

Annual Report

2014-15



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**The vision
for The Lightbox is
to stimulate creativity,
learning, understanding
and enjoyment for
the community
and beyond.**

All images are © The Lightbox unless noted.

Front cover: The Lightbox at Dusk © Peter Freeman.

This page from top: Enjoying a drop-in family workshop Easter 2014; Members of The Light Cavalry with Aileen McLeish and Marilyn Scott; Christmas Decorations Workshop 2014; Joey from *War Horse*

Facing page: *Hammer Pong* at the *Giant Electronic Art Show*

Introducing The Lightbox

The Lightbox is an award-winning gallery and museum situated in Woking, Surrey. Since opening in 2007 The Lightbox has enjoyed great success, welcoming approximately 95,000 visitors a year from across the region, to a wide range of exhibitions and events.

The vision for The Lightbox is to provide a diverse community with access to its heritage and the visual arts and to stimulate creativity, learning, understanding and enjoyment, by being a significant provider of cultural and lifelong learning in the South East.

The Lightbox prides itself in being accessible to all and in having something to offer visitors of every age. The stunning building, which is designed by Marks Barfield Architects, boasts a museum of local history and three spacious galleries which host a wide range of changing exhibitions of local, national and international significance. In addition, The Lightbox runs an extensive learning and events programme, a Shop and Café.

In 2008 The Lightbox won The Art Fund Prize; the sector's most prestigious award which recognises the Museum of the Year. In 2014 The Lightbox was shortlisted for The Telegraph's Family Friendly Museum of the Year Award and in 2015 it was Highly Commended for Customer Service at the Museum and Heritage Awards.

The Year in Numbers

Visitor numbers: 95,526

Number of school and group visits: 57

Most successful exhibition: *The Giant Electronic Art Show* – 17,147 visitors

Number of community groups worked with: 30

Number of restricted fund projects: 10



The Team

Marilyn Scott, Director

Marilyn has been Director of The Lightbox since 2001 and has overseen the planning and creation of the organisation and now leads The Lightbox, guiding the programming and activities and taking particular responsibility for fundraising and income generation.

Anthony Pooley, Deputy Director

Anthony is Deputy Director and leads the financial affairs of both the charity and the company. He has a background in financial management and has particular input into the trading company and company and charity law.

Jayne Pritchard, Commercial Director

Jayne leads the visitor services management for the organisation. She leads the largest team in the organisation, encompassing the Shop, Café and Venue Hire and the day-to-day management of the building including visitor care and volunteer management.

Pru Chambers, Marketing Manager

Pru is responsible for marketing and PR for the organisation. She leads a small team which carries out both traditional and digital marketing and promotion of all exhibitions, events and income generating activities.

Peter Hall, Curator

Peter is a long serving member of staff who has worked on exhibitions at The Lightbox since our opening in 2007. Previously he managed the heritage collection and the setting up of Woking's Story. He curates The Ingram Collection and curates or co-curates many of our current exhibitions.

Abi Hall, Learning Manager

Abi manages our learning service, working with both formal and informal learning programmes. She manages a small team of staff and volunteers who deliver an extensive annual programme ranging from pre-school activities to workshops for those with early stage dementia. She currently supports the Paul Hamlyn Foundation funded programme *Our Museum*.

Christine Flynn, PA to the Director and Development Co-ordinator

Susanne Barnes, Office Manager and Book Keeper

Heather Thomas, Learning Officer

Michael Regan, Associate Curator

Jenny Webb, Exhibitions and Collections Assistant

Rib Davies, Special Projects Manager

Merrin Kalinowski, Development and Marketing Officer

Katie Hughes, Visitor Services Supervisor

Jess Walrond, Events and Café Supervisor

Laura Madeira, Venue Hire Apprentice

Yvonne Scott, Front of House Supervisor and Buyer

Dajana Topczewski, Duty Supervisor

Alisa Burge, Front of House Assistant

Danny Doyle, Technician

The Director Reports

Each year The Lightbox grows in stature and reputation. Our work in the field of health and well-being is now nationally acknowledged and through our participation in the Paul Hamlyn Foundation funded *Our Museum* project we have strengthened and expanded our work with our community and with new partners. Our exhibition programme continues to delight audiences from Woking but also from a much wider catchment area. This year *The Giant Electronic Art Show* intrigued and amused a large number of young people but also their parents and grandparents who played 'noisy' ping pong and were challenged by the *Hammer Pong*. With a very different feel *The Horse at War: 1914-1918* proved to be one of our most successful exhibitions to date. Our partnership with The National Theatre and the V&A allowed the wonderful 'Joey' puppet to visit The Lightbox for the duration of the exhibition, alongside the works of Sir Alfred Munnings and other notable war artists. Our heritage volunteers worked tirelessly to produce a fascinating display recording the impact of the First World War on the Woking community. We are very grateful to HLF for their funding which supported this exhibition as part of the national commemoration of the outbreak of WW1. The reputation of The Lightbox is considerably enhanced by The Ingram Collection which is displayed throughout the building in informal settings which introduce many people to this fascinating period of art history. The collection is internationally recognised as one of the most comprehensive collections of Modern British Art in private ownership. The generous loan by Chris Ingram of the collection allows us to use this as a valuable resource for all of our learning and community programmes. The exhibition *Skyscapes* used The Ingram Collection to inspire participants with learning difficulties to produce prints which were displayed alongside stunning illuminated clouds. None of these exhibitions would be possible without the partnerships we enjoy with major national museums, private collectors and community organisations.



Marilyn Scott

Our priorities for the year continue to be:

- ◆ To manage and deliver a changing exhibition programme to attract both repeat and new visitors to the venue and to generate revenue via these activities.
- ◆ To act as the repository for the material history of the Borough of Woking. To fulfil this role we maintain a museum dedicated to the history of the borough and care for and conserve artefacts relating to Woking history. This display is permanent and always on show free of charge to all our visitors.
- ◆ To manage an exciting programme of events and learning programmes for both young people and adults. These include both formal and informal learning opportunities.
- ◆ To continue to provide and manage outreach projects that give access to learning, the visual arts and heritage for the local community.
- ◆ To participate in programmes, activities and partnerships which promote health and well-being for our local community.
- ◆ To work with partner organisations to encourage participation in cultural events.

The Director Reports

- ◆ To work with local arts organisations and individual artists to promote access and skills development for arts practice.
- ◆ To generate income through retail, Café, corporate hire activities, consultancy. Our trading activity included selling the work of local artists, expanding our Café operation, consultancy for other independent charities and expanding our Shop.

We could not achieve any of the work we do without significant financial support. We are grateful to Woking Borough Council who provide partial revenue support through a service level agreement and we are also grateful to The Heritage Lottery Fund, Arts Council England who provide project support, and many other Trusts and Foundations, individuals and corporates for their continued support.

Our work has continued to benefit greatly from the advice and wise counsel of our Trustees who freely give many hours to the organisation, their example of voluntary service is central to our organisation. Finally I want to thank all the many Volunteers who give up so much time to make 'The Lightbox experience' so special for our visitors and to our Friends organisation which goes from strength to strength, without their support we simply could not do all the things we do and aspire to. Not forgetting our wonderful staff team whose ongoing commitment to everything we do and willingness to always do a little more is a constant source of inspiration.

Marilyn Scott, Director

Trustees

Keith Smith: A Tribute

It is with great sadness that we report that Keith Smith, our longest serving Trustee, passed away this year on Tuesday 17 February after a long illness. Keith had served as a Trustee since 1999 and was instrumental in raising the funds for the construction of The Lightbox as a key member of the Fundraising team. He then continued as a Trustee after the building opened in 2007 and was a huge support to the marketing team, which was his area of expertise, having spent many years as a marketing specialist for Unilever. We were all privileged to enjoy Keith's support in all our endeavours, he was always there for The Lightbox team with sound advice and encouraging council no matter what the circumstances. We will miss him more than words can express, we all loved his cheery greetings and his constant encouragement. Our thoughts are with his lovely wife Betty and his family.



Keith Smith

Trustees

Aileen McLeish FIOD FRSA FCMA MA (Cantab) – Chairman

In addition to her role at The Lightbox, Aileen McLeish is also Chairman of Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals, Deputy Clerk of The Mount School, York and President of the North-West Surrey branch of the NHS Retirement Fellowship. Prior to this Aileen's career has taken her from Unilever Plc to H J Heinz Co followed by executive director roles at Historic Royal Palaces and WWF-UK.

Jeremy Davies

Jeremy Davies works for Campden BRI who provide technical and scientific research, development and support for the food and drink industry world-wide. He is responsible for the business relationship with its membership base and the way in which the organisation communicates complex science in easy to use formats. Jeremy holds a number of board and advisory positions with organisations working with small and medium sized businesses including the CBI. Jeremy paints and plays rugby as different ways to relax.

Chris Lacey

Chris Lacey is Chief Executive of the William Lacey Group. The Company builds new homes for sale and for Housing Associations and has recently collected national awards for designing and building new homes that incorporate the best low carbon initiative as well as the coveted House Builder of the Year.

Alan Manie

Alan Manie is retired after careers in marketing, logistics and human resources. He became a chartered psychologist working in the business world to help individuals and organisations become more effective. He paints as a hobby. He was chairman of the Woking Society of Arts and was instrumental in building its relationship with The Lightbox.

Jonathan Stanley

Jonathan Stanley has worked in management consultancy and executive development for over twenty years. He has worked with clients in more than 30 countries on four continents. He read law at University College, London and also has experience in the music business and property. He has a long-standing interest in the arts, especially 19th and 20th century painting. He grew up in Surrey, and now lives in Woking.

Hoover Tubes, Giant Electronic Art Show © Alex Berchert



Chairman's Foreword

The Lightbox has continued to thrive this year with many different exhibitions and activities appealing to a wide audience. Visitor numbers were over 95,000 which is the highest we have seen since our early years. Our revitalised Café and Shop, a range of new and innovative events as well as other commercial activity have all contributed to the most successful financial year in our history. I would like to thank Marilyn Scott and the whole team for their hard work in making The Lightbox such a success. I would like to particularly mention Jayne Pritchard who has been promoted to Commercial Director during the year.



Aileen McLeish

All of us at The Lightbox recognise that we cannot stand still, and we are developing ambitious plans to secure the future of The Lightbox and enable it to expand its activities. One of the foundations for this is an arrangement with Woking Borough Council to take over responsibility for The Lightbox building. The details are close to completion and subject to regulatory approval we hope to finalise the arrangements in the next few months.

I would like to join Marilyn in thanking Woking Borough Council, Chris Ingram, our Volunteers, our corporate and community partners, and all our other donors and supporters for their continuing friendship and commitment to The Lightbox.

Last but not least, thank you to our Trustees for all their time and support for The Lightbox: Jeremy Davies, Chris Lacey, Alan Manie and Jonathan Stanley who became a Trustee in November 2014.

Aileen McLeish, Chairman

Investing in the Community

This has been a year when our engagement with the community has really taken a leap forward. The way of working that we have been developing through the *Our Museum* programme funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation has become second nature: we try to start from zero, working up collaborations with community groups with no preconceptions, so that rather than presenting an offer we engage in open-ended collaboration – active rather than passive engagement – from the very beginning. All of this work has been coordinated by the Community Engagement Team, who have volunteered their time and expertise and to whom we are very grateful.

A collaboration with members of the local Muslim community and the Shah Jehan Mosque resulted in the exhibition *Muslim Voices: Songs of Faith and Devotion* featuring a film and sound

Investing in the Community

installation which showed local Muslim elders singing traditional poetry in Urdu and Arabic, wearing traditional dress, with younger Muslims reading English re-interpretations of the same poems. This recognised the deep love of reciting and singing Sufi poetry within the Muslim community.

At the same time we were starting work on a collaboration with women and young people from the Liaise Women's Centre, who have come together to work on *Joy*, a beautiful exhibition of tilework, crochet and light, expressing what brings joy to their lives.



Art in Mind workshop

While the Learning team have been continuing with the *Art in Mind* programme, we have also been working with older people in other ways. At Moorcroft Centre for the Community, centre users chose to collaborate with us on an extraordinary cylindrical fabric piece, *Stitching Your Memories*, using knitting, crochet, felt, pompoms, bobbles, French knitting and finger knitting. Working with fabric artist Kathryn Hitchings, they incorporated elements of their own memories into the final work. At The Vyne Community Centre, meanwhile, artist Sue Halloway worked with a group who had chosen to produce an exhibition of paintings in response to works in The Ingram Collection of Modern British and Contemporary Art.

The Lightbox has continued to take a leading role in the development of Woking Arts Hub, the networking, advocacy and training organisation for artists working in all media who live or work in the area. A number of successful events have been held, while the new website has proved a valuable addition to the regular newsletter, helping local artists to keep in touch with each other and to know about training and other opportunities. The Hub has also started planning for a Woking Arts Fair to be held in the town centre. At the same time, our relationship with local visual artists and craftspeople has continued to be strengthened through the opportunities provided for both display and sales and through the regular Woking Society of Arts exhibitions at The Lightbox.

Our collaboration with the homeless through the York Road Project has built upon previous work. Now, though, the homeless people themselves have been deciding what they have wanted to do with us. The discussions have led to collaboration on a film about homelessness, with the homeless people interviewing each other, the

"I have just returned from today's *Art in Mind* session... thank you for such a wonderful experience which exceeded all my expectations."

Investing in the Community



staff and even the Chief Executive of Woking Borough Council, all on film, and then making decisions about which pieces of footage should go into the final product.

A collaboration with six organisations working with people with learning disabilities resulted in the *Skyscapes* exhibition in the main gallery. The combination of prints, works from the Ingram Collection and remarkable 'clouds' suspended from the ceiling produced a memorable exhibition, of which the participants were justly proud. To make this sort of collaboration sustainable, the organisations have now come together as a loose consortium to receive fundraising training in order to be able to fund future work.

Waste not... was a highly unusual exhibition, funded by Happy Museum. For this, both staff and members of the local community contributed all sorts of items – from pencil sharpeners to vacuum cleaners – which were old but which had been maintained rather than being replaced. This was an anti-upgrading exhibition, drawing attention to the consequences of our waste of resources. Along with the workshop that accompanied it, this exhibition put us in touch particularly with an environmentally aware sector of the local community. We hope to develop these links in the future.

Left: *Stitching Your Memories*. Facing page: Young Curators Pop Art Workshop

Our Museum: Communities and Museums as Active Partners

What We Believe In

Eight museums and galleries across the United Kingdom have been working with Paul Hamlyn Foundation on a process of change to ensure that community engagement is firmly at the heart of our organisations. Arising out of the work we have been doing, together we wish to state our belief that:

- ◆ Community participation in our work is vital
- ◆ We must be responsive to our communities rather than imposing our own agendas
- ◆ Community partners should be encouraged to be active collaborators, not passive recipients of our offerings
- ◆ Community engagement is not an extra – it has to be at the heart of what we do, as this gives life to the museum or gallery
- ◆ Our Museum is not project work – it is a process of ongoing engagement, learning and change
- ◆ Community engagement is not only in one department, and not only for the duration of any one piece of work, but needs to be embedded in the whole organisation

Learning Matters

Learning is at the heart of what we do at The Lightbox. The Learning team work with a wide variety of audiences enabling as many people as possible to experience the pleasure of discovering more about art and heritage.

The Learning Department runs a varied programme. As well as guided activity sessions for schools, colleges and other groups, the team run workshops, object handling sessions, outreach sessions and tours, all assisted by a team of volunteers, who make a vital contribution to the Learning Programme.

The number of participants in our Learning Programme has risen steadily over the last seven years since we opened in 2007, and in 2014–2015, 7,073 people took part in 331 learning events, with over 4,000 visitors to the *Woking College Summer Art Show* and the *Centrepiece: Margaret* exhibition, both organised by the Learning department.

Schools and Groups

We hosted 57 school and group visits this year, introducing students to art and heritage displays and running creative hands-on sessions in the purpose-built Education Studio. *Centrepiece* is an annual project with local schools, generously supported by Mayford DFAS. This year's *Centrepiece* sculpture from The Ingram Collection of Modern and Contemporary British Art was *Margaret* by Darrell Evans. Pupils from seven schools visited The Lightbox to see *Margaret* and then created their own artworks inspired by it. These wonderfully original pieces were displayed in the *Centrepiece: Margaret* exhibition in the Art Fund Prize Gallery in July and August. Other groups that have enjoyed activity visits to The Lightbox include Cub Scout groups, children and adults with learning difficulties and the local homeless charity, York Road Project.

Family Learning

Our reputation for providing free, fun, family-friendly offerings continues to rise with many families becoming regular visitors and we are proud to have been shortlisted for the Telegraph Family Friendly Museum Award 2014. We ran 25 family drop-in workshops during the year with an average of 94 people attending each one. Bubble Fun Friday workshops have become a summer holiday tradition! Trails and activities around the building are a regular feature and are designed to engage the whole family.

Children and Young People

We work closely with Woking College tutors and students who use The Lightbox and its exhibitions as inspiration for some of their coursework. Students from the Performing Arts Department staged a site-specific performance at The Lightbox and the Art



Learning Matters

and Design Department held their 7th annual summer exhibition at The Lightbox in July. For the second year running, students had their work selected for The Royal Society of British Artists' annual exhibition at The Mall Galleries.

“Keep up the workshops – they’re lovely.”

The Young Curators have had another busy year. Young people aged 13 to 19 worked with professional artists and created their own wonderful artworks inspired by various exhibitions during the year. They helped to curate the displays of their work, which included fashion illustration, tablet art and a particularly popular animation inspired by *The Horse at War* exhibition. The Young Curators were also given unique access to Chris Ingram's collection and curated the *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* exhibition in the Upper Gallery. Their fun and quirky design and engaging family activity trail, meant this exhibition was a real delight.

Workshops for children aged 0 to 16 once again proved to be popular; in total we ran 53 workshops for children. Work with the under 5s is an important strand of the Learning programme. Every Painting for the under 5s session has been fully booked and our talented team of volunteer storytellers ensure that our fortnightly Storytelling for under 5s sessions are regularly packed out. These are the visitors of the future and through creative fun, stories and rhymes, hopefully we can ensure a long-term relationship with them.



Drawing for adults

Adults

Taster sessions in a variety of creative skills are offered once a month for adults over 16 and these were all very popular, booking up well in advance. Funding from the *Our Museum* initiative has allowed the Learning team to hire a number of local artists to run these sessions. Our dedicated volunteer and art teacher, John Haslum ran his free, fortnightly Drawing for Adults sessions for the sixth year running. His encouragement and advice provides many with a welcome two hour break from life's stresses.

Blind and Partially Sighted Visitors

Our team of trained audio describers gave three tours of exhibitions this year for blind and partially sighted visitors, all followed by creative workshops. We are fortunate that Chris Ingram has kindly given permission for visitors with visual impairment to touch a number of the sculptures in The Ingram Collection and this provides an important additional element to the tours.

Community

The *Art and Craft 4 Wellbeing* project with Woking and Sam Beare Hospices has now been running successfully for three years. A team of trained volunteers offer regular creative sessions with patients at both hospices, giving a welcome distraction and a chance to have a go at different activities.



Sythwood Primary School at the opening of *Centrepiece Margaret*

For the third year the Learning department worked with Woking's York Road Project, offering four, weekly creative workshops to their homeless clients. The theme of 'Reflections' was chosen by the clients and a small exhibition of the work they produced was shown in December. At the private view, guests were treated to a performance by the wonderful York Road Project Choir.

Art in Mind is a programme of monthly art workshops for people living with dementia and their carers. We have been running these sessions for a year and now have a waiting list of people wanting to take part. Artist Ruth Dupre, with the help of a trained team of staff and volunteers, introduces different artistic mediums and uses works from The Ingram Collection to inspire and encourage participants. Engaging in creative activities has been shown to keep people with dementia active for longer and helps to reduce isolation. *Art in Mind* sessions are certainly full of creativity and a lot of laughter. The Lightbox is a Dementia Friendly Champion organisation.

Conversations in the Gallery is a new programme that started this year. These quarterly sessions are an opportunity for older people, including those living with dementia, to get together and have a friendly, informal, but enlightening discussion with an art lecturer or curator about some of the artworks on display. Objects that might bring the works to life are often introduced and there's always time for a cup of tea or coffee.

This year has seen a successful working partnership develop with the Learning team at WWF-UK's The Living Planet Centre. We have offered joint visits to schools, which has brought in schools from further afield and, to celebrate Heritage Open Days and Love Architecture, we ran object handling sessions at The Lightbox and a joint family trail in September. In October, The Lightbox and The Living Planet Centre were physically linked with a wonderful display of messages created by visitors for the Big Draw. This partnership will continue to grow in 2015.

A Review of Exhibitions

With something for everyone, the programme of exhibitions, displays and talks at The Lightbox ensures that whoever you are and whatever your interests may be, there is always something that might pique your interest!

The Main Gallery heralded a series of block-buster shows. From *Hammer-Pong*, to the *Noisy* table and *Shadows of Light*, *The Giant Electronic Art Show* celebrated multi-media art. Artworks were selected with participation – playing, watching, operating or simply being present – integral to the visitor experience.



The Sacred Heart (2005), Courtesy Paul Stolper Gallery © Damien Hirst and Science Ltd. All rights reserved, DACS 2015

The Horse at War: 1914-1918 marked the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. Works such as Kemp-Welch's *Forward the Guns!* (1917) were displayed alongside *Joey*, from the National Theatre's *War Horse* production. This poignant and powerful exhibition was introduced by a display which explored the role of the horse and the impact of the First World War in Surrey.

Damien Hirst: New Religion brought the year to a spectacular climax with an exhibition courtesy of the British Council and Paul Stolper. The Main Gallery was transformed into a 'chapel of contemplation' that stimulated and revealed relationships between religion, pharmaceutical drugs and belief systems.

The Upper Gallery reflected the breadth of our programming with exhibitions dealing with fine art, photography and applied arts content. *The Getty Images Archive: Hollywood Photographs*, selected from The John Kobal Foundation, brought the golden years of Hollywood still photography to light.

Compacts: The Beautiful Story of Make-up, in collaboration with the British Compact Collectors' Society, focussed on the role of the compact and women's make-up in the twentieth century.

The Ingram Collection: The Impact of War explored art made in response to the First and Second World Wars as well as more recent conflicts with works by modern British as well as contemporary artists. The inaugural *Surrey Open Photographic Competition* showcased the work of Surrey's finest photographers, both amateur and professional. Some 200 photographs were submitted, across traditional and digital media, reflecting both the ongoing popularity and accessibility of the medium.

The exhibitions in The Art Fund Prize Gallery continued our important work with community groups, regional artists, educational institutions and local collectors. Julia Frost's beautiful photographs of still life subjects captivated visitors with the sale proceeds split between The Lightbox and The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. Regional artists from Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire gained important exposure through exhibitions at The Lightbox. Artists from Woking

Society of Arts, Fabrications, Bank Gallery *Borderlands* and *elements: Refined* generated valuable income for themselves and for The Lightbox.

The Lightbox worked closely with the Ronay family to mount *The Art of Marcel Ronay*, a show that explored the life and artistic output of the artist in the wake of the First World War. Finally, exhibition collaborations with community participants were staged including *The Ingram Collection: Skyscapes, New Beginnings Art Awards, Muslim Voices: Songs of Faith and Devotion* and *Waste not....* Along with *Centrepiece, Woking College Summer Exhibition* and *Graduate Show Highlights: University for the Creative Arts, Farnham*, these exhibitions cultivated new audiences and fostered learning, outreach and community participation outcomes and relationships.

We hosted some memorable talks this year. Bob Boorman enthralled us with his very own antique toy collection and Dr Martin Baumers explored the exciting new design possibilities of 3D printing technology. Dr Chris Stephens, Lead Curator of Modern British Art at Tate Britain surveyed the key figures in the history of British art from the twentieth century and an entertaining Andrew Robertshaw took us on his journey advising on the making of Spielberg's *War Horse* film. Finally in the *The Horse at War* talks programme, Dr Gill Clarke investigated women's work on the Home Front and Dr Bill Teatheredge debunked Sir Alfred Munnings' career and artistic output.

Local heritage took centre stage in Woking's Story with a variety of permanent and temporary displays. The Lightbox and the Friends of Woking Palace worked together to display new archaeological finds from the medieval site, home to Lady Margaret Beaufort and Henry VII, amongst others as well as the *Tudor Sports and Pastimes* display. The Woking Palace and its Park project is a Heritage Lottery Fund community-based project, undertaking excavations, workshops and displays with a permanent exhibition being installed in Woking's Story in 2016. The Heritage Exhibitions Advisory Committee researched and curated displays on *The History of Woking*

Athletic Club and *Made in Woking*, a display concerned with shedding new light on Woking's manufacturing industries. Local Hero displays explored the life of Adrian Stoop (1883 – 1957), of Harlequins and England Rugby Union fame; William Sydney Penley (1851 – 1912) who helped create 'Charley's Aunt' and appeared in the production as Lord Fancourt Babberley; and Sutton Place and the Weston Family. A series of 'Object in Focus' displays were devised, a highlight being the discovery and donation of a photograph from 1910 featuring 'Woking Skating Rink', with the protagonists posing at the children's fancy dress carnival competition.

"Outstanding, the quality and variety of the work is breathtaking!"



Photo of Joey from the National Theatre production of *War Horse* by Brinkoff Mögenburg

Our Supporters

The Lightbox relies on the generous support of individuals, Trusts, Foundations, Statutory Funders and Corporate Partners to fund its core activities.

Individual Donors

The Supporter Friends and Benefactor Friends were established for high-level donors in 2011 and both continue to grow in strength. In addition to Friends' benefits, members receive invitations to exhibition openings and to the Director's Reception, and behind the scenes Curator-led tours, as well as a public acknowledgment within the building.

We are grateful to The Friends of The Lightbox for their ongoing support and advocacy for our work. Friends receive an Annual Pass included in their membership and a variety of discounts in the Shop and Café, and discounted admission to Lightbox talks and events. They receive a quarterly newsletter and Friends also enjoy a varied programme of talks and private views of new exhibitions. Friends also enjoy visits to other museums and heritage properties, this year they have been as varied as The Poppy Factory in Richmond, The National Masonic Museum in central London and The Geffrye Museum in east London. This financial year the Friends supported The Lightbox by purchasing a new AV system for the Ambassador Room which has provided vastly improved presentation equipment. The Friends are actively recruiting new members and provide talks for other organisations on The Lightbox.



Friends at *The Horse at War* private view

The members of Mayford DFAS again supported the Woking Schools *Centrepiece* exhibition and individual donors supported our 'Young Curators' programme.

We also express our gratitude to Chris Ingram for his on-going support both with the long term loan of his magnificent art collection and the ways in which he allows access to the collection for educational purposes but also for the support he gives by providing talks for our Friends and advocating for us in many other ways.

Trusts, Foundations and Statutory Funders

We are most grateful to Woking Borough Council for the invaluable support they provide to the organisation. In addition many Trusts and Foundations have supported us this year. Our partnership with The Paul Hamlyn Foundation has continued into its final year and an interesting programme of community engagement, exhibitions and consultation has been funded through their 'Our Museum' programme. Both our exhibitions programme and a new programme of audience research and development have been supported by Arts Council England.

The Heritage Lottery Fund supported our *The Horse At War* exhibition as part of the national commemoration of the outbreak of WW1 which included a heritage project working with our volunteer Heritage Advisory Group which recorded in objects, film and documents the impact of the war on the local Woking and wider Surrey community.

Corporate Partners

We are delighted to thank our loyal Corporate Partners and to welcome those who have recently joined.

Ewbanks
McLaren
Mercer
Morrisons Solicitors
Project Five
Repropoint
Something Big

Squires Garden Centres
Surrey Chambers of Commerce
The Ambassadors, Woking
W Davies Solicitors
William Lacey Group
Woking Chamber of Commerce
Wood Group Mustang

Volunteers

The Lightbox has 150 dedicated volunteers who have this year provided between them over 9,500 hours of volunteer service. They support all departments in a variety of roles from installing exhibitions, stewarding in the galleries and welcoming visitors, giving guided tours, helping at our private views and lectures, assisting in workshops, cataloguing our collection and tending our garden. Without our volunteers we simply could not operate. They are the lifeblood of the organisation. To enhance their experience we provide regular exhibition briefings, training and forums and a number of outings and social events each year. Volunteers enjoy a summer

party and a New Year celebration. We also have a volunteer forum three times a year in which volunteers can discuss new ideas and solve problems and be kept up to date with new developments at The Lightbox.

New volunteers are continually being recruited, this year we were particularly pleased to see many young volunteers joining us and we also welcome those with disabilities. We are keen to support volunteers if they are looking for paid work, with the skills they have gained while volunteering at The Lightbox enhancing their CV. We also run a number of internships and work experience opportunities and we are most grateful to all our interns for the great work they have done this year.



Volunteers Tea Party

"Well organised, friendly, helpful volunteers. Always inspirational – we look forward to coming."

Enhancing the Experience

The Lightbox is the only venue in Woking where you can appreciate art of national significance, shop for unique items, eat and drink locally sourced products and while away the hours in a beautiful Courtyard setting by the canal! And there's always a warm welcome.



At The Lightbox, we have always believed in providing a friendly welcome to the gallery and in May 2015, the Front of House team were delighted to receive a Highly Commended Award for Best Customer Service in the Museums & Heritage Awards for Excellence.

The Venue

More than just an art gallery and museum... This strapline is very apt for The Lightbox. As well as exhibitions of outstanding quality, showcasing local and national art, we also host a range of alternative events aimed at satisfying a wide variety of tastes. In early 2015 we introduced Jazz Brunches and 'Joke in the Box' comedy evenings which have proved immensely popular and regularly sell out.

In November 2014 we hosted our ever popular Arts and Craft Fair, which had the largest ever number of stalls selling local handmade crafts such as jewellery, paintings, glass-work and ceramics. During the summer of 2015 we will host our first Vintage Fair, with stalls selling vintage-style wares from fashion to music memorabilia. The Fair will also host a pop-up vintage hair and make-up salon, which will run alongside our Pop Art exhibition.

Venue Hire

Our Corporate hire facility, the Ambassador Room has seen an upgrade to its Audio Visual equipment with wireless projection facilities and new speaker system.

The Lightbox is an adaptable venue, which has even seen its first wedding celebration. Venue hire continues to be a valuable source of revenue for The Lightbox.

The Shop

An important income-generator for The Lightbox, the Shop is a destination in itself. There is always plenty to tempt our visitors with, from beautiful and funky jewellery to colourful scarves and fashionable handbags. We are also proud that we support artists by stocking their incredible works, ranging from ceramics to original artworks. In addition, each month the Café features the work of an established artist. An exciting mix of media including paintings, original limited edition prints, textile and mixed media work have all been shown in the past year. In 2015 this gallery will be moving next to the Shop so that purchasable works will all be available from one location.

"100,000 times overwhelmed with the customer service. Just feel calm, relaxed, and inspired. Such a delightful place to be. There isn't anyone here that isn't charming."



The Café

In The Lightbox Café we like to support local businesses and are proud to stock a selection of local produce, including Cider from The Surrey Garden Cider Company, Ale from Thurston Brewery in Horsell, handmade cakes from Pinnocks in Ripley and soups and sandwiches made on the premises by Barlows.

The commercial activities of The Lightbox, as well as providing visitors with an enhanced experience provide the charity with valuable resources to continue the wonderful community projects that we have become known for.

The Lightbox Cafe © Mi-Jin Kim

Publicity and Marketing

Publicity for 2014/15 has been good, with exhibitions such as *The Giant Electronic Art Show* and *The Horse at War: 1914 – 1918* generating significant coverage both locally and nationally. Across the year local media coverage and coverage The Lightbox has achieved on websites has increased. This reflects the trend that there has been an increase in the number of local publications and websites over the past year who want to advertise what's on in the county.

The new Lightbox website launched at the end of July 2014. In the first year since launching the number of unique hits has increased by almost 30% when compared to the previous website. Customers are now also able to book online which provides better access to booking anytime which has improved the service we offer. For events the number of website bookings is very strong – for example around 90% of those that attend comedy nights book via the website and these nights are frequently fully booked or over-subscribed.

Social media also saw a large increase in engagement over the past year with both Facebook and Twitter followers rising by 30% on the previous year. Social media is more prominent on the new website which gives people more opportunity to engage with The Lightbox. This is also true of the weekly online blog which has steadily increased in views over the past year.

Partnership Working

At The Lightbox we take pride in our ability to partner with a wide range of organisations and individuals. During the year we have worked with a number of organisations and partners, including:

ACME Museum Services
 Activity Xtra
 Adam Shamash
 Age Concern Woking
 Alex Berchert
 Alex May
 Alliance Boots Archive & Museum Collection
 ArtBox Surrey
 Arts 4 Dementia
 Arts Council England
 Association of Independent Museums
 Bank Gallery
 Bower-Wood Production Services
 Buckingham Military Museum
 Byfleet Heritage Centre
 Chobham Rider
 Christiane Zschommler
 Cranstock Day Centre
 Dan Knight
 Dementia Compass

Diversity in Heritage Group
 Embroiders' Guild
 Employability
 Friends of Woking Palace
 Geesemere Day Services
 Getty Images Gallery
 Government Art Collection
 Guildford House Gallery
 Happy Museum
 Harlequins Rugby Union
 Headline Design & Print
 Heritage Lottery Fund
 Illustration Cupboard
 Imperial War Museum
 Jason Hotchkiss
 Jeyes Group
 Johannes Bergmark
 Jono Retallick
 Juliette Edwards
 Katherine Higgins
 Khayaal Theatre
 Kids in Museums
 King's College London Archives & Special Collections
 Lakers Youth Centre
 Learning on my Doorstep
 Liaise Women's Centre
 LinkAble
 Lockwood Day Centre
 Lottie Davies
 Mansoor Suleman
 Mary Branson
 Matt Saunders
 Matthew Sansom
 Max Factor (Proctor & Gamble) Corporation
 Mayford Decorative and Fine Arts Society
 Merrist Wood College
 Michael Morpurgo
 Moorcroft Centre for the Community

Munnings Collection
 NADFAS
 National Theatre
 New Vision Homes
 Norfolk Museums Service
 Paul Hamlyn Foundation
 Paul Stolper
 Pinnerton Audio Visual Services
 Rae Smith
 Rafael Vartanian
 Rokers Tack Shop
 Ronay & Ronay Executive Search
 Rosemary Wilman
 Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
 Rural Life Centre
 Serco Group Plc.
 Shah Jahan Mosque
 Sight For Surrey
 Simon Desorgher of Colourspace
 Simon Oxley
 Smith and Williamson
 Squire's Garden Centres
 St. Barbe Museum
 Surrey & Hampshire Hackspace
 Surrey Archaeological Society
 Surrey Arts
 Surrey Chambers of Commerce
 Surrey County Archaeological Unit
 Surrey County Council
 Surrey History Centre
 Surrey Museums Consultative Committee
 Tate
 The Ambassadors, New Victoria Theatre
 The Art Fund
 The British Compact Collectors' Society
 The British Council
 The Garrick Club
 The Harbour Day Centre
 The Henry Moore Foundation
 The John Kobal Foundation
 The Marcel Ronay Archive
 The Trench Experience
 The Vyne Centre for the Community



Touchstones Rochdale
 Tozzy Bridger
 University of Creative Arts, Farnham
 University of Surrey
 Victoria and Albert Museum
 Visit Surrey
 Wandsworth Group
 Will Nash
 Woking & Sam Beare Hospices
 Woking Alzheimer's Society
 Woking and Sam Beare Hospices
 Woking Arts Hub
 Woking Athletic Club
 Woking Borough Council
 Woking Chamber of Commerce
 Woking Children's Centre
 Woking Football Club
 Woking Library
 Woking Sixth Form College
 Woking Society of Arts
 Women's Support Centre
 World Rugby Museum
 Worshipful Company of Farriers
 WWF-UK
 York Road Project

Below: Friends Voce Concert summer 2014 at WWFs The Living Planet Centre.

Facing page: Liaise Joy exhibition.



The Financial Report

An abbreviated report on the financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2015
Summary Income and Expenditure Account as at 31 March 2015

	2015 £	2014 £
Incoming resources		
Incoming resources from charitable activities	421,137	397,523
Activities for generating funds	98,756	92,217
Project income	103,662	147,597
Trading income	212,961	205,182
Investment income	2,687	7,503
Total incoming resources	839,203	850,022
Resources expended		
Cost of running charitable activities		
The Lightbox	378,800	394,761
Exhibition and events	101,034	133,477
Education	38,243	30,594
Project activity	126,293	178,988
Trading costs	185,114	182,454
Governance costs	31,141	38,895
Total resources expended	860,625	959,169
Net income before depreciation	(21,422)	(109,147)
Less depreciation	70,720	76,007
Net income after depreciation	(92,142)	(185,154)
Balance Sheet		
	2015 £	2014 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	6,959,253	7,009,093
Current assets		
Stock	19,210	16,642
Debtors	71,073	52,520
Cash at Bank	317,028	397,421
Creditors		
Falling due within one year	213,647	230,617
Net current assets	193,664	235,966
Creditors		
Falling due after more than one year	1,446,142	1,446,142
Total assets less liabilities	5,706,775	5,798,917

The Future

The Lightbox is always looking to the future and ways in which we can expand our services and reach even more people. We have plans to provide more space in our building which continues to closely resemble the Tardis! Our developments will continue to rely on the generosity of our donors and benefactors and our partner Woking Borough Council. We are already looking to 2017 and amazingly our 10th anniversary. We plan for that to be a very special year. Our exhibition programme will not disappoint as more great names feature in the programme – Damien Hirst and Andy Warhol in 2015 and in 2016 John Constable with significant loans from great national collections. We hope to retain our strong link with the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and seek further funding to continue our work of engaging even more deeply with our local community and reflecting in our work what people want and need from their local museum and art gallery. We want even more people to visit and enjoy the wealth of activities and experiences we offer. We strongly believe that interacting with everything happening at The Lightbox simply ‘makes you feel better’.



Images from top to bottom: John Constable, *Salisbury Cathedral, Wiltshire, from the Meadows*, (1831) © Guildhall Art Gallery, City of London Corporation; Workshop in the Education Studio; *The Ingram Collection: Planes, Trains and Automobiles*; Young Curators group in front of their display at *The Horse at War* private View.



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Reg. Charity 1073543

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