

Annual Report & Statement of Accounts

Year to 31 March 2021



Friends of the
F.E. McWILLIAM
Gallery & Studio

NIC106019

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Impact of COVID-19 on the Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio charity

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which struck in 2020-21 affected every walk of life in the UK, including the activity of charities. We are pleased to report that for the Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio Charity, the overall impact appears so far, to be minimal. A summary is given below with further detail throughout the report, as relevant.

Activities

It is perhaps not surprising that the main impact of the pandemic was on the programme of events. Where normally the programme includes 12 to 14 face-to-face activities throughout the year, only one small tour – a Sneak Preview of the Alexander Walker Collection - took place.

Beneficiaries of the charity

Apart from the general public, specific beneficiaries of the charity tend to be: schools, a local artist (receiving a bursary), recipients of funded projects and the charity members themselves. Unfortunately, in 2020-21 the only specific beneficiary was local artist Alison Lowry, who was awarded a bursary. However, to date these funds have not been drawn down. Details in the report show that although members were unable to attend arts-related events, they did receive useful information on how they could do this in a self-directed way through various media such as online.

Finances

The Finance Review section (provided by the Treasurer) in the report, shows that although subscriptions were significantly reduced, as outgoings were also reduced, the overall effect was mitigated. This resulted in an overall bank balance better than last year.

Governance arrangements

Governance arrangements were affected in that the face-to-face annual general meeting could not take place in April 2020. Government restrictions meant the gallery closed on 18 March 2020 and members could not meet in person. Believing the restrictions would be short-lived, the committee took the decision to postpone the AGM and future events until further notice. The committee did not meet again until 8 September 2020. At this point a decision was made to run the main activities of the AGM in the form of an online vote, the results of which can be seen in the Appendix. The committee met again in October after which, due to new restrictions, we did not meet again until June 2021.

Members, committee and gallery staff

Throughout the pandemic the committee kept in regular contact with one another and with gallery staff through an established Whats app group, and communicated regularly with members by email, details of which can be seen in the Appendix.

The remainder of this annual report takes its standard form.

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, and in unprecedented circumstances, 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. Provided information to members on how they could participate in art-related activities without attending the normal face-to-face programme of events e.g. virtual tours of galleries.

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 February 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. Alison's 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, 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. However, due to family commitments, so far, the award hasn't been utilised. We keep in contact with Alison and look forward to providing funds when she is in a position to accept. 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. 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 kept the gallery closed to the general public.

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

Throughout the pandemic the committee kept in regular contact with members, by sending emails. These contained useful information on how members could access art-related activities online and through various media. For example: details of online virtual tours offered by galleries, online workshops, social media events, books and TV programmes. Staff who continued to work in at the gallery also worked hard to provide online social media content where they could. A summary of the committee's communication with members during the year is contained in the Appendix.

Impact

The benefit of the charity's work is generally very evident and wide-reaching throughout 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 of members to meet together in any form. 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 e.g.

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.

It is also anticipated that with the continued 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:

2. 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. If this takes place, it will be reported in next year's annual report.
3. 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 to bring 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 project 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 invited speakers such as with Catherine Daunt, the Curator of the Alexander Walker Collection. 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 gave consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit. The guidance is designed to ensure that objectives and planned activities provide benefit to the intended audiences. Despite the reduction in activities in 2020-21, we believe those that were arranged did so. We also believe that by communicating ways in which members could participate in self-directed arts-related activities via other media such as online, also provided benefit.

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 at the end of last year.

A summary of accounts and the Independent Examiners letter of approval are available in the Appendix.

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 during 2020-21

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	
Mrs Emily Neill-Dalzell	
Mr Jason Diamond	

Ex officios representing the gallery

Dr Riann Coulter – Gallery Curator/Manager and 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 2020, there were 8 Trustees plus the Curator of the gallery and two other gallery representatives.

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 31 March 2021, due to Government health restrictions, the committee met twice – in September and October 2020.

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.

Annual General Meeting April 2020

The annual report and statement of accounts are approved by the Trustees and are normally presented to the members at the annual general meeting. However, 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 online vote took place in October 2020 the results of which are attached in the Appendix. Twenty members returned responses, of which 19 are permitted a vote – this exceeds the required quorum of 15.

An adoption, agreed unanimously, (in recognition of the challenges experienced by the pandemic), was a proposed amendment to the constitution to read: “Trustee meetings and annual general meetings can take place by whatever means the committee deem appropriate, which could include, but may not be limited to: telephone, email, writing, online or by internet conferencing, provided attendance meets the quorum”

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

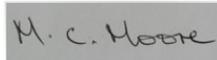
- (2) organise and promote exhibitions, lectures, recitals and other social activities that encourage the appreciation of art including the collection of sculptor F.E McWilliam
- (3) provide grants/bursaries for artists and/or commissioned art works
- (4) establish strategic relationships with educators 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 15 October 2021

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 2020	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 Maurna Crozier bursary to artist Alison Lowry • List of art related activities that members can participate in - online, podcast, books, radio and TV • Thanking members for their loyalty and ongoing support
2 June	A Time of Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Millie Moore's (Chair) story of walking and working throughout the pandemic and one of her paintings • Reference to the Guardian's F.E. 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 forthcoming events • Request for membership fees • Request for safe ideas to participate in
28 September	Autumn Wreath Making Workshop	Invite to participate in workshops (later cancelled)
6 October	Sneak Preview Tour	Invite to Friends only tour of <i>Picasso to Celmins</i> - Alexander Walker exhibition
15 October	Tour	Small group in attendance
12 October 2020	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 workshop • Opening of gallery on 27 November 2020 (workshop later cancelled)
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 during the pandemic • 'Have a peaceful Christmas' message
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' note

Gallery remained closed until 24 May 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery

This report covers the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021

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 charities accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act. 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 trustee 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 Examiners Statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: Calum Boland ACA



Date: 12/10/21

The Friends of the FE McWilliam Gallery and Studio 2020 - 2021					
	<u>Income</u>			<u>Expenditure</u>	
Description		Amount		Description	Amount
				Lecture fees	£Nil
				Admission fees for trips	£Nil
				Hospitality/gifts	£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
Donation box	£Nil			Accounts	£Nil
				FULS insurance	£219.60 *
				Postage and stationery	£Nil
				To Petty Cash	£Nil
Income 2020/21		£1430.00			
Petty cash		£65.28			
Balance from 2019/20		£1987.62		Expenditure 2020/21	£349.05
Total income at 31/03/21		£3482.90			
				Final Balance 31/03/21	£3133.85

* £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

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Online AGM results 2020-21



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