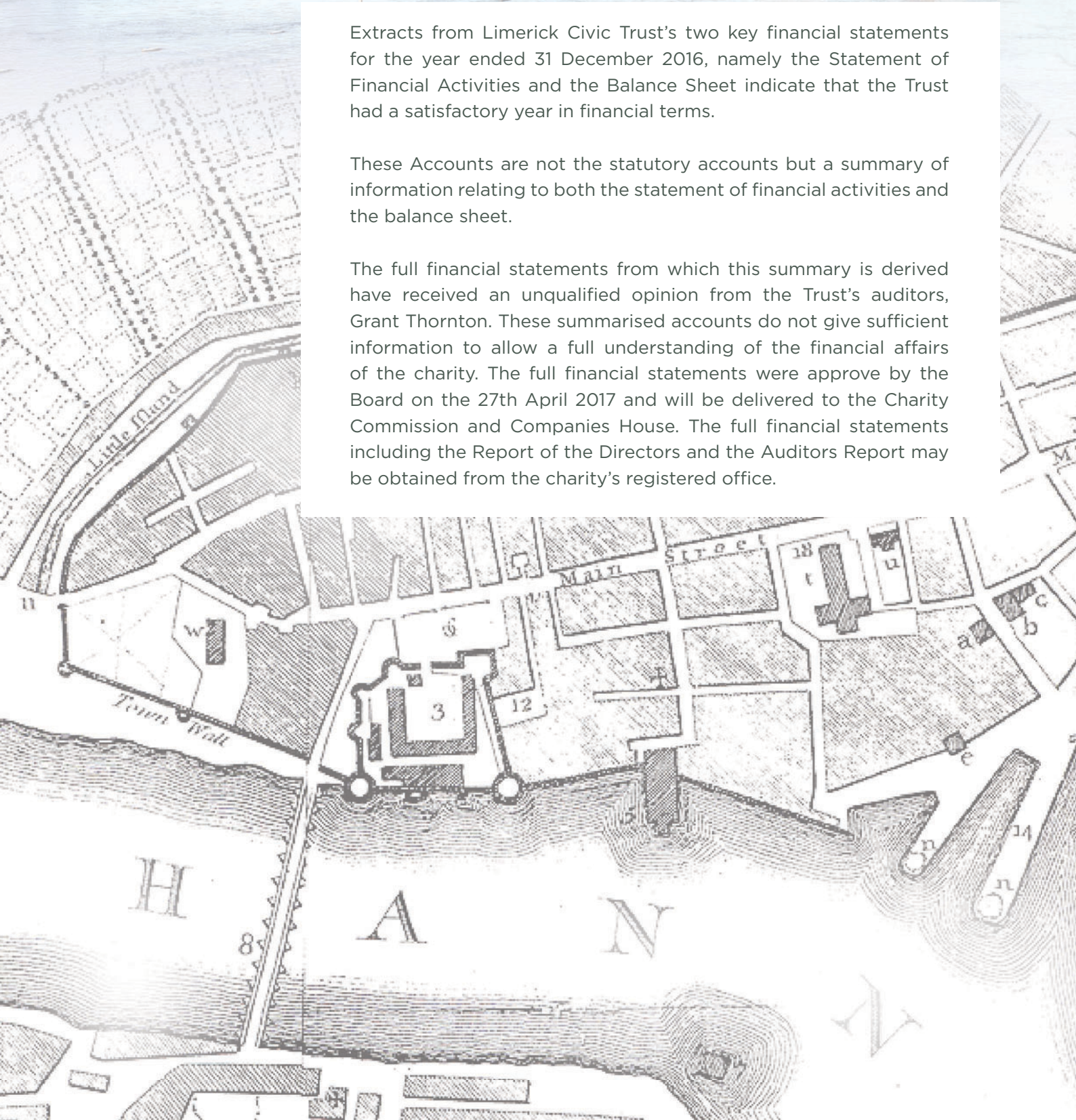


## FINANCIAL REPORT

Extracts from Limerick Civic Trust's two key financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016, namely the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet indicate that the Trust had a satisfactory year in financial terms.

These Accounts are not the statutory accounts but a summary of information relating to both the statement of financial activities and the balance sheet.

The full financial statements from which this summary is derived have received an unqualified opinion from the Trust's auditors, Grant Thornton. These summarised accounts do not give sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. The full financial statements were approved by the Board on the 27th April 2017 and will be delivered to the Charity Commission and Companies House. The full financial statements including the Report of the Directors and the Auditors Report may be obtained from the charity's registered office.



Summary of Results for the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2016

Consolidated Accounts for year ended 31/12/2016

	LCT	2016 LCT Ltd	Consolidated	2015 Consolidated
Revenue	224,689	992,876	<b>1,217,565</b>	<b>1,197,065</b>
Administration expenses	(221,155)	(972,332)	<b>(1,193,487)</b>	<b>(1,186,684)</b>
Operating surplus	3,534	20,554	<b>24,078</b>	<b>10,381</b>
Interest payable & expenses	(263)	(1,009)	<b>(1,272)</b>	<b>(1,656)</b>
<b>Surplus for the year/period</b>	<b>3,271</b>	<b>19,535</b>	<b>22,806</b>	<b>8,725</b>

Consolidated Balance SheetAccounts for year ended 31/12/2016

<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tangible assets	1,27,632	1,361	<b>128,993</b>	<b>131,099</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Stocks	-	-	-	<b>333</b>
Debtors within one year	23,212	22,051	<b>45,263</b>	<b>80,586</b>
Cash at bank	53,509	85,156	<b>138,665</b>	<b>90,836</b>
Creditors within one year	(30,007)	(29,719)	<b>(59,726)</b>	<b>(66,720)</b>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>46,714</b>	<b>77,488</b>	<b>124,202</b>	<b>105,035</b>
Creditors greater than one year	-	(43,095)	<b>(43,095)</b>	<b>(48,840)</b>
<b>Net (Liabilities)/Assets</b>	<b>174,346</b>	<b>35,754</b>	<b>210,100</b>	<b>187,294</b>
<b>Capital &amp; Reserves</b>				
Members funds	174,346	35,754	<b>210,100</b>	<b>187,294</b>

## WHY SUPPORT US?

Limerick Civic Trust is a voluntary organisation. Your membership supports our conservation, protection and education programmes which benefit everyone in our community as well as those who visit. By becoming a member you also enjoy many benefits:

### Membership Options

Corporate Member - €5,000	Friend - €2,000	Individual member - €275
<p><b>Benefits of Membership</b></p> <p>Play an pivotal role in protecting and enhancing Limerick's unique character and fabric;</p> <p><b>Vote at AGM</b></p> <p>Acknowledgement of your support on our website</p> <p><b>Prominent display of your company logo on the website &amp; quarterly newsletter</b></p> <p>Attend member only events and network</p> <p><b>Complimentary tickets for fundraising events</b></p> <p>Priority tickets for hospitality events e.g. Christmas lunch</p>	<p><b>Benefits of Membership</b></p> <p>Play an important role in protecting and enhancing Limerick's unique character and fabric;</p> <p><b>Vote at AGM</b></p> <p>Acknowledgement of your support and your logo on our website</p> <p><b>Attend member only events and network</b></p> <p>Priority tickets for hospitality events e.g. Christmas lunch</p>	<p><b>Benefits of Membership</b></p> <p>Play an important role in protecting and enhancing Limerick's unique character and fabric;</p> <p><b>Priority tickets for hospitality events e.g. Christmas lunch</b></p> <p>Attend member only events, including vote at AGM</p>

Sponsorship of special projects or donations is another option for companies or individuals wishing to support the Limerick Civic Trust

## JOIN US TODAY!

If you would like to support the work of Limerick Civic Trust please chose from the following:

**Tel:** 061 313399

**Email:** [info@limerickcivictrust.ie](mailto:info@limerickcivictrust.ie)





As Limerick Civic Trust is a voluntary organisation, we are very grateful to have the support of the following organisations:

### Limerick Civic Trust Corporate Members 2016

Limerick Institute of Technology  
Bord Gáis  
James McMahon Ltd.  
University of Limerick  
Shannon Group

### Patrons of the Trust

We are honoured & grateful to have the following distinguished Patrons:

Edmund The Earl of Limerick  
Sylvia Countess of Limerick CBE  
The Most Reverend Dr Kenneth Kearon  
The Most Reverend Dr Brendan Leahy  
Keith Wood

## **SUPPORT US**

Membership of Limerick Civic Trust is welcomed from all sections of our community. We have a range of membership categories to accommodate all interested parties. Limerick Civic Trust is a Registered Charity CHY 6717 and is approved as an eligible charity for the purposes of Section 45 of the Finance Act 2001 donations in excess of €250 will qualify for tax relief. Certificate forms (CHY2) are available on request.



**Limerick Civic Trust,**  
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**Web:** [www.limerickcivictrust.ie](http://www.limerickcivictrust.ie)  
**Opening Hours:** 9am - 4pm



**WORKING TO PROTECT OUR HERITAGE**