

Charity Registration No NIC 106019

**Minutes of
Annual General Meeting the Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio
On Tuesday 4th April 2017 at 7.00 pm
At the Old Town Hall Banbridge**

1 Fionnuala Cook, Chairwoman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for apologies

2 Apologies

Dr Cecilia Ward; Millie Moore; Jasper and Della McKinney; Vine Haugh; Lyn Irwin; Marian Fairbairn; Lady Eleanor Brown; Grianne Shillington; Eleanor Gough; Brigitte Boland; Mr & Mrs Coulter

3 Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 4th May 2016, had been circulated. They were agreed and adopted on a proposal from David Cook, seconded by Mrs Watson.

4 Chairwoman's Report

The report for the year 2016-2017 had also been circulated and the chairwoman went through the details of the past years events. Deirdre Quail had taken photos of those events throughout the year which were included in the report.

Apart from outings and lectures she spoke of the project the Friends are developing to encourage pupils of primary schools to visit the Gallery and learn more of McWilliam, his art and the history of Banbridge around the time of his youth. To this end the Friends are providing money to the schools for transport. Several schools have been already and enjoyed the visit. With Deirdre's hard work, we hope to have many more in the future.

The Committee has also set up a bursary in memory of Dr Maurna Crozier, a great friend of the Gallery and the arts world. It takes the form of a week at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annamakerrig in Co Monaghan. The bursary is for professional artists living or from the Armagh Banbridge Craigavon District Area. It offers them one week at the Centre to spend time developing their art. Dr Crozier died in 2015 and it has taken some time to set up the bursary so, as a one-off, the Committee have decided to

award the bursary to two artists. One has gone to Eddie Rafferty who is to have an exhibition at the Gallery and another to Orlaith Cullaine from south Armagh. Eddie Rafferty lives in Banbridge and shall be having an exhibition at the Gallery this year.

Riann, as curator of the Museum, spoke about how she and the staff at the Gallery appreciated the work done by the Friends in raising the profile of the Gallery and encouraging people to visit. In her turn Fionnuala said we were all most appreciative of the Gallery and staff. We count ourselves most fortunate to have Riann as curator. The Gallery is such an asset to the area with its exhibitions and lectures. Within the new enlarged Council Area the interest in it is growing in strength.

The report was accepted on the proposal of Hilary Good, seconded by Lynda McFadden.

5 Financial Report

Hilary Good, who took over as Honorary Treasurer in 2016, made her first report. She said, up until now, our accounts have been dealt with by Hunter Sinton & Co. Now that we are officially a Registered Charity they can no longer do so. The accounts being relatively simple, the Charity Commission allows these to be checked by an independent examiner. John Riddall has agreed to take on this role on our behalf. I shall write to Hunter Sinton & Co to thank them.

A copy of the accounts is attached. Hilary went through them pointing out our income and how we use the money we receive. We currently have almost a hundred members and more than half of these pay their subscription by Standing Order and she would encourage others to do so.

The accounts were adopted on the proposal of Fiona Hyslop, seconded by Mr Watson

Before stepping down for the Election of Officers, Fionnuala thanked Hilary. She referred again to the bursary, thanking the judges for their attention to detail in the selection of candidates. She referred everyone to the newly issued programme for the coming year.

6 Election of Officers

Fionnuala vacated the chair for the Election of Officers, and Riann took over. She read out the names of the current Committee Members, all of whom had indicated their willingness to be re-elected.

Fionnuala Cook was re-elected as Honorary Chairwoman on the proposal of Christine Wright, seconded by James Hudson.

Hilary Good was re-elected as Honorary Treasurer, proposed by David Cook, seconded by Lynda McFadden.

Fiona Hyslop was re-elected Honorary Secretary on the proposal of Deirdre Quail, seconded by Dermot Hutchinson.

The remainder of the Committee was re-elected on the proposal of David Cook, seconded by Ann Davidson

9. Any Other Business

Lynda McFadden told those present that, at the request of the Committee, she compiled a survey to elicit the views of the members on the benefits they receive from their membership. It is quite short, on a double-sided sheet, and shall be sent to members by e-mail. It can be completed on line or she has printed copies for those who wish to reply by post.

There being no other business, Fionnuala closed the meeting at 7.30. She then introduced our speaker, Dr Paul Harron.

Chairwoman

Honorary Secretary