

Review of 2020 (Chairman's Report)

EAC Gifts to the Towner

In 2020, the Towner Art Gallery was named Museum of the Year an accolade that was well deserved and some good news for our charity whose main purpose is to support the Towner as laid out in our Constitution.

- To support and assist the Towner Art Gallery.
- To encourage and foster the appreciation of the arts in Eastbourne.
- To supplement facilities provided at the Towner Art Gallery by the Borough Council.

In December 2020, despite being unable to run our usual programme of lectures and events (our Christmas lunch and quiz had to be cancelled) we still presented the fourth instalment of £10,000 to Joe Hill making that £40,000 of the £50,000 that we pledged to the Towner over 5 years. The Gift Agreement with Towner states:

'The Donor (Eastbourne Arts Circle) has pledged a gift of £50,000 to be paid to the Gallery (Towner) in five instalments of £10,000 each December from 2017 to 2021.' The gift is to be used: 'To support the Collection Development Fund to assist the acquisition of artworks according to the Collection Policy Criteria'.

Since April 2017 we have gifted over £150,000 to the Towner Gallery.

- £100,000 19/04/17
- £10,000 14/12/17
- £10,000 19/12/18
- £10,000 25/02/19
- £10,000 13/12/19
- £10,000 13/12/20

Events

Due to the pandemic, we only held four events in 2020. However, our Treasurer and Membership Secretary Sir Philip Anson opened a Zoom on-line platform at the end of 2020 enabling us to offer lectures and events virtually in 2021. This will allow us to continue at least some fund-raising activity and also maintain the support of our members until we can safely return to the Towner Art Gallery auditorium for 'live' events. We have already received positive feedback from members for this on-line initiative although some of our older members do not have the technology to benefit.

All in all, it has been a very challenging time for our charity with the subscriptions down on previous years. Notwithstanding this the charity committee were heartened by support from the majority of our core members.

Dr Helen Rufus-Ward