

Clifton House Heritage Centre

Opened in 1774 by Belfast Charitable Society, Clifton House is a historic Georgian building that is now used as an events venue. Located at the heart of Belfast, Clifton House offers an impressive space for a wide range of events including meetings, exhibitions, AGMs, workshops, conferences, dinners, galas, wedding receptions and functions.

Operated as a social enterprise, guests at the venue can also learn about the buildings historic past in the recently developed interpretive centre which contains a range of artefacts and antiques, some of which date back to when Clifton House originally opened as the Belfast Poor House in 1774.



What support has NBEI provided?

In 2016, Clifton House applied to NBEI with a the view to developing a heritage centre that would support local training and employment as well as offer events space, tourism products, archival space and educational services to a range of users

NBEI initially allocated a small investment which helped Clifton House produce a business plan that demonstrated a viable business model and a potentially sustainable social enterprise project

NBEI then provided further investment which funded the appointment of a full time business development manager and various other project overheads linked to marketing and promotional activities as well as project administration

How has NBEI support helped and who has benefited so far?

- Successfully established a social enterprise based on the development and use of Belfast Charitable Society archive and Clifton House;
- Completed the classification and cataloguing of our 264-year-old archive with records relating back to the operation of the Poor House and development of Belfast;
- Created employment, one full time and one part-time as well as a part-time caretaker role;
- Established a weekly tour service which will create a framework for a blue badge training programme for local people working in cultural tourism;
- Increased social media and marketing which has helped to develop partnerships with other stakeholders such as Visit Belfast, Excursions Ireland, North Belfast Heritage Cluster development and the Queen's University Heritage Project;
- It is also helped increase room hire usage which has generated substantial sales income for the project and helped to increase sustainability;
- Developed merchandise, archive services, heritage tours and a range of events and products which suit both educational and tourism needs.