

## **The Friends of the Doncaster Museums**

### **Trustees' Report April 2021 – March 2022**

#### **Trustees**

David Adgar – Chair and Membership Officer  
Christine Djeddar - Treasurer  
Jackie Gladden - Secretary  
Helen Stirland – Fundraising Officer  
Carole Bodman  
Mark Waterhouse – Digital officer - up to 9.03.22  
Jill Chiddey – from 27.06.21  
John Hoare – from 11.11.21

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**

Again, Covid has prevented the Friends from running its usual full programme of activities in the first half of the year, but considerable efforts were made to maintain contact with our members through the newsletter and through using zoom for some of our meetings. As restrictions reduced, the programme of face-to-face talks was restarted, and we held the first of our new programme of outside visits. Fundraising continued, as did our partnership work with other organisations and planning for future acquisitions and support to the Doncaster museums.

We were delighted to see the new town centre Museum, Art Gallery and Library - DGLAM, open to the public on 29<sup>th</sup> May and representatives of the Friends were invited to the formal opening by the Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire on 24<sup>th</sup> September. Representatives were also invited to an event at DGLAM to mark the retirement of the Lord Lieutenant, which Prince Edward attended. We had been invited to send some representatives to the museum in May to advise on access for people with disabilities, and we sent in a report with some suggestions.

The Friends suggested to DMBC that DGLAM should be entered into the national Civic Trust award scheme, and DGLAM was shortlisted but not successful.

The Friends received regular updates on the progress of the Doncaster Archives, which have not been open to the public following the problems at the Kings Edward Road site, and they look forward to the re-opening later in 2022 in the former museum building in Chequer Road.

The Friends were very pleased that Cusworth Hall re-opened to the public.

In 2021 the Friends celebrated 30 years in existence, and to commemorate the occasion our Treasurer Christine, with support from friends, put together a magnificent quilted banner.

## **Fundraising**

Our second Christmas raffle was a great success, thanks to our fundraising officer Helen Stirland and team, and raised over £1300. We are very grateful to the organisations and individuals who donated prizes and to our members and their friends who bought tickets.

We also ran two tombolas at Lakeside, one in July 2021 which raised £135. and one in the winter including crafts which raised £190. However, the team felt that because of the effort involved, and the costs incurred, the tombolas would not be repeated.

Neil McGregor, the Assistant Manager of Exhibitions, Art and Outreach at Heritage Services and a talented artist, gave us the choice of one of three of his paintings to use in a blind auction, which we advertised in our newsletter. This was successful, and he also gave us the takings from the sale of a second of the three paintings, so we raised a total of £400.

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

Tickhill and District Local History Society gave a donation of £75 towards the cost of the Houthuesen exhibition.

We are really grateful to our members for their subscriptions, and many very helpfully add a donation. An extremely generous member gave a donation of £2000 to support future subscriptions to the Contemporary Arts Society.

## **Acquisitions**

Having purchased the testimonial presented to Robert Baxter in 1846 last year, we were keen to ensure that it was accessible to the public for research purposes, and so paid for it to be digitised and put it on our website.

The Friends decided to pledge £1000 towards the purchase of an 18<sup>th</sup> century Sprotborough estate map. DMBC had agreed to contribute, and Charles Kelham, the borough archivist, is making an application to a grant making trust for the remainder.

A member very kindly donated 20 catalogues for local estate sales, and the Friends passed these on to the Doncaster Archives.

The Friends again supported the purchase of a Christmas Tree at Cusworth.

### **Support for Education**

The Friends had made a successful application for a grant from Tesco, and following discussions with Victoria Ryves from Heritage Services, it was agreed that £500 of the money could be used to support a group for families in Denaby Main being run by Victoria, with the remainder potentially available to support activities in Older People's Homes and work with people with mental health problems.

### **Talks and Events**

Since there were still restrictions and concerns about Covid at the start of the year we ran a combination of zoom and face to face events. The programme started with a zoom talk by Roger Offord on the history of the Doncaster Waits. In May we were fortunate to listen to a joint zoom presentation by the Director of the Contemporary Arts Society, Caroline Douglas, talking about their work and Neil MacGregor from Heritage Services talking about some of the artworks donated by the CAS to Doncaster. Our AGM was held via zoom again and was followed by a talk from our chair Dave Adgar about Albert Houthuesen. In November Dave Fordham gave a face-to-face talk about his newly published book on Doncaster postcards, followed by a repetition of the talk via zoom. The Friends had contributed towards the cost of his research in the previous year, and it was very rewarding to see the fruits of this investment in a fascinating book which adds to the published body of knowledge about Doncaster's history. This was followed in December by our Christmas quiz and drawing of the raffle. In January our chair Dave gave a zoom talk about 'The School Prints, an exercise on Idealism' and in February Naseem Nasim gave a talk about her family's experiences in being expelled from Uganda by Idi Amin in 1972. Our last talk of the year was from Dave on his time in Berlin during the 1980s, a time of considerable change and development.

The first of our visits took place very successfully in March to the Minster Church of St George, where we received a guided tour, and were shown the vestments worn by the clergy and the silver collection.

We have been fortunate this year to have been invited to a number of talks held at the museum to coincide with the opening of new exhibitions. In August we were invited to a talk by Catherine Daunt of the British Museum on an exhibition of the Alexander Walker Collection. In October Chinwe Russell, a Doncaster based artist, gave a talk on her new exhibition of paintings with the theme of '20 women who changed the world'. Then in February Neil McGregor gave an introductory talk about the exhibition entitled Double Take, which featured works by artists including Henry Moore and Gwen John, many on loan from the Arts Council, alongside

paintings and sculptures from Doncaster's own collection to which they are connected.

We have continued with the planning and preparation with Neil McGregor for an exhibition to be held in 2023 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 have made extensive recordings of interviews with people who knew him and his wife Catherine – also an accomplished artist. Our chair has prepared an explanatory booklet to accompany the paintings.

### **Infrastructure Developments**

We were very pleased to welcome a new trustee John Hoare following our AGM in October.

We were very sorry to say good-bye to our Digital Officer Mark Waterhouse in March. Mark set up our website and Facebook page and made a big contribution in bringing us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century! We are very pleased that Mark will be staying as a member of the Friends.

At the end of the year Angie Shoulder also stood down as an adviser to the trustees. We have benefited greatly from her experience and wisdom, and again are very pleased that she and her husband will be continuing as active members.

We continue to try to improve our governance, and during the year have reviewed and updated our Standing Orders.

We sent out a questionnaire to our members asking for their view on the Friends' activities and priorities. The 20 responses received showed that they were broadly happy with the way the organisation was run and were enthusiastic about the idea of running trips.

The Trustees established an events subgroup to organise the talks programme and trips.

### **Membership**

We are delighted that we have managed to maintain and increase our membership numbers during this difficult year when we have not always been able to see people face to face, and our membership at the end of March was 143 individual/family members and 2 corporate members. We are very grateful that our members have stayed with us, despite the difficulties of Covid. Our chair and other trustees have made particular efforts to keep in touch with our members via email and telephone during the Covid lockdown period.

### **Partnership Work**

We maintained our partnership with the Doncaster Civic Trust regarding funding Heritage Doncaster's membership of the Contemporary Arts Society, and for 21/22

we were also members of the Doncaster and District Heritage Association. We are a member of the Doncaster Community Advisory Panel, and we continue as very active members of the British Association of the Friends of Museums (BAFM), and our Chair is now their Vice Chair. The BAFM national conference will be held in Doncaster in 2023.

### **Communication**

Three newsletters were 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 and our chair Dave Adgar for editing the content.

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

### **Financial Review**

We are very grateful to our members both for their subscriptions and their very generous donations. We were also pleased to receive a donation from the Tickhill History Society.

Our Fundraising Team has continued its success in a raffle and two tombolas and we very much appreciate their efforts.

Our main contribution to Heritage Doncaster this year has been our continued funding of membership of the Contemporary Arts Society in partnership with the Doncaster Civic Trust.

We finished the year with a healthy bank balance, but a large part of this is reserved for the funding of the Albert Houthuesen exhibition in early 2023, together with the printing of an accompanying booklet which will be widely distributed.



DAVID ADGAR

Chair  
The Friends of Doncaster  
Museums.

**The Friends of the Doncaster Museums**  
**Financial Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March**  
**2022,**

**INCOME**

Balances brought forward.

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| Current Account | 9250.93 |
|-----------------|---------|

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Reserve Account | 92.86 |
|-----------------|-------|

|            |       |
|------------|-------|
| Petty Cash | 80.28 |
|------------|-------|

|       |         |
|-------|---------|
| Total | 9424.07 |
|-------|---------|

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| <b>SUBSCRIPTIONS</b> | <b>1401.00</b> |
|----------------------|----------------|

(includes 124.00 Minster admissions)

**DONATIONS**

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| From members | 2193.00 |
|--------------|---------|

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Tickhill History Society | 75.00 |
|--------------------------|-------|

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Doncaster Civic Trust. | 425.00 |
|------------------------|--------|

(as donation towards Contemporary  
Arts subscription)

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Christmas Raffle</b> | <b>1355.00</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------|

|                  |        |             |
|------------------|--------|-------------|
| <b>Tombola s</b> | 190.00 | 135.00 cash |
|------------------|--------|-------------|

# **ADDITIONAL INCOME**

|                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| Amazon UK.             | 5.19  |
| Art UK                 | 10.00 |
| DoncasterMinster visit | 9.00  |

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| <b>Total Income</b> | 5663.19 |
|---------------------|---------|

# **EXPENDITURE,**

## **Subscriptions**

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| BAFM and Insurance        | 470.00  |
| Contemporary Arts Society | 1700.00 |

## **Administration**

|                              |        |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Banner/Leaflets etc          | 182.80 |
| Albert Houthuesen catalogues | 110.00 |

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Ink Cartridges     | 106.42 |
| Stamps and Postage | 232.20 |

**Fund Raising events,**

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Lotteries Licence | 20.00  |
| Tombola Expenses  | 124.46 |
| Raffle Tickets    | 156.00 |

Miscellaneous expenses.

|                               |        |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Refund to Mansion House       | 192.50 |
| Minster Visit                 | 135.00 |
| Catering for Christmas Social | 178.00 |
| Currys office installation    | 59.99  |
| Hard Drive purchase           | 65.76  |
| Cq DMBC Childrens activities  | 250.00 |
| Baxter Testimonial            | 250.00 |
| Cq Digitisation of above      | 100.00 |

|       |         |
|-------|---------|
| Total | 4333.13 |
|-------|---------|

Petty Cash

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Brought Forward | 80.28  |
| Tombola Income  | 135.00 |

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Total                  | 215.28 |
| Purchase of stamps     | 118.86 |
| Total to carry forward | 96.42  |

Closing Balances

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Current account | 10,580.99 |
| Reserve account | 92.86     |
| Petty cash      | 96.42     |

|       |           |
|-------|-----------|
| Total | 10,770.77 |
|-------|-----------|

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

SIGNED..........<sup>C. MOVED TH</sup>  
DATE.....8/9/22.....~~C. BILLING~~