

**John Creasey Museum**  
**Annual Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013**

**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 1<sup>st</sup> January 1998. Wiltshire Council is required by the Charity Commission to produce an annual report for the Councils 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 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 3017 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. Diana Creasey has resigned from the Management Committee

### 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 Salisbury Library & Galleries in Wiltshire.

### 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 due in March 2014.

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

### Forward Plan 2006 to 2011 (extended to March 2014)

- 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.
    - Our 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.
    - We 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.
    - We 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.
    - The digitisation of works remains a priority.
  - To establish a volunteer force.
    - This is in progress and should be operational by 2014.

## Conservation

The following works on paper have been conserved and mounted on acid free board:

- Paul Huxley RA – XI/XVI AP screenprint
- Norman Ackroyd RA Windermere in winter etching and aquatint
- Norman Ackroyd RA On Twyford Down, St Catherine's Hill, Winchester Etching and aquatint

## New Acquisitions

- Ursula Leach - Spring 1 Etching 1992
- Ursula Leach - Darkening Carborundum print 1/10 2003
- Ursula Leach - Deserted farm Carborundrum print 1/10 2011
- Ursula Leach - Enclosed II Carborundrum print A/P 2009
- Ursula Leach - On the Horizon Carborundrum 1/10 2012
- Henry Moore – Stonehenge VII lithograph
- Alan Davie – Zurich 21 Improvisation Silkscreen print
- John Piper – 'Tomen-y-Mur lithograph
- Duncan grant – Dog study biro on paper
- William Payne – Iron Age Fort watercolour and ink

## De-acquisition

- None to report

## **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 primarily The Art Fund and MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund.
- Arranging exhibitions of the Charities collection (for full programme of exhibitions please see Achievements and Performance below). The exhibitions are generally held at Salisbury Library which is open 6 days a week. Monday 10am-7pm, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-7pm, 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 is in the process of resolving copyright issues and when they have been given permission from the artists represented in the collection the Trust will proceed with the publication of cards, prints and leaflets.

- The museum has national accreditation with the MLA. Museums Libraries and Archives. 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 which are shown throughout the year.
- An investment strategy is in place to provide an adequate level of income throughout the year.

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 23,000 visitors have been recorded over the past year to see various exhibitions. The collection continues to attract interest from local schools, and artists.
- Exhibitions are promoted locally through the local press what's On leaflets. Some coverage is given through magazines such as the Wiltshire Life magazine 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 2013 we hope to make the collection available through its own website, and access to this website will be available in the gallery.

### Achievements and Performance

A continuous programme of exhibitions of work from the Creasey Collection of Contemporary Art has been mounted in the Creasey gallery during 2012/13. These have included:

- **April 2012**  
Creasey Permanent Collection
- **May 2012**  
Rosemary Jarvis – textiles  
Permanent Collection
- **June 2012**  
Salisbury International Festival Exhibition :  
The Brazilion Scenographic Territory  
Permanent Collection

- **July 2012**  
Richard Dawkins a collection of photographs
- **August 2012**  
John Carter – sculptors drawings
- **September 2012**  
John Carter – sculptors drawings
- **October 2012**  
Chris Riisager - recent paintings  
Arena Photographers
- **November 2012**  
Army Art Society annual exhibition
- **December 2012**  
Take Ten Artists – mixed media show
- **January 2013**  
Southern Federation of Photography
- **February 2013**  
Creasey Permanent Collection  
Art Shop – students work from senior schools in Salisbury
- **March 2013**  
Edwin Young Centenary Exhibition

### Curator's Comments

#### **Other Worlds – Touring**

The John Creasey Museum has been successful in an application to the Military Covenant for £16,000 to tour the Other Worlds exhibition and promote the aims and objectives of the project.

#### **Exhibition Program**

Overall the exhibition program continues with the usual mix of shows: Local, regional and county. I am pleased to have been able this year to compliment the Salisbury International Festival and take the Brazilian exhibition: The Brazilian Scenographic Territory. This exhibition comprised of a complete installation that included art objects, film, video, music, interactive, folk art and a large dose of Brazilian culture! As amazing exhibition engaging on all levels and providing a real taste of the Brazilian territories.

## **The Permanent Collection**

The permanent collection continues to develop and be complimented by local and leading British artists.

## **Development**

The main development for the Creasey Collection of Modern and Contemporary art will be the consideration given to the renaming of the Salisbury Library and Galleries to the Young Gallery – Salisbury. This will end the terrible confusion that has exists for many years over the many collections and their relationship to a parent organisation.

In future the Young Gallery - Salisbury as it will be titled, will be the parent organisation (under Wiltshire Council) and the Young, Creasey, Maslen, Walpole, Barclay, Tanner objects will be referred to as Collections.

This change will also result in one application to Ace for accreditation rather than 2 that have been made previously for Creasey and Young. It should also result in the streamlining of the management of the gallery and collections with one management meeting planned and subsequent collections reports made to the parent organisation. This change will also be reflected in the allocation of one gallery to show permanent collection works of art throughout the year through 4 exhibitions.

The collection is also making application to ACE for funding to develop and work with the collection. Two Artists, two curators and a marketing expert will be selected to work with the various collections providing new exhibitions and contact with identified groups within the community. The bid will also improve the environment of the galleries with air-conditioning, new lighting and display cases. The project will be called preSENSE.

## **Summary**

Overall the Creasey Collection has continued to play a vital role in the development and outworking of the visual arts in Salisbury. With the successful grant application to help tour the Other Worlds exhibition, the name of the collection is being made known to a wider audience and the visual arts promoted not just as decoration but a medium that can speak and have a message.

The streamlining of the organisation will bring us in line with the majority of Museums and Galleries in the UK. It will also provide a definitive name to the organisation that we can market and promote and in the longer term develop a strong identity and presence.

Attendance is up due to the success of Other Worlds and we continue to develop our relationship with other galleries and artists, building on the contacts and organisations that we have made during the year. We are looking to work with Salisbury Cathedral exhibition program and jointly show the Methodist Art Collection in 2013.

Undoubtedly some things have suffered during the year, for instance the website and the bringing of the collection on stream. Limited resources are the primary reason for this. Slowly the work, environment and activities of the collection are changing. Modernisation and a more effective interface with the public is a priority. Projects past and future continue to take the visual arts forward in a more engaging manner. This is being facilitated by greater internal support through the auspices of Peter Tyas and the Arts Officers, for which the collection is indebted.

### **Financial Review**

The financial position of the Charity for the year is shown in the financial statements. Income for the year amounted to £25,077 compared with £23,100 in the previous year. Two grants were received totalling £15,056 for the "Other Worlds Touring Exhibition". Expenditure totalled £6,732 during the year, compared with the previous year's figure of £28,764. Various projects were started during 2012/13 but expenditure for these will take place in the next financial year. Various designated funds are being operated.

The general reserve at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 was £1,500 and the Trust's acquisitions fund reserve stood at £4,979. The designated fund "Other Worlds" had a year end negative balance of £3,800. The Trust is still awaiting the final instalment of the grant which will cover this negative balance. The final report was submitted in April 2013 and will be received in the financial year 2013/14.

The capital balance of the Charity held in investments at 31 March 2013 was valued at £184,480. This is was an increase on last year when the investments were valued at £151,868. 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 2012/13 this was £2,150. However, the Management Committee have decided that a £1,500 reserve is sufficient to carry forward into 2013/14.

### **Independent Examination**

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

.....  
*ON BEHALF OF WILTSHIRE COUNCIL TO THE CHARITY*

.....  
*DATE*