# THE FRY ART GALLERY SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 31 DECEMBER 2023

Registered Charity No.1167717

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#### Legal and administrative Information

#### **Charity Number 1167717**

Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Roderick Newton Chairman

Nigel Weaver Vice Chairman

Gordon Cummings Secretary

Martin Gruselle Treasurer

Candida Clark Invigilator Organiser (appointed 25 July 2023)

Jason Cowley (appointed 24 January 2024)

**Jennifer Cummings** 

Simon Gough (appointed 24 January 2024)

Frances Haine Education & Outreach Officer

Maureen Johnston (appointed 25 July 2023)

Emily May (appointed 24 January 2024)

Philip Neale Public Relations Manager

John Ready Property Development Manager

Nicola Tyler Annual Sale Organiser

Iris Weaver Collections Manager

#### **Correspondence address**

19a Castle Street Saffron Walden CB10 1BD

#### Independent Examiner

Julia Collins MA (Cantab) ACA Whinbush Farm Walthams Cross Great Bardfield CM7 4QJ

#### **Solicitors**

Tees 68 High Street Saffron Walden CB10 1AD

#### **Bankers**

Barclays Bank Plc 9/11 St Andrews Street Cambridge

CB2 3AX

CCLA Investment Managers Ltd

One Angel Lane

EC4R 3AB

London

Virgin Money
Jubilee House

Gosforth NE3 4PL

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report of The Fry Art Gallery Society ("the Society") for the year ended 31 December 2023.

#### Structure, Governance and Management

The Society (formed in 1985) was initially registered as a Charitable Trust in 1987. Its status was changed to that of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 20 June 2016.

The Fry Art Gallery premises at 19a Castle Street, Saffron Walden, Essex ("the gallery") - purchased from the Fry family in December 2015 - houses works of art by artists who, during the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries have lived and worked in north-west Essex and have made a significant contribution to their field ("the collection"); these works are held by the North West Essex Collection Trust ("the Collection Trust") with whose trustees the Society works closely on their behalf in day to day management of the collection.

The Trustees (whose names are set out above) are responsible for managing the affairs of the Society. Membership of the Society is either by annual subscription per household or individual life membership and is open to anyone over the age of 18; at 31 December 2023 there were 1,049 ordinary members, and 309 life members.

The Trustees meet regularly to review upcoming and new activities to take place in the gallery, new acquisitions, the financial and investment performance, and any likely risks and associated matters. Six Trustees are presently required to form a quorum.

New Trustees are appointed either by the members or by the existing Trustees, with a view to ensuring the Trustees have, as a whole, a balance of skills necessary to promote and carry out the objectives of the Society. New Trustees are inducted and trained by existing Trustees, following Charity Commission guidance and the Society's policies and procedures.

#### Objectives and activities

The objects of the Society are the advancement of the education of the public in the arts by:

- (i) the promotion of educational and cultural activities in the gallery and elsewhere including but not limited to exhibitions of oil paintings, watercolours, prints, sculpture, wallpapers, weaving, illustrated books, ceramics and other works of art owned by the Collection Trust or loaned to the Society; and
- (ii) the ownership preservation maintenance and use of the gallery for the purpose of displaying the collection and other relevant works of art and providing facilities for educational and cultural activities.

The Trustees keep in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Society's aims and objectives. The activities undertaken by the Society to carry out its charitable purposes for the public benefit are outlined below.

The Society currently opens the gallery to the public (free of charge) each afternoon (except Mondays) and on Saturday mornings - from the first Sunday in April until the last Sunday in October. The Trustees are most grateful for the support of the many volunteers who help welcome visitors to the gallery; the Society has no paid employees. Our marketing and communications were very successful with articles in several national magazines and newspapers throughout the year, bringing us significant publicity and visitors.

A new themed selection of items from the collection is hung in the main exhibition space annually. The smaller space ("the Gibson Room") displays two shorter special exhibitions of works by artists relevant to the collection - with items borrowed from other galleries, museums and private collectors supplementing those in the collection where appropriate.

A variety of books, postcards, greetings cards and other items relevant to the collection and to the current special exhibitions are available to purchase in the gallery and via our online shop.

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (continued)

#### Objectives and activities (continued)

The Society normally arranges an annual series of lectures on appropriate topics. The Education and Outreach Officer arranges visits for local schools and other groups who wish to visit the gallery and – with the assistance of other Trustees - gives explanatory talks about the current exhibition, and the history of the gallery. The Trustees visit organisations, both locally and nationally to give talks about the gallery and the collection.

The Society arranges a fund-raising sale annually – consisting of works by invited Artists who are not necessarily represented in the collection. The 2023 Sale was held during the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> November. It attracted 551 visitors and generated a surplus of £19,707.

#### **Achievements and Performance**

The gallery was open from 2<sup>nd</sup> April until 29th October 2023 and welcomed a total of 10,358 visitors, compared with 11,614 in 2019 (the last year the gallery was fully open).

The following exhibitions were mounted:-

#### "Art and Design"

Many of the artists in the North West Essex Collection moved easily between art and design, particularly in the fields of theatre, book illustration, furniture, textiles, wallpapers and advertising in the course of their daily work. Ravilious and Bawden had been urged in this respect by their RCA tutor, Paul Nash to make no distinction, and the exhibition demonstrated the practice not only of these two artists but also of Michael Rothenstein, John Aldridge, Richard Bawden, Kenneth Rowntree, Sheila Robinson, Walter Hoyle, Edwin Smith, Tirzah Garwood, Michael Ayrton, Chloë Cheese and Audrey Cruddas. The exhibition was drawn largely from the North West Essex Collection but was augmented by the loan of dining chairs (Ravilious) and a clerical cope from Great Bardfield Church (John & Lucie Aldridge).

"Interwoven Lives: Marianne Straub, Great Bardfield and Friends" (Gibson Room. 2nd April – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023)

Marianne Straub (1909-1992) was one of the most important commercial textile designers of the twentieth century. During her most productive years in the 1950s and 60s she was head of design at Warner & Sons in Braintree, and chose to live in Great Bardfield, becoming part of the artistic community there. Fabrics that she designed were produced in large quantities for many years, and yet her name is not so widely known as those of her Bardfield friends. The Gallery holds an important scrapbook in which she collected greetings cards from her friends in the world of art and design, many of which are miniature art works in their own right.

The exhibition included the scrapbook, along with work from the Permanent Collection and items on loan which illustrate the subtle appeal of her fabric designs, as well as shedding light on her wide range of friendships, and the visual context of her life in the village.

"A World of Private Mystery: British Neo-Romantics" (Gibson Room. 8th July – 29th October 2023)

Apart from the Great Bardfield Artists, after the end of World War II, North West Essex became the home for a later group of younger, more radical artists, embracing neo-romantic ideals.

These were Michael Ayrton, Robert Colquhoun, Robert MacBryde, and Keith Vaughan. The Fry Art Gallery has good holdings of these artists, and were delighted that the Ingram Collection, with whom we collaborated last year in Woking, lent further works by Ayrton and Vaughan as well as Graham Sutherland, John Craxton and John Minton.

The Ingram Collection is recognised as one of this country's most significant, and publicly accessible, collections of Modern British Art.

#### **Events**

The programme of events held during the year included talks by Mary Schoeser ("Marianne Straub: Interwoven Lives"), Lucy Ward ("Saving the Portrait of Omai" by Joshua Reynolds) and Amanda Stone ("Olga Lehmann: A Life in Art and Film") held in The Quaker Meeting House and a successful Drawing workshop run by Chloe Cheese held in Fairycroft House — which, unlike the Gallery - has onsite parking.

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (continued)

#### **Additions to the Collection**

Adding to the Collection is essential to refresh, to fill gaps or to complement what exists; during the year more items were accessioned, bringing the total number to 3,451. Of the new items nearly half were donated, one where purchase was assisted by art charities and the remaining items purchased directly by the Society from its purchasing budget or from the Deeble Bequest.

As ever the percentage of donated items was encouragingly high, including an iron garden seat designed and presented by Richard Bawden, three boxes of items relating to John Aldridge (assembled by Michael Archer and presented by Mrs Lucie Archer) and several books. Other donated works included the Kenneth Rowntree oil – "Reclining Woman Reading" (in memory of Jean Moya, formerly Jean Conder); an Olive Cook watercolour – "A Wooded Landscape with Church" (John Falconer); a Paul Beck linocut – "Brick House, Wicken Bonhunt" (Ms Ruth Oinn); Edwin Smith & Olive Cook, 72 collage greeting cards (Reed & Son, Saffron Walden); a Michael Rothenstein print – "Boats at Burnham on Crouch" (Thomas Hanly); and the following books: Mackays of Chatham Calendar 1976 (Gordon Dent); Edward Bawden "A Bed in Chelsea" and "Green Parrots for Old Ladies" (The Fleece Press); Eric Ravilious "Landscapes and Nature" (Ella Ravilious); "Edward Bawden's England" by Gill Saunders (V&A publishing); "Clausen in Essex" (Duncan Willoughby); four books illustrated by Thomas Hennell "Chiltern Country" (Nigel Weaver), "The Land is Yours", "Miles from Anywhere" and "Adam was a Ploughman" (Adrian Gurney) and "Artists at the Fry" edited by Alan Powers (Fry Art Gallery Society).

Pre-eminent among artworks purchased was "A Snowy Day, High Street, Great Bardfield", a watercolour by Edward Bawden dated 1955, which was purchased at Sworders assisted by generous grants from the Art Fund and the Victoria & Albert Museum Purchase Fund. Other purchases were a Richard Bawden linocut "Jessy", 69 photographs of work by Michael Ayrton commissioned by the artist; a Chloe Cheese lithograph "Orange and Blue"; a Michael Rothenstein print from "Song of Songs" series; an Edward Bawden linocut "Ivies"; an Olga Lehmann watercolour "The Underground" and three items by Richard Bawden of designs originally for the Regatta Restaurant, Aldeburgh. One of the 175 limited edition sets of 8 wood engravings specially printed by the Society for sale was framed and accessioned.

More expensive items purchased using funds from the Deeble Bequest were two lithographs – "Boy with a Birdcage" and "Woman with a Cat" by Robert Colquhoun, two 1982 watercolours by Edward Bawden, "Sunset over the Park" and "Thunder" as well as a 1924 scrapbook of 120 costume studies through the centuries, carried out in the Victoria & Albert Museum.

#### Appeal to fund the Bardfield Sculpture

An Appeal to members, friends and Charitable Trusts was launched in August 2023 towards the anticipated cost of producing "The Bardfield Sculpture" designed by local Sculptor Ian Wolter. This will depict several of the founding Bardfield artists in conversation. Being placed in front of the building it will draw attention to the Gallery's currently unobtrusive presence.

The total cost is estimated to amount to around £60,000. At the year end the total raised so far (including Gift Aid and a promised grant) amounted to some £31,500.

#### **Public Benefit**

All the activities of the Society are provided solely for the benefit of the public free of charge. The Trustees are conscious of the importance of providing public benefit. The responses in the Visitors Book & Visitors Surveys indicate that this continues to be achieved.

#### **Financial Review**

The investment portfolio of the charity is held in cash with major banks, as the Society requires ready access to its funds. With interest rates recovering significantly in the current year the statement of financial activities shows investment income of £5,323 against £1,543 for the previous year.

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (continued)

#### **Financial Review (continued)**

As the gallery is open free of charge to visitors, the Society is reliant on generating income from membership fees, the sale of books and other items relevant to the artists in the collection (either in the gallery or through our online shop), the surplus from the Annual Sale, donations and sponsorship of exhibitions. It deliberately eschews reliance on any public funding.

Excluding grants related to acquisitions and conservation of the Collection of £27,137, and £7,500 sponsorship of the new publication "Artists at the Fry", total general income amounted to £105,310 (2022 £98,640) the increase being accounted for mainly by the increase in Gallery sales. Final donations to the gallery development (restricted) fund amounted to £1,013 (2022 - £48,663).

The costs incurred during the year charged to unrestricted funds amounted to £140,996 (2022 - £122,553); most of the increase relating to the cost of purchasing 1,000 copies of the new "Artists at the Fry" for resale. Expenditure out of the restricted funds re completion of the extension to the gallery during 2023 amounted to £18,407 (2022 - £321,199).

At the year-end there was a small increase in the unrestricted funds of £1,087. The restricted funds have now all been spent.

The total net assets of the Society at 31 December 2023 amounted to £378,794 – including the £200,000 initial cost of the freehold of the gallery.

#### **Reserves Policy**

It is the policy of the Society to maintain unrestricted, undesignated funds, which are free reserves, at a level which equates approximately to one year's normal general expenditure (excluding additions to the Collection). The general reserve fund is at a level which meets this policy.

#### **Risk Assessment**

The Trustees have prepared and agreed formal risk assessments as required to maintain the status of an Accredited Museum with Arts Council England (ACE), which are reviewed and updated as and when necessary. Museum accreditation with ACE was renewed in 2017; it is expected that they will require it to be renewed in 2024.

The Trustees are satisfied that all major risks have been identified and assessed and that satisfactory controls are in place to mitigate those risks.

#### **Publicity**

The Trustees maintain a website giving details of the Society and its current activities - through which customers can make purchases from our online shop of most of the items on sale in the gallery. This is reviewed and updated on a regular basis to inform and encourage enquiries from potential visitors and researchers. There are regular posts on social media about our activities and events. There is a constant flow of emails, telephone messages and letters to be answered.

#### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity, and of its financial activities for that period, together with its assets and liabilities at the end of the period, and adequately distinguish any restricted fund of the charity. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:-

- a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- c) state whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the appropriate SORP on Accounting by Charities and the Accounting Regulations and with applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departure disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- d) prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (continued)

#### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities (continued)

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which are sufficient to show, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable Accounting Standards and Statements of Recommended Practice and the regulations made under Section 132 of the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant information of which the charity's Independent Examiner is not aware, and
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that she is aware of that information.

The report and financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 6th June 2024.

R. B Newton

Trustee Chairman Report of the Independent Examiner

Report to the Trustees of The Fry Art Gallery Society, charity number 1167717, on the Accounts for the year ended 31/12/2023 set out on pages 8 to 12

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Fry Art Gallery Society ("the Fry") for the year ended 31/12/2023.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 Fry's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(S)(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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- · the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns 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.

Signed

Julia Collins MA (Cantab), ACA

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8 April 2024

#### Registered Charity No. 1167717

### Statement of financial activities for the year ending 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:	2				
Grants, Donations and Membership fees,		62,356		62,356	92,028
Donations re Gallery Expansion			1,013	1,013	48,633
Charitable Activities		52,317		52,317	50,340
Other trading activities		25,273		25,273	26,578
Investment income		5,323		5,323	1,543
Total incoming resources		145,269	1,013	146,282	219,122
Expenditure on:	3				
Raising funds		21,600		21,600	29,804
Additions to Permanent Collection donated to					
North West Essex Charitable Trust		47,241		47,241	18,625
Charitable expenditure		72,156	18,407	90,563	395,324
Total charitable expenditure		140,996	18,407	159,403	443,753
Net incoming resources		4,273	(17,394)	(13,121)	(224,631)
Fund balances brought forward					
At 1 January 2023		377,707	14,208	391,915	616,546
Transfer between funds		(3,186)	3,186	*	
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2023		378,794	0	378,794	391,915

All amounts relate to continuing activities

## THE FRY ART GALLERY SOCIETY Registered Charity No. 1167717 Balance sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Freehold Property	1	200,000	•	200,000	200,000
Current assets					
Sundry Debtors	4				-
Cash at bank and in hand		180,279	<u> </u>	180,279	194,820
		380,279		380,279	394,820
Current Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5	1,485	<u> </u>	1,485	2,904
Net assets		378,794		378,794	391,915
Represented by:					
Income funds	6				
Unrestricted Funds		378,794	-	378,794	377,707
Restricted funds					14,208
Total funds		378,794	<u> </u>	378,794	391,916

R Newton Trustee

The notes following form part of these financial statements

#### THE FRY ART GALLERY SOCIETY Reg No. 1167717

#### Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

#### **Accounting policies**

#### a) Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 and the Charities Act 2011

#### b) Incoming resources

Incoming resources comprises income receivable in respect of the accounting period from members subscriptions, sales of pictures and other art related items, events and royalties.

Donations and grants are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when they are received,

#### c) Resources expended

All expenditure is included in the statement of financial activities on an accruals basis and has been classified under the relevant type of expenditure.

Items purchased for resale such as books, textiles and other items relevant to the Collection or the exhibitions held that year are all expended in the year of purchase.

All additions to the permanent collection have been donated to The North West Essex Collection Trust. The Freehold Property is shown at cost. Expenditure on additions is written off in the year of payment.

#### d) Funds

The charity maintains the following funds:

Unrestricted - general funds for the use by the charity in pursuance of its charitable objectives.

Designated - unrestricted funds that have been designated by the trustees for a particular purpose, namely picture purchase fund (£52,290).

Restricted - namely gallery development fund being income received specifically for development of the Gallery less amounts spent (£Nil; 2022 £14,208).

#### THE FRY ART GALLERY SOCIETY Reg No. 1167717

#### Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022 £
2 Incoming Resources				
Grants, Donations and Membership fees,				
Membership subscriptions and donations	20,745		20,745	13,896
Sculpture Appeal Donations	6,474		6,474	
Picture purchase Fund Legacy				53,141
Permanent Collection Grants	24,187		24,187	7,000
Sponsorship of Exhibitions etc.	8,000		8,000	11,708
General sponsorship	2,950		2,950	6,283
	62,356		62,356	92,028
Donations re gallery Expansion			1	
Members and General public		1,013	1,013	48,633
		1,013	1,013	48,633
Charitable activities				
Income from Gallery sales	44,746		44,746	31,475
Income from Online Shop	6,861		6,861	17,733
Sale of donated pictures	711		711	1,132
	52,317		52,317	50,340
Other trading activities				
Commission from selling exhibitions	20,231		20,231	20,817
Events, fees and royalties etc	5,043		5,043	5,761
	25,273		25,273	26,578
3 Expenditure				
Raising Funds				
Membership costs	5,469		5,469	5,205
Publicity & Subscriptions	6,482		6,482	7,270
Display and Selling exhibition expenses	6,687		6,687	15,691
Fundraising costs	2,963		2,963	1,638
	21,600		21,600	29,804
Charitable activities	Control of the Contro			
Additions to Permanent Collection				
donated to NWECT	47,241		47,241	18,625
Conservation and Curatorial	14,280		14,280	13,148
Gallery management	19,782		19,782	25,577
Gallery "Too" management				14,443
Cost of Gallery sales	36,027		36,027	18,479
Support Costs	1,797		1,797	2,125
Website upgrade	270		270	352
Gallery Development expenditure		18,407	18,407	321,199
	119,396	18,407	137,803	413,948

#### THE FRY ART GALLERY SOCIETY Reg No. 1167717

## Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses

No trustees received any remuneration during the year.

Expenses amounting to £31 (2022: £35) were re-imbursed to 1 trustee for travelling expenses.

4 Debtors	2023	2022		
	£	£		
Debtors and payments in advance		_		
5 Creditors	2023	2022		
	£	£		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	1,485	2,904	+ N	
6 Statement of Funds				
				At 31
	At 1 January 2023	Income	Esmanditus.	December
	£	Income £	Expenditure £	2023 £
Restricted funds	~	2	2	L
Gallery Development	14,208	1,013	18,407	-3,186
Transfer from General Fund	,	3,186		3,186
Total Restricted funds	14,208	4,199	18,407	0
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	106,580	119,221	96,110	129,691
Transfer to Gallery Development Fund			3,186	2 406
Sub Total	106,580	119,221	99,296	-3,186 126,505
Fixed Asset - Fry Art Gallery	200,000	110,221	33,230	200,000
Designated Fund - New Purchases Fund	71,127	26,049	44,886	52,290
Total Unrestricted funds	377,707	145,270	144,182	378,795
		110,270	177,102	070,700
Total funds	391,915	149,469	162,589	378,794
7 Analysis of net assets between funds				
-	assets	liabilities	Total	
	£	£	£	
Unrestricted funds	380,279	1,485	378,794	
	380,279	1,485	378,794	