

Annual Report & Statement of Accounts

Year to 31 March 2018



Friends of the
F.E. McWILLIAM
Gallery & Studio

NIC106019

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Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio

The Purpose of the Charity

To stimulate and promote an understanding and appreciation of art, in particular the work of Banbridge-born and internationally renowned sculptor Frederick Edward McWilliam (1909-1992), and thereby to enhance the lives of people of all ages locally, nationally and internationally.

The charity's beneficiary is the general public.

Public Benefit

The direct benefits flowing from this purpose are: an increased accessibility to and improved understanding and appreciation of local, national and international culture, heritage and the arts, including the work of internationally renowned sculptor Frederick Edward McWilliam (F.E. McWilliam 1909-1992)

To achieve this purpose throughout April 2017 to March 2018 the charity has:

1. Organised lectures at the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio for members and others
2. Hosted visits and networking events with other arts groups at the gallery and studio
3. Provided bursaries for two artists to attend a centre for creative arts
4. Sourced and distributed funding for two significant community arts projects
5. Provided grants to fund primary school visits to the gallery and studio
6. Organised tours and visits to other museums and galleries

Activities and Achievements

1. Organised lectures at the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio

The Friends of the gallery organised three lectures for members and others. These included:

- a) A talk by Dr Paul Harron, an architectural historian. His subject was "A Transformational Province Practice" about the firm of Young and Mackenzie who designed many of the buildings in Belfast and Northern Ireland.
- b) An "in-conversation" event between the artist Colin Davidson and Kim Mawhinny Head of Art at the Ulster Museum. Colin illustrated the development of his work by showing images of his portraits of well-known people including: Ed Sheeran, Mary Peters, Brad Pitt and Her Majesty the Queen. He spoke at length about his acclaimed work "Silent Testimony" which comprises eighteen portraits of people affected by the Northern Ireland 'troubles'. These portraits were exhibited at the Ulster Museum, Paris and elsewhere.
- c) An illustrated talk by Anna Campbell, sculptress. Anna explained the stages in casting a sculpture in bronze highlighting the skill and craftsmanship needed. As she described the process of bronze patination, for which she is acclaimed, her pleasure in experimentation with cocktails of chemicals was evident. The audience were delighted to see some of her work first hand which she brought along to help illustrate her talk.

Payment for talks totalled £312.50. This was offset by an income of £403 received by attendance fees of £3 for members and students, and £5 for non-members.

2. Hosted visits and networking events with other arts groups at the gallery

The Friends were delighted to welcome Friends of the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin to a talk about F. E. McWilliam and a tour of the studio and sculpture garden. For many in the party of about fifty, it was their first visit to the gallery. The Chester Beatty Library reciprocated the event by hosting the Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery on a tour of the library.

3. Provided bursaries for two artists to attend a centre for creative arts

Bursaries to cover a one week's residency at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakerrig, Co Monaghan were advertised in early 2017. A panel was established to set selection criteria and to study the applications. In 2017, two bursaries were made. These were awarded to film maker and animator Orlaith Cullinane and local artist Eddie Rafferty. In 2018/19 we will be inviting the bursary recipients to showcase their work and/or share insights about their learning and development whilst attending the creative arts centre.

The two bursaries totalled £520.

4. Sourced and distributed funding for two significant community arts projects

The charity made a successful application to Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council for a grant of £1300 to provide a summer, one-week workshop for young people aged 9-12. The book-making workshop was delivered by Kids' Own Publishing Partnership. It was attended by 12 young people who proudly presented their publications to friends and family at the end of the week.

An additional cost to the charity of £260 paid for the artist's accommodation.

The charity made a second successful application to Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council for a grant of £2000 to provide a community art project entitled "Flax Flower Fields".

Inspired by the Tower of London Poppies by artists Paul Cummins and Tom Piper, this project involved members of seven community groups making and glazing ceramic flax flowers under the guidance of a ceramicist. The groups included: Magnet Women's Group; Armagh Floral Art Society; Ballievey Women's Institute; Armagh University of the Third Age; Laurencetown Tender Loving Care Group; Fourtowns Women's Institute and; Aghaderg Circle of Friends.

Each of the 60 participants made flowers which were assembled and 'planted' in the garden at the F.E. McWilliam Gallery and Studio. The flowers may be made into a substantive art piece for permanent display at the gallery in 2018/19. Information leaflets and publicity on social media related to this project have encouraged additional visitors to the gallery to see the art installation.

To support the project the charity provided supplementary funding of £475. This enabled an additional group of young people from Annaclone and Magherally Young Farmers' Club and a group of 12 of the Friends' membership to create ceramic flowers to add to the installation. The charity also funded the refreshments for the opening of the installation in the sculpture garden in March 2018. The opening was attended by more than 100 people including those who had made the flowers and representatives of the linen industry from the local area. Many of the 100 had not visited the F.E. McWilliam gallery and in some cases had never visited any gallery before.

5. Provided grants to Primary schools to visit the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio

The charity made £100 transportation grants available to primary schools throughout the Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough. The aim was to encourage schools to bring children to the gallery to learn about F.E. McWilliam and enjoy art and design workshops. St Francis Primary School Loughbrickland, St Francis Primary School Lurgan and St Colman's Primary School Laurencetown used the grant to visit the gallery.

The total cost to the charity was £300.

6. Organised tours and visits to other museums and galleries

Members of the charity visited Highlanes Gallery in Drogheda to view an exhibition focused on hair. They were treated to a tour of "Bristle, Hair and Hegemony", an exhibition which drew on the rich scientific, literary, political and aesthetic contexts in which hair plays a central role in art. The artworks ranged from the 17th century to today.

Visits by members of the Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio to other local, national and international museums and galleries are made at the members own expense except where there is a charge for a tour. On these occasions a nominal fee is levied.

Impact

The benefit of the charity's work can be demonstrated through the wider dissemination of knowledge about the artist F.E. McWilliam and the gallery itself. This was particularly evident through the Flax Flower Fields Community Arts Project, the Tales to Tell Summer Scheme and by hosting visits by schools and other arts groups. See appendix for results from a feedback survey on the Flax Flower Fields project.

The two arts projects brought people to the gallery, in many cases for the first time. The Flax Flower Fields project increased greater understanding of art by involving people in the creation of their own art.

(Only through this small charity's ability to apply for additional funding was it possible to deliver these two projects).

The organised lectures and tours increased knowledge and appreciation of art through learning by the members and where applicable, guests. In this same way, we look forward to more insights, learning and appreciation from the bursary recipients.

Private Benefit

For the Flax Flower Fields project, a ceramicist and his studio facilities were employed. The project could not have been conducted without either. Similarly, an experienced educational organisation was employed to deliver the Tales to Tell Summer scheme. This employment was necessary for both projects.

Fees of £100-£150 are paid to lecturers and/or a small gift given to an invited interviewer. These payments are considered a justified expenditure and are often mitigated by ticket sales which range from £5 for non-members of the Friends to £3 for members and students.

The charity must pay for any services provided, such as refreshments for the Flax Flower Field Community Arts Project and consider such payments necessary although some private benefit may be gained.

Statement of Compliance

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the general public.

Financial review

The membership subscriptions bring in a large part of the charity's income at £2155 for the year ending 31 March 2018. This amount remains consistent through the last number of years although it was up on the previous year.

Membership numbers average around 100-120.

As we have decided to charge a minimal amount to members and their guests, events such as talks and visits generally do not bring in much income. Some are relatively inexpensive to run. We feel this is good value for our members at present and may encourage more people to join.

This year we had one fundraising talk by Colin Davidson that raised £403 for the charity.

This year we applied successfully for two grants totalling £3366, from Armagh City, Banbridge Craigavon Borough Council. We ran two projects in the community for adults and children, adding a small amount of our own funds. These projects were artistic, cultural and educational projects aimed at raising awareness of F.E. McWilliam and the gallery. The outcomes were of a high quality in the form of artworks, both two and three dimensional.

We decided to award two bursaries during the year to two local artists totalling £825 so that they may stay and work at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre for a week each. We intend to continue funding this bursary in future years.

We also continue to invest in schools by paying travel costs for children to visit or become involved in the gallery in an educational way. This is something we feel is very important. Last year we spent £300 on travel costs for schoolchildren.

The administration costs remain similar if a little higher for insurance and printing.

Print advertising costs and other material costs for this year's projects we feel were justified spending. The brochure about the Flax Flower Fields project in particular continues to be a useful way of highlighting the type of work that the Friends charity does.

It is our intention to continue to spend funds from a healthy annual bank balance of around £5000 on community projects which support of the work of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name

The Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio

Charity Number

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland NIC 106019

Address

Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio

F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio

200 Newry Road

Banbridge

BT32 3NB

Charity Trustees as at 31 March 2018

Mrs Fionnuala Cook Chair

Mrs Fiona Hyslop Secretary

Mrs Hilary Good Treasurer

Miss Deirdre Quail

Mrs Christine Wright

Mrs Jane Hudson

Mrs Millie Moore

Mrs Della McKinney

Miss Lynda Fyffe-McFadden

Ex Officio Dr Riann Coulter Curator/Manager

Mrs Brigitte Boland

Governance and Constitution

The charity is governed under Northern Ireland law by a constitution adopted on Friday the 23rd of September 2016. The charity operates within the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council area of Northern Ireland.

Its purpose is to stimulate and promote an understanding and appreciation of art, in particular the work of Banbridge-born and internationally renowned sculptor Frederick Edward McWilliam (1909 to 1992), thereby enhancing the lives of people of all ages locally, nationally and internationally.

The charity is run by a committee of Trustees appointed at an annual general meeting, who pay an annual subscription. The charity has three officers: Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Officers may serve for seven consecutive years but may be re-elected after two years. As of 31 March 2018, there are nine Trustees.

The charity has a membership who pay annual fees of £25 for an individual member, £40 for two from the same household and £18 for students and under 18 years of age. As at 31 March 2018 there are 109 members.

The committee meets typically once per month except for July and August. In the year to the 31 March 2018 the committee met on 10 occasions. At each meeting the Treasurer presents the latest accounts, and these are reviewed against budgets and forecast. Spending is discussed and approved. Officers may authorise some spending between meetings but must ensure that spending is reported at the next meeting. The meetings offer a forum to review activities within the annual programme of events and to plan forthcoming events. Further ad-hoc meetings are called if required for example, to plan and manage special events or projects. The annual report and statement of accounts are approved by the trustees and then presented to the members at the annual general meeting.

Carrying out the charitable purpose

To carry out the charitable purpose the Trustees have the power to:

- (1) provide money by receipt of subscriptions, grants and donations to pay the costs of running the charity and furthering its purpose
- (2) organise and promote exhibitions, lectures, recitals and other social activities that encourage the appreciation of art including the collection of sculptor F.E McWilliam
- (3) provide grants for artists and/or commissioned art works
- (4) establish strategic relationships with educators to promote visits to the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio for learning
- (5) support other charities with similar charitable purposes
- (6) do anything that is lawful and necessary to achieve the charity's purpose.

Related organisations

The charity is a member of the British Association of Friends of Museums (BAFM) which aims to raise the profile of Friends, membership and volunteer groups that support museums and heritage for the benefit of users.

Flax Flower Fields Project Survey Findings

Background

As part of the 10th year anniversary activities marking the opening of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio, Banbridge, the Trustees of the Friends of the gallery initiated a community arts project called 'Flax Flower Fields'.

The grant funded project involved members of seven community groups attending workshops to make ceramic flax flowers. The flowers will be used to create a larger sculptural piece (inspired by the Weeping Window poppies sculpture) to be 'planted' at the F.E. McWilliam Gallery.

Conditions of the grant award meant the project had to meet the following three broad aims:

1. Contribute to the economic, social or cultural development of the borough
2. Promote and increase awareness of, appreciation of, and participation in the arts throughout the community
3. Enhance the image of the borough

This report deals only with the results of a survey asking participants their views about the experience of taking part in the project. The findings from the survey will help to meet the targets set to achieve the above aims.

Findings

55 (92%) of attendees completed a short paper survey designed to get feedback on their experience.

The findings of the survey are shown below.

1. How did you hear of the project?

People mainly learned about the project when a Trustee contacted their group directly.

Groups	Means of hearing about the project	Number	%
Ballievey WI	At a group meeting	7	13
Armagh U3A	Mainly through a Trustee/Friend	11	20
TLC Laurencetown	Word of mouth	7	13
Armagh Floral Club	Through a Trustee/Friend	10	18
Magnet Women's Group	Through a Trustee/Friend	10	18
Fourtowns WI	At a group meeting	7	13
Aghadarg Circle of Friends	Through a Trustee	3	5

Sample of verbatim responses shown.

- Heard through the WI
- Via another member
- Received an email
- At a group meeting
- Word of mouth
- Hilary Good
- Jane Hudson informed club secretary

2. Have you ever created or contributed to the creation of a piece of art before?

More than half (53%) of those who took part in the project had not contributed to the creation of a piece of art before. This was not a surprising result given that a number of the groups were involved in creative-type activities. Nevertheless it is encouraging that this project gave more than half of those who attended a first-hand creative experience.

	Number	%
Yes	25	45
No	29	53
No response	1	2

3. What did you like best about participating in the Flax-Flower Project?

Learning a new skill, working with the materials and the social aspect were the things that people liked most about taking part in the project.

Liked best	Number	%
Learning something new/new skill	14	25
Working with clay and other materials	10	18
The social side of the event	7	12
A great experience/fun	7	12
It was relaxing/therapeutic	6	11
Learning something about the locality or the flax industry	5	9
Being part of a group	4	7
The opportunity to work on a project	3	5

Sample of verbatim responses shown.

Learning something new/new skill [14 comments 25% of responses]

A new activity and hands on
 Using /exploring my creative skills
 Learning the different stages and what to do at each one
 The shading and the creation of the flower and meeting the group

Working with clay and other materials [10 comments 18% of responses]

Learning to work with clay
 Opportunity to work with clay while working in a group
 Chance to use clay and learn about glazes

The social side of the event [7 comments 12% of responses]

I enjoyed the companionship
 The camaraderie and companionship
 The social occasion of it and working in a group

It was simply a great experience/fun [7 comments 12% of responses]

I loved the whole experience
 Wonderful time creating art – great experience.

It was relaxing [6 comments 11% of responses]

It was really relaxing doing a new creative activity

The tranquillity – soothing quality of the activity

Very relaxing and meeting new people

Learning something about the locality or the flax industry [5 comments 9% of responses]

Appreciation of making something artistic which was grown in the area

Recalling information about the flax industry

Making the flower and learning about the history of flax growing

Being part of a group [4 comments 7% of responses]

Being part of a community group

Being able to take part in group work

From start to finish and group learning and working with people

The opportunity to work on a project [3 comments 5% of responses]

Being involved in an exciting project and actually making

Contributing to a community project and creating a work of art

I found it to be an exciting project

4. Would your experience with the project encourage you to take part in other similar projects?

95% of those who took part said they now felt encouraged to take part in similar projects. This is a good result as it helps spread the message that art is accessible to all.

	Number	%
Yes	52	95
No	1	2
No response	2	4

5. How much has taking part in the flax flower project increased your knowledge and understanding of the following?

95% of attendees said they had either increased their knowledge and understanding of how a work of **art was made** a little or greatly; and 88% said they had increased their knowledge and understanding of **art in general**, a little or greatly. This is an impressive result and again shows how giving people hands-on experience can affect understanding and knowledge of art.

	It has increased my knowledge & understanding a little	It has greatly increased my knowledge & understanding	No response
How a work of art is made?	(8) 15%	(44) 80%	(3) 5%
Art in general	(13) 24%	(35) 64%	(7) 12%

6. Did you see the Weeping Window (poppies) Installation at the Ulster Museum?

25% of respondents saw the Weeping Window (poppies) installation.

	Number	%
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Yes	14	25
No	39	71
No Response	2	4

7. Have you ever visited the F.E. McWilliam Gallery to view an exhibition before?

More than a third of those who took part had not visited the F.E. McWilliam Gallery before.

	Number	%
Yes	35	64
No	17	31
No response	3	5

8. How likely are you to visit the F.E. McWilliam gallery or any gallery in the future?

93% said they are likely to visit a gallery in the future and of the 31% who had not visited before, 100% said they are now likely to do so. This is a very encouraging result and shows that it is possible to influence people to take action once they have had a good experience.

	Number	%
Likely	51	93
Not likely	0	0
No response	4	7

9. Needlecraft, pottery and painting related activities are the top three broad areas of interest to those who took part in the project.

Activity	Numbers	%
Needle craft/ embroidery/ felting/ textiles etc.	17	34
Pottery/ ceramics	13	26
Watercolour painting/arts exhibitions	9	18
Jewellery making/ glass bead making	5	10
Other e.g. photography, cake decorating, upholstery	6	12

Sample of verbatim comments shown

- Photography
- Needle craft
- Any project available to further increase my knowledge
- Fabric designs and embroidery
- Patch working, anything else that doesn't require too much skill!
- Textiles
- Felting, papercraft
- More pottery, jewellery, glass beads

10. Please feel free to make any other comments about your participation in this project.

Most of the other comments made reiterated what attendees had said they enjoyed about taking part in the project. These fell into the following five broad areas:

Area of comment	Number	%
It was enjoyable/fun/great experience	18	33
Lovely surroundings/excellent tutor/warm welcome etc	7	13
Good social event/to make connections	4	7
Great idea to do something related to the area/linen	3	5
Other e.g. good to see like to poppies exhibition/great opportunity to take part	8	15
No additional comment	15	27

Sample of verbatim comments shown

- Lovely idea to commemorate the history of linen in the area.
- Enjoyed the pottery making and the company.
- Great fun and a chance to be creative.
- This was a wonderful experience which I enjoyed enormously. Trevor and Deirdre were fantastic. They were very extremely encouraging and made the activity a delight. Thanks to both.
- Good to make connections.
- Lovely to link to the other red poppies exhibition last year.
- Excellent tutor and facilities.

Although the 'planting' stage of the project is still to take place, the results so far indicate that the project has been very successful and has made progress towards meeting the conditions of the grant. Those benefits around increased appreciation of art and increased intentions to visit galleries in the future are particularly encouraging.

Independent examiner's report to the Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018

Respective responsibilities of charity 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:

- 1 Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- 2 Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- 3 state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of 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 have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That 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 the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

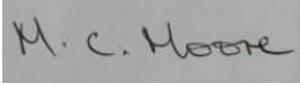
Independent examiner's statement

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.

Name: John N.T. Riddell

Date: 31st. MARCH 2018

Approved and adopted by the meeting of the Committee by:

Signature Chair  Mrs Millie Moore

Date 12 October 2018

Accounts for The Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio 2017-2018					
	Income			Expenditure	
Description		Amount	Description		Amount
Balance		£5,434.73	Events Expenses		
Subscriptions		£2,155.00	Lecture/ Talks	£312.50	
Grant ABC Council - Kids Own Project		£1,366.61	Opening /Events in Gallery	£289.75	
			Maurna Crozier Bursary	£520.00	
Event Income			Workshops/Projects	£3,675.00	
Fund Raiser Ticketed	£403.00		School Visit Travel	£300.00	
ABC Grant Flax project	£2,000.00				£5,097.25
		£2,403.00	Payments Admin		
			Bank Charges	£80.45	
Donations			Independent Examiner Accounts	£200.00	
Donation Box	£184.00		ABC Refund (Excess Grant)	£66.61	
Individual Donations	£86.74		BAFM (Sub and Ins)	£352.00	
Miscellaneous	£42.00		Abacus Designs Printing	£559.00	
		£312.74	J.McAleenan (Flax Flower Project)	£54.72	
			Sundries (Flax Flower Project)	£35.04	
			Agnew General Engineering	£144.00	
			T.Woods (Flax Workshop)	£50.00	
					£1,541.82
Total Income		£11,672.08	Total Expenditure		£6,639.07
	Final Balance	£5,033.01			

M. C. Moore