

# Friends of Down County Museum

Northern Ireland · Charity number 102387

## Details

Known as	No
Status	Received
Registered	2015-07-10
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register</a>

## Contact

Address	Down County Museum The Mall English Street Downpatrick County Down Bt30 6ah BT30 6AH
Phone	7706450348
Email	<a href="mailto:fodcmuseum@gmail.com">fodcmuseum@gmail.com</a>

## Activities

**Purposes:** The object of the society is to further the interests of Down County Museum. And to that end a) in consultation with the curator to assist with the development of the museum and its collection of educational exhibits and other records; b) to participate in the activities of the museum and to encourage the wider knowledge, use, and enjoyment of its collections and facilities The society shall pursue the above object to the extent only that it is charitable and by charitable means only, and shall be non-profit making.

**What the charity does:** The advancement of education, The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science

**How the charity works:** Arts, Cultural, Education/training, Heritage/historical, Research/evaluation, Youth development

**Who the charity helps:** General public

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£2,558	£6,816	£0	0

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anne Liggett		
Gerard Lennon		
M Lesley Simpson		
Mrs Anne Curran		
Paddy Moore		

**Friends of Down County Museum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102387

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# Accounts

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**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**

**CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**

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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**

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#### **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**

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#### **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**

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**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

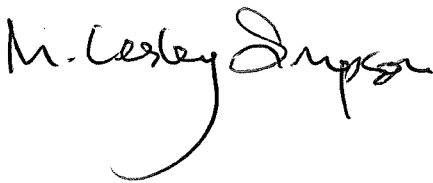
**Independent examiner**

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**

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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.

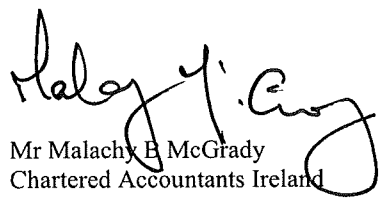
My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

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**

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

The notes form part of these financial statements

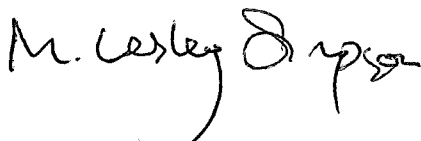
**FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM**

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

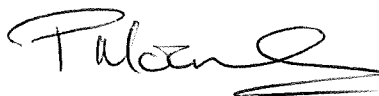
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	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>fund</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>		
Bank Current Accounts	3,475	13,268
Business Investment Account	1	
Fixed Term Deposit	<u>19,517</u>	<u>13,983</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>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

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## FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM

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

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#### 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**

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**4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

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

## FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM

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

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

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

**Friends of Down County Museum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102387

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# Accounts

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**FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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		2024 Unrestricted fund £	2023 Total funds £
<b>RECEIPTS FROM</b>	Notes		
Donations		-	-
Subscriptions		1,851	1,623
Other activities	2	1,583	1,379
Investment income	3	<u>200</u>	<u>36</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,634</b>	<b>3,038</b>
<b>PAYMENTS ON</b>			
Charitable activities		<u>1,273</u>	<u>2,076</u>
<b>Total</b>		<u>1,273</u>	<u>2,076</u>
<b>SURPLUS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b>2,361</b>	<b>962</b>
<b>Bank accounts 1 April 2023</b>		<u>24,890</u>	<u>23,928</u>
<b>BANK ACCOUNTS 31 MARCH 2024</b>		<u><u>27,251</u></u>	<u><u>24,890</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

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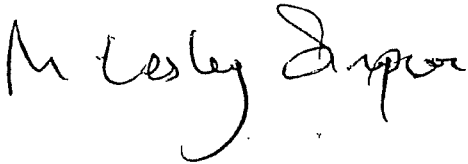
FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
AT 31 MARCH 2024

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	2024 Unrestricted fund £	2023 Total funds £
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>		
Bank current accounts	13,268	11,096
Fixed Term Deposit	<u>13,983</u>	<u>13,794</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>27,251</u>	<u>24,890</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 15 May 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Lesley Simpson  
Trustee



Dr Patrick RJ Moore  
Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

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## FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 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

	2024	2023
	£	£
Functions and outings	665	720
Fundraising events	20	20
Gift Aid	<u>898</u>	<u>639</u>
	<u>1,583</u>	<u>1,379</u>

#### 3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>200</u>	<u>36</u>

**FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

	<b>Unrestricted fund £</b>
<b>RECEIPTS FROM</b>	
Donations	-
Subscriptions	1,623
Other activities	1,379
Investment income	<u>36</u>
<b>Total</b>	3,038
<b>PAYMENTS ON</b>	
Charitable activities	<u>2,076</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>2,076</u>
<b>SURPLUS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	962
<b>Bank accounts 1 April 2022</b>	<u>23,928</u>
<b>BANK CURRENT ACCOUNTS 31 MARCH 2023</b>	<u><u>24,890</u></u>

**FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM**

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>	-	-
<b>Members subscriptions</b>	1,851	1,623
<b>Other activities</b>		
Functions and outings	665	720
Fundraising events	20	20
Gift Aid	<u>898</u>	<u>639</u>
	<b>3,434</b>	<b>3,002</b>
<b>Investment income</b>		
Deposit account interest	<u>200</u>	<u>36</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>3,634</b>	<b>3,038</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Insurance	400	-
Museum expenses	-	1,000
Social outings	<u>404</u>	<u>676</u>
	<b>804</b>	<b>1,676</b>
<b>Support costs</b>		
<b>Management</b>		
Postage and stationery	113	102
Bank charges	<u>56</u>	<u>58</u>
	<b>973</b>	<b>1,836</b>
<b>Governance costs</b>		
Accountancy and legal fees	300	240
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>2,076</b>
<b>Net income</b>	<u><b>2,361</b></u>	<u><b>962</b></u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

**Friends of Down County Museum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102387

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# Annual report

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## FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

#### 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 2024

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#### ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

##### FINANCIAL REVIEW

###### Financial position

The financial position of the charity can be found on pages 7 and 8.

###### Charitable activities

The year from April 2023-March 2024 saw a resumption of the Friends' more normal programme of activities. There are currently over 100 Friends and the Committee, back to its full complement of 10 people, normally meets 6 or 7 times a year in addition to the Annual General Meeting. The Committee organised a trip to Lisburn Museum and Linen Centre in April 2023 and established a President's lecture to take place each year after the AGM. The introductory lecture was given in May 2023 by the President himself, Ken Dawson, on the subject of Henry Joy McCracken. It was well attended, attracting more people than usual to an AGM. A Friends' event in October was equally successful – Fergus Whelan from Dublin gave an excellent lecture about Archibald Hamilton Rowan. The Museum and Friends jointly hosted a visit from the Friends of the Ulster Museum in March 2024 and it is hoped to join with them, and the Friends of Armagh, in future events. One of our members, Ralph Forbes, took part in the 'Sloane Lab' project which culminated in an exhibition in the Museum. Down County Museum took a lead role in this partnership between the British Museum, British Library and Natural History Museum. The Friends have returned to one of their primary functions in funding collections-based projects. An offer was made of a special gift to the Museum to commemorate its 40th anniversary. The Museum suggested several projects and the committee opted for the scanning of the Museum's postcard collection which could then be uploaded to the Museum's website. In addition, to make up for the lack of subsidised projects from 2020-2022, the committee also agreed to fund conservation of a recently acquired portrait of Constance Malleson of Castlewellan (stepsister of Mabel Annesley by William Conor. We hope to see these projects completed later in 2024.

###### 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 £27,251.

##### FUTURE PLANS

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

#### 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 2024**

---

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Principal address**

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

<b>Trustees</b>	Anne Liggett Lesley Simpson Paddy Moore Gerald Lennon
<b>Chairperson</b>	Anne Curran
<b>Treasurer</b>	Paddy Moore
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	
<b>Secretary</b>	M Lesley Simpson
<b>Committee members</b>	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 15 May 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Ms Lesley Simpson  
Trustee



Dr Patrick R J Moore  
Trustee

**Friends of Down County Museum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102387

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# Annual return

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

---

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 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.

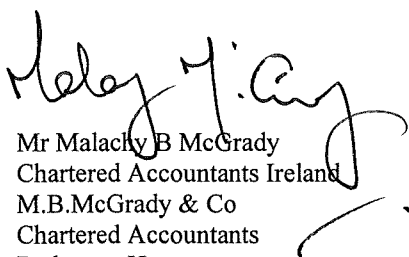
My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

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

15 May 2024

**Friends of Down County Museum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102387

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# Accounts

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**FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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	Notes	2023 Unrestricted fund £	2022 Total funds £
<b>RECEIPTS FROM</b>			
Donations		-	553
Subscriptions		1,623	1,715
Other trading activities	2	1,379	534
Investment income	3	<u>36</u>	<u>17</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,038</b>	<b>2,819</b>
<b>PAYMENTS ON</b>			
Charitable activities		<u>2,076</u>	<u>3,659</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,076</b>	<b>3,659</b>
<b>SURPLUS / DEFICIT OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b>962</b>	<b>(840)</b>
<b>Bank accounts 1 April 2022</b>		<b>23,928</b>	<b>24,768</b>
<b>BANK ACCOUNTS 31 MARCH 2023</b>		<b><u>24,890</u></b>	<b><u>23,928</u></b>

The notes form part of these financial statements

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FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
AT 31 MARCH 2023

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	2023 Unrestricted fund £	2022 Total funds £
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>		
Bank current accounts	11,096	10,160
Fixed Term Deposit	<u>13,794</u>	<u>13,768</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><b>24,890</b></u>	<u><b>23,928</b></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 24 May 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

Mrs Lesley Simpson  
Trustee



Dr Patrick RJ Moore  
Trustee



The notes form part of these financial statements

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**FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

---

**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 TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	£	£
Functions and outings	720	120
Fundraising events	20	65
Gift Aid	<u>639</u>	<u>349</u>
	<u><b>1,379</b></u>	<u><b>534</b></u>

**3. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u><b>36</b></u>	<u><b>17</b></u>

**FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

	<b>Unrestricted fund £</b>
<b>RECEIPTS FROM</b>	
Donations	553
Subscriptions	1,715
Other trading activities	534
Investment income	<u>17</u>
<b>Total</b>	2,819
<b>PAYMENTS ON</b>	
Charitable activities	<u>3,659</u>
<b>Total</b>	3,659
<b>DEFICIT OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	(840)
<b>Bank accounts 1 April 2021</b>	<u>24,768</u>
<b>BANK CURRENT ACCOUNTS 31 MARCH 2022</b>	<u><u>23,928</u></u>

**FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM**

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>	-	553
<b>Members subscriptions</b>	1,623	1,715
<b>Other trading activities</b>		
Functions and outings	720	120
Fundraising events	20	65
Gift Aid	<u>639</u>	<u>349</u>
	<b>3,002</b>	<b>2,802</b>
<b>Investment income</b>		
Deposit account interest	<u>36</u>	<u>17</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>3,038</b>	<b>2,819</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Insurance	-	500
Museum expenses	1,000	3,000
Social outings	<u>676</u>	-
	<b>1,676</b>	<b>3,500</b>
<b>Support costs</b>		
<b>Management</b>		
Postage and stationery	102	112
Bank charges	<u>58</u>	<u>47</u>
	<b>1,836</b>	<b>3,659</b>
<b>Governance costs</b>		
Accountancy and legal fees	240	-
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<u>2,076</u>	<u>3,659</u>
<b>Net income/(Expenditure)</b>	<u><u>962</u></u>	<u><u>(840)</u></u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

**Friends of Down County Museum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102387

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# Annual report

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## **FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

#### **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 2023**

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#### **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

##### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

###### **Financial position**

The financial position of the charity can be found on pages 7 and 8.

###### **Charitable activities**

Following Newry Mourne and Down Council's commitment to commissioning a strategic review of museum services, a chairman, Siobhan Stevenson, was appointed, who met or talked with a number of stakeholders from July to October 2022. Representatives of the Friends were invited to a meeting in October and subsequently provided a written statement, which was attached to Ms Stevenson's final report. This report was completed in November and its recommendations agreed by Council. The Friends were invited to a meeting in January 2023 to hear the recommendations. By this time, new members of staff, including Assistant Curator, Education Officer and Collections Assistant, as well as front of house staff, had already been appointed, although one had resigned after a few months in post and a replacement appointed. In addition, one of the recommendations of the report, to re-title curatorial posts, to better reflect their responsibilities, was also immediately acted upon by Council. The Friends hope that the current staffing level, while missing what was considered a key post of Technician/Photographer, will be fully supported by Council, staff given necessary training and funding provided for all aspects of museum activities, the collection and maintenance of the museum buildings. The Friends' committee has been endeavouring to build relationships with the new staff, keep members of the Friends informed and re-commence a programme of events, post-covid. The balance of educational and social events is key to this, so the first event organised, in November 2022 was a highly successful visit to Louth County Museum, followed by a pre-Christmas event to listen to some music and meet new staff members. This will continue in the next financial year as we continue to discuss issues which may arise and work with the museum to solve them.

###### **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 £24,890.

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

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

#### **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

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**FRIENDS OF DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Principal address**

Down County Museum  
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Co. Down  
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<b>Trustees</b>	Anne Liggett Lesley Simpson Paddy Moore Gerald Lennon
<b>Chairperson</b>	Anne Curran
<b>Treasurer</b>	Paddy Moore
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Brian Leathem
<b>Secretary</b>	M Lesley Simpson
<b>Committee members</b>	Jennifer Taggart Noreen Napier

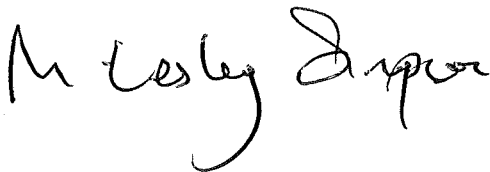
**Independent examiner**

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 24 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

**Ms Lesley Simpson**  
Trustee

**Dr Patrick R J Moore**  
Trustee



**Friends of Down County Museum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102387

---

# Annual return

---

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

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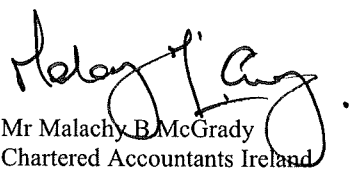
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**Independent examiner's statement**

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

24 May 2023