

The Friends of the Doncaster Museums
Trustees' Report April 2020 – March 2021

Trustees

David Adgar – Chair and Membership Officer
Christine Djezzar - Treasurer
Jackie Gladden - Secretary
Helen Stirland – Fundraising Officer
Mark Waterhouse – Digital officer
Margaret Baker Membership Officer – up to 31st October 2020
Carole Bodman – from 31st October 2020

Catering Officer and Adviser to the trustees– Angela Shoulder

Address

The Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery, Chequer Road, Doncaster DN1 2AE

<https://friendsofthedoncastermuseums.co.uk/about>

<https://www.facebook.com/fotdm2019>

Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number 1189117

Key Achievements in furtherance of our Objects

The Friends, like the majority of voluntary organisations, have faced many difficulties in maintaining their activities during this period because of the Covid pandemic. However, by making use of technology, and thinking flexibly, we have continued to offer educational talks, to keep contact with our members through regular newsletters, to raise money through fundraising, develop partnerships with other organisations, and done extensive planning for future events.

We had hoped to support the opening of the new museum, art gallery and library in Doncaster, but this has been delayed because of Covid. We were, however, able to contribute our congratulations on the website which accompanied the virtual opening on 17th March.

Fundraising

Although we were unable to continue with our raffles at regular meetings, our fundraising officer Helen Stirland organised a major Christmas raffle which brought in £1600. We are very grateful to the organisations and individuals who donated prizes and to our members and their friends who bought tickets. We also learned a great deal during the process.

We have done extensive planning and preparation with Neil McGregor from Heritage Services for an exhibition to be held in 2023 at the new museum of the work of Albert Houthuesen. He was a Dutch born painter, who spent some time during the second world war living and working in Doncaster as a draughtsman. We are working in partnership with the Houthuesen trust, and we have made extensive recordings of interviews with two people from the Trust who lived next door in London to Albert Houthuesen and his wife Catherine – also an accomplished artist - and became close friends with them. These will be edited to form a film to be shown with the exhibition. We are also planning to produce a short explanatory booklet to accompany the paintings.

Infrastructure Developments

We were very sorry to say good-bye to our previous Secretary and Membership officer, Margaret Baker at our AGM in October. She made a huge contribution and is very much missed. We were very pleased to welcome a new trustee, Carole Bodman at our AGM.

We continue to try to improve our governance, and during the year have developed Standing Orders, an Asset Register, and Register of Interests.

Membership

We are delighted that we have managed to maintain our membership numbers during this difficult year when we have not been able to see people face to face, and our membership at the end of March was 121. We are very grateful that our members have stayed with us, despite the lack of face-to-face contact.

Partnership Work

In addition to our partnership with the Doncaster Civic Trust regarding the Contemporary Arts Society and our partnership with the Friends of the Doncaster Mansion House, in purchasing the Baxter Testimonial, we are also active members of the Doncaster and District Heritage Association. In addition, our trustee Helen Stirland, has joined the Doncaster Heritage Services Advisory Committee. We continue as very active members of the British Association of the Friends of Museums (BAFM).

Communication

A Quarterly Newsletter was distributed to all members either digitally or by hard copy. Thanks to all members who contributed to the contents of these newsletters and to Mark Waterhouse, our Digital Media Officer for designing these. Thanks also to Mark for his work on our website and our developing Facebook page.

Our Chair also put articles in the Thorne Times and the Tickhill Today and Bawtry Today newsletters to promote our work.

We registered with Amazon Smile, and although the proceeds are very small, it is an easy way of fundraising.

The second tranche (£425) of the support given by Doncaster Civic Trust was received to help fund membership of the Contemporary Arts Society.

We are very grateful to our members for their subscriptions, and many are very generous and add a donation.

We have started the initiative of offering Gift Membership, which includes an appropriate Greetings card.

Acquisitions

Our largest outlay was a contribution of £3500 to the transport cost of the two locomotives - the Green Arrow designed by Sir Nigel Gresley and the GNR 251 designed by H A Ivatt - which have been lent to the new museum by the Railway Museum. Their arrival caused considerable excitement and we are delighted to have supported the display of such iconic local engineering achievements which will enhance the experience of everyone who visits the new museum.

We purchased at auction, together with the Friends of the Doncaster Mansion House, the Baxter testimonial. This is a 36-page testimonial presented to Robert Baxter, a Doncaster solicitor, at a dinner held at the Mansion House in 1846 to acknowledge his contribution, together with Sir Edmund Becket Denison, in ensuring that the main line from London to York passed through Doncaster. It is bound in leather and has the signatures of many eminent Doncaster citizens of the time.

We were delighted to receive four drawings and a painting by Albert Houthuesen from the Houthuesen Trust which we will pass on to Heritage Services.

Support for Research

We were very pleased to support the publication by Dave Fordham of his research into Doncaster postcards, and we look forward to seeing the finished work.

Talks and Events

We made the decision to cancel our live events early in the pandemic but started using zoom for our Trustees meeting in July and took out a subscription, allowing us to restart our programme with our AGM in October and a talk by our chair Dave Adgar in November about the involvement of people from Doncaster and around with the slave trade. This was followed in December by our Christmas quiz and drawing of the raffle. In January Rachel Holland Hargreaves gave a comprehensive talk about the Staithes group of painters and Matt Cridge from Doncaster Council also updated us on progress with the new museum. In February Dave Fordham gave an illustrated talk of a Walk along the River Don, and in March our trustee Mark Waterhouse showed some of the films he had made or edited of old Doncaster.

Financial Review

The start of our financial year unfortunately coincided with the first month of the Covid 19 Lockdown. None of us at that time knew what the future would hold. Our monthly meetings ceased and the income from the monthly raffles along with them. As the year continued to unfold and many of our "sister" Friends groups had to "close" their doors, our members did not abandon us. In fact ,membership renewals, new members contributions and donations started arriving in June. In July we received a substantial donation of £2.000 from the John and Ruth Howard Charitable Trust.

The year also saw us introduce the Christmas Raffle which netted us over £1.500. The revenue raised by the raffle will contribute to our sponsorship of the Albert Houthuesen Exhibition to be held at the new Art Gallery in 2023.

We have continued with our subscriptions to the Contemporary Arts Society and BAFM (British Association of Friends of Museums.)

Having sufficient funds to be able to buy the Baxter Testimonial Document, spotted by our chair at an auction was a coup.

We have also been able to fulfil an obligation to support research, by sponsoring member Dave Fordham in the research for his new book.

Looking forward to the 2021-2022 financial year we are starting with our support of a donation of £3,500 towards the cost of transferring the 2 Locomotives to the new museum.

Dave Adgar Chair



2nd October 2021

The Friends of the Doncaster Museums
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st March 2021

OPENING BALANCE

BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD FROM 2019/20

CURRENT ACCOUNT	5686.30
RESERVE ACCOUNT	4091.23
PETTY CASH	270.28
TOTAL	10,047.81

INCOME 2020/21.

Membership SUBSCRIPTIONS	1036.50
INTEREST RESERVE ACCOUNT	1.86

EVENTS

REFRESHMENTS AND ENTRY CHARGES

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE 1,600

TOMBOLA deferred to
following financial year (0)

DONATIONS

FROM MEMBERS 175.00

DONATION CHEST 197.50

INCOME FROM JOINT PROJECTS

Doncaster Civic Trust 425.00

(Funding for Heritage Doncaster Subscription to CAS)

Friends of Doncaster Mansion 192.50

House

(Joint Acquisition of Baxter Testimonial)

GRANTS

J and R Howard Cha. Trust 2,000.00

Liz & Terry Bramall 1,000.00

Charitable Foundation

TOTAL INCOME FOR 2020/21 £6628.36

EXPENDITURE

SUBSCRIPTIONS

BAFM & INS 510.00

ZOOM 143.88

SUB TOTAL 653.88

ADMINISTRATION

Printer Inks 69.99

Stamps & Cash Tin 190.00

Anti - Virus Software 20.00

Office 360 59.99

EVENTS

SPEAKERS 100.00

ROOM RENTAL 245.00

(Payment deferred from
previous year due to Covid lockdown)

Lotteries Licence 40.00

Raffle Tickets 84.00

SUB TOTAL 808.98

EXPENDITURE: SUPPORT FOR HERITAGE DONCASTER AND RESEARCH PURPOSES

Funding subscription for 1,700.00

Heritage Doncaster's
membership of CAS

RESEARCH GRANT	150.00
(Dave Fordham)	
MUSEUM PROJECTS (Locomotive transportation)	
	3,500.00
Purchase of Baxter Testimonial	290.00

SUB TOTAL	5660
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MISCELLANEOUS	229.24
CLOSING BALANCES	
CURRENT ACCOUNT	9250.93
RESERVE ACCOUNT	92.86
PETTY CASH	80.28
TOTAL	£9424.07

I HAVE EXAMINED THE ABOVE STATEMENT ,TOGETHER WITH THE BANK
BOOKS AND OTHER INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FRIENDS OF THE
DONCASTER MUSEUMSAND CERTIFY THE SAME TO BE IN ACCORDANCE
HERE WITHAND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEFS.

.....CHERYL BILLY.....BILLING

DATE 5/9/2021