

The English Ceramic Circle

Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st October, 2019



Registered Charity Number 1097063

**THE ENGLISH CERAMIC CIRCLE
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2019**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission's publication "Financial Reporting Standard 102" ("FRS 102") and "Update Bulletin 1" applicable to reporting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2016

1. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Name: The English Ceramic Circle (also known as the "ECC")

Registered Charity Number: 1097063

Charity's Principal Postal Address: BM Box 7246, London WC1N 3XX.

Trustees

Charles Dawson - President

Jonathan Gray - Meetings Secretary

Patricia Macleod - Membership Secretary

Stephen McManus - Librarian

Alan Walden - Treasurer

Jacqui Pearce - Joint Editor of Transactions publication

Rosemary Pemberton

Jo Whitehead - Website manager

Mark Francis - Marketing

2. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The Charity is an unincorporated association, governed by the Rules of The English Ceramic Circle ('The Rules'), which were revised at and took effect from the Annual General Meeting held on 19 March 2016. A copy of the Rules can be found on the Charity's website.

The Trustees of the Charity form the Committee of the English Ceramic Circle. The Committee comprises not more than fifteen members who are elected (for a term of not more than 3 years with the right to re-election) . The Committee has power to co-opt not more than three members, and a list of the current Trustees is set out above.

The Charity has no employees. The Accounts have been subject to Independent Examination as required by Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011.

The Circle complies with the requirements of the EU General Data Protection Regulation. Data is held by only the Treasurer and the Membership Secretary and is used only to communicate matters of interest to members and to mail Transactions and Newsletters to them

3. A FINANCIAL REVIEW

Bankers : Natwest Bank plc

Independent Examiner: Mr John Beetwell

Financial Year: 1 November 2018 to 31 October 2019

The Circle posted a surplus of £9,872 during the year (2017/18 - deficit of £2,974). Despite holding no seminar during the year, total income increased by £5,129 thanks to generous grants received from Ceramica Stiftung towards the costs of two additional publications. Costs reduced by £7,717 mainly because the costs of upgrading the ECC website had been incurred in 2017/18.

Subscription income fell by £654 and donations (which again included £1,000 from HSBC which matched last year) rose slightly. Advertising income fell by £905 and archive sales increased by £408.

Total expenditure fell by £7,717. The provisions made in the previous two years to publish the papers given at the Neoclassical and Japanese seminars proved over generous given the grants received and the savings made by combining their despatch with the annual Transactions publication. Also the spend on the website had reduced following the £6,000 incurred in 2017/18 on commissioning a new website. During the year £1,029 was spent on marketing activities in an attempt to attract new members. There are still many members who prefer not to receive Newsletters and notices by email, and the Committee urges them to commit to email communications in order to reduce costs.

The ECC is a registered charity and we encourage donations and bequests from both members and the public to enable the Circle's activities to continue. Supplementary categories of membership, comprising, Friends, Sponsors and Benefactors, were introduced during the year and these produced £1,297 of additional income. The intention of these categories of membership is to help support ceramic research and the publication of occasional ceramic volumes. As such, the total received has been excluded from the main accounts and treated as a restricted fund.

4. OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

The Objectives of the Charity, as defined in section 2 of The Rules, are:

a) To advance the public knowledge and appreciation of ceramics and enamels manufactured, decorated, or used in the British Isles.

b) To promote research and study in all matters relating to ceramics and enamels manufactured, decorated, or used in the British Isles and to disseminate the useful knowledge gained for the public benefit.

The Charity provides public benefit through its Transactions and other publications, which are available in a variety of libraries and also for sale to the public, and through its public meetings and seminars.

The English Ceramic Circle held seven Saturday meetings during the year, six in London and an all-day one in Worcester. At these meetings, papers were presented on a wide variety of ceramic related topics. The Circle also held three evening lectures in the lecture theatre of Bonham's in Montpelier Street, London.

Continuing its policy to include at least one meeting per annum outside London, the Circle held a successful all day study day at the Museum of Royal Worcester in October preceded by a tour of the ceramic sites in Worcester on the previous afternoon. The programme included five lectures and time was allowed to view the museum collections. A visit to Sherborne Castle was organised in May to view its nationally important collections of art, furniture and porcelain. The party toured the castle and were permitted close access to the ceramic collections (the ropes were removed for this purpose) plus a special viewing of pieces in store.

In addition to its regular annual publication, "Transactions of the English Ceramic Circle" the Circle published two additional volumes during the year featuring the papers given at two previous seminars. These were titled "A Taste for the Antique - The Neo-classical Style & Ceramics" and "Influences & Inspirations - 400 years of Japanese porcelain".

The Circle maintains a printing reserve to cover the anticipated costs of printing the papers delivered to members but not yet published. The usual provision of £16,500 was made this year to cover the cost of the 2019 edition to be published in the summer of 2020

Regular Publications

The English Ceramic Circle publishes an annual publication, The Transactions of the English Ceramic Circle, together with two newsletters. Members are also advised by email of significant events in the ceramic world, such as exhibitions, auctions and seminars.

Some 80 years of Transactions are now available online in searchable digitised form. The searches allow subscribers to find articles and references of interest almost immediately. Apart from a nominal registration fee this archive is made available free for ECC members and is available to members of the public for a fee designed to recover website costs. ECC members all around the world have signed up and a small income was also earned from public access to the archive. The new website is now fully operational.

The Circle maintains a library of ceramic publications and literature to which members have access and which, in most cases, is available on loan to members for short periods.

Membership

The Circle offers annual subscription membership which entitles Members to receive the annual Transactions, two newsletters and sometimes (at the discretion of the Committee) other publications without further charge. Membership is offered to individuals, joint membership to two individuals at the same address, and Institutional Membership. The latter category entitles Institutions to send any nominated individual to meetings organised by the ECC.

Payable membership subscription numbers decreased by 12 during the year (last year 17). The majority of UK individual members gift aid their subscriptions and the committee urges any UK tax payer who has not done so to consider doing this, thus providing valuable additional income to the Circle.

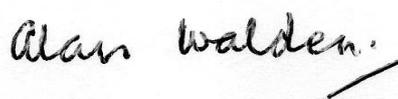
Membership numbers at 31 October 2019 were as follows:

	Single	Dual	Institutional	Total	Last Year
UK members	236	93	14	343	349
Europe	10	0	9	19	18
USA and Canada	42	5	22	69	73
Australia & New Zealand	13	5	2	20	22
Rest of World	4	0	0	4	5
	<u>305</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>455</u>	<u>467</u>

On behalf of the Trustees



Charles Dawson
President



Alan Walden
Treasurer

15th February 2020

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st October 2019**

INCOMING RESOURCES	£	2018-19		£	2017-18		£
		£	£		£	£	
Voluntary Income							
Subscriptions		18,301			18,955		
Gift Aid reclaimed		2,718			2,769		
Grants		10,437			-		
Donations		1,194	32,650		1,168	22,892	
Investment Income							
Bank Interest			821			834	
Income from Charitable Activities							
Publication & archive sales		1,102			694		
Seminar income		-			4,148		
Advertising income		1,550			2,455		
Summer visit		792			699		
Other income		320	3,764		384	8,380	
Total Incoming Resources			37,235			32,106	
 RESOURCES EXPENDED							
Costs of Charitable Activities							
Publication Costs	28,776			15,297			
Addition (Release) to (from) Printing Reserve	(10,000)	18,776		5,000	20,297		
Mailings and Postage		940			1,159		
Meetings		3,475			3,086		
Website and computer expenses		1,761			6,965		
Marketing		1,029			-		
Depreciation		-			-		
Seminar costs		-			2,555		
Summer visit		678			718		
Donations		-			-		
Other Costs		704	27,363		300	35,080	
Total Resources Expended			27,363			35,080	
Net surplus /(deficit) for the year			9,872			(2,974)	
Unrestricted funds brought forward			49,484			52,459	
Unrestricted funds carried forward			59,356			49,484	

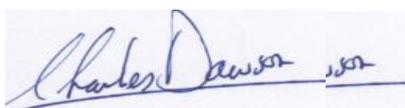
Balance Sheet at 31st October

	Notes	2019		2018	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	2		-		-
Current Assets					
Debtors and Prepayments	3	1,764		3,148	
Cash at Natwest Bank		8,504		7,294	
Cash at CAF Bank		20,160		20,000	
CAF Bank bond		50,649		50,000	
		81,077		80,442	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors and accruals	4	3,924		4,458	
Net Current Assets			77,153		75,984
Net Assets			77,153		75,984

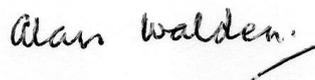
Represented by:

Unrestricted Funds			59,356		49,484
Restricted Funds:	1				
Printing Reserve		16,500		26,500	
Other		1,297	17,797	-	26,500
			77,153		75,984

The Financial Statements were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Charles Dawson (President)



Alan Walden (Treasurer) 15th February 2020

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31st October, 2019**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared using the historic cost convention and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The statements have been voluntarily compiled on an accruals basis to comply with the principle recommendations of the Charity Commission's publication "Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities" [2015].

Income from Members' subscriptions, which entitles members to receive the annual Transactions publication and to attend both public and members' meetings, is recognised in the year in which those meetings take place.

Income from Gift Aid is accounted for in the financial year in which the refund claim is submitted. Income from publication grants, provided such grant is committed, is accounted for in the year in which the relevant publication costs are incurred.

The Circle holds stocks of past Transactions which it sells to the public and to members. Some of these publication are many years old and the trustees take the view that maintaining a stock recording system to maintain these relatively low valued stocks would not be justified. Accordingly, subject to the matters set out below, publication costs are expensed in the accounts in the year in which they are printed.

The Circle maintains a Printing Reserve to make allowance for the cost of unpublished Transactions, or supplements to Transactions, where the relevant papers have been presented by Members to the Circle but the printing not yet undertaken.

(b) Statutory Disclosures

During the year no committee members were reimbursed for travel and accommodation costs incurred on behalf of the Circle and no other trustee expenses were incurred.

(c) Depreciation

The Circle's computer and projection equipment is fully written down. It was depreciated on a straight line basis over its expected useful life, namely 3 years.

2	Tangible Fixed Assets	Computer, Software, and Projection Equipment		
	Cost	£		
	Opening balance at 1st November 2018		1,220	
	Additions		-	
	Closing Balance at 31st October 2019		<u>1,220</u>	
	Depreciation			
	Opening balance at 1st November 2018		1,220	
	Charge for the year		-	
	Closing Balance at 31st October 2019		<u>1,220</u>	
	Net Book Value at 31st October 2019		<u>-</u>	
3	Debtors and prepayments	As at 31st October:	2,019	2,018
	Amounts falling due within one year:		£	£
	Meetings expenses paid in advance		53	1,816
	Mailing and postage paid in advance		54	54
	Advertising		300	-
	Website expenses paid in advance		524	475
	General expenses paid in advance		48	-
	Accrued bank interest receivable		785	803
			<u>1,764</u>	<u>3,148</u>
4	Creditors and accruals	As at 31st October:	2,019	2,018
			£	£
	Subscriptions received in advance		1,500	3,477
	Seminar receipts received in advance		-	-
	Meetings expenses		199	224
	Publication expenses		1,369	335
	Mailings and postage		787	339
	General expenses		69	-
	Website and PC expenses		-	18
	Donations		-	65
			<u>3,924</u>	<u>4,458</u>

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
The English Ceramic Circle
For the year ended 31st October 2019**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the English Ceramic Circle ("The Circle") for the year ended 31 October 2019.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Circle 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 Circle'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.

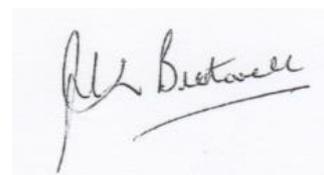
Independent examiner's statement

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 Society as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

John Beetwell
c/o BM Box 7246
London
WC1N 3XX



21st January 2020