

The Williamson's new year began with the launch of Borough of Culture at the gallery and an exhibition by local photographer Craig Easton, whose show, "is Anybody Listening," explored the struggles of families in Lancashire Towns in the late twentieth century and the identity of communities there now. He had worked with young photographers and their show, supported by Friends, was part of this larger show. Craig gave Friends an excellent talk on his work. This was followed by the Lowry travelling exhibition of L S Lowry's famous "Going To The Match", visiting WAG for the second time. Kirsty, the exhibitions officer, put together an excellent accompanying exhibition from our collection and Friends were given a talk by our marketing officer, Julia.

Once again Spring brought the Williamson Open into the galleries and despite the increased entry charge, the selection panel had a wide choice of entries and the show was its usual success. The other usual annual event, the Wirral Society of Arts Members Exhibition, did not in fact take place at WAG, but relocated to Mayer Hall. This was a lovely, if smaller, space but we do hope to see them back in the gallery. However, the gallery was able to host another Makefest in June and that was a wonderful event, showcasing across the gallery and Birkenhead Library local makers their work and techniques.

A gap in the programme for the year allowed the expansion of a planned exhibition "Into the Wyld". This was curated by Material Matters, a local collective of artists, who over three months put on three connected exhibitions, using a wide range of media and inspired by the medieval poem "Gawain and the Green Knight". It would be fair to say these exhibitions sometimes divided the room, but it was an excellent opportunity for local artists, such as the Weavers and Landlines to collaborate on a theme and exhibit their works both traditional, experiential and performance. The curators of each part gave Friends a talk and each talk was enthusiastic, generously long and really helped to explain the ideas behind the less obvious works. Thank you, Patric, John and Angelo. Accompanying these exhibitions, Alison Bailey Smith's recent beautiful jewellery work was on display in the foyer and cafe and was much admired.

The Priory events and activities detailed later in this report, continued to thrive and enjoy the continuing enthusiasm of its staff and volunteers. During this year, Wirral BC awarded a large sum from the regeneration fund to the Priory with the idea that improvements be made to the site, especially the Undercroft.

The Friends' activities took place as usual. We had our usual stall at the History and Heritage Fair now at Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight. We had several trips one local two further afield. The gardening team continued to attend weekly or fortnightly on a Monday to look after the green gallery garden. Unfortunately, two of the birch trees have had to be taken out, but they were declared disease free so we have fingers crossed on the others. It

continues to be a lovely outside space, if a little underused (although it was a poor summer!).

Sadly during this year the gallery lost two key members of staff; Niall Hodson, the Curator, left and then so did the Exhibitions Officer , Kirsty Hill. We wish them well. Even more unfortunately, by the end of this year, neither role had been filled and a Council spending freeze made matters more difficult. This obviously put a strain on an already depleted workforce . For these upcoming exhibitions, Friends have agreed to pay for the restoration of some of the Steer frames and new frames for a couple of drawings by Albert Richards, war artist and the subject of another planned exhibition for 2025.

Finally can I thank all the Trustees for their support during the year. Thanks to Susanne Christian our membership secretary for her tireless management of our membership list. Thanks to Mike Studley and Corinne Whitham for organising the trips and to Corinne for managing the Facebook page and the mail outs. Thanks to Alison Bailey Smith for the newsletter and this report and thanks to Jean Benfield for being minute secretary . A big thank you to Jane Horton our Treasurer. We have finally found a replacement in Ann Bibby , and the handover is planned for after the AGM. Jane has long been asking to be replaced and her patience is much appreciated. We welcome Ann in her new role when she takes over.

Finally, thanks to the members, for their continued support in difficult times.

Mary Compton-Rickett

Chair.

Charity registration number 1166363 (England and Wales)

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Members

Miss. M. Compton-Rickett
Mrs. J. Horton
Mr. D. Ainsley
Mr. J. Southwood
Mrs. C. Whitham
Mrs. E. Heritage
Mr. Michael Studley

Charity number (England and Wales)

1166363

Independent examiner

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

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

CONTENTS

	Page
Charity Members' report	1
Independent examiner's report	2
Statement of financial activities	3
Statement of financial position	4
Notes to the financial statements	5 - 10

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

CHARITY MEMBERS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

The charity members present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 October 2024.

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, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" 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)".

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

Mr. J. Southwood

Mrs. C. Whitham

Mrs. E. Heritage

Mr. Michael Studley

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

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

Chairman

Dated:

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 2024.

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.

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

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the relevant version of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements 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 the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

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 Charities Act 2011.
- 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 financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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

CH62 3RP

United Kingdom

Date:

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

		Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	11,749	-	11,749	7,970	-	7,970
Charitable activities	4	960	-	960	4,042	500	4,542
Total income		12,709	-	12,709	12,012	500	12,512
Expenditure on:							
<u>Charitable activities</u>							
Unrestricted funds expenditure	5	5,792	40	5,832	11,133	60	11,193
Total expenditure		5,792	40	5,832	11,133	60	11,193
Net income and movement in funds		6,917	(40)	6,877	879	440	1,319
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 November 2023		23,170	10,739	33,909	22,291	10,299	32,590
Fund balances at 31 October 2024		30,087	10,699	40,786	23,170	10,739	33,909

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 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		41,350		34,449	
Current liabilities	10	(564)		(540)	
Net current assets			40,786		33,909
Income funds					
Restricted funds	11		10,699		10,739
Unrestricted funds			30,087		23,170
			40,786		33,909

The financial statements were approved by the Charity Members on

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

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

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" 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)". 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 or grantors 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 2024

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.

1.7 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

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 2024

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations and gifts	5,111	1,451
Membership fees	6,638	6,519
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

4 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Charitable Income	Unrestricted Charitable Income
	2024	2023
	£	£
Admin	-	500
Priory	-	2,268
Hosting previews	-	269
Visits	960	1,505
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	960	4,542
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	960	4,042
Restricted funds	-	500
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

5 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds Expenditure 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds Expenditure 2023 £
Admin expenses	2,308	2,505
Membership expenses	19	574
Priory expenses	876	2,923
Gallery purchases	-	90
Hosting previews expenses	-	574
Publicity	1,549	1,560
Visits expenses	1,020	1,573
BAFTA gala expenses	-	800
Garden expenses	-	344
Stained glass windows	-	250
	<u>5,772</u>	<u>11,193</u>
	<u>5,772</u>	<u>11,193</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	5,732	11,133
Restricted funds	40	60
	<u>5,772</u>	<u>11,193</u>
For the year ended 31 October 2023		
Unrestricted funds	11,133	
Restricted funds	60	
	<u>11,193</u>	

6 Net movement in funds

	2024 £	2023 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	<u>564</u>	<u>540</u>

7 Charity Members

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

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Total	-	-

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

9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

10 Current liabilities

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals and deferred income	564	540

11 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 November 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 October 2024 £
General funds	10,739	-	(40)	10,699
Previous year:	At 1 November 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 October 2023 £
General funds	10,299	500	(60)	10,739

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

12 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 November 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 October 2024 £
General funds	23,170	12,709	(5,768)	30,111
Previous year:	At 1 November 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 October 2023 £
General funds	22,291	12,012	(11,133)	23,170

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 October 2024:			
Current assets/(liabilities)	30,087	10,699	40,786
	30,087	10,699	40,786
	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
At 31 October 2023:			
Current assets/(liabilities)	23,170	10,739	33,909
	23,170	10,739	33,909

14 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).