



WILLIAMSON AND
PRIORY FRIENDS

Annual Report

2020- 2021



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Chair's Report

Mary Compton-Rickett

2021 was the year that things started happening again. Both sites re-opened to the public with covid restrictions. Numbers were restricted in the galleries and buildings closed at the Priory, but open we were! It was great to be able to visit both sites after over a year of being able to enjoy them only virtually online. Having said that, the staff did a great job posting photos, videos and articles to remind us of what we were missing. The Williamson opened with an exhibition of many of the pictures from the collection that we had been seeing online, some old favourites and some not seen in the canvas for some time. The Priory was able to host a theatre performance in August and an art exhibition by Ali Harwood in September. As we all know, the café was a bit of a slow starter in the gallery, but as I write this, things have much improved in that area. I would like to thank the café staff who did their best in difficult circumstances and to those of you who continued to support it during its teething problems.

Meanwhile, the Friends' gardening team got going on the Green Gallery, which had been inaccessible during lockdown and there was much weeding and pruning to be done. The end results were enjoyed by visitors and workshop attendees over the summer under the gazebos set up in the courtyard. Sadly, we were not able to organise any trips out, but hope to have something for this year.

As the Friends' year ended last October, we were able to look forward to the first of the regular events we used to enjoy, the Oxton Arts Fair.

I want to thank you all for continuing your membership and so supporting the Williamson and Priory during the times that they were not available to you at all and during the continuing restrictions once they were. At the end of our year, 31 October, membership was 397 strong. Your enthusiasm and support helped to save the Williamson when it was under threat, and it was good to note that it was not on the list for consideration of closure in this year's council budget.



Wirral Museums Service Report

Colin Simpson

Principal Museums Officer

Activities within the Wirral Museums Service reflected life in the rest of the world, including the museum world, in that buildings were closed, and staff were working at home or were designated to other duties for much of the time. Once it was possible to populate the buildings, but without being open to the public, we took the opportunity to decorate, clean and redisplay various elements of the museums' collections. In addition, a great effort was made by staff, and volunteers, to maintain a steady profile on various social media channels, and this was especially popular with the Priory's followers.

On reopening the Williamson at the end of May 2021, it was with a one-way system and severe restrictions on numbers and limited times, which would soon change to the new hours that we had adopted as a result of budget adjustments within Wirral Council. The council remained (and remains) extremely cautious about allowing things to return to pre-Covid levels of activity but things began to pick up, especially as visitors became aware that the Williamson and Priory were once more available to visit.

The gallery's exhibition programme was suspended but the opportunity was taken to display a range of items from the collection, including paintings that had proved popular online and allow them to be seen in person.

The well-known artists' model and key figure of the Merseyside art scene June Furlong died in November 2020 and the tribute that had gone on the website for her 90th birthday earlier in the year was repeated; the Williamson & Priory Friends made a purchase on the gallery's behalf of George Jardine's finest portrait of her, which had hung in her living room for 40 years – it is currently on display in Gallery 5.



The most significant change from this year was in the number of staff that departed: Stuart Campbell and Graham Griffiths, familiar faces to all our visitors from the reception desk, Kathy Heywood our Learning Officer went to NML to work with their dementia project House of Memories, Emma Williamson after two years as Documentation Officer went to train as a physiotherapist. The biggest change felt by both staff and many visitors was when Karl Heatlie, Senior Keeper, retired after 42 years at the gallery in a variety of roles: his knowledge of the gallery, all its nooks, crannies and peculiarities, will be difficult to replace. Thanks are due to them all for their service and diligence. We have also welcomed new faces to the front-of-house team: Sam Whitham and Anna Kennedy.

This was a hard year for everybody and, as I said at the start, the museums were closed for much of it. The year before Covid had been particularly good, with over 50,000 visitors at the Williamson, and we are working hard to recover the ground lost by over a year of closure. I believe that the team in place to carry the Wirral Museums Service forward is more than capable to do so and, alongside, improve the offer. I wish them well.

Birkenhead Priory Report

Angela Anderson

Despite being closed for many months due to Covid and the associated national lockdown restrictions the Priory bounced back and opened its gates to visitors again in August 2021.

And the visitors responded enthusiastically! Frequent visitors returning after the lockdown were delighted to be back and made a point of telling staff and volunteers how much they had missed the Priory and its unique atmosphere.

The Priory is a magnet for overseas visitors every year and despite concerns foreign visitors would not return to the UK in any great numbers very speedily the Priory was soon welcoming them again. They included tourists from both Russia and Ukraine.

Naturally the majority of visitors were from the UK and many were in the region on staycations and, hearing about the Priory, they were enthusiastic first time visitors.

Many frequent as well as first time visitors made a point of commenting on how well maintained and cherished the Priory site looks and they also expressed their appreciation of the time taken by staff and volunteers to show them around the Priory site while explaining its early 900 years of history.

Despite the Priory being open for less than half of 2021 visitor numbers exceeded 4,000 and since reopening in February 2022 following the usual January closure, the visitor numbers have rocketed to just under 5,000. They were boosted by the very successful Easter Egg Hunt which attracted an estimated 2,000 people.

Generous donations made by visitors have topped up the Priory coffers by almost £1,800 since reopening.

Plans are afoot, at the time of writing, for a Picnic at the Priory to celebrate The Queen's platinum jubilee and, later in June, another much loved Nourish event is due to be held.



Treasurer's report for year ending 31 October 2021

A very low activity year during the Gallery closure. But thanks to members' continuing support with subscriptions, we were able to provide extra internet and social media information about the Gallery as well as maintaining regular newsletters.

The Priory was able to purchase new planters for the grounds and we will be buying further plants this summer.

We very much appreciate the ongoing commitment of friends which enables us to stay financially viable and to offer help to the gallery to provide workshops and community events. Many of you now subscribe by standing order and that helps enormously with our administration as well as yours. There is a form for standing orders on the website if you want to change to this method of payment.

The following table shows a summary of the accounts. If you would like a copy of the full report, please request one from the treasurer at friends@williamsonartgallery.org.

Financial Statement for year ended 31 October 2021

2020	Unrestricted income	2021
£2,533	Gallery donations	£3,080
	Hosting previews	
£5,120	Memberships	£5,642
£370	Priory donations	£617
£3,000	Drop-in workshops	
£11,023		£9,339
	Unrestricted spend	
£1,041	Admin	£1,041
£20	Donations	
	Gallery purchases	£494
£277	Hosting previews	
£318	Memberships	£269
	Priory	£348
£5,500	Publicity	£5,940
£1,380	Additional publicity project	£2,700
£3,600	Quad Garden (lighting)	
£2,491	Drop-in workshops	
£14,627		£10,792
-£3,604	Net income/expenditure	-£1,453
£25,923	Balance at 1 Nov	£22,319
£22,319	Closing balance 31 October	£20,866
	Restricted income	
£20,000	Frohlick/Brabners	
£1,500	Mark Woods	
£103	Legacy	
£21,603		£0
	Restricted spend	
£0		£0
£21,603	Net income/expenditure	£0
£10,060	Balance at 1 Nov	£31,663
£31,663	Closing balance 31 October	£31,663

Committee Members For 2020-2021

Mary Compton-Rickett LLB, Chair

A retired barrister, Mary has had a lifetime interest in the arts in all forms and is an art collector of paintings, prints and sculpture.

Jane Horton, BA, Honorary Treasurer

Formerly Capital Planning Manager for the Royal Liverpool Hospital Trust, Jane manages the Friends' financial strategy, keeping them financially viable and enabling them to anticipate future events.

Colin Simpson, BA AMA

Colin is the curator of the Williamson Art Gallery and Museum and Principal Museums Officer for Wirral.

David Ainsley, BA Arch (Hons), MA RIBA

A former President of the Liverpool Architectural Society, David is now retired from Ainsley Gomon architects, of which he was a founding director.

John Southwood

John is a former Trinity House Pilot on the River Dee and River Dart. He is a trustee and curator of the Conway Chapel Museum.

Corinne Whitham, BA Fine and Studio Arts, Chair Activities Sub-Committee

Corinne is a retired education professional who spends her time producing her own work and supporting W&PF, as well as volunteering with AgeUK.

Ann McLachlan BA (Hons)

A business graduate and member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development, Ann had a career in HR and gave 18 years public service as a Local Authority Member, retiring as the Mayor of Wirral in 2018 and resigned from the Committee in December 2020.

Elaine Heritage BEd

Teacher, with a lifelong interest in Art and the Humanities. Served as a school governor. As a trustee, particularly represents Birkenhead Priory's interests.

Charity Registration No. 1166363

**WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 OCTOBER 2021**

**Horner Downey & Company Limited
Chartered Accountants
10 Stadium Court
Stadium Road
Bromborough
Wirral
CH62 3RP**

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Members

Miss. M. Compton-Rickett
Mrs. J. Horton
Mr. D. Ainsley
Mr. C. Simpson
Mr. J. Southwood
Mrs. C. Whitham
Mrs. E. Heritage
Mrs. A. McLachlan
Mrs P Horner

(Appointed 31 August 2021)

Charity number

1166363

Independent examiner

Horner Downey & Company Limited
10 Stadium Court
Stadium Road
Bromborough
Wirral
CH62 3RP

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

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WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

CHARITY MEMBERS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021

The charity members present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 October 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are to promote, support, assist and improve the Williamson Art Gallery and Wirral Museums, and their cultural and educational activities.

The charity members have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Financial review

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The charity members consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The charity members have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The charity members who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Miss. M. Compton-Rickett

Mrs. J. Horton

Mr. D. Ainsley

Mrs. J. Benfield

(Resigned 31 August 2021)

Mrs. P. Foden

(Resigned 31 August 2021)

Mr. C. Simpson

Mr. J. Southwood

Mrs. C. Whitham

Mrs. E. Heritage

Mrs. A. McLachlan

Mrs P Horner

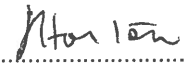
(Appointed 31 August 2021)

The charity members' report was approved by the Board of Charity Members.


.....
Miss. M. Compton-Rickett

Chairman

Dated: 20/6/2022


.....
Mrs. J. Horton

Treasurer

Dated: 20/6/2022

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE CHARITY MEMBERS OF WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

I report to the charity members on my examination of the financial statements of Williamson and Priory Friends (the charity) for the year ended 31 October 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity members of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Horner Downey & Company Limited

10 Stadium Court
Stadium Road
Bromborough
Wirral
CH62 3RP

Dated: 11 August 2022

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021

		Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	9,339	-	9,339	7,653	21,602	29,255
Charitable activities	4	-	-	-	3,370	-	3,370
Total income		9,339	-	9,339	11,023	21,602	32,625
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities							
Unrestricted Funds Expenditure	5	10,833	-	10,833	14,627	-	14,627
Total charitable expenditure		10,833	-	10,833	14,627	-	14,627
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/							
Net movement in funds		(1,494)	-	(1,494)	(3,604)	21,602	17,998
Fund balances at 1 November 2020		22,318	31,662	53,980	25,922	10,060	35,982
Fund balances at 31 October 2021		20,824	31,662	52,486	22,318	31,662	53,980

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

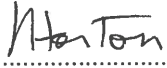
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		52,936		54,388	
Current liabilities	8	(450)		(408)	
Net current assets			52,486		53,980
Income funds					
Restricted funds			31,662		31,662
Unrestricted funds			20,824		22,318
			52,486		53,980

The financial statements were approved by the Charity Members on 16/6/2022


Miss. M. Compton-Rickett
Chairman


Mrs. J. Horton
Treasurer

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Williamson and Priory Friends is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the charity members have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the charity members continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the charity members in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Resources expended during the year are categorised depending on the charitable activity for which they are incurred. These resources ensure the charity's continuous activity and can be subcategorised further between staffing costs and cost of materials, which are the most prominent resources expended.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the charity members are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2021 £	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £
Donations and gifts	3,697	-	3,697	2,533
Legacies receivable	-	-	-	21,602
Membership fees	5,642	-	5,642	5,120
	<u>9,339</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,339</u>	<u>29,255</u>

4 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Charitable Income 2021 £	Unrestricted Charitable Income 2020 £
Priory	-	370
Drop in workshops	-	3,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,370</u>

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021

5 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds Expenditure 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds Expenditure 2020 £
Admin expenses	1,082	1,041
Membership expenses	269	318
Gallery purchases	494	-
Hosting previews expenses	-	277
Publicity	8,640	6,880
Garden expenses	348	3,600
Drop in workshops	-	2,491
Making Our Mark expenses	-	20
	<u>10,833</u>	<u>14,627</u>
	<u>10,833</u>	<u>14,627</u>

6 Charity Members

None of the charity members (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

7 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

8 Current liabilities

	2021 £	2020 £
Accruals and deferred income	<u>450</u>	<u>408</u>

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021

9 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances at 31 October 2021 are represented by:						
Current assets/(liabilities)	52,486	-	52,486	53,980	-	53,980
	<u>52,486</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,486</u>	<u>53,980</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,980</u>

10 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2020 - none).