

TRUSTEE REPORT

1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025



Section A Reference and administration

Charity name: The Rural Centre
Company Limited by Guarantee: Company Registration: NI045661
Charity Number: NIC105690
Address: The Old Primary School, 4 Augher Road, Clogher BT76 0AD

Trustees
Mr William Harrison Boyd, Chairperson
Mr Gerald Hackett, Secretary
Mrs Alverta Steen

Manager
Mrs Heather McLaughlin

Section B Structure, governance and management

Governing Document: Memorandum of Association
Recruiting and Appointing New Members: The method of selection for all new members is through appointment by existing Board members.

Bank: Ulster Bank, Main Street, Clogher
Accountant: SP Mc Caffrey & Co Ltd, 50 Campsie Road, Omagh

Area of Benefit: Northern Ireland, UK

Section C Objectives and activities

The advancement of education; the advancement of citizenship or community development and the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity among the inhabitants of Northern Ireland to promote peace building and respect for cultural diversity by connecting people to collaborate and build relationships cross community, cross border and between other regions of Europe and internationally through:

- (i) Thematic study visits to share expertise and knowledge; to share different ways of doing things that can be adapted and transferred to improve practice in this region.
- (ii) Educational study visits to explore shared history, and promote good relations and peace building by encouraging mutual understanding between communities around the different perceptions and interpretations that exist.
- (iii) Projects with partners from other regions to collaborate and share expertise and skills to improve formal and non formal education, training and youth work.
- (iv) Cultural awareness training to provide the skills and expertise to communicate effectively across cultures and promote peace building, respect for religious equality and diversity
- (v) Information on EU funding programmes, partnerships, projects, exchanges, placements and participation in events to develop links across Europe to share expertise.

Section D Activities and performance

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public including support, EU information, cultural awareness training, exploring shared history, educational and thematic study visits, Erasmus+ European Projects with partners from other regions.

All training and educational materials, videos and modules produced by EU projects are available free to any user.

This report captures the main activities carried out to deliver the projects and outputs to the same high standard as previous years.

- **Mid Ulster District Council and Donegal County Council: Ancient Clans of Ireland – Our Shared Heritage**

This project facilitates links between Mid Ulster District Council, Donegal County Council and local groups through visits to sites with shared heritage of the O'Neills, other ancient Clans and the Plantation of Ulster. 10 Groups each area reaching 100+ people

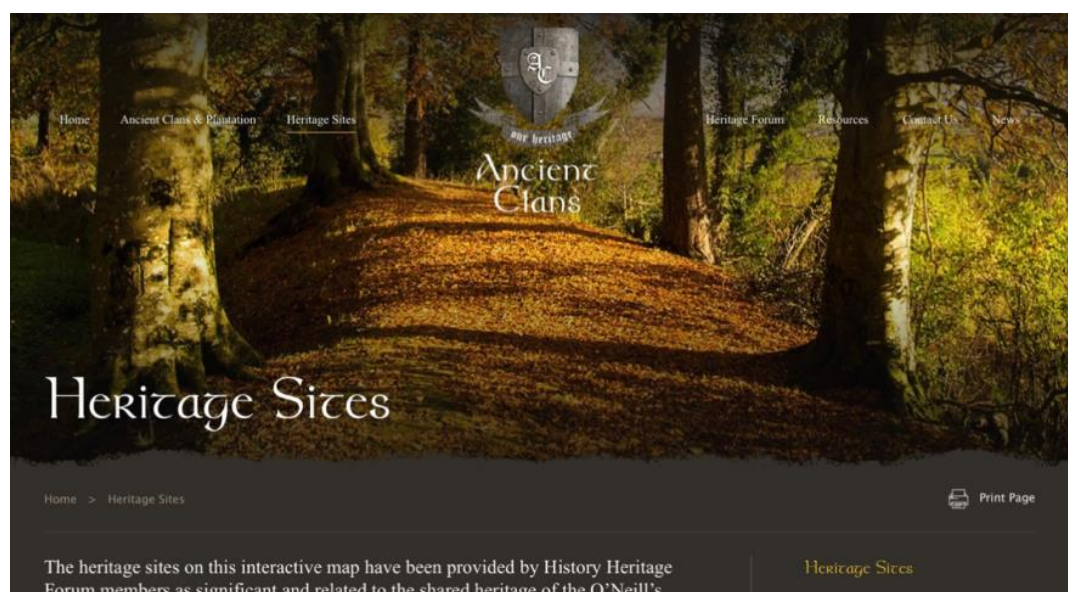
Over 30 heritage sites added to the Ancient Clans website April 2023 – Mar 2024.

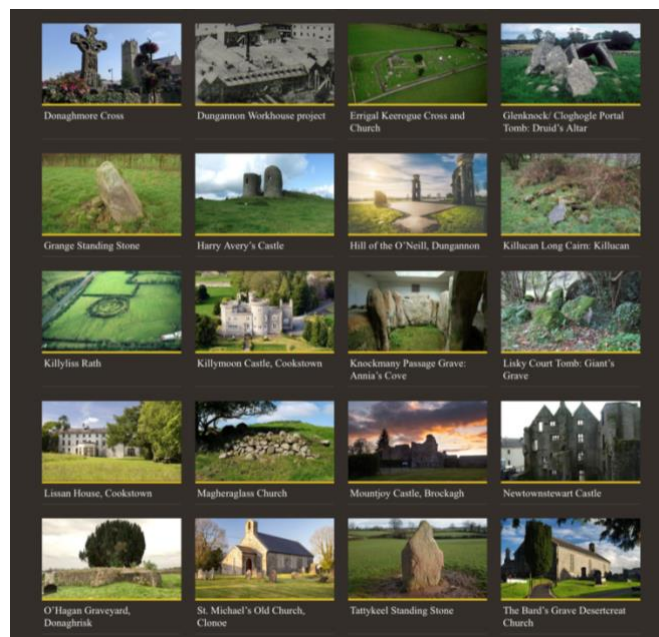
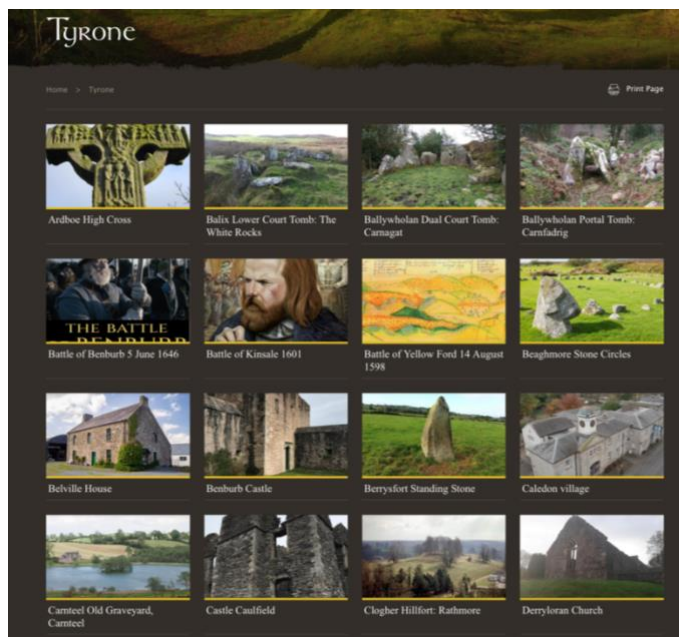
The Ancient Clans website aims to share heritage sites to encourage people to visit and understand our rich history, heritage, language, and culture.

The Ancient Clan website is the result of a cross border project between Mid Ulster District Council and Donegal County Council funded through EU PEACE IV funding.

We began by sharing heritage sites in Donegal and Mid Ulster and are now extending it to include heritage sites connected to our ancient history and heritage supported through Mid Ulster District Council funding.

<https://ancientclans.org/heritage-sites/>



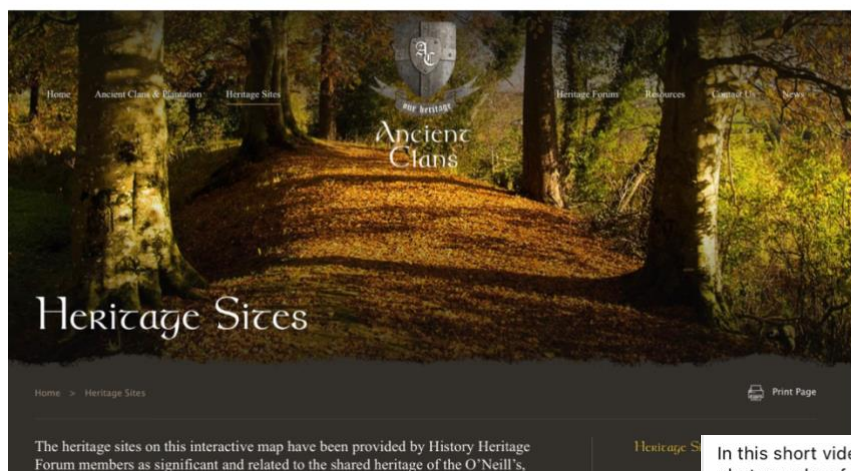


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In this short video Katrina tells us a little bit about Rose Shaw and how she came to take photographs of ordinary people in the Clogher Valley in the 1900s.

In the next few weeks Katrina will share stories about the people Rose photographed.

Find out more about Rose Shaw:... [See more](#)



9 May 2024

Celebrating Europe Day taking part in an excellent event - Léargas The Gathering - with great advice and opportunities for developing projects across Europe [#Leargas](#) [#EuropeDay](#) [#ErasmusPlus](#) [#EuropeanSolidarityCorps](#)



Spanish Armada Walk August 2024

As part of Donegal's Heritage Week, a Spanish Armada reenactment walk took place on August 18th, 2024, tracing the route of survivors of La Duquesa Santa Ana from Rosbeg to Killybegs.



“New Ideas New Opportunities” networking event, Budapest October 2024

The [Centre for Promoting Lifelong Learning](#) from Timisoara, together with its associated partners and support networks from Europe organises this event as a network for professionals interested in developing co-financed projects, supporting lifelong learning for our communities.

Members and the developed projects reflect the diversity of the need across Europe, all united under the power of creating lifelong learning spaces.

Heather McLaughlin, The Rural Centre participated in a plenary sharing expertise on managing EU Projects with Q&A.



11 & 12 November 2024

ROSE Project: This project aims to develop online learning materials to develop the skills needed for remote working. Once considered a niche, remote working has become a mainstream option for employment. Although it might seem that working remotely requires minimal adjustments, in reality remote work is a unique and distinct way of working. Project partners will develop diagnostic tools and modules to develop the necessary skills over the 2 year project.

<https://www.therura...> See more



11 & 12 November 2024

ROSE Project - Remote Work Training
First meeting of partners from Italy, Poland, Romania and Ireland in Spoleto, Italy 11 & 12 November 2024.

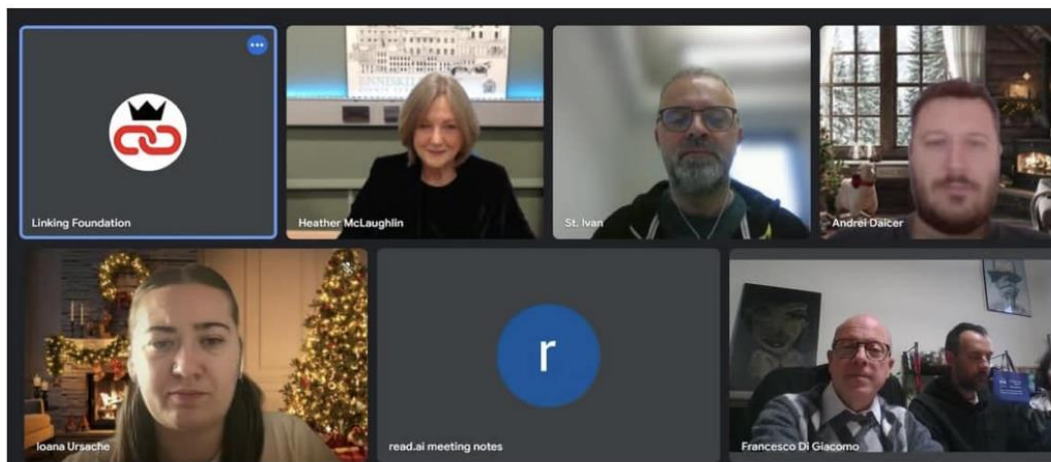
<https://www.theruralcentre.eu/rose-project-remote.../>



12 December 2024

Today we had the first online meeting of the R.O.S.E. project. We discussed the Diagnostic Tool and Readiness Map, Training modules for remote working, evaluation and risk plan, the financial reports, the budget management plan. Ready for work in the New Year!

[Rose Remoteworkskill](#)



31 December 2024

Build it Together Project

The aim of the project is to promote the benefits of diversity and explore effective measures to tackle discrimination and racism by connecting older people and youth through storytelling and sharing customs and traditions.

The project includes partners from Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Malta, Poland, Slovenia.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61562093107297>

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) Project No: 101136806



14 January 2025




The Rose Shaw collection
The iconic photography of the Clogher Valley

Join us as we bring the Rose Shaw collection back home, into the heart of the Clogher valley.

Thursday 27th February, Corick House at 7pm

All welcome



23 January 2025

Clogher Forum meeting to plan Clones to Clogher Cross Border Community Connections, issues facing rural border towns, Rose Shaw exhibition on the 27 February in Corick House and St Tighernach's day on the in Clones 4 April 2025

<https://www.theruralcentre.eu/clones-to-clogher-cross.../>



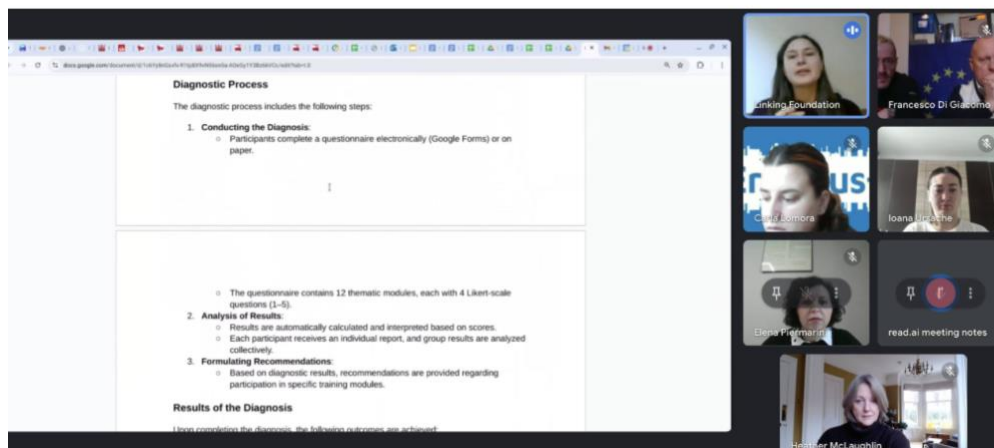
27 January 2025

ROSE online meeting of the ROSE project to review the diagnostic tool which participants can use to assess their skills before starting the Remote Working modules.

[Rose Remoteworkskill](#)

<https://www.theruralcentre.eu/rose-project-remote-occupation-skills-education/>

Erasmus+



29 January 2025



2 February 2025

Presentations of partners at Transnational conference in Gharb #Gozo



2 February 2025

Presenting how we use storytelling to share heritage in the AncientClans project during the transnational conference BUILD It Together #CERV funding

<https://ancientclans.org/>

Participants from - Gharb - Local Council , Kunsill Lokali Birgu , Genista Research Foundation: European Consultancy & Media Malta , Stowarzyszenie Aktywna Integracja Rurzyca Poland 🇵🇱 , Mitra 🇫🇷 , Eesti People to People Estonia 🇪🇪 , Sportsroom Bulgaria 🇧🇬 , Gina Jablonna Poland 🇵🇱 , Devnya Munici... [See more](#)



Thank you to Mayor of Birgu, John Boxall for his hospitality in Gharb, Gozo and His Excellency Dr Mark Causon for the opportunity to take part in this transnational conference BUILD It Together.

#CERV funding with participants from - Gharb - Local Council , Kunsill Lokali Birgu , Genista Research Foundation: European Consultancy & Media Malta , Stowarzyszenie Aktywna Integracja Rurzyca Poland 🇵🇱 , Mitra 🇫🇷 , Eesti People to People Estonia 🇪🇪 , Sportsroom Bulgaria 🇧🇬, ... [See more](#)



28 February 2025



28 February 2025

Clogher Community Village Forum were delighted to host Clones Community Forum progress the Clones to Clogher Cross Border Community Connections Project. This includes research into Rose Shaw's photographs of people in the Clogher Valley in the 1900s, an Ancient Route between Clogher and Clones 1693, railway and St Tigherns Day 4 April 2025.

The project is funded by Irish Governments Shared Island Civic Society Fund for 2 y



3 March 2025

Fun morning with Helen Mark interviewing members of Clogher Forum about the Rose Shaw photographic exhibition. Listen to BBC Radio 'Your Place and Mine' on Saturday 8 March at 8:05am

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007cpnq>

Sean McCaughey Josephine Treanor, John McElroy and Richard Mulligan.

Rose Shaw photographed people in the Clogher Valley in the 1900s an exhibition of her photographs will be in Fivemiletown Library 12 - 22 March 2025.

<https://ancientclans.org/heritage-sit...> See more



28 February 2025

It was wonderful to have over 150 people attend the exhibition of Rose Shaw photographs in Corick House Hotel last night. Many descendants of the people that featured in Rose Shaw's photographs shared interesting details about their family and where they lived. Clogher Forum will capture all these stories of the people Rose Shaw clearly enjoyed. Thank you for the support of Mid Ulster District Council and Irish Government's Shared Island Civic Society Fund. Corisk House for H... [See more](#)



3 March 2025

Sliabh Beagh receive over €6m from the Shared Island Fund to help develop the region as an eco-tourism destination secured through the Sliabh Beagh Partnership a collaboration of Monaghan County Council, Mid Ulster District Council and Fermanagh Omagh Council.

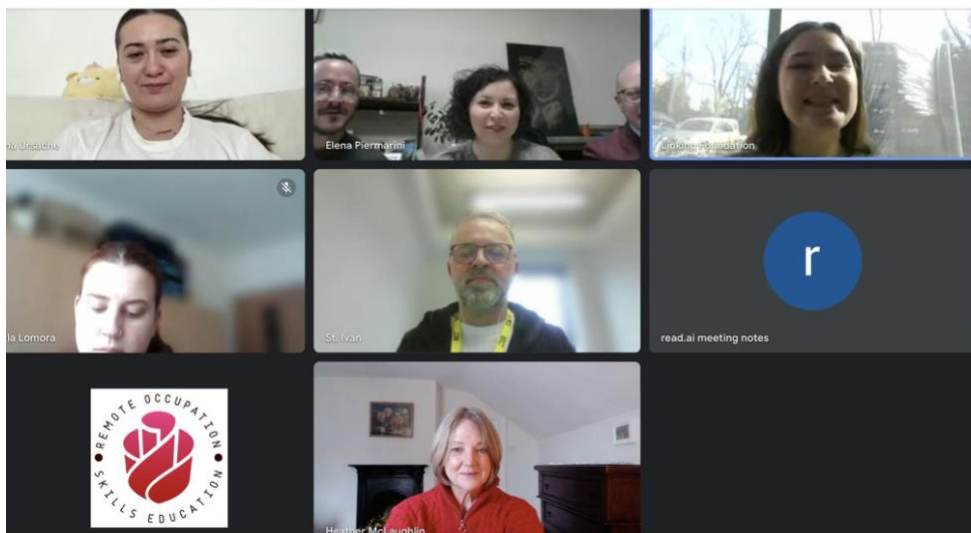


7 March 2025

ROSE Project: Developing remote working skills.

Online meeting today to plan tasks to develop training materials. Next meeting 24-25 March 2025 in Krakow.

<https://www.theruralcentre.eu/rose-project-remote.../>
Rose Remoteworkskill



10 March 2025

Meeting today with Clones and Clogher Forums and Barney Devine to explore ancient routes and Cathedral connections.

Project funded by Irish Governments Shared Island Civic Society Fund.



11 March 2025 Cultural Awareness training

Delivered training to over 50 participants over 5 half day sessions.



14 March 2025

Rose Shaw photographic exhibition now in Fivemiletown library from today until 22 March 2025.

Rose Shaw's photographs take you back in time to show ordinary life in the Clogher Valley in the 1900s. Rose Shaw first came to the Clogher Valley, County Tyrone as a governess to the Gledstones who lived at Fardross, near Clogher.

Rose's images capture local people in every day activities.... [See more](#)



Delighted to have Lord Belmore launch the exhibition of Rose Shaw photographs in Fivemiletown library and share his memories of Fardross

<https://ancientclans.org/heritage-site/rose-shaw/>



24 March 2025

ROSE project meeting in Krakow where we finalised the diagnostic tool and began work on the training modules to develop remote working skills.



ROSE Project. Delighted with our choice of modules: Skills needed for remote work and ergonomics of remote workspaces 😊

Other modules include remote work policies, time management, strategies and tools for remote working, cybersecurity, collaboration and work life balance.

<https://www.ruralcentre.eu/rose-project-remote.../>... See more



30 March 2025

In this short video Katrina tells us a little bit about Rose Shaw and how she came to take photographs of ordinary people in the Clogher Valley in the 1900s.

In the next few weeks Katrina will share stories about the people Rose photographed.

Find out more about Rose Shaw:... See more



Clogher – Clones Project and funding

Sliabh Beagh Partnership

The Rural Centre sits as community representative on the Sliabh Beagh Partnership with Monaghan, Mid Ulster, and Fermanagh Omagh Councils to develop a tourism Masterplan for the area attending meetings.

Mid Ulster District Council Heritage Strategy September 2024

Final draft of five year heritage strategy provided to Mid Ulster District Council to foster greater community participation and visitor engagement, to enhance awareness of

heritage assets to promote the built, natural and cultural heritage owned, managed and supported by Mid Ulster District Council.

Support and Representation Activities

Serving on various Boards and providing support to local groups such as webs design, funding applications, meeting space etc.

- COSTA Board member attending meetings.
- Red Hugh O'Donnell 28 October, Study Visit Lifford
- Nov 2023 Vienna Network Event CPIP
- Support to a range of groups including Aughnacloy and Traugh, Ancient Clan O'Neill, Broughderg Area Development Association, Cinéal Eoghain, Caledon Regeneration Project, Clans of Ulster, Clogher Playgroup, Clogher Village Community Forum, Desertcreat Church of Ireland, Killeslial and Clonanesse, Local History Society, North of Ireland Family History Society
- Clogher village development plan meetings.
- Erasmus+ KA2 Small Scale Partnerships information session June 2024
- Leargas - Accreditation for Adult & Community Education Organisations
- RCN A Rural Gathering', on Thur 17th October 2024 Pomeroy Forest Park

Section E Financial review

Review of the Business

The Rural centre is non-profit making with the net incoming resources of £45,062 for the year. There was no capital expenditure during the year.

The management continues to be engaged in ongoing efficiency savings and is aware of the sustainable use of resources.

Reserves Policy

The trustees of The Rural Centre have set up a reserves policy which requires that reserves be maintained, in unrestricted bank accounts, at a level which ensures that The Rural Centres core activities, could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. The trustees consider that this figure should be £5,000 and will endeavour to reach this figure in the next few years. The Company Review Policy is reviewed every year.

Section D Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s) 

Full name(s) Mr Gerard Hackett

Position Secretary

Date 2 April 2025