

Registered charity 1199074



## **Annual Report April 2024 - March 2025**

# Achievements, Challenges and Looking Ahead

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024-2025

### Ó GHLÚIN GO GLÚIN' (FROM KNEE TO KNEE)

We were thrilled to receive our first small grant from the Irish Emigrant Support Programme Small Grants Scheme. The scheme provides funding to registered charities, charitable bodies or voluntary/not-for-profit organisations that strengthen links with and support Irish communities overseas and encourages closer links between these communities and Ireland so we were a great fit as creating community closeness is central to what we do. The grant was awarded for the period July 2024 to June 2025 and enabled us to have a specific focus on training and supporting younger oral history interviewers to record the life stories of older Irish or diaspora Irish women.

We called the project 'Ó Ghlúin Go Glúin' (From Knee to Knee) and it enabled us to train a younger generation of Irish women in oral history interviewing and give them access to the wisdom and experience of their elders. This project developed the younger volunteers' skills, confidence and employability and included interviewers of Irish birth or descent under the age of 30 across Ireland, the U.K. and Australia. The intergenerational nature of the project allowed these volunteers to connect to their

Irish elders. It has allowed them to understand the commonalities and differences in their experiences as women of different generations but with shared connections to Ireland, and to find community and connection with women beyond their existing networks. To learn a new skill, develop strong listening and communication skills, understand the ethical complexities of oral history interviewing, fulfil their duties of care and gain opportunities for personal and professional development.

The grant also enabled us to pay for a small amount of project management/ co-ordination for a number of months. We recruited three volunteer regional coordinators. 10 volunteer interviewers between the ages of eighteen and thirty were recruited and trained in oral history interviewing (over the full year of the grant). The women interviewed within this financial year are included in the section below.

## TRAINING AND PEER SUPPORT FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

We continued to provide regular online peer support for our volunteers. Some example topics from this period were Recruiting New Interviewees, Social Media Skills (Delivered by 'Irish With Mollie'), Navigating Distress or Trauma Within the Interview, Interviewing Family and Friends.

## THE INTERVIEWS

Eleven oral histories were recorded by our volunteer interviewers during the period 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025, eight of which were intergenerational (the interviewer was under thirty years old, the narrator was over fifty). These were warm conversations between women with connections to Ireland, focusing on their experiences between the ages of fifteen and 25. The collection and preservation of these interviews enriches and deepens the historical record of women's experiences in Ireland during the twentieth century, which was obviously a period of huge change and great complexity. This contributes to a greater understanding, both now and into the future, of the twentieth century and the societal shifts that took place in the period across a huge array of themes including childhood, education, work, family, and personal relationships reflecting also shifting attitudes to class, race, religion and gender in modern Ireland.

These records are not only immensely valuable to historians, they are also really valuable to the interviewees themselves who tell us that they find the opportunity to reflect on their early life to be an emotionally engaging and rewarding experience. Additionally, the collection of these interviews provide the friends and family of those interviewed an opportunity to understand the interviewee in a new way and the peace of mind of knowing that family stories are being recorded and preserved for posterity. Other women of Irish descent also report feelings of pride in Irish women's achievements alongside a sense of relief that women's stories are being told and preserved, including sensitive histories of topics that are only recently able to be spoken about within Ireland.

Each oral history may be recorded in one or more session, in person or online. The interviews are transcribed by volunteers, and the transcripts and audio are provided to every woman interviewed so that they can have a chance to read and appreciate what they have said and make informed choices about whether and how they want to deposit their life history in the archive. We maintained regular contact with all our interviewees over the period taken to deposit their interview and discussion any implications in relation to matters such as their own privacy and that of others and any safeguarding concerns in relation to the recordings and transcripts.

## GROWING OUR SMALL CHARITY

Over this period, Úna Gan a Gúna has been able to update and improve our systems to increase our efficiency and potential to work at a greater scale. For example, we introduced the regional coordinator roles to support the administration of volunteers by region, spreading the load of one of the most time-intensive elements of the project among a wider field of people and making the organisation more sustainable and able to provide closer support to volunteers. We have also standardised our recruitment and induction processes to ensure that all volunteers complete the same process in the same order despite us de-centralising the induction and training process.

## CHALLENGES

This was an exciting period in which we encountered significant challenges in relation to sustaining the viability of the charity in a very difficult financial climate. The small grant from the Irish Emigrant Support Programme helped us tremendously. We did not have capacity for fundraising more widely. A small number of dedicated volunteers contributed many hours of unpaid work to enable us to deliver on our goals therefore capacity building is a priority for 2025-2026.

Signed by Evelyn Kerrigan .....



Chair of Trustees<sup>1</sup>

Date.....23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026.....

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<sup>1</sup> A full list of our trustees is available on the [Charity Commission website](#)

Charity Name Úna Gan a Gúna	No (if any) 1199074
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## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date Apr-24	To	Period end date Mar-25
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## Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Receipts from donors	720	-	-	720	720
Charity activities	225	-	-	225	225
Grants	4,000	-	-	4,000	-
Gift Aid	6	-	-	6	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>4,726</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,726</b>	<b>945</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>4,726</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,726</b>	<b>945</b>

<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Website hosting	425	-	-	425	411
Advertising/Printing	73	-	-	73	40
Recording software	168	-	-	168	115
Recording equipment	265	-	-	265	112
Courier services	-	-	-	-	33
Mobile phone services	42	-	-	42	16
Training	115	-	-	115	-
Project OGGGG staffing cost	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
Trustee expenses	62	-	-	62	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>2,180</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,180</b>	<b>753</b>

<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	2,180	-	-	2,180	753
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	2,546	-	-	2,546	192
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	339	-	-	339	147
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	2,885	-	-	2,885	339

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	-	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	<b>Details</b>			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-

**assets**

		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

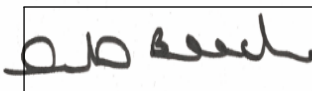
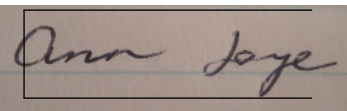

**B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use**

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

**B5 Liabilities**

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Ruth Beecher	23/1/2026
	Ann Joye	23/1/2026
	Evelyn Kerrigan	23/1/2026

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Úna Gan a Gúna: Irish Women's Oral History Collective

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