

John Creasey Museum
Annual Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31st March 2015

Charity Registration Number: 309535

Trustee Name: Wiltshire Council

Bankers: Lloyds Bank
64 Fore Street
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8EU

Independent Examiners: Blomfields, Chartered Accountants
33 Duke Street
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8EA

Charity Address: Finance (Accountancy)
WILTSHIRE COUNCIL
County Hall
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Trustees' Annual Report

Wiltshire Council has been the sole Trustee of the Museum since 1st January 1998. Wiltshire Council is required by the Charity Commission to produce an annual report for the Council's approval. The report follows the requirements of SORP 2005. Under delegated powers, the approval of annual reports on the activity of the Trust and on investment matters, together with any contentious policy issues, are dealt with on behalf of the Council, by Dick Tonge, Cabinet Member for Finance Performance, Risk Systems Thinking, Procurement and Welfare Reform.

Structure, Governance & Management

John Creasey Museum was founded in 1973 following a bequest from the distinguished author, John Creasey, as part of his residuary estate. The Museum, the greater part of which is now its literary collection, comprises more than 2,000 books in over 20 languages, as well as manuscripts, designs for book jackets, printed material, objects and ephemera.

The Museum has a wide range of objects and in 1980 the Trustees decided to launch a collection of contemporary art which has since become the main thrust of



the Museum's collecting activities. The emphasis has been on collecting art with a Wiltshire connection, domiciled, taught, and studied or iconography, and leading British artists. The Creasey Collection of Contemporary Art, the name by which the Museum is now commonly known, now consists of 3057 objects. The Trust fund is unincorporated and is governed by a Trust deed. Under this deed the Trust has been established as a permanent endowment Trust, whereby all of the income is to be used in furtherance of the charity's objectives.

The Council, as the Trustee of the Charity, has arranged for its day to day administration to be delegated to the Associate Director – Communication and Communities (currently Laurie Bell). To assist in carrying out these responsibilities, a Management Committee has been established and its membership is as follows:

- Curator, Peter Riley
- Peter Tyas (Chair) Team Manager Arts and Archives
- Chris Harling Library Development Manager
- Officers from the Council's Library & Heritage Service & Finance
- Peter Blacklock

The Management Committee meets twice a year when reports are submitted by the Curator and Finance for discussion. Updates on exhibitions and development are given and approval of any major purchases is agreed.

Related Parties

The Charity has a close relationship with the Edwin Young Collection, Charity reference 309519 – the Trustee is also Wiltshire Council. Both of the Trusts' paintings and objects are displayed at the Young Gallery Salisbury.

Risk Management

The Trustee has given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and created a risk register which is available on request. Systems have been designed to mitigate those risks.

Objectives and Activities

Under MLA accredited museum status, forward plans should be reviewed at least every five years due to the reorganisation of ACE, (the validating organisation). The Aims and Objectives of the charity will be reviewed and included in the new submission for accreditation.

Re-accreditation has been deferred and the museum will assume provisional status. New documentation will be submitted by Dec 2016 for the January board.

In the meantime the existing statement will remain valid and in place.



Forward Plan 2006 to 2011 (extended to the new re-accreditation date)

Statement of Purpose

- To preserve and promote the name of the author John Creasey, his books, manuscripts and literary artefacts.
- To preserve and promote the Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art.

Key Aims

- To ensure the long term viability of the Museum. The funds are reviewed regularly to ensure the maximum return on investments. Wiltshire Council continues to fund the part-time curator post.
- To promote the Museum. The Trustees continue to promote the museum through the acquisition of important works. The reproduction of works for cards and posters is proceeding as and when copyright issues have been resolved. Publicity continues to be reviewed with Internet access to the collection and leaflets remaining a priority along with exhibitions of professional artists work selected work from the permanent collection.
- To collect objects identified within the Museum's acquisition policy. The Trustees are actively seeking to improve the collections and establish a significant holding of modern art. Important works have attracted substantial grants from the Art Fund and MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund.
- To maintain documentation procedures to Museums Documentation Association (MDA) Spectrum standards.
- To protect, care for and conserve the collections to MGC's standards in the Museum Care of Collections.
- Wiltshire Council through Heritage services support to the collection by providing routine visits, analysis of environmental equipment and general advice.
- To promote the collections through educational work. This aspect of the museum continues to be developed.
- To increase funds. 75% of works have now been photographed. Copyright is not available from artists to generate income for the gallery. However images can be used for publicity.
- To establish a volunteer force. One person has helped with the installation of various exhibitions this year. A friends group is in the final stages of being formed.



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Conservation

The following works were conserved:

- Paula Rego Etching
- Havana series Colour photograph
- Kalman Kemeny (1896-1994) – drawing Soldiers head c.1917
- Kalman Kemeny (1896-1994) – study of soldiers at the front
- William Larkin The Cloth Hall, Ypres. 1923 Etching

New Acquisitions

- Stanley Spencer Portrait of a young girl 1919 £1850
- Luke Elwes b1963 Commara Island 1986 oil on paper
- Basil Beattie b.1935 Breathing Deep Lithograph
- William Cruick Shank Still life of a pigeon on a bank
- John Gascoigne Lake Chamber Castle
- Michael Sandle Artillery Bunker
- William Larkins The Cloth Hall, Ypres
- Adrian Hill Mid 20th cent Charcoal drawing of a Beech Tree
- Adrian Hill Mid 20th cent Charcoal drawing of an Acacia Tree
- Adrian Hill Mid 20th cent Charcoal drawing of a Liquidambar Tree
- Adrian Hill Mid 20th cent Study of Tree heights
- John Wragg RA Male figure drawing

How our Activities Deliver Public Benefit

The aim of the Trust is to advance the education of the public by establishing and maintaining for exhibition to the public a collection of watercolours, paintings, prints and drawings. (For full details see objectives and forward plan explained above).

To fulfil these aims and its charitable purpose for public benefit:-

- New purchases are acquired using the Trust's own income and by way of attracting grants through various charities, but primarily The Art Fund and ACE/V&A Purchase Grant Fund.
- Arranging exhibitions of the Creasey Collection (for full programme of exhibitions please see Achievements and Performance below). The exhibitions are held at the Young Gallery, Salisbury which is open 6 days a week. Monday 10am-7pm, Tuesday and Friday 9am-7pm, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 9am-5pm. There are facilities which cater for the disabled.
- By preparing, printing, publishing, issuing and circulating, gratuitously or otherwise, catalogues, reports, reproductions, books, articles, pamphlets and any other printed matter relating to the Charity's collection. The Trust has



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resolved copyright on most works in the collection. A small proportion remains outstanding. Most artists are happy to have their work reproduced but if the works are generating income a proportion may have to be paid to the copyright holder.

- The museum has provisional accreditation with Arts Council England Accreditation Scheme. The Trust is also a member of AIM the Association of Independent Museums.
- The collection is stored in our secure store when not exhibited. A number of works are selected to be exhibited throughout the year. The collection is often used by students and artists for study, inspiration and as complementary material to their own work during exhibitions. The Museum has an ongoing program of exhibitions of selected works from artists represented in the collection.
- An investment strategy is in place to maximise income. An annual risk assessment is undertaken to identify potential risks to the charity. Appropriate measures are identified and implemented to mitigate and reduce serious risk.

The Trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Access Details

Over 20,000 visitors have visited the Galleries during the past year. The collection continues to attract interest from local schools, artists and the local community.

- Exhibitions are promoted through the website: www.younggallerysalisbury.co.uk. which has been realised through funding from ACE grants for arts and the preSENSE project in 2014/15. The local press advertise the Gallery program of exhibitions. Some coverage is given through county magazines such as the Evolver and selected exhibitions are advertised by BBC Wiltshire Sound and local radio Spire FM.
- The collection is available for access at all times through an appointment with the curator; however, selected images are also available on the website Wiltshire Treasures. In 2016 the collection will be able to be viewed through our designated website. www.wowheritage.org.uk

Achievements and Performance

A continuous programme of exhibitions supported by and displaying selected works from the Creasey Collection. They included:

- **April 2014** - Selected works from the Creasey Collection of Modern Art and Sculptural drawings and small sculptures by John Main RA.



- **May 2014** - Selected works from the Creasey Collection of Modern Art and Sculptural drawings and small sculptures by John Main RA.
- **June 2014** - Glimpse – Linn O’Carroll. Work in progress for preSENSE project plus workshops for children and adults.
- **July 2014** - Salisbury Group of Artists Exhibition. Dusty Feet an exhibition exploring the relationship of signs and mark making funded through the Creative Libraries arts project.
- **August 2014** - Dusty Feet exhibition exploring the relationship of signs and mark making within the Creative Libraries arts project.
- **September 2014** - CICATRIX marking the 1st World War commemoration 3 artist’s response to different aspects of conflict.
- **October 2014** - Maureen Davies Recent work pastels, drawings and mixed media.
- **November 2014** - Army Art Society annual exhibition.
- **December 2014** - Selected Works from the collections chosen by members of the public.
- **January 2015** - Selected Works from the collections chosen by members of the public.
- **February 2015** - Selected Works from the collections chosen by Salisbury School children and a complimentary Salisbury Schools art exhibition.
- **March 2015** - preSENSE Project The Plant Project curated by Prudence Maltby using source material from the Robin Tanner Collection.

Curator’s Comments

Other Worlds – Touring

The program has continued with displays at Tidworth Garrison Theatre and Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge. This project is now complete and the curator is exploring the possibility of using remaining funding to realise and produce a public art work to commemorate the 1st World War.

Exhibition Program

The exhibition this year has had six main focuses.

- John Maine - complimenting and supporting the major Cathedral exhibition of this important local sculptors work.



- Showing work selected by artists and curators involved in the preSENSE Project.
- The Creative Libraries Project which explored the common ground between Libraries and Art.
- Cicatrix and Tommy Aitkin, both exhibitions commemorating the 1st World War.
- The Army Art Society. The museum continues to strengthen its links with the organisation and the armed services at Tidworth Garrison.
- Work continues with Salisbury Schools to explore the collections and promote the visual arts. An annual Children's Art Exhibition has proved very popular and the quality of work on display is improving.

The Permanent Collection

We continue to acquire works to complement the existing collection as and when possible. A current focus is artist's drawings. The gallery is looking for items that illustrate the thought processes of artists, in the form of sketchbooks that record their ideas and development, working drawings and studies.

We have been fortunate to acquire a working pencil drawing by Sir Stanley Spencer KCB CBE RA - Portrait of a Young Girl. 1919.

This small but striking drawing is very fine and has gravitas. Although it has suffered from being fingered, displayed in strong light, torn and repaired, it tells an interesting story that can be explored on many levels.

The next priority of the John Creasey Museum is a major work by Graham Sutherland.

Development

We continue to consolidate our position as a major visual arts provider in Salisbury and Wiltshire. We are at a critical point in our history as it is clear that we need to exhibit important artists work and to do this in a viable manner means that leads to Government Indemnity status. Where appropriate and possible, art works from the permanent collections have been loaned to Wiltshire Council at Trowbridge. The collection has also supported the temporary exhibition program in the Atrium at Wiltshire Council in Trowbridge, a contact point for the general public and where special events take place.

We now have a website up and running www.younggallerysalisbury.org.uk



A Friends group has been formed, bank account opened and a small management committee is in the process recruited.

Volunteers Prudence Maltby and Briony Adams have helped with the installation of various exhibitions in 2014/15.

Summary

Overall the museum has continued to build on the support given to the organisation through Wiltshire Council, ACE, the Art Fund, V&A PGF and other individuals. The galleries are in need of refurbishment. They look tired and a little shabby. Consideration needs to be given to the short, medium and long term plan for the exhibition spaces. Our Grant for Arts application to ACE, preSENSE, was successful, and the grant as well as developing the collections as provided for improvements to infrastructure. Further applications to charities and arts organisations will be needed if we are to meet GI Standards and realise the true potential of the Trust and Accredited status.

It is imperative that the gallery put on great art exhibitions, complimenting the permanent collections. The museum has applied to the ACE Resilience Fund for high quality security and environmental display cases. This provision will enable the gallery purchase 5 high quality display cases that would allow us to show important artists such as Rembrandt and Lucian Freud; exhibitions that people will pay to see and have high publicity attracting tourists as well as local visitors.

I am pleased to see relationship with Salisbury Schools and the Sixth Form College consolidated. It is exciting and encouraging to see pupils from schools now visit the gallery more often and they value being able to see work by important British artist's. An annual art exhibition for children is now included in our yearly program. These exhibitions are memorable and always prove popular with families, friends and the general public.

Financial Review

The financial position of the Charity for the year is shown in the financial statements. Income for the year amounted to £7,320 compared with £8,403 in the previous year. Expenditure totalled £11,711 during the year, compared with the previous year's figure of £18,880. The difference in the expenditure is due to spending on The Other Worlds Touring Exhibition which came to an end and a contribution to the Edwin Young Trust for the pre-SENSE project. This contribution was taken from the development fund as the pre-SENSE project delivered the same objectives as the original grant given that was assigned to the development fund.

The balance on the Other Worlds Touring Exhibition was £2,663 at 31st March 2015. This will either have to be returned to the funders or an agreement needs to be reached with the funders on how this balance can be spent.



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The general reserve at 31st March 2015 was £1,500 and the Trust's acquisitions fund reserve stood at £7,036. The designated fund "Other Worlds" had a year-end negative balance of £3,800 and will be cleared with the final grant in 2015/16.

The capital balance of the Charity held in investments at 31 March 2015 was valued at £188,370. This is a slight increase on last year when the investments were valued at £176,022. Investments are held on a long term basis.

Reserves Policy

The Trustee acknowledges that reserves should be built up in order to secure the future of the Trust and allow the good work that it provides to be protected and continued in to the long term. Ideally the reserve should be sufficient to cover one year's expenditure to include conservation, exhibitions and support costs without which the charity could not further its objectives. For 2014/15 this was £3,300. However, the Management Committee have decided that a £1,500 reserve is sufficient for 31st March 2015. The Trustees will be looking to increase this reserve in the summer of 2015 as it is anticipated that curator costs normally only apportioned to the Edwin Young Trust to which it is closely related may be split more fairly against the John Creasey Museum.

Independent Examination

The Charity's accounts, which are maintained by the Associate Director Finance, are subject to independent scrutiny by accountants Blomfield of Trowbridge.

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