

DRAFT Annual Report & Statement of Accounts

Year to 31 March 2021



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 from April 2020 to March 2021 the charity:

1. Provided a bursary for an artist to attend a centre for creative arts
2. Organised a Friends only 'Sneak Preview' tour of *Living with Art: Picasso to Celmins* (the Alexander Walker collection).
3. Arranged two garland-making workshops
4. Provided information on how members could participate in art-related activities such as virtual tours.

Activities and Achievements

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

A bursary for a two-week residency at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakerrig, Co Monaghan was advertised in early 2020. The opportunity to apply for the bursary extends beyond the ABC Council area to all of Northern Ireland. The application process ran during March and was open to all visual artists born in or resident in Northern Ireland.

A selection panel comprising committee members and the Curator of the gallery assessed the applications and an award was made to Saintfield artist Alison Lowry whose practice is primarily in glass. Coincidentally the committee had arranged to visit Alison's exhibition in Dublin in March. However, many venues in Dublin were closed to the general public due to the pandemic, ahead of Northern Ireland, and this much anticipated tour was cancelled.

The committee offered Alison the opportunity to draw down the funding before attending the residency to help mitigate the effects of the pandemic, and knowing that the centre was closed due to Government health restrictions in the South of Ireland. However, due to family commitments, so far Alison hasn't utilised the award. We keep in contact with Alison and look forward to providing support when she is in a position to utilise it. We also look forward to attending her exhibition should circumstances prove suitable.

2. Organised a ‘Sneak Preview’ tour

In October we were delighted that Catherine Daunt, Hamish Parker Curator of Modern and Contemporary Graphic art at the British Museum, gave a detailed tour of *Living with Art: Picasso to Celmins* (the Alexander Walker collection) which had just been installed in the gallery. This was advertised as a Sneak Preview for the Friends as Catherine was only available for one afternoon before the official opening of the exhibition. Little did we know that this group were to be the only people from the general public to see the exhibition, as a second set of COVID-19 Government restrictions meant the exhibition did not get fully open to the general public.

3. Offered places at two garland-making floristry work shops

We were fortunate to be able to offer places in an Autumn and a Christmas-themed workshop on garland making with talented florist Romaine Hodgkins. These are popular events and were well attended.

4. Provided information to members on how they could participate in art-related activities

Throughout the pandemic the charity kept in regular contact with members sending membership-wide emails. These contained useful information on how members could access art-related activities online and through the media. For example: details of online virtual tours offered by galleries, online workshops, social media events and TV programmes. A summary of committee’s communication with members during this unprecedented year is contained in the Appendix.

.Impact

The benefit of the charity’s work is generally very evident and wide-reaching during the year. It can normally be demonstrated through the wider dissemination of knowledge about the artist F.E. McWilliam, the gallery and art in general through a comprehensive range of activities within the planned calendar of events.

However, in 2020-21 these activities were severely curtailed due to the closure of the gallery and the Government’s prohibitive health-related restrictions. These prevented, amongst other things, the ability for members to meet together in any capacity. Despite this, the view of the committee is that the impact of those few activities that were arranged, still had a beneficial impact on those who participated in the following ways:

1. Catherine Daunt, Curator of the Alexander Walker exhibition, gave a detailed and insightful tour to a group of Friends following the exhibition’s installation. The fact that Alexander Walker was from Portadown bolstered the attendees’ enthusiasm not only for the man and his collection, but also for his links to Northern Ireland.
2. The garland making workshops, like all workshop formats, provide the perfect opportunity for participants to develop their creative skills. In doing so they not only increase participants’ appreciation for the skills involved, but they also leave with an

added sense of personal achievement from having spent time with an artist whilst producing something creative/artistic of their own.

It is also anticipated that with the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine, at least two of the planned activities will have a positive impact in 2021 in the following ways:

3. 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 involves showcasing their work and describing their artistic practice, thus increasing the audience's learning and appreciation of art. (The award also aims to contribute to the development of artists in Ireland). We are hopeful that over the next few months, assuming that Alison Lowry's exhibition '*(A) Dressing our Hidden Truths*' remains at the Decorative Arts & History Museum in Dublin, that the Friends will feel safe and confident to attend a guided tour of her work, thus increasing their appreciation of art.
4. The teachers who took part in the Creative Classrooms project which ran during last year unfortunately didn't get to attend their final workshop - 'Ways of Seeing' before the end of 2019-20. We hope that this can be reinstated bringing to a successful close a worthwhile and educational initiative for this group. Indeed, we have recently learned that the facilitator Deborah Malcolmson, has gone on to develop this model for other teachers. It is always rewarding to hear how a charity- supported pilot can initiate something that is capable of impacting a much greater number of people.

Private Benefit

Fees of £100-£150 are paid to lecturers and/or a small gift given to an invited interviewer or as with Catherine Daunt, the Curator. These payments are considered a justified expenditure and are often mitigated by ticket sales which generally range from £5 for non-members of the Friends to £3 for members and students, depending on the nature of the event.

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. Despite the reduction in activities in 2020-21, we believe those that were arranged provided benefit to the general public.

Financial Review 2020-21

We started the year with £1987.62

Friends' membership provided our main source of income bringing in £1255 – we are very grateful to the 69 members who continued to pay their membership during what was a severely disrupted year with almost no activities occurring.

We also raised £150.00 from the sale of 60 art cards very kindly donated by MF Browne to be sold in support of the gallery.

FULS – our public liability insurer refunded £25 i.e. half of our annual membership fee – and is also included under donations.

We have also received a refund of £84.80 (50% of the public liability fee for our membership for 20/21). The period of cover has also been extended until 31/03/22.

This refund has only just arrived with the treasurer and so will not appear in the 2020/21 accounts.

Income total for the year was therefore £1430.00

Outgoings for the year were public liability insurance with the Federation of Ulster Local Studies (FULS) - membership of this society for an annual fee of £50 in October and public liability insurance for 106 members at £169.60 from 01/04/20

Bank fees are down because of the year of inactivity at £52.05

One event did occur – the exhibition of part of Alexander Walker's art collection, which opened in October, and costs for hospitality and gifts for the speaker came to £77.40

Petty cash stands unchanged at £65.28 (including £10.00, which was put into the public donation box at the gallery entrance so as to make it look less empty!) The public donation box has not been tallied this year for obvious reasons.

Our year-end figure is £3068.57 an increase of £1080.95 on the end of last year.

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 2020

Mrs Millie Moore Chair
Miss Lynda Fyffe-McFadden Secretary
Mr Dermott Hutchinson Treasurer
Mrs Hilary Good
Mrs Della McKinney
Mrs Anne Davidson
Mrs Helen Blane
Mr Jason Diamond
Mrs Brigitte Boland
Mrs Fiona Hyslop
Mrs Christine Wright
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 2020, there are 11 Trustees plus the Curator of the gallery.

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 2021, due to Government health restrictions, the committee were unable to meet.

Normally, 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. Due to Government health restrictions, the committee could not run its normal in-person AGM in April 2020 and instead undertook to conduct its duties online as a vote, the results of which are attached at Appendix. Twenty members returned responses on the items, which exceeds the required quorum of 15.

Carrying out the charitable purpose

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

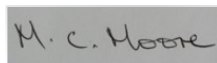
- (1) provide money by receipt of subscriptions, grants and donations to pay the costs of running the charity and furthering its purpose
- (2) organise and promote exhibitions, lectures, recitals and other social activities that encourage the appreciation of art including the collection of sculptor F.E McWilliam
- (3) provide grants/bursaries 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 Federation of Ulster Local Studies (FULS) providing value for money membership insurance. We note for the record that the Federation kindly waived 50% of the year's membership fee in recognition of the financial impact of the pandemic on charities. For this we are grateful.

Approved and adopted by the meeting of the Committee by:

Signature Chair



Mrs Millie Moore

Date

tbc

Insert examiners letter

Attach copy of completed Results AGM online vote

Appendix

Summary of Committee's Communication with Members in 2020/21

Messages were issued by email

Date issued	Title of message	Summary of content
17 March	Postponement AGM	Aim to rearrange AGM and reinstate programme when safe to do so
18 March	Closure of Gallery until further notice	Encouraging members to keep safe and communicate with those not on social media
28 April	Some good news!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award of the bursary • List of art related activities that members can participate in - on line, podcast, books, radio and TV • Thank you for your loyalty and ongoing support
2 June	A Time of Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Millie's story of walking and working throughout the pandemic and one of her paintings • Reference to the Guardian's FE McWilliam Quiz and how to take part on facebook • General update
27 July	Welcome back!	Opening of gallery, Quails café and Penumbra exhibition
17 September	Friends Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans for the AGM • Anticipated events • Request for membership fees • Request for safe ideas
28 September	Autumn Wreath Making Workshop	Invite to participate in workshops
6 October	Sneak Preview Tour	Invite to Friends only tour of <i>Picasso to Celmins</i> - Alexander Walker exhibition
12 October	Update & Vote at AGM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departure of Christine Wright and Fiona Hyslop from Committee • How to 'vote' on AGM items
16 October	Gallery Closed Until Further Notice	Stay safe message
19 November	Christmas Wreath Making Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation to attend workshops • Opening of gallery on 27 November

20 November	Sorry still closed!	
11 December	Gallery Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas opening times • Sympathy message to those who lost loved ones • Have a peaceful Christmas
19 January 2021	Gallery Latest News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curator Riann Coulter's new role and departure from gallery • List of art related activities available on line • Children's workshops online
25 March 2021	Spring is Here!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to staff tending gallery gardens • Information about upcoming <i>Sculptors at Work</i> exhibition • We'll be in contact about the AGM

<u>Income</u>			<u>Expenditure</u>		
Description		Amount	Description		Amount
			Lecture fees	£Nil	
			Admission fees for trips	£Nil	
			Hospitality/gifts	£77.40	£77.40
Membership subscriptions	£1190.00(20/21) £65.00 (21/22)	£1255.00	Christmas dinner	£Nil	
Ticketed talks/trips	£Nil		Gallery Projects	£Nil	
			Maurna Crozier Bursary	£Nil	
Donations	£175.00	£175.00	Bank charges	£52.05	£52.05
Donation box	£Nil		Accounts	£Nil	
			FULS insurance	£219.60 *	£219.60 *
			Postage and stationery	£Nil	
			To Petty Cash	£Nil	
Income 2020/21		£1430.00			
Petty cash		£65.28			
Balance from 2019/20		<u>£1987.62</u>	Expenditure 2020/21		£349.05
Total income at 31/03/21		<u>£3482.90</u>			
			Final Balance 31/03/21		<u>£3133.85</u>

* £25.00 refund included in donations. Further refund in the form of a cheque for £84.80 arrived after the end of the financial year and will be included in the year 21/22 accounts. FULS cover extended until 31/03/22