



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 January – 31 December 2025

Charity name: Art Friends Merseyside

Charity registration number: 1191813

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The Charity's objects are to help in the advancement of education in (and appreciation of) the subjects of art, culture and heritage by organising lectures, workshops, tours and other events at museums, galleries, historic buildings and sites. We also make grants to projects, museums or galleries that promote the arts, culture and heritage in the Merseyside area.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	The holding of a number of events and activities to bring members and non-members of the Charity together.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	Trustees consider the public benefit of the charity when organising activity to ensure that ticket prices are kept to a level to cover costs of holding an event, with a reasonable percentage to raise additional funds to increase the funds in order to provide grants to arts organisations.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
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Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	Our Grant Policy states that grant giving must fall within the remit of our objects and be for a cause which will benefit members of the public. No approved grants are to be made to third parties without the approval of the members of the Committee. A grant application form is sent to a number of regional arts organisations with an annual meeting of the Charity's Trustees to allocate a level of grant appropriate to the level of reserves available.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	N/A
Other		N/A

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	At the end of the reporting year the Charity had 222 individual members (88 individual/67 double memberships), the highest figure since founding. Sixteen events were held during the reporting year ranging from garden walks, in-gallery curator talks and tours, several lectures, ending with a festive concert. A total of 715 participants attended these events, raising an additional £8,099 income for the charity in addition to the annual membership fees of £4,260 and donations of £2,004.* The income raised from the number of events allowed the charity to increase

		the level of grants available in its fifth year since achieving charitable status. <i>*membership numbers are calculated for the full reporting year although some income is received at the end the previous year due to the timing of the renewal notification. The accounts are worked on actual income and expenditure 1 January – 31 December</i>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	A varied programme of events held helped to increase the level of funds available to support a range of cultural organisations.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	The events which took place in 2025 covered all costs and raised an enhanced level of income to go into Reserves from which to award grants in line with the Charity's Objects.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	N/A
Other		N/A

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	For the Charity's fifth reporting year (to 31 December 2025) income raised was £31,076 through membership subscriptions, events income and additional donations, including three years' worth of Gift Aid claims of £4,685. Nine grants amounting to £19,985* – a 21.7% increase on the amount given in 2024 - were given out in June 2025 to regional arts organisations who made an application to the Charity. Projects supported included community engagement programmes for young and older audiences, exhibition planning support and the reframing of an art work to go on public display. <i>*a £1,000 grant was refunded back to the Charity in early 2026 due to the cancellation of the project for which it was awarded.</i> Expenditure continued to be kept to an absolute minimum with £802 spent on insurance premiums and costs for website updates and e-newsletter generation. Administration and event planning are all undertaken by Committee members, who are volunteers of the Charity.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Reserves are held to enable the Charity to provide grants to a range of arts organisations across the Merseyside area.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	At the end of the reporting year our Reserves were £21,690. This includes £7,585 of restricted funds from the residual of a previous received grant. This grant is available to put towards raising the profile of the Charity through holding events to help increase membership numbers.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	No deficits

Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	No uncertainties
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Members pay an annual subscription, the majority with Gift Aid recoverable. We also run events for members and non-members to attend, in line with our Objects to raise funds. We also seek donations to help provide additional income to add to grant reserves.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	Surplus held as Cash until grants are made.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Main risk would be a reduction in the number of people wishing to support the Charity so a drop in income from which to be able to offer grants to arts organisation. The increase of online payments for many of the organised events and membership payments has resulted in a drop of additional donations. A further risk would be an inability to recruit new Trustees to help manage and run the Charity, particularly event organising. Insurance is paid for to cover any losses suffered during organised events.
Other		Charity Form CC16a is attached covering our Receipts and Payments accounts for the year to 31/12/2025.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO - Foundation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	In selecting individuals for appointment as charity Trustees, the charity Trustees will have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the Charity. All Trustees have to be paid-up members of the Charity. The Charity has no paid staff.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Charity Commission <i>The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do</i> (CC3). Art Friends Merseyside Data and Grant Policies.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	Key officers of the Charity are Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	N/A
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Art Friends Merseyside
Other name the charity uses	N/A
Registered charity number	1191813
Charity's principal address	86 Rodney Street, Liverpool L1 9AR

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Gail Aubrey			
2	Barbara Farmer			
3	Julia Leary			
4	Indira Maddison			
5	Olwen McLaughlin			
6	Pam Meredith Jones			
7	Geoffrey Moulding	Treasurer		
8	Sally Warnock			
9	Helen Watters	Secretary		
10	Peter Woods	Chair		
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
N/A		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
N/A		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Peter Woods	Helen Watters
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Secretary

Date	24 July 2026
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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Art Friends Merseyside

1191813

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01/01/2025

To

Period end date
31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Membership Income online	4,693	-	-	4,693	3,680
Event Income online	16,335	-	-	16,335	15,076
Membership income cheque	3,551	-	-	3,551	-
Donations	1,813	-	-	1,813	2,094
Gift Aid	4,685	-	-	4,685	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	31,076	-	-	31,076	20,850
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	31,076	-	-	31,076	20,850
A3 Payments					
Events	10,733	-	-	10,733	5,441
Refunds	335	-	-	335	931
Non Event	802	-	-	802	697
Grants	19,985	-	-	19,985	16,440
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	31,855	-	-	31,855	23,509
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	31,855	-	-	31,855	23,509
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 780	-	-	- 780	- 2,659
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	14,808	7,585	-	14,885	14,808
Cash funds this year end	14,105	7,585	-	21,690	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	As of 31st Dec 2025	14,105	7,585	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	14,105	7,585	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK

OK

OK

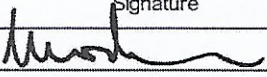
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	Details			
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details			
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Details			
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on
behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	GEORGEY WOULDING	20.7.2024

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Art Friends Merseyside.

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the "Art Friends Merseyside" for the year ending 31st December 2025.

Responsibility and basis of report.

As the Charity Trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')

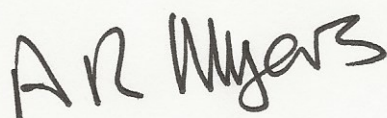
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concern 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 accounts to be reached.



Andrew Robert Myers. BSc, MCIOB (retired)

Caribblue Rise.
Raby Drive
Raby Mere
Wirral.
CH63 0NL

27 March 2026