Main activities and achievements in the year
We have examined the work of the association during the financial year 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016 and we can summarise this work as follows: From January to March members of ALPHA read and corrected scripts for BBC Northern Ireland, preparatory to the filming of a drama series, My Mother and Other Strangers. Throughout the year the committee and members provided information to people who were researching their family trees. Detailed profiles and photographs of locally-born soldiers who lost their lives in World War 1 were uploaded on the association’s website, Ardboe Heritage, and also on its community page, Ardboe Gallery. From April to the end of October the book sub-committee and volunteers continued to research and write a series of articles, based on the communities on the shores of Lough Neagh. The book sub-committee had the unenviable task of choosing a selection of these articles for publication in a book – Stories from around Lough Neagh – which was launched on 25 November 2016. The book maintained the high standard of previous publications and was well-received by the book-buying public. During the year trips were arranged to several graveyards around the Loughshore, including Cargin, Cranfield, Ardrea, Ballygoney Beg, Ballyclog, Brigh, Brocagh, Stewartstown, Ardrea, Newbridge, Saltersland, and Dungannon. Several senior members of the Loughshore community were interviewed in the course of the year, and these recordings have been added to the ALPHA library. The transcription of historical interviews continued to be carried out during the year. In excess of 800 photographs were scanned and catalogued in 2016 by volunteers, who continued their long-term work of collecting, transcribing, collating and indexing articles, photographs, oral and written folk memories, written and printed letters, magazines, newspapers and books which have reference to the history of the loughshore communities of Lough Neagh. In the last quarter of the

year the committee began the provision of in-depth information and local records to personnel of Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership, who were embarking on a two-year project in the Lough Neagh shorelands.

In regard to the Charity Commission’s Statutory Guidance on the Public Benefit Requirement
We have had regard to the NI Charity Commission’s statutory guidance re the Public Benefit Requirement and we are satisfied that the association’s work in the year under review meets the Public Benefit Requirement.

Financial position at year’s end
We have examined the association’s accounts and we are satisfied that they demonstrate prudence and reflect a healthy state of affairs in the association’s ongoing programme of work.

Martin Devlin
Francie Forbes
Anne Kelly
Patricia O’Neill
Pat Grimes