

DRAFT Annual Report & Statement of Accounts

Year to 31 March 2022



Friends of the
F.E. McWILLIAM
Gallery & Studio

NIC106019

Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio
 Annual Report and Statement of Accounts
 Year to 31 March 2022

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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 has been 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, we managed eight events (four tours, two talks and two ceramics workshops). This was a significant increase on last year.

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. In 2021-22 we offered no bursary and had no involvement with schools or education. However, those members and guests who attended the eight face-to-face events received benefit, details of which are given in the report.

Finances

The Finance Review section (provided by the Treasurer) in the report, shows that subscriptions increased and, as more activities took place, outgoings also increased. Comparatives are included in the Receipts and Payments Account showing the variances from last year.

We would like to thank the Banbridge Art Club, who upon their dissolution, kindly and generously donated their remaining funds of £4354.61 to the Friends for educational purposes.

We would also like to thank the McKinney family who, following the funeral of Jasper McKinney's mother Grace, donated the sum of £500.20 to the Friends to be used for an arts project for the P4 to P6 age range.

These generous donations have resulted in an overall bank balance significantly better than last year.

Governance arrangements

Ongoing Government restrictions and health guidance meant the gallery did not open until May 2021. The Friends' committee met in June 2021 but decided that given the potential vulnerabilities of the charity's older membership, it was safer once again, to run the main activities of the AGM in the form of an online vote. The results of this are available on request from the secretary. The committee do not normally meet in July and August but did so on 3 August to review the charity's position.

The remainder of this annual report takes its usual form.

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 continued (unprecedented) circumstances, from April 2021 to March 2022, the charity:

1. Organised two ceramics workshops
2. Organised tours of exhibitions and gardens
3. Supported the gallery to host the recording of a Sky Arts television programme
4. Welcomed an artist to the gallery to discuss the development of her work as part of the 'Northern Ireland 100 years and beyond' centenary
5. Arranged for an expert speaker to talk about women's role in linen design
6. Organised a social wine and cheese evening

Activities and Achievements

1. Organised two ceramics workshops

On 13 & 21st and then 14 and 22nd July Trevor Woods from Mount Ida Pottery, ran two double workshops with Friends of the gallery to make replacement and additional ceramic flax flowers for the installation in the gallery garden. One workshop was to make the flowers, the second was to glaze them. With COVID restrictions still in place, we were delighted that a small group of six Friends felt safe enough to take up the opportunity to develop their crafting skills and see their work 'planted' in the garden.

2. Organised tours of exhibitions and gardens

On 11 August sixteen Friends were privileged to have Head Gardener of Hillsborough Castle, Claire Woods, give a tour of the castle grounds. The day started in glorious sunshine and ended in pouring rain, but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of all who attended.

On 15 September Jason Diamond, committee member and gallery officer, gave the Friends an insightful and entertaining tour of the 'Sculptors a Work' exhibition which ran at the gallery throughout May. One of the highlights of the exhibition was the loan by the Ulster Museum, of F.E McWilliam's bronze sculpture of Elizabeth Frink. It was a treat to be able to see old photographs of F.E. making the sculpture in the catalogue of F.E. McWilliam's work.

Activities and Achievements - continued

On 3 September we were fortunate to be able to squeeze in a tour of 'F.E. McWilliam's work on paper' which was a super exhibition at the Armagh County Museum. We were welcomed by the museum's curator Sean Barden, who gave us a tour of the museum's own collection. Jason Diamond once again displayed his extensive knowledge of F.E.'s work by taking us round the paintings, sketches and prints. This event was the first the Friends had attended within the wider Council area. We plan to develop our links with Armagh by attending more arts-related events at the various venues in the city.

With the onset of the Omicron variant of COVID, and the continued cautious approach to managing events, it was 27 January before we could arrange another face-to-face event. This time it was in the form of a 'wine and wander' tour with artist Graham Gingles. Graham took Friends on a walking tour of his 'Theatre of Secrets' exhibition at the gallery. Graham's joy in talking about his work, was more than evident at this entertaining tour.

3. Supported the gallery to host the recording of a Sky Arts television programme

On 15 September, Friends supported the gallery to host the recording of a Sky Arts television programme by attending as the audience and commentators at a sculpture competition. The programme's competition 'Landmark' was between three local sculptors: Paddy Bloomer, Ellie Niblock and Stephen Wilson. The winner from the Northern Ireland heat of this UK-wide production went forward to the final. The prize for the overall winner was the opportunity to produce a sculpture to be installed in Coventry City. Paddy Bloomer won the NI heat and did a wonderful job of representing the talent in Northern Ireland. The television programme helped showcase the gallery as well as local artists.

4. Welcomed an artist to the gallery to discuss the development of her work

As part of the 'Northern Ireland 100 years and beyond' centenary celebrations, ABC Council commissioned artist Genevive Murphy, to produce a sculpture for a park. The Friends welcomed Genevive to the gallery to discuss her ideas and provide inspiration. Her 'apple' sculpture can be seen in Solitude Park in Banbridge.

5. Arranged for an expert speaker to talk about women's role in linen design

Linen expert Fiona McKelvie gave a super talk to nearly 40 Friends and guests at the gallery. Her talk 'A tale of designing women: the textile design revolution of the 50s and 60s and the women who contributed to it' was a fascinating journey into the world of design which Fiona supplemented with beautiful slides and examples of work by some of the designers mentioned in her talk.

6. Organised a social 'wine and cheese' evening

Taking a slightly different view of art, Jane Boyce Friend of the gallery and Master of Wine, gave a fascinating and fun talk on artisan wine and cheese. The event was attended by nearly 30 Friends and guests and proved a wonderful pre-taste of summer.

Impact

The benefit of the charity's work is generally 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 range of varied activities in a planned calendar of events.

However, in 2021-22, as was the case in 2020-21, activities were curtailed due to the effect of the Government's health-related restrictions. These dissuaded members, at least at the start of 2021, from meeting together. However, as the year went on and people's confidence grew, a greater number of members attended events, albeit 'masked up'. The view of the committee is that the impact of the activities that were arranged had a beneficial impact on those who participated e.g.

- Attending tours and talks, especially given by artists themselves such as Graham Gingles and Genevive Murphy; and by experts such as Fiona McKelvie, Jason Diamond and Sean Barden, is hugely educational. The insights attendees get from these events contribute to their appreciation of art. This year we were fortunate that this specifically included sculpture and works on paper by F.E. McWilliam.
- Workshops such as those by ceramicist Trevor Woods give people the chance to develop their own creative skills as well as further 'hands-on' insight into art.

Private Benefit

Fees of £100-£150 are paid to lecturers and/or a small gift given to invited speakers such as with Fiona McKelvie, Linen expert. 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.

There were no payments made to Trustees, their close relations or businesses in 2021-22.

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 2021-22, we believe those that were arranged, did so.

Financial Review 2021-22

We started the year with a £3,069 bank balance and £65 in petty cash.

In another atypical year we were delighted with the ongoing support of our members with membership subs bringing in £1,745. By the year-end our paid-up members totalled 88 and there were 3 honorary members and 7 unpaid. We also extended free membership, until the end of March 2023, to 31 members of Banbridge Art Club following the club's dissolution.

Banbridge Art Club very kindly and generously donated their remaining funds of £4,355 to be used specifically to provide art education for young people.

We also would like to thank the McKinney family who, following the funeral of Jasper McKinney's mother Grace, donated the sum of £500 to Friends of F.E. McWilliam, to be used for an arts project for local primary schools.

During the year, despite COVID, we managed to have several events. Ticket sales raised £564 overall.

Income generated during the year was £7,375.

Outgoings for the year came to £1,048. The bulk of this relates to expenses relating to the events that took place.

Bank fees are relatively low at £60.

Our year-end bank balance figure is a healthy £9,432, including £4,355 restricted funds. The petty cash balance is £29.

As an organisation without salary costs and low running costs, reserves are not required.

The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and for at least 12 months from the date of approval of this Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name

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

Charity Form

The Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio is an unincorporated charitable association.

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 2021-22

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	
Mrs Brigitte Boland	
Mrs Marbeth Lynch	

Ex officious Dr Riann Coulter – Gallery Curator/Manager and Mr Jason Diamond

All Trustees were appointed 15 November 2021. Jason Diamond retired as a Trustee and took up the role as ex officio representing the gallery with the Curator. Mrs Boland who had been employed as a member of staff at the gallery formerly ex officio representative, retired as an employee and was appointed Trustee with the other members.

Prior to 15 November all Trustees were as named above.

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 2022, there were 10 Trustees plus the Curator of the gallery and one other gallery representative.

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 2022, due to Government health restrictions, the committee met on nine occasions.

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 2021

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 and concerns about the vulnerabilities of the membership, the committee chose not to run its normal in-person AGM in April 2021 and instead undertook to conduct its duties online as a vote. The online vote took place in October 2021 the results of which are available from the Secretary. 21 members returned responses – this exceeds the required quorum of 15.

Carrying out the charitable purpose

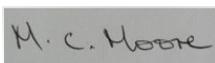
To carry out the charitable purpose the Trustees have the power to:

- (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 for a second year 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:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. C. Moore".

Mrs Millie Moore

Chairperson

11 May 2022

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

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 12 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of 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:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- 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; and
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. In connection with following Direction 1 of the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I draw your attention to the fact that the current Constitution is in the process of being reviewed and amended and once finalised will not contain an audit requirement. Whilst the current Constitution contains such a requirement the members have not required an audit for the year in question. I have found no other matters that require drawing to your attention.

Grace Taggart FCA

CG Taggart Accountancy Services
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

49 Ashcroft Way, Lower Ballinderry, Lisburn, BT28 2AY

11 May 2022

Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio
 Receipts and Payments Account
 Year to 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<u>Receipts</u>				
Donations	601	4,355	4,956	175
Event ticket sales	564	-	564	-
Membership subscriptions	1,745	-	1,745	1,255
FULS refund	<u>110</u>	-	<u>110</u>	-
<u>Total Receipts</u>	<u>3,020</u>	<u>4,355</u>	<u>7,375</u>	<u>1,430</u>
<u>Payments</u>				
Gallery projects	320	-	320	-
Hospitality and gifts	97	-	97	77
Hospitality and gifts (uncashed at 31/03/22)	44	-	44	-
Visit admission fees	136	-	136	-
Membership refunds	105	-	105	-
FULS public liability insurance	50	-	50	220
Bank fees	60	-	60	52
Sundry expenses	36	-	36	-
Lecture fees (uncashed at 31/03/22)	<u>200</u>	-	<u>200</u>	-
<u>Total Payments</u>	<u>1,048</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,048</u>	<u>349</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year	1,972	4,355	6,327	1,081
Opening Bank & Cash balances	<u>3,134</u>	-	<u>3,134</u>	<u>2,053</u>
Closing Bank & Cash balances	<u>5,106</u>	<u>4,355</u>	<u>9,461</u>	<u>3,134</u>

Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
At 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<u>Bank and Cash</u>					
Current Account	2	5,077	4,355	9,432	3,069
Petty cash		<u>29</u>	-	<u>29</u>	<u>65</u>
		<u>5,106</u>	<u>4,355</u>	<u>9,461</u>	<u>3,134</u>
<u>Other monetary assets</u>					
Ticket sales		<u>766</u>	:	<u>766</u>	:
<u>Liabilities</u>					
Wine & cheese expenses		<u>(260)</u>	:	<u>(260)</u>	:

Approved on behalf of the Committee and signed by:

Mrs Millie Moore

Chairperson

Mr Dermott Hutchinson

Treasurer

11 May 2022

1. Accounting policies

Set out below are the principal accounting policies which have been adopted in the compilation of the Receipts and Payments Accounts and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

(a) Receipts and Payments Accounts

All items of income and expenditure included within the Receipts and Payments Accounts have been accounted for on a cash basis.

2. Restricted Funds

	Bank Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Bank Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Banbridge Art Club	-	4,355	-	4,355
Total Funds	-	4,355	-	4,355

The purpose of the restricted funds is to provide art education for young people.