

Annual Report & Statement of Accounts

Year to 31 March 2019



Friends of the
F.E. McWILLIAM
Gallery & Studio

NIC106019

Contents	Page
Purpose of the charity	3
Public benefit	3
Activities and achievements	3
Impact	6
Private benefit	6
Statement of compliance	7
Financial review	7
Reference and details	8
Governance and constitution	9
Appendix	
Independent examiner's letter Accounts for year end 31 March 2019	11

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 from April 2018 to March 2019 the charity has:

1. Organised lectures at the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio for members and others
2. Hosted visits and attended networking events with other arts' groups
3. Provided a bursary for an artist to attend a centre for creative arts
4. Facilitated a focus group with teachers from across the council aimed at identifying how the Friends could best contribute to arts education in a practical and enduring way
5. Distributed funding for the purchase of 12 gallery stools
6. Organised tours and visits to other museums and galleries

Activities and Achievements

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

The committee of the Friends of the gallery organised the following lectures for members and others:

- a) In April Mark Shields gave an in-depth and fascinating talk on his love of art, the inspiration behind his work and his exhibition 'Inaccessible Lands' which ran at the gallery in mid-2018. Mark's talk included a colourful slideshow that demonstrated the various stages in his painting process. This encouraged audience members to revisit the work with renewed interest.
- b) In May Dr Denise Ferran gave a most informative talk at a special VIP event on the work of artist Neil Shawcross. This was followed in early June by an 'In Conversation' event with Dr Riann Coulter chatting with Neil about his extensive career. We were delighted to offer members, guests and others the opportunity of engaging with one of Northern Ireland's most popular artists.
- c) In October, local film, documentary maker and broadcaster Brian Henry Martin was interviewed by film producer/director Ben O'Loan. This event demonstrated our continued support for arts in education and appealed to media studies and visual arts students. This event on our programme proved to be one of our most popular and

included students from a number of schools who contributed enthusiastically to a lively discussion. (Contact had been made directly with schools to inform them of the event)

- d) In February 2019 Eddie Rafferty, local artist and past recipient of the Maurna Crozier bursary, provided a wonderful evening of entertainment when he chatted with Riann Coulter about his body of work, his art practice and his work with Southern Health Trust patients as an ArtsCare artist in residence.

2. Hosted visits and participated in networking events with other arts groups

In May our Friends welcomed Friends of the National Gallery, Dublin, to a talk about F.E. McWilliam and a tour of the studio and sculpture garden. For many in the party of about 35, it was their first visit to the gallery and a useful opportunity to network with like-minded enthusiasts. The success of this event has encouraged the committee to consider adopting a proactive 'outreach approach' to Friends' groups and associations.

In January 2019 the F.E. Friends were delighted to be invited to a combined event at the RHA in Dublin. Friends of the RHA, the Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda and F.E. McWilliam met to hear Abigail O'Brien, new President of the RHA, welcome guests and give a short talk on the history of the Academy. We then had the opportunity to see the RHA collection followed by a special tour of the Mary Swanzy exhibition at IMMA. This was the first 'Friends only' event organised by the committee and it proved to be very worthwhile. Not only did we make special connections, but we recruited new members to the Friends who could see the benefit of joining our organisation.

3. Provided a bursary for an artist to attend a centre for creative arts

A bursary for a one-week residency at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakerrig, Co Monaghan was advertised in early 2018. A new selection panel was set up to consider the applications and an award was made to photographer John Baucher. In keeping with the invitation to Eddie Rafferty and other past recipients of the bursary, John will be invited to showcase his work and talk to the Friends about his experience on the residency.

Feedback from Eddie Rafferty influenced the committee to extend the offer of a bursary from a one-week stay to a two-week stay in 2019. We also chose to extend the opportunity to apply for the bursary beyond the ABC Council area to all of Northern Ireland. The application process runs during March and is open in 2019 to all visual artists born in or resident in Northern Ireland.

4. Focus group and CPD training for art teachers

Working closely with the Council's Arts Development Officer Louise Rice, a focus group took place during the summer 2018 with teachers from eight schools. The aim of the meeting was to identify ways that the Friends could support arts education in a practical and enduring way.

A number of ideas were discussed with the most popular being the design, development and delivery of CPD (continuing professional development) training for school teachers. Two artists, Deborah Malcolmson and Robert Peters, are currently at the phase one, design stage, of the project. Development of the workshop-based training and a pilot will take place over the summer with a view to rolling the project out from October. We plan to offer the CPD training to primary and secondary schools.

5. Provided funding for the purchase of 12 gallery stools

For some time the committee has recognised the need for light-weight mobile seating for the gallery. Following research, the committee sourced and funded payment for 12 high quality folding stools and wall hangers. The aim of the purchase was to make participating in gallery tours more accessible for those with mobility challenges. The first day that the stools were unpacked they were used by a visiting couple who suffer from arthritis and would not otherwise have stayed for a tour. Feedback so far has been excellent.

6. Organised tours and visits to other museums and galleries

- In April a small group of Friends and guests attended a tour of the Chester Beatty library in Dublin. Despite the poor weather and the busy venue, this proved to be a fascinating insight into the life of the collector and the history of this stunning collection. This visit complemented the successful visit by the Friends of the Chester Beatty library to the gallery last year.
- In May a large group of Friends visited Beaulieu House in Baltry near Drogheda. The day included a tour of the house and gardens followed by a buffet lunch. This was a super day where the amazing weather enhanced the beautiful surroundings. We are delighted to continue to offer events throughout Ireland especially those where our members have the opportunity to appreciate art in the setting of outstanding built heritage.
- Eight Friends met for coffee at the MAC before commencing a tour of the 2018 Degree Show at Ulster University, Belfast. The group, led by Millie Moore, began in the Fine Art Department where they admired, questioned and discussed a selection of paintings. The beautifully crafted ceramics and jewellery on show offered a glimpse of talented contemporary makers ready for business. The tour finished with a visit to the textiles and fashion section leaving visitors in awe of the young designers and makers of the future whose work would stand out on any catwalk.
- In September a large group of Friends visited the National Botanical Gardens in Glasnevin, Dublin, to go on the 'Sculpture in Context' tour. The gardens provided a wonderful backdrop to a varied selection of large outdoor sculptures. These and the Victorian glass houses made for a very enjoyable tour. We followed this by going on a self-guided tour of the indoor sculpture exhibition located in the gardens' main building. Some members took the opportunity to visit the historic Glasnevin Cemetery which is located adjacent to the gardens.
- September saw the 10th anniversary of the opening of the gallery. The Friends took the opportunity to invite the participants and key contributors to the Flax Flower project (the committee's main community outreach project for 2017/18) to a tour of the gallery and gardens. Ceramicist Trevor Woods, members of Ferguson's Linen company, the McConville brothers from Dromore's scutching mill and Anthea McWilliams from R Space Gallery attended the event to view the ceramic flax flowers on show in the garden. The display (visible until they were put into storage in January) has been an on-going attraction for visitors to the gallery throughout 2018/19. Visitor numbers, local press coverage and anecdotal evidence show this project has had lasting impact as well as benefiting members of the participating community groups.

- As mentioned above, in January we had the opportunity to attend an outstanding tour of the 'Mary Swanzy, Voyages' exhibition by curator Sean Kissane. The exhibition and the tour, which gave a vivid picture of the life and influence of this important artist, were real highlights in the programme for 2018.
- In October, through the gallery's involvement in the 2018 Linen Biennale, we accepted the generous offer of places at a special talk on the Sir Richard Wallace Collection which is based in London. Curator of the collection Suzanne Higgott, gave a fascinating talk at the Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum where we heard about the contribution of Wallace to the Linen Industry and to the Lisburn area in particular.

Visits by members of the Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio to 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 impact has been on-going, driven by amongst other things, the successful Flax Flower project.

The organised lectures, all of which took place at the gallery, and tours, increased members' and guests' knowledge and appreciation of art. Lectures are advertised on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram so that the general public can also attend.

The hosted networking events brought new people to the gallery. These guests received a tour of the facility and learned about the life and work of F.E. McWilliam. As the main networking events this year involved groups from the South of Ireland, the impact has helped spread information about the artist and the gallery further afield.

A condition of receiving the Maurna Crozier bursary is for the artist to share with the charity's membership their experience of the residency at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre. This usually involves showcasing their work and describing their artistic practice, thus increasing the audience's learning and appreciation of art. The award aims to contribute to the development of emerging artists in Ireland.

The impact of the CPD project will not be felt until its launch in October and beyond. However, we are confident the results will make an enduring contribution to the learning and skills not only of the teachers involved but also their students. A condition of the project is the requirement to gather feedback on its impact.

Our purchase of the much-needed stools has helped to increase the accessibility of the gallery to an important section of the general public – those with mobility challenges.

Private Benefit

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 pays for other miscellaneous services provided, such as refreshments at networking events and considers 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.

During May 2018, the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of the Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio attended 'Essential Committee Skills' training run by the ABC Community Network Group. This gave a good introduction to the skills necessary to run a Charities Commission compliant charity. It also helped us to make important links with relevant networks and groups who can provide advice and support if needed.

Financial Review 2018-19

We started the year with just over £5000 in the charity's Ulster Bank account.

Membership of the Friends remains steady. This year fourteen new members joined during the year which keeps us at an average yearly membership of 120.

Membership subscriptions bring in just under £2500 a year, this being our main source of income.

Events, such as lectures and trips, bring in a small income but these are organised mainly for the benefit of members and to encourage guests to join.

Lectures or talks such as those by Mark Shields, Brian Henry Martin and Eddie Rafferty normally cost £100 per speaker. This year ticket sales for the Martin talk in October brought in an extra £169.

The 'Neil Shawcross in Conversation' event in June raised £142 in ticket sales in return for a gift of wine at £61. The special summer party for members and guests which was part of this event, included strawberries and wine. This cost £207 for 50 people.

The visit to Beaulieu House in May, which included a meal and a tour of the house and gardens, at €29 per person, was not a fund-raising event. Costs of €928 were covered by the 32 participants.

An interesting trip to the Botanical Gardens at Glasnevin for 'Sculpture in Context', brought in £102 with costs of £80 for the guided tour.

This year we changed the Christmas event for a Burns Celebration in January which attracted a great crowd. The cost of the meal for 48 people (tickets of £20/£25 for 2 or 3 courses) was £1152, room hire was £60 and entertainment in the form of Jinty Anderson and her dancers, cost £60. Dr Alan Turtle received a small gift for his witty Burns' readings.

This year the Maura Crozier Bursary Award of a week in the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, for £325, was given to John Baucher along with £100 for materials.

As we had a healthy bank balance, we decided to help the gallery by funding two sets of stacking stools. These were bought from a Swedish company and are popular with other galleries. The stools cost £1479 and already members and visitors have voiced their appreciation.

The annual cost of printing the membership forms and cards was £241.

Petty cash of £100 was spent sending out membership renewal cards and letters encouraging people to pay by standing order. Email was used when permission had been given.

We have decided to change our method of insurance for next year with a view to reducing costs, but mainly to facilitate our members' travel in the south of Ireland. We are joining a group called the Federation of Ulster Local Studies (FULS) who will insure us, along with their members, at a lower cost for travel throughout Ireland and the EU, if we wish. FULS is a large group of historical societies in Ireland and will create interesting new links for us.

Our independent examiner's letter, essential for the Charity Commission report, cost £200.

Bank charges are unavoidable and came to £77.06

At the end of this year the Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery will have a balance of well over £4500. Membership renewal in April 2019 will further increase the funding available to the charity.

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 2019

Mrs Millie Moore	Chair
Miss Lynda Fyffe-McFadden	Secretary
Mrs Hilary Good	Treasurer
Mrs Fionnuala Cook	
Mrs Fiona Hyslop	
Mrs Christine Wright	
Mrs Jane Hudson	
Mrs Della McKinney	
Mr Dermott Hutchinson	
Mrs Anne Davidson	
Mr Jason Diamond	
Mrs Brigitte Boland	
Ex Officio Dr Riann Coulter	Curator/Manager

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 2019, there are thirteen 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.

The committee meets typically once per month except for July and August. In the year to the 31 March 2019 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:

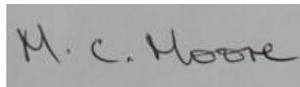
- (1) provide money by receipt of subscriptions, grants and donations to pay the costs of running the charity and furthering its purpose
- (2) organise and promote exhibitions, lectures, recitals and other social activities that encourage the appreciation of art including the collection of sculptor F.E 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. We will be assessing the value of our continued membership of BAFM during 2019 as we seek appropriate insurance for our membership.

Approved and adopted by the meeting of the Committee by:

Signature Chair



Mrs Millie Moore

Date

3 April 2019

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

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019

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 M.T. Riddall

Date:

01-04-2019.

Accounts for The Friends of the F E McWilliam Gallery and Studio 2018-19

Accounts for The Friends of the F E McWilliam Gallery and Studio 2018-19					
	Income			Expenditure	
Description		Amount	Description		Amount
Balance		£5,033.01	Events Expenses		
Subscriptions		£2,335.01	Lecture/ Talks fee /gift	£410.80	
			Opening /Events in Gallery	£486.48	
			Trips	£929.98	
			Maurna Crozier Bursary	£425.00	
Event Income			Burns Celebration	£1,285.60	
Ticketed talks	£572.00		Stools for gallery	£1,479.44	
Paid trips	£986.00				£5,017.30
Burns Celebration	£1,070.00				
		£2,628.00	Payments Admin		
			Bank Charges	£77.06	
Donations			Independent Examiner Accounts	£200.00	
Donation Box	£313.50		Gift for founding members	£105.00	
			FULS (Sub and Ins)	£226.00	
Refund of bank charges	£40.00		Abacus Designs Printing	£241.00	
		£353.50			
					£849.06
Total Income		£10,349.52	Total Expenditure		£5,866.36
	Final Balance	£4,483.16			

