

The Friends of the Doncaster Museums

Trustees' Report April 2022 – March 2023

Trustees

David Adgar – Chair and Membership Officer
Christine Djezzar - Treasurer
Trish Huby - Secretary
Helen Stirland – Fundraising Officer
Carole Bodman
Jill Chiddey
John Hoare
Matthew Jones- from 1/10/22

Address

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

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

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

Website Under construction

Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number 1189117

Key Achievements in furtherance of our Objects

At the beginning of 2022, Covid continued to affect the smooth running of the Friends' its usual full programme of activities and it proved impossible to announce a full programme in the first half of the year as usual. Several the projected events had to be rescheduled due to the presenters testing positive for the virus, sometimes at the last minute. Considerable efforts were made to maintain contact with our members and the decision was made to pause the quarterly newsletter and keep our members up to date by regular e-mails- often weekly and by hard copy mailings to the small number of our members who were not connected to the internet. That this was appreciated is instanced by those receiving postal communication decided on their own initiative to post second class stamps to the membership officer as they were aware of the cost of keeping them up to date with the changing events programme. A full programme of events was delivered with face-to-face talks being delivered by an excellent list of speakers, including high profile authors and artists, as well as local historians. The highlight of the programme was undoubtedly the launch of the Albert Houthuesen Exhibition which had seen a significant input from the Trustees and members over a four-year cycle of fundraising and research.

Fundraising continued, as did our partnership work with other organisations and planning for future acquisitions and support to the Doncaster museums.

The Friends were invited to send some representatives to the newly opened Archives and Local Studies Library in January to advise on access for people with disabilities, and we sent in a report with some suggestions.

Fundraising

Our annual Christmas raffle was a great success, thanks to the team led by our fundraising officer Helen Stirland and team and raised over £1236. We are very grateful to the organisations and individuals who donated prizes and to our members and their friends who bought tickets.

The Albert Houthuesen Trust, with whom the Trustees had worked closely in conjunction with the exhibition already mentioned, very kindly donated five drawings of cats which meant we were able to repeat the success of the Blind Auction Fundraiser launched last year. All the drawings attracted very impressive bids and were purchased by members of the Friends. Members indicated that they had been attracted by the drawings but more importantly, had wanted to support the work of the Friends in supporting Heritage Doncaster. The auction raised a total of £1410 which was banked in financial year 23-24.

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

The final tranche was approved from the grant allocated by the Tesco 'Bags of Help Scheme' in 2018. The delivery of the project had been repeatedly delayed and the content of activities altered so that they could be delivered. The final payment was agreed and £1000 paid into the bank in the following financial year..

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

Acquisitions

The Friends continued to reserve £1000 towards the purchase of an 18th century Sprotborough estate map. DMBC had agreed to contribute, and Charles Kelham, the borough archivist, is continuing to process an application to a grant making trust for the remainder.

A racing programme which predates the founding of the St. Leger Classic horse race was bought at auction at the request of Heritage Doncaster. The collection is short of such material and the purchase fills an important gap in the overall racing collection.

The Albert Houthuesen Trust transferred ownership of five artworks to the Friends in recognition of the efforts which had been undertaken to deliver the first major exhibition of the artist's work in quarter of a century. The works, which included an

acrylic painting, drawings, and watercolours, were transferred to the ownership of Heritage Doncaster and featured in the exhibition.

The Friends purchased several historic items which reflected the history of the exhibitions which had taken place during the career of Albert Houthuesen in which he featured. These programmes featured in the exhibition and will be retained by Heritage Doncaster as a research tool for future use.

The Friends were requested by Peter Robinson, Assistant Manager (Human History) to provide matched funding which would enable him to approach a series of Grant Making bodies which would enable a large hoard of Roman Coins (The Norton Hoard) to enter the collection of Heritage Doncaster. The Trustees agreed to this request and £1050 was allocated for the purpose. The applications to funding bodies was successful and the hoard valued more than £24, 000 has now been acquired.

The Trustees were contacted, again by Peter Robinson, to ask for support in acquiring an important medieval ring found in Fishlake. A sum of £625 was allocated for this purpose and Peter was able to again submit successful applications to other funders based on the matched funding supplied by the Friends and a local appeal.

The Friends have now funded membership of The Contemporary Arts Society for a four-year cycle, as requested. During the year, Heritage Doncaster was allocated two artworks by a renowned Ghanaian artist with an insurance value of 25,000 Euros.

Support for Education

Talks and Events

The programme of events was wide and varied and ran throughout the year. Talks included speakers included Chris Barron of the Doncaster Grammar School Railway Collection who gave a talk on the origins of the collection. Melanie Bellis RE and Dave Curtis ROI PPRSMA both gave talks on their artistic practise, linked to exhibitions of their works. This was also the case with Ian Mowforth, whose talk focussed on his work and links to Doncaster. Lindsey Davis, bestselling author delivered readings from her books and did a book signing. The Christmas social event was well received by members and organised by a team led by the Treasurer, Christine Djeddar. There was a series of events, both face to face and on Zoom associated with the Albert Houthuesen exhibition held in the fourth quarter of the year. Our AGM was held via zoom. A talk on the Allied forces in Berlin was given by the Chair of the Friends, based on his experiences in the 1980s whilst he was based in the city.

The Friends continued with the planning and preparation with Neil McGregor for an exhibition held at the beginning of 2023 of the work of Albert Houthuesen. We worked in partnership with the Houthuesen Trust and the Art Dealers Nathanson's who represent the Trust. The explanatory booklet accompany the paintings was printed in a print run of 1000 and distributed both at the exhibition and local

community libraries in Doncaster. This was supplemented by the printing of free postcards featuring artworks donated to the Friends by the Albert Houthuesen Trust ; again, these postcards were distributed free of charge at the exhibition. Events associated with the exhibition included a major launch event, a talk on the project following up from the Zoom talk given the previous year, a talk by Susannah and Victoria Nathanson on Houthuesen and a Zoom talk by local art historian Rachael Hargreaves on the Symbolists, one of whom was Albert Houthuesen. Our members were also invited to a series of twilight tours of the exhibition delivered by Neil McGregor, which were well attended. During the ten weeks of the exhibition, the gallery was manned by at least Trustee every Saturday, who was able to deliver informal tours to groups including from the Scouting Movement and many students who attended. It was noted the diverse demographic range of those who attended these events. The Friends were keen to link their programme of events to exhibitions and aspects of history and art practise which reflected the programme of Heritage Doncaster so as to enhance the impact of the latter.

Infrastructure Developments

We were very pleased to welcome new trustees John Matthew Jones and Trish Huby following our AGM in October. We also saw the retirement of our existing Secretary, Jackie Gladden whose work over a number of years has helped The Friends to develop as they have.

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

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 similar to the previous year, although we were sad to lose a number of members due to bereavement.

Partnership Work

We maintained our partnership with the Doncaster Civic Trust regarding funding Heritage Doncaster's membership of the Contemporary Arts Society, but we have resigned from membership 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 continues as their Vice Chair and has become the editor of the BAFM Journal which is distributed nationally twice a year. Copies of this publication are distributed digitally to our members and hard copies to those who require them. The 50th BAFM National Conference and AGM will be held in Doncaster on 30th 2023.

Communication

The newsletters have been replaced by regular communication by the Membership Officer by e-mail, supplemented by the hard copies for those members who require them. This is to reflect the large amount of information which needs to be distributed and also to give members the opportunity to indicate their attendance at events so we can manage numbers as a precautionary measure
Our Chair also put regular articles in the Thorne Times and the Tickhill Today and Bawtry Today newsletters to promote our work.

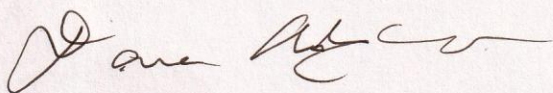
Financial Review

We are very grateful to our members both for their subscriptions and their very generous donations.

Our Fundraising Team, led by Helen Stirland, has continued its success in a raffle and blind auction and we very much appreciate their efforts.

Our contributions to Heritage Doncaster this year have included our continued funding of membership of the Contemporary Arts Society in partnership with the Doncaster Civic Trust. This has been supplemented by our funding for acquisitions and the focus, the funding of the Albert Houthuesen Project, with the need to pay the expenses associated with the transport and display of artworks and also the events which accompanied the Exhibition.

We finished the year with a healthy bank balance, but the Trustees are aware of the need to maintain a contingency budget so as to respond to unexpected calls on our funds.



David Adgar FRSA

Chair
The Friends of Doncaster Museums

THE FRIENDS OF THE DONCASTER MUSEUMS.
FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023.

INCOME

Balances brought forward	Bank	Cash
Current account	10,581.49	
Business Reserve Account	93.08	
Petty Cash		128.42
Total	10674.57	128.42

INCOME.

Subscriptions	1364.50	32.00
Grand Draw(raffle)	1171.65	
Donations	1957.00	
AMAZON Smile	5.00	
Total	4498.14	32.00

Total Income	1517272	160.42
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TOTAL INCOME 01/04/2022 - 31/3/2023	15333.14
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THE FRIENDS OF DONCAASTER MUSEUMS
FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023.

EXPENDITURE

Postage	30.54
<u>Assets purchased</u>	
Norton Hoard	1050.00
Royal memorabilia	50.00
Ink Cartridges	134.99
Subs refund to member	15.00
Bubble Wrap AH Exhibits transport	50.00
BAFMconference attendance.	188.00
CAS membership	1700.00
ALBERT HUTHUESEN	
ExHIBITION.	4816.94
BAFM membership &Ins.	545.00
Raffle ticket printing.	115.00
Computer virus inst.	59.99
DMBC Gaming licence.	20.00
Computer repair.	68.00
Members Social (catering.)	476.50
Bank	10.00
Speakers (S.Nathanson)	64.78
 Total Expenditure	 9394.24

INCOME BROUGHT FORWARD 15333.14

EXPENDITURE 9394.24

Total to carry forward to 2023/24 £5938.90 (includes £160.42 Petty cash and £93.08
Business reserve account balances)

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.

Signature  Date 31/3/23

LUKE
WILLIAM
MEREDITH.