



Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
	Period start date				Period end date	
From	1	April	2023	To	31	March 2024



## Section A Reference and administration details

<b>Charity name</b>	The North of Ireland Family History Society
<b>Other names charity is known by</b>	NIFHS
<b>Registered charity number (if any)</b>	NIC106071
<b>Charity's principal address</b>	Unit C4, Valley Business Centre
	67 Church Road
	Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland
	<b>Postcode</b> BT36 7LS

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Brian O'Hara	Ballymena Chair		
2	Patricia Cummings	Ballymena Secretary		
3	Alan Rosborough	Ballymena Treasurer		
4	Arthur Macartney	Belfast Chairperson		
5				
6	Margaret Armstrong	Belfast Treasurer		
7	Elwyn Soutter	Causeway Coast Glens Chairperson		
8	Andrew Kane	Causeway Coast & Glens Treasurer		
9	Gerard Harvey	Foyle Chairperson		
10	Nuala McGee	Foyle Secretary		
11	Gerard Harvey	Foyle Chairperson		
13	Elaine Doherty	Foyle Treasurer		
14				
15	Ken Tait	Killyleagh Secretary		
16	Glenyss Glass	Larne Secretary		
17	David Simms	Larne Treasurer		
18				
19				
21	Vivien Holding	Society General Secretary		

## Section A Reference and administration details (continued)

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
22	Vacant	Newtownabbey Chairperson		
23	Imelda McVeigh	Newtownabbey Secretary		
24	Etta Mann	Newtownabbey Treasurer		
25	Angela O'Connor	South Tyrone Chairperson		
26	Sarah Robinson	South Tyrone Secretary		
27	Leslie Kelly	South Tyrone Treasurer		
28	Vincent Brogan	Tyrone Chairperson		
29	Sheena McClure	Tyrone Secretary		
30	Ann Robinson	Society President		
32	Michael Parkinson	Society Chairperson		
33	Jean Curran	Society Treasurer		
34	Martin McDowell	Society Education & Development Officer		
35	Maeve Rogan	Society Publicity Officer		
36				
37	Alexandra Barr	Society Membership Secretary		

### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
None	

### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
None		

### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

None
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## Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Unincorporated Association
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Annual Election by Members

## Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The Society is governed by the Council consisting of all the Trustees. It includes the Society Officers and, for each Branch a named trustee, the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Society is a member of the following organisations:

- [FHF] The Family History Federation, the new operating name of the Federation of Family History Societies, Registered Charity Number 1038721.
- [FULS] The Federation for Ulster Local Studies, Registered Charity Number NIC100526.

The Society has the following insurance cover:

- Asset Insurance
- Public Liability Insurance
- Charity Trustee Indemnity Insurance

## Section C

## Objectives and activities

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

To promote and encourage the public and personal study of worldwide family history, genealogy, heraldry and local history with particular reference to the North of Ireland.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

The Trustees have continued to use guidance throughout the year to keep all safe. We have continued to have virtual meeting and held courses using Zoom technology as this has been very helpful to include international members

Branches have continued organising meetings both by Zoom and in person.

The Society has held a programme of courses during the summer which amounted to 10 sessions using Zoom Technology these were open to members and the public. Due to the creation of a new web and membership site it was decided we would hold a number of free classes during the spring.

This year again the Society participated with the Family History Federation's Family History Show manning a virtual booth interacting with potential members.

The Society North of Ireland DNA project has continued and has increased by 1000 to 9535 it is now one of the largest geographical projects available worldwide. There was also 12 DNA interest group meeting as well as educational DNA videos added to the DNA Youtube Channel

The Research Centre is open regularly on a Tuesday and provides lookups and assists with enquiries from members throughout the year.

### Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grant making;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The Society is run entirely by volunteers.

The contribution made by volunteers at Branch and Society levels is substantial.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

**Events:** Branches all had dates for Super Saturday's at Research Centre which was attended by members and potential members. Along with the Society North of Ireland DNA project which continues branches have DNA projects in their area such as The Belfast City Cemetery Project, the 1813 Bellyeaston Church Census DNA project and also the Islandmagee and Ballycarry DNA projects which are geographical.

**Courses:** In total the Society has arranged 3 course programmes which contained 10 sessions for members and the public. Plus we ran free DNA courses during the spring

**Publications** Twice each year the Society publishes a journal North Irish Roots for its members along with other publications these are on sale to the public.

10 issues of a monthly e-newsletter is sent out to members worldwide.

**Projects:** The programme of transcribing and indexing records continues.

The North of Ireland DNA project continues to grow it was 9,353 an increase of 1,000 on last year.

The Society continued to provide paid genealogy courses for groups such as The Men's Shed.

## Section E Financial review

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

The Society earmarks funds to cover anticipated future expenditure and possible contingencies and it maintains adequate reserves to underwrite projects that might arise during the coming year.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

**Receipts:**

Subscriptions, donations  
 Publications  
 Events  
 Gift Aid  
 Courses  
 Other

**Payments:**

Premises  
 Journal, publications  
 Office expenses  
 Insurance, fees  
 IT expenses  
 DNA project  
 Other

The rented premises house the Research Centre and Library for use by members and the public.


Reserves are held in bank accounts, not in investments.

## Section F Other optional information

## Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

<b>Signature(s)</b>		
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<b>Full name(s)</b>	Vivien Holding	
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<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Secretary	
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<b>Date</b>	03 Dec 2024
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