

September 2022



Dear Fellow Friends,

At the start of the pandemic in 2020 we knew that there would be many challenges and changes facing us. We now seem to have come through these effects. Appropriately, the theme of our 2022 Conference is resilience. We are still here, and with a renewed commitment to our many members and the institutions which they support.

Through these difficult years we have worked hard to maintain our membership levels. The pandemic has been a most severe challenge: however, our greatest long-term challenge has been the changing nature of Friends groups. Many of the larger museums have brought their Friends 'inhouse', meaning the disbandment of their independent groups. The generation that founded the great wave that created so many of our Friends' groups has passed away and many groups cannot find new members for their committees and volunteers to carry on their work. These are long-term changes. To counter these we continue to look to recruit new groups, have expanded the benefits offered to members and look to expand our growing numbers of individual memberships.

Our income has fallen from £66,770 to £56,251, a 15% fall. Although this is in line with the forecasts that we made at the beginning of the pandemic, it is nonetheless very sobering. It is primarily due to a lower uptake of insurance by our members, as a number of groups suspended live events. Our hope is that now that groups are once again returning to live events that insurance uptake will remain steady. The decline in income has coincided with a decline in costs, therefore in the past year we have grown our total funds by £1,894 to £52,163, so that whilst our income is down, we are in a fairly good financial position going forward.

The bi-annual Journal is the main source of communication with you, our members, and the most physically tangible benefit of membership. As it passes from hand to hand it is our best form of advertisement as to who we are and what we do. Please do keep passing it on so that others may know about us. It is how we let you know what we are up to and for you to let us know what you are up to and a great forum for exchange of ideas and inspiration. When looking for new ideas for my own Friends group, I often turn to it. Excitingly, under the editorial direction of our vice-chairman, Dave Adgar, we are expanding the Journal. From a slimline 24 pages we have now increased to 32 pages and hope to further increase its contents. Look out for more interesting and useful articles. It is your Journal, so if you want something in it, let us know and tell us all about what your group is up to.

Another, new initiative is that we have begun a program of exclusive BAFM events and trips. We aim to get you into places not normally accessible. To date, these have included trips to Athens, London and a behind the scenes art tour. Forthcoming tours are planned to South Yorkshire's Wentworth Woodhouse and Venice. These are immensely enjoyable events that allow our members from all over the UK to meet up in an informal setting, make new friends and exchange ideas. For both group and individual members, they add a very tangible benefit of BAFM membership. From the critical financial perspective, we hope for them to develop them into an important source of income for BAFM.

This year marks the second of our Impact Friends of the Year Award. This is a chance to highlight not only the best amongst our members but also to mark just how much 'impact' Friends have on their museums and communities. Without Friends many museums would not exist or would be much less engaged in their communities. Look out in the Journal for articles about the winner and runners-up.

During the past year we have reviewed our awards scheme and in addition to the Impact Friends of the Year Award we look forward to bringing back our Newsletter/Communications Award and also the much-loved award for young museum professionals. This last was known as the Robert Logan Award and is now looking for a new sponsor. If you are interested, please contact me. The financial commitment is not overly large, whilst benefits the sponsor's generosity will reverberate for decades to come. It is an excellent opportunity to help a museum professional at the start of their career.

It was a great pleasure seeing the World Federation of Friends of Museums conference being held in Marseilles this year, after an absence of two years. The World Federation, of which we have been members for many years, is important in that our many challenges are truly international and it gives an opportunity to share those issues and work together on ways forward. When joining your local BAFM Friends group you become part of world family of Friends.

BAFM is nothing without its volunteers and there are a number of opportunities to help out, especially as regional coordinators. Coordinators are the closest link to our members. It is not onerous and gives a chance to use your knowledge and enthusiasm to help others in your region. Please consider this important role.

Next year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of BAFM. We will do so throughout the year in the Journal and will culminate our commemoration next Autumn in Doncaster where we will be having our 2023 conference and AGM. We hope that many of you will join us, especially those who have had long involvement with their Friends groups. It will be a chance to reminisce and to look forward.

Friends support diverse museums and cultural institutions throughout the United Kingdom. This support can be summed up in the word service. To serve our museums, our communities and our nation is our purpose. No greater example of service is that of the life of Queen Elizabeth II. Her devotion to duty and service continued to the very end of her life, when two days before her death she was still performing her constitutional duties at the kissing of hands ceremony for our new Prime Minister. As we leave behind the Elizabethan age and begin a new Carolean one may we emulate her devotion to service. We join with our Royal Patron, the Duke of Gloucester in mourning the death of Queen Elizabeth. God save the King.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Calley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel J Calley
Chairman

British Association of Friends of Museums - Accounts for Period 1st February 2021 to 31st January 2022

2021/2022

2020/2021

1. Receipts and Payments Account

Income Receipts

Subscriptions	18,785.00	21,125.00
Interest	0.37	8.73
Gift Aid	75.05	149.28

Restricted Funds

Volunteer Training Project	0.00	0.00
Arts Council England	0.00	133.00
Travel Bursary	0.00	0.00

Trading

Conference	0.00	417.42
Members Insurance Scheme	36,111.75	44,625.36
Journal - Printer's Invoice Error	174.40	311.38
Handbook for Volunteers	20.00	
Subscription Refunded	67.00	
Plus uncashed debits for 2020/2021	1,017.66	

Total Receipts

56,251.23

66,770.17

Direct Charitable Expenditure

Journal	5,905.65	3,671.08
Member's Insurance Scheme	22,191.07	33,175.32

Restricted Funds

Volunteer Training Project	0.00	0.00
Arts Council England	0.00	0.00
Travel Award	0.00	0.00

Other Expenditure

Administration/Secretarial	19,999.92	19,999.92
AGM	200.00	613.41
Conference Dundee	0.00	49.59
Council Meetings	671.00	1,214.98
Impact Award	1,000.00	0.00
Insurance Scheme Refunds	0.00	255.00
Photocopying	0.00	19.32
Postage	1,693.51	219.88
Printing	1,116.12	335.00
Stationery	116.27	265.58
Subscriptions Paid	1,019.27	1,011.41
Subscriptions Refunded	0.00	200.00
Sundries	0.00	91.94
Travel	0.00	373.92
Web Design & Maintenance	443.55	477.97

Total Payments

54,356.36

61,974.32

Net gain for period

1,894.87

4,795.85

Balance at 31st January 2021

50,268.96

2020

45,473.11

Balance at 31st January 2022

52,163.83

2021

50,268.96

British Association of Friends of Museums - Accounts for Period 1st February 2021 to 31st January 2022

2021/2022 **2020/2021**

2. Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Monetary Assets

COIF	3,330.19	3,329.82
Barclays Bank	47,400.61	49,974.31
	50,730.80	53,304.13
Less unrepresented cheques	662.00	3,035.17
Add uncleared credits	0.00	0.00
Plus NFU premium for Feb deducted 31/01/22	2,095.03	0.00
Total Assets	52,163.83	50,268.96

3. Restricted Funds

Volunteer Training Project

Brought forward from 31.01.21
Carried forward to 2022/2023

41.61

41.61

Arts Council England

Brought forward from 31.01.21
Carried Forward to 2022/23

1,271.64

1,271.64

Travel Bursary

Brought forward from 31.01.21
Carried forward to 2022/2023

3,055.57

3,055.57

4. Unrestricted Funds

4,368.82

General Fund

Balance at 31.01.22

47,795.01

Total Funds

52,163.83

Less restricted funds

4,368.82

Carried Forward to 2022/23

47,795.01

D. Calley



Chairman

I, the undersigned, have examined the Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet, which are in agreement with the books and records and explanations given to me. This examination has been conducted under the provisions of the Charities Act 1993. In my opinion the Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs at 31 January 2022.

A H Denney



Examiner

Notes to the Accounting Policies

1 The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Termination

2 The charity converted to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and terminated its current operations on 31st January 2015.

The charity has no guarantees and has no outstanding debts.

3 Arts Council England

Balance at 31 January 2021	1,271.64
Award in Year	Nil
Balance at 31 January 2022	<u>1,271.64</u>

4 Travel Bursary

Balance at 31 January 2021	3,055.57
Award in Year	Nil
Balance at 31 January 2022	<u>3,055.57</u>

5 Volunteer Training Project

Balance at 31 January 2021	41.61
Award in Year	Nil
Balance at 31 January 2022	<u>41.61</u>

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