

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the Year Ended 31 DECEMBER 2024

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by 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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Fermanagh Genealogy Centre aims:

1. To promote genealogical and heritage services principally in within County Fermanagh and beyond the region.
2. To welcome and accept members from across the community irrespective of religious, ethnic, cultural or sexual orientation.
3. To offer its members a range of experiences in educational and social areas.
4. To preserve, disseminate and to raise awareness in areas relevant to the cultural and genealogical heritage of County Fermanagh.
5. To hold monthly public meetings during the academic year that are open to members and the general public.
6. To offer a live online recording of public meetings to members and to have these archived for posterity.
7. To welcome visitors to its advisory service -'face to face' meetings hosted at Enniskillen Castle Museum.
8. To offer an online genealogical advice service.
9. To preserve local historical data through its transcription service.
10. To create a Fermanagh centric genealogical data base for its service provider, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.
11. To raise awareness of family history through outreach events.

All of the above activities are completed on a voluntary basis and no salary is paid to any member of Fermanagh Genealogy Centre.

To conclude, Fermanagh Genealogy Centre is a welcoming group whose members are adults from across the world who share a passion for family history and County Fermanagh.

Significant activities and Public benefit

2024 was another successful year for Fermanagh Genealogy Centre. One outstanding highlight was the publication of our third Fermanagh Roots Journal. We thank all our contributors to the journal and the editorial team of: Frank McHugh, Linda Swindle, Mary-Anne Grant and Mervyn Hall.

Fermanagh Genealogy Centre reached 150 members from across the world during 2024. Our committee and its officers deserve credit for their steadfast dedication in keeping the business of our society flowing. Minutes of committee meetings are recorded and monthly bulletins are sent to members. The committee in 2024 included Caroline Fitzpatrick, Conor Maguire, Frankie Roofe, Fred Cleary, Karen Ireson, Mary-Anne Grant, Mervyn Hall, Shelley Lunney, Frank McHugh and Viola Wiggins.

We continued to hold our monthly public meetings in Fermanagh House and are grateful to its staff for their kind assistance with facilitating these. Meetings were well attended with usually over 30 people physically present, and a steady number who viewed online from across the world. (Our programme is listed at the end of this report.) Recorded presentations were available online for members at our website: www.fermanaghgenealogy.org. We thank Mary-Anne and Jade for facilitating these recordings.

We have a healthy following on our Facebook page where Karen and Linda place updates.

FERMANAGH GENEALOGY CENTRE (REGISTERED NUMBER: NI614236)

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Our online enquiries service is manned by Shelley in Canada and in 2024 she responded to 160 enquiries.

Frankie and Caroline did the bulk of Face to Face meetings in the Art Room in 2024 with visitors coming as far as North America, Australia and New Zealand. Mervyn and Fred also helped out.

Our number of volunteers in 2024 was eighteen. This was an increase of 5 in 2023. Caroline co-ordinated this aspect of our work. Volunteers worked on transcribing local graveyard records, church registers and National School roll books.

Our collaboration with Enniskillen Castle Museum and FODC with FODC continuing with their grant for Fermanagh Genealogy Centre. We met twice with them during the year. We were given extended space upstairs in the museum where our literature and filings cabinets are stored. It is hoped that a facility for our Fermanagh Genealogy Centre Sage library can be completed in 2025.

In January 2024 Frank and Mervyn handed a cheque for £110 to the Enniskillen Food Bank, proceeds from the book sale at our January meeting.

A small team represented Fermanagh Genealogy Centre in April 2024 in Enniskillen Castle Museum for the royal visit of King Charles and Queen Camilla.

Vivienne Carson again organised a superb June summer trip that included visits to Balance House, the Seamus Heaney Centre and Sentry Hill. This was well attended and a fun and educational day out was enjoyed by all.

Fred Cleary and Mervyn Hall attended a meeting on 'Investing in Community Leadership' meeting in Fermanagh House on Tuesday 5th November 2024.

Also, in November last, Mervyn and Mary-Ann set up an Fermanagh Genealogy Centre book sale stall at the Lisnaskea Christmas Market, proceeds of which went to our account.

In December, Frankie Roofe set up an outreach public meeting on 'Remembering the Regal cinema'. This was well attended in Fermanagh House. Both he and Catherine Scott facilitated this hugely enjoyable event.

As mentioned, issue 3 of the Fermanagh Roots Journal came out in December.

I would like to thank our members for their steadfast support and finally, a huge thank you to our American friends Mary Dolan and Joe Quinlan for their kind donations.

2024 Talks Programme:

Saturday January 20th: Fermanagh's townlands. Seamas MacAnnaidh.

Saturday February 17th: 'A History in Stones: Aghalurcher old graveyard.' Linda Swindle

Saturday March 23rd: Enniskillen's new historical wall markers. Catherine Scott.

Saturday April 20th: An interview with Father Brian D'Arcy.

Saturday May 18th: AGM and Annual Show and Tell - members event.

Saturday September 21st: Tribute to pioneer, Dr Denis Burkitt. Eanna Mac Canna.

Saturday October 19th: Fermanagh & its border landscapes; visits to known and unknown places. Barney Devine.

Saturday November 23rd :Using DNA to assist you with your family history research. Frank McHugh.

Saturday December 7th: Launch of Fermanagh Roots 3 Journal.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The financial position at Fermanagh Genealogy Centre continues to be positive, with net income of £1,125 (compared to £6,230 last year). This decrease was mainly due to the decrease in income and the increased costs of printing the journals. Voluntary donations continue to make a positive contribution to the financial stability of the organisation (£4,567 compared to the previous year of £1,177).

The donation from the International Fund for Ireland amounted to £1,000 (£1,000 previous year).

Membership income has decreased when compared with previous years (£1,538 this year, when compared to the previous year of £2,196). Grant monies decreased this year to £2,600 when compared to the previous year of £7,060. This includes grants from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and the International Fund for Ireland.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

NI614236 (Northern Ireland)

Registered Charity number

100414

Registered office

5 The Willows
Enniskillen
Co. Fermanagh
BT74 6GD

Trustees

M Hall
Ms K Ireson
J F Roofe
Mrs V M Wiggins
Dr D McNulty (resigned 18.5.24)

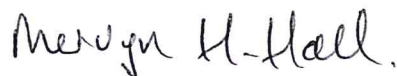
Company Secretary

M Hall

Independent Examiner

Mrs Stephanie Stenson FCA
Patton Rainey Stenson Limited
Chartered Accountants
6 East Bridge Street
Enniskillen
Co. Fermanagh
BT74 7BT

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 11 August 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



M Hall - Trustee