

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 102387

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS
THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025
FOR
FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM**

FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Purpose of charity

As stated in its constitution, the purposes of the charity are:

- To support and promote the work of the Museum.
- The Society shall be independent of, but associated with Down County Museum.
- Members will work in close association with the Curator and staff of the Museum, to develop the Museum, support the collection, participate in associated activities and act as ambassadors within the community for the Museum.
- The Society is a charity (no NIC102387) and any funds raised are solely for the benefit of the Museum.

Significant activities

The main areas of charitable activity

- The Society may, in furtherance of its purpose, organise relevant activities, as well as support the Museum's own programme of events. These activities may include lectures, tours, literary or musical events, for educational, social or fundraising purposes. The Society will not undertake any substantial permanent trading activity and must comply with all statutory regulations.
- The Society may acquire or make grants, from its own funds or by acting as a conduit for other grant-aiding bodies, to the Museum for curatorial or educational purposes.
- The Society may appoint representatives or delegates to other relevant bodies, if such invitations are made.

Beneficiaries

The Museum is the main direct beneficiary; since its beneficiaries are people of all ages and backgrounds within the local community as well as visitors from elsewhere, these are the beneficiaries of the Friends' projects and activities.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

The trustees are confident that the charitable aims of Friends of Down County Museum satisfy the principles of public benefit as defined in the Charities Act. They have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

The principal aim of the charity is that of providing support for, and promotion of, Down County Museum.

FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The financial position of the charity can be found on pages 8 and 9.

Charitable activities

The committee met 7 times during the current financial year and our members have continued to support the Museum by means of subscriptions, attendance at events and acting as ambassadors for the Museum.

Events

In April 2024, we visited Killyleagh Castle, where we were given a guided tour by Gawn Rowan Hamilton and after lunch at the Dufferin Arms, visited the Hans Sloane Centre where Elizabeth Crilly told us about work being carried out there. It was very well attended and a successful day.

We held a special lecture after the AGM in May, organised by our President, Ken Dawson and given by David Huddleston, Acting Director and Deputy Keeper of the Records, Public Record Office Northern Ireland, about 'Services for research at PRONI'. This was a fascinating insight into the many kinds of records in PRONI.

In the autumn the committee organised two lectures. In October a lecture was followed by a guided walk, both by Cormac Hamill, about the 'Geology, archaeology and history of Cavehill'. In November a lecture was given by Katy McMonagle about 'Recent archaeological excavations in County Down', which had been undertaken by Northern Archaeological Consultancy.

A further lecture was held in March 2025, given by Robert Trotter 'Meeting the Annesleys, a history of the Annesley demesne'

Gifts to the Museum

As agreed the previous year, the conservation of a painting by William Conor was funded by the Friends and work on this has been completed. It was on display for Friends to see at Robert Trotter's lecture in March, along with other items relating to the family.

Also completed is the digitisation of Museum's postcard collection, which will be added to the Museum website.

Principal funding sources

The principal funding sources for the charity are currently from membership fees, donations and fundraising activities.

Investment policy and objectives

The Trustees have decided that any reserves should be invested in secure bank deposits. The Trustees consider the overall return on deposit accounts to be disappointing, but are not willing to place valuable resources in riskier investments.

Reserves policy

Due to the unpredictability of the income receivable by the charity it is the policy of Friends of Down County Museum to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds to cover emergency situations that arise from time to time and to also enable the charity to continue to deliver its service effectively.

The present level of reserves available to the charity is £22,993.

FUTURE PLANS

The charity plans continuing the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years subject to satisfying funding arrangements.

FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

A broad mix of business, professional and other skills are well represented on the Management Committee and all Trustees are chosen on the basis of their willingness to serve, ability, governance experience and support of the ethos, mission and philosophy of the organisation.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

102387

FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Principal address

Down County Museum
The Mall
English Street
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6AH

Trustees

Anne Liggett
Lesley Simpson
Paddy Moore
Gerald Lennon

Chairperson

Anne Curran

Treasurer

Paddy Moore

Assistant Treasurer

Secretary

M Lesley Simpson

Committee members

Jennifer Taggart
Noreen Napier
Margaret McCord
Leanna Russell
Ralph Forbes

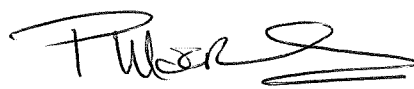
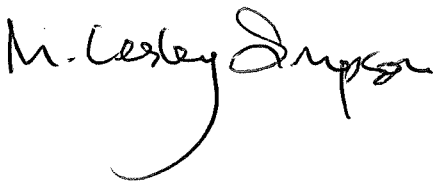
Independent examiner

M.B.McGrady & Co
Chartered Accountants
Rathmore House
52 St Patricks Avenue
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6DS

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 14 May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

**Ms Lesley Simpson
Trustee**

**Dr Patrick R J Moore
Trustee**



**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 set out on pages seven to eleven.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

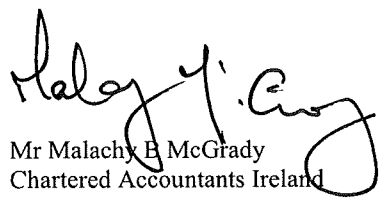
My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters came to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. The accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Mr Malachy B. McGrady
Chartered Accountants Ireland
M.B.McGrady & Co
Chartered Accountants
Rathmore House
52 St Patricks Avenue
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6DS

14 May 2025

FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted fund £	2024 Total funds £
RECEIPTS FROM			
Donations		70	-
Subscriptions		1,702	1,851
Other activities	2	245	1,583
Investment income	3	<u>541</u>	<u>200</u>
Total		2,558	3,634
PAYMENTS ON			
Charitable activities		<u>6,816</u>	<u>1,273</u>
Total		6,816	1,273
DEFICIT / SURPLUS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS		(4,258)	2,361
Bank accounts 1 April 2024		27,251	24,890
BANK ACCOUNTS 31 MARCH 2025		<u>22,993</u>	<u>27,251</u>

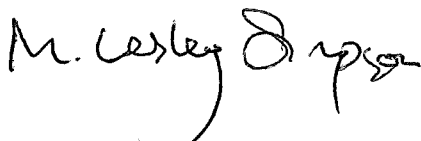
The notes form part of these financial statements

FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM

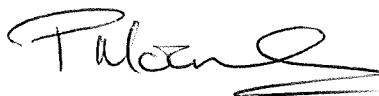
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AT 31 MARCH 2025**

	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Total funds
	fund	
	£	£
CASH FUNDS		
Bank Current Accounts	3,475	13,268
Business Investment Account	1	
Fixed Term Deposit	<u>19,517</u>	<u>13,983</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>22,993</u>	<u>27,251</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 14 May 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Lesley Simpson
Trustee



Dr Patrick RJ Moore
Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. OTHER ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Functions and outings	245	665
Fundraising events	-	20
Gift Aid	=	898
	<u>245</u>	<u>1,583</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deposit account interest	535	188
Business investment interest	1	-
Current account interest	5	12
	<u>541</u>	<u>200</u>

FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

	Unrestricted fund £
RECEIPTS FROM	
Donations	-
Subscriptions	1,851
Other activities	1,583
Investment income	<u>200</u>
Total	3,634
PAYMENTS ON	
Charitable activities	<u>1,273</u>
Total	1,273
SURPLUS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS	2,361
Bank accounts 1 April 2023	<u>24,890</u>
BANK CURRENT ACCOUNTS 31 MARCH 2024	<u><u>27,251</u></u>

FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM

DETAILED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Donations and legacies	70	-
Members subscriptions	1,702	1,851
Other activities		
Functions and outings	245	665
Fundraising events	-	20
Gift Aid	-	898
	<u>2,017</u>	<u>3,434</u>
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	<u>541</u>	<u>200</u>
Total incoming resources	2,558	3,634
PAYMENTS		
Charitable activities		
Insurance	800	400
Museum expenses	4,794	-
Social outings	<u>838</u>	<u>404</u>
	6,432	804
Support costs		
Management		
Postage and stationery	87	113
Bank charges	<u>57</u>	<u>56</u>
	6,576	973
Governance costs		
Accountancy and legal fees	240	300
Total resources expended	6,816	1,273
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net (expenditure) / income	<u>(4,258)</u>	<u>2,361</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements