

**The Friends of the Doncaster Museums
Trustees' Report
April 2024 – March 2025**

Trustees:

Nathan Turnbull - Chair
Christine Djezzar - Treasurer
Trish Hubby - Secretary
Helen Stirland - Fundraising Officer
Jill Chiddey - Events Coordinator
Sally Shearman - Membership Secretary
Mathew Jones (Trustee & Chair, Sept 2024-April 2025)

Address: Danum Gallery, Library and Museum, Waterdale, Doncaster DN1 3BZ

Website: www.thefriendsofdoncastermuseums.co.uk

Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number: 1189117

Key Achievements in Furtherance of Our Objectives

Organising a series of visits and talks to our members, providing them with an opportunity to learn about the history of Doncaster and surrounding areas and encouraging engagement with Doncaster Gallery, Library and Museum (DGLAM).

Supporting DGLAM in the acquisition of several works of art, and the preservation of a historic document.

In November 2024 the portrait of Ben Parkinson was unveiled, at the Doncaster Gallery, Library & Museum (DGLAM). The event was publicised in the local FreePress newspaper and nationally via the BBC. We consider this one of the highlights of the year, successfully working with many organisations, the artist David Curtis, and Ben to deliver this project. The portrait was very well received. By commissioning the portrait we hope to have: honoured Ben Parkinson; added an important addition to gallery's art collection; supported a local artist and created public awareness of DGLAM to a local and wider population.

Fundraising

Our Christmas raffle was a success and it is thanks to our team, led by our fundraising officer Helen Stirland, that nearly £800 was raised.

We held two blind auctions, the first an etching by Melanie Bellis raised £300, and then a painting by David Curtis raised £240.

We thank our members for their continued support.

Acquisitions

The Museum, with a £1000 contribution from The Friends, was successful in acquiring the 18th century Sprotbrough estate map.

The Friends were pleased to assist in the acquisition of six lithographic prints, part of a series titled 'Great War: Britain's Efforts and Ideals' by Archibald Standish Hartrick (1864 - 1950).

The commissioned portrait of Ben Parkinson, funded by The Friends, was completed very successfully by the artist David Curtis.

The Friends provided funds to help conserve and frame an architectural drawing of the Doncaster Corn Exchange.

Support for Education

By providing funds to buy specialist materials The Friends are supporting informal art sessions held throughout the year at the gallery.

Talks and Events

The Friends were able to deliver a wide variety of events to members.

Doncaster has a significant Chinese Community. To celebrate their contribution, to the city, The Friends continue to work with local community groups, businesses and individual practitioners to develop a programme of events and visits during 2024 and 2025. Events to date include a calligraphy workshop earlier in 2024 plus a Tai Chi workshop, with an art exhibition to take place in November 2025.

In June there was an organised tour of Brodsworth Hall and Gardens. Built in 1860s the hall is one of the most complete examples of a Victorian country house, with stunning gardens.

On the 14th August a group of Friends were taken on a guided tour of the Walled Garden and Lady Isabella's Garden at Cusworth Hall. Led by David Shore, the Head Gardener, the group were able to view recent developments and get an overview of plans to develop things further.

The unveiling of the Ben Parkinson portrait in November, mentioned earlier, was an important high profile event for The Friends and was a great success.

It was a pleasure to welcome many of our members to the Christmas Social in December, the fantastic efforts of our trustees created an event enjoyed by all.

In February 2025 retired Detective Superintendent John Hope gave a talk on 'My Life With Crime, the Murder of Carolyn Susan Challenor'.

March 2025 it was a pleasure to see so many of our members attending the talk 'Murder in Victorian Doncaster' by Nicola Fox.

We hope to build on this year's events with a full calendar for next year.

Infrastructure Developments

In September we were pleased to have Sally Shearman become a Trustee and take on the role of Membership secretary.

In April our Chair Dr Mathew Jones had to step down as chair and trustee due to his other commitments; we thanked him for his time with us. The trustees elected Nathan Turnbull as Chair.

Membership

We are grateful to our members and their continued support, although we have seen a drop in membership; recent efforts by the trustees have started to show results. The planned production of a leaflet and additional posters will help to grow our membership.

Partnership Work

We continue to be members of the British Association of the Friends of Museums (BAFM).

Communication

Information is being provided to our members via our website and regular emails. Although we have a Facebook page our social media presence is still being developed.

It has been agreed by the trustees to create a leaflet about The Friends, which will include a membership application form.

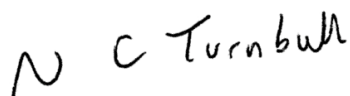
Currently there are no plans to restart publishing of a news letter although this is still under review.

Financial Review

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

Despite challenges we have been able to maintain a reserve of funds and continue to deliver a programme of events. Several commitments have already been made to support DGLAM projects over the next year.

Our fundraising team, led by Helen Stirland, has successfully run our annual raffle, and we are thankful to the local businesses that continue to contribute so generously to the raffle prizes.



Nathan Turnbull

Chair, The Friends of the Doncaster Museums

THE FRIENDS OF THE DONCASTER MUSEUMS.
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025

BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD.

CURRENT ACCOUNT	1938.50
BUSINESS RESERVE ACCOUNT	8441.34
PETTY CASH	32.00
TOTAL	10411.84

INCOME 01/04/2024 -31/03/2025

INTEREST ON BUSINESS ACCOUNT	55.28
SUBSCRIPTIONS	378.00
RAFFLE	1045.00
DONATIONS(BLIND AUCTIONS)	600.00
AMAZON	5.00
LINCOLN VISIT	20.00
BT/FWD	1938.50
TOTAL	4041.78

28/06/2025 £4000. TRANSFERRED FROM BUSINESS ACCOUNT TO CURRENT ACCOUNT.

EXPENDITURE

PURCHASE OF LITHOGRAPHS	1320.00
BEN PARKINSON PORTRAIT	1750.00
SPROTBROUGH MAP	1000.00
CORN EXCHANGE PLAN	200.00
STATIONERY	139.54
WEBSITE	101.5
BAFM M/SHIP AND INSURANCE	552.28
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5063.32

TOTALS TO CARRY FORWARD.

CURRENT A/C.	2978.46
BUSINESS RESERVE	5792.94
PETTY CASH	212.60
TOTAL OF ABOVE	8984.00

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

SIGNATURE DATED 31/08/2025

C.A.DJEZZAR. FODM TREASURER

L.W.MEREDITH. VERIFIER.