



THE STAINED  
GLASS MUSEUM



2023  
ANNUAL REVIEW  
1 Nov 2022 - 31 Oct 2023



# THE STAINED GLASS MUSEUM

*inspiring stories in glass, light and colour*



Registered Charity No. 1169842  
Arts Council Accredited Museum No. 574

## **PATRON**

His Majesty King Charles III

## **TRUSTEES**

Prof. Sarah Brown FSA (Secretary)  
Lara Clements  
Suzanne Phillips Galloway  
Mark Hosea  
Karen Knight (resigned February 2023)  
Malcolm Leith (Treasurer)  
Llewela Selfridge  
Dr Jeffrey West FSA (Chairman)

## **DIRECTOR**

Dr Jasmine Allen

## **CONSERVATION ADVISER**

Prof. Sarah Brown FSA

## **VISION:**

The national centre for enjoying and understanding stained glass through storytelling, creativity and research.

## **MISSION:**

To share the cultural and artistic importance of stained glass.

The Stained Glass Museum, South Triforium,  
Ely Cathedral, CB7 4DL  
[www.stainedglassmuseum.com](http://www.stainedglassmuseum.com) | +44 (1353) 660347



# GOVERNANCE

## **Board of Trustees**

Dr Jeffrey West continued to act as Chair of the Board of Trustees during our 2022-23 financial year. Karen Knight stepped down from the Board in February 2023.

## **Future Plans**

Trustees held two facilitated Away Days in January and March 2023, from which emerged a new Vision and Mission statement and Forward Plan. During the year the Board continued the search for a new home to relocate the museum as part of ambitions to develop a national centre for stained glass.

## **Collections Committee**

Trustees benefitted throughout the year from the advice of several specialist members of the Acquisitions & Disposals Committee (from September 2023 known as the Collections Committee) who act as advisors. The Board would like to express its thanks to Prof. Tim Ayers (History of Art Department, University of York), Dr Sally-Anne Huxtable (National Trust), and (appointed in September 2023) Dr Michaela Zöschg (Curator of Medieval Art & Design, V&A Museum) and Dr Martin Crampin, stained glass scholar, UTSDW.

## **Staff and Volunteers**

The museum is managed by a small team of staff, with one full-time and several part-time posts, equating to 3.8 full-time equivalent staff members. No changes were made to the museum's staff team during the year. Several new volunteers were recruited to assist our Learning Officer in delivering the museum's formal and informal learning programme. We are grateful to all those committed staff and volunteers who have contributed to the museum's successes over the course of the year.





*Above: Derek Hunt talking to visitors about how stained glass is made.*

# OVERVIEW

## Visitors and Audience Engagement

The Stained Glass Museum welcomed a total of 24,610 people to the Stained Glass Museum during 2022-23, of which 17,418 were paying visitors. This was a slight increase on the previous year. Of these 14,479 were paying adults and 2,386 were children under the age of 16 for whom admission into the gallery is free.

**24,610**  
visitors in  
2022-2023

Improvements to family provision in the gallery, including dress-up, hands-on activities and magnet boards helped generate a noticeable increase in family visits. The number of children visiting with families saw a 25% increase on the previous year.

Our online engagement continues to grow and we received 63,506 unique visits to our website during the year and 98,481 page views. Our combined social media followers over the year was 15,971 and total social media engagement (likes, follows, shares, views) 350,715

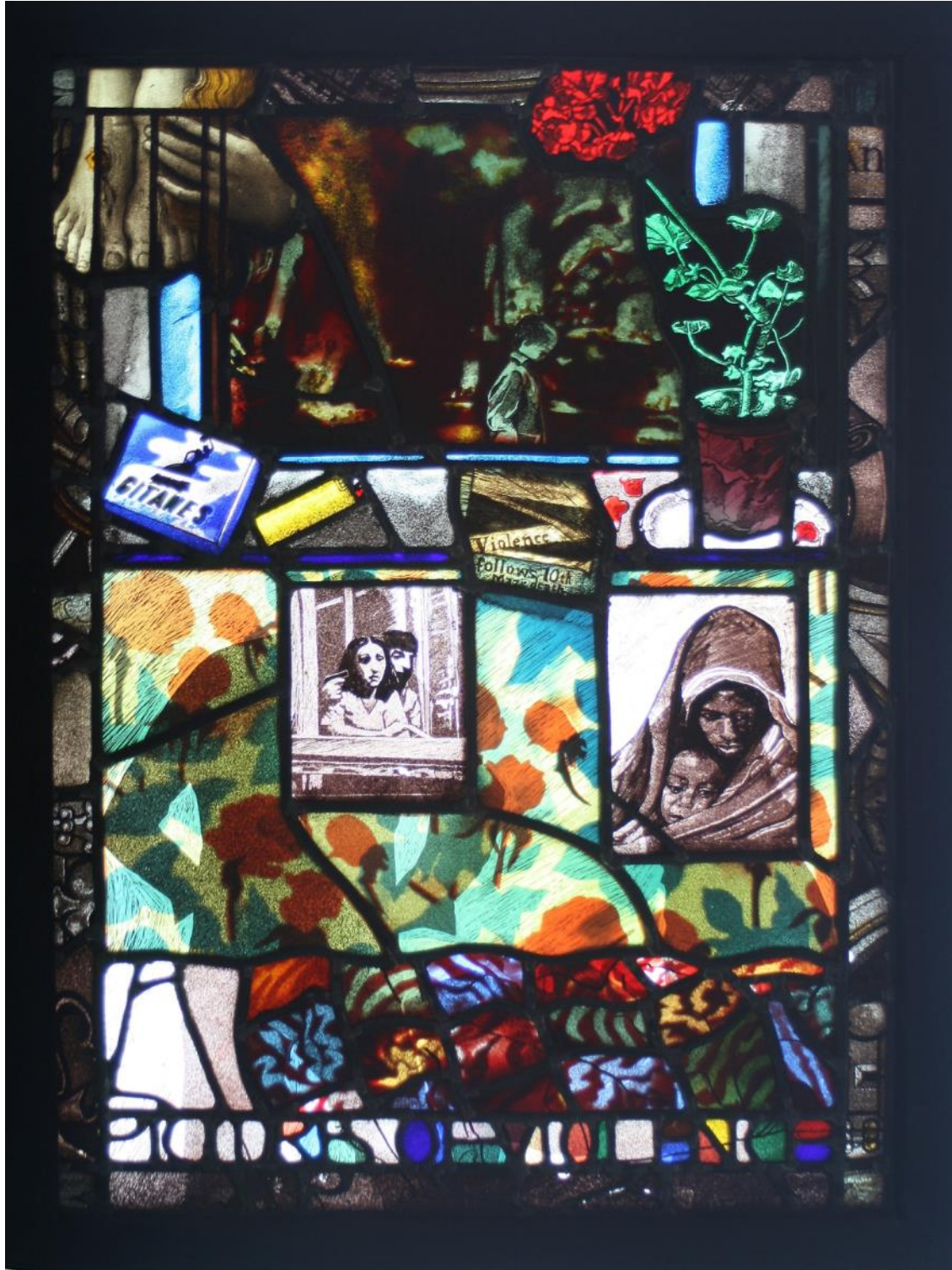
## Friends

The Stained Glass Museum Friends organisation was relaunched during the year with new membership levels and membership cards. Over the course of the year six new paying Friends joined and active membership now stands at around 220 individuals.

## Advocacy and Press

The Stained Glass Museum was named one of 'Seven of the UK's best Tiny museums' in *The Sunday Times* (Jan 2023). Our local MP, the Culture Secretary Lucy Frazer, visited the museum in August 2023 to get a better understanding of why stained glass has been listed as a critically endangered craft by Heritage Crafts. Following a tour with the museum Director, stained glass artist Derek Hunt explained some of the threats to traditional stained glass making in the UK.





# COLLECTION

## Acquisitions

New acquisitions acquired in this financial year included Rosalind Grimshaw's *Pictures of Violence* (1982) panel, which was previously on loan to the museum and purchased from the artist's estate with thanks to a grant from the Art Fund. The museum renewed loans of medieval stained glass panels from the V&A Museum, as well as from the PCC of Byfield church. Loans were also renewed for an abstract panel by John Piper, and some Alexander Gibbs glass from William Butterfield's All Saints Church, Margaret Street, London.

## Publications and Research

During the course of the year the museum's Director and Curator Dr Jasmine Allen presented research papers at conferences during the year, including at 'New Illuminations: Stained Glass in Ireland and Beyond', a stained glass conference at Trinity College, Dublin (21-23 Sep 2023). She was the visiting speaker for the Pugin Society Annual Lecture in Ramsgate (16 Sep 2023) and contributed a paper on 'British stained glass in the long 19th century', at the Ecclesiological Society Annual Conference on 'Stained Glass Revivals' (7 Oct 2023), as well as speaking to several lifelong learning and special interest groups.

Members of the museum team published several articles during the year, including: '[Stained Glass at Christ Church Southwark](#)' (Four Corners Press blog), '[Mary Lowndes: pioneering stained glass artist and advocate of women's rights](#)', Art UK, '[The Agricultural Year in Stained Glass: Labours of the Month from medieval to present day](#)' on Agricultural Museums website. The Director's review of two contemporary stained glass exhibitions Brian Clarke: A Great Light, and Pinkie Maclure: The Lost Congregation was published in [Vidimus](#). Our Collections Engagement Officer, Emily Allen, also wrote about '[The Festival of Purim](#)' for Art UK.

**Left:** Rosalind Grimshaw (,1945-2020), *Pictures of Violence* (1982) ELYGM:2007.4





*Above: Conservator Sarah Jarron ACR examines under the microscope a 13th century stained glass panel from Soissons Cathedral, as part of a Collections Care Audit funded by AIM / Pilgrim Trust.*



# INTERPRETATION

## Collections Care

A grant from the AIM / Pilgrim Trust Collections Care Audit Scheme enabled the museum to pay for ICON-accredited stained-glass conservator Sarah Jarron to visit the museum and undertake a Collections Care Audit. This enabled the investigation of concerns (including signs of crizzling and bacterial growth) and to review environmental monitoring and conservation needs across the stained glass collections. As a result, the museum's oldest stained glass panel, *A Bust of a King*, (c.1220) originally from Soissons Cathedral, was cleaned and reframed. New environmental monitoring equipment was also purchased and additional monitors were set up to improve ongoing monitoring of the museum gallery and stores.

## Interpretation

Project-specific funding was received during the year from the Headley Trust, for gallery redisplay works and a new part-time staff role of Digital Producer.

In partnership with local developer City XR we launched a new app using Augmented Reality (AR) technology to give visitors more information about the original architectural contexts of 10 works in the main gallery, using their mobile devices.

Dr Maximilian Berkel, a scholar from Wuppertal in Germany, visited on a research placement for two weeks in February 2023. Max undertook some documentation and cataloguing of new archival acquisitions, and carried out an inventory check and repackaged our stained glass designs.



# EDUCATION & OUTREACH



*Clockwise from left to right: Young visitors enjoying learning activities in the museum gallery during our Family Fun Day, on school visits, sensory exploration with SGMinis, and new dress-up and interactives.*



Our Learning Officer had a busy year as our schools programme engaged with 681 pupils in Ely, Fenland and surrounding local area. This was double the number of pupils engaged in the previous year. Thanks to funding from the Frank Litchfield Trust we were able to offer three local schools in the Fenland area a grant towards coach hire to enable a visit the museum.

**1,433**  
**children engaged**  
**through learning**  
**initiatives**

A further 762 children engaged with the museum during the school holidays during our family workshops and holiday drop-ins. 66 of these children were aged under five and attended our popular SG minis monthly group. The museum staff and trustees are hugely grateful to our team of dedicated volunteers for giving their time and skills to the museum and supporting our learning provision.

Grants were awarded through the Museums in Cambridgeshire funding from Cambridgeshire County Council towards interactive family learning provision in the museum gallery, vastly improving our engagement with younger visitors.

In addition, 191 adults developed their creative glass skills on one of our 32 specialist workshops in painting on glass, leading and glazing, copper foiling and glass fusing, a 50% increase on the previous year.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank our glass workshop tutors Tracey Chamberlain, James Cockerill, Claire Hart, Louise Haselgrove, and Derek Hunt ACR for sharing their expertise and teaching workshops at the museum during the year.





# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



*Clockwise left to right: Culture Secretary and Cambs MP Lucy Fraser meeting stained glass artist Derek Hunt at the museum in August, the 2023 Stevens Architectural Glass exhibition, Friends of The Stained Glass Museum on a study tour in Shropshire in April; Lego Ninjas for Window Wanderland October 2023.*

## Events, Tours and Talks

The museum's 2023 annual Study Tour took place in Shropshire and was attended by 40 Friends of the museum and three students. Scheduled visits enabled delegates to view an enormous variety of stained and painted glass, including the renowned medieval stained glass of St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury, gothic revival windows by local artist David Evans, a rare enamel painted window by Francis Eginton, and Arts and Crafts' work by A.J. Davies and Margaret Rope. A grant from Museums in Cambridgeshire enabled the purchase of a new set of audio tour headsets for tours and talks both in the gallery and offsite during study tours.

Two series of online talks were held in the year with a combined audience of 300. Our 2023 spring series of talks focused on glass artists and their practice. Speakers included Alison Kinnaird (UK), who specialises in wheel engraving on glass, artist and geometer Debora Coombs (USA), and glass painter Petri Anderson (UK). Our 2023 autumn lecture series focused on art history with topics ranging from the art of opus sectile (Lily Crowther, Leamington Spa Art Gallery and Museum), collector William Burrell's collections of stained glass formerly in his home at Hutton Castle and now in the Burrell Collection, Glasgow (Edward Johnson, Burrell Collection, Glasgow Museums and Dr Marie Groll, York Glaziers Trust), and the stained glass and collage works of one of the founders of the British Pop Art movement artist, actor and model Pauline Boty (Dr Sue Tate, Art Historian).

The Museum's learning and engagement team participated in several local community events including the Ely Apple Fayre in October and Ely Cathedral Christmas Gift and Food Fair in November. More than 300 people visited the museum during Heritage Open Weekend in September. In partnership with Babylon ARTS our annual Window Wanderland event created an after-dark trail of illuminated windows in Ely in October.

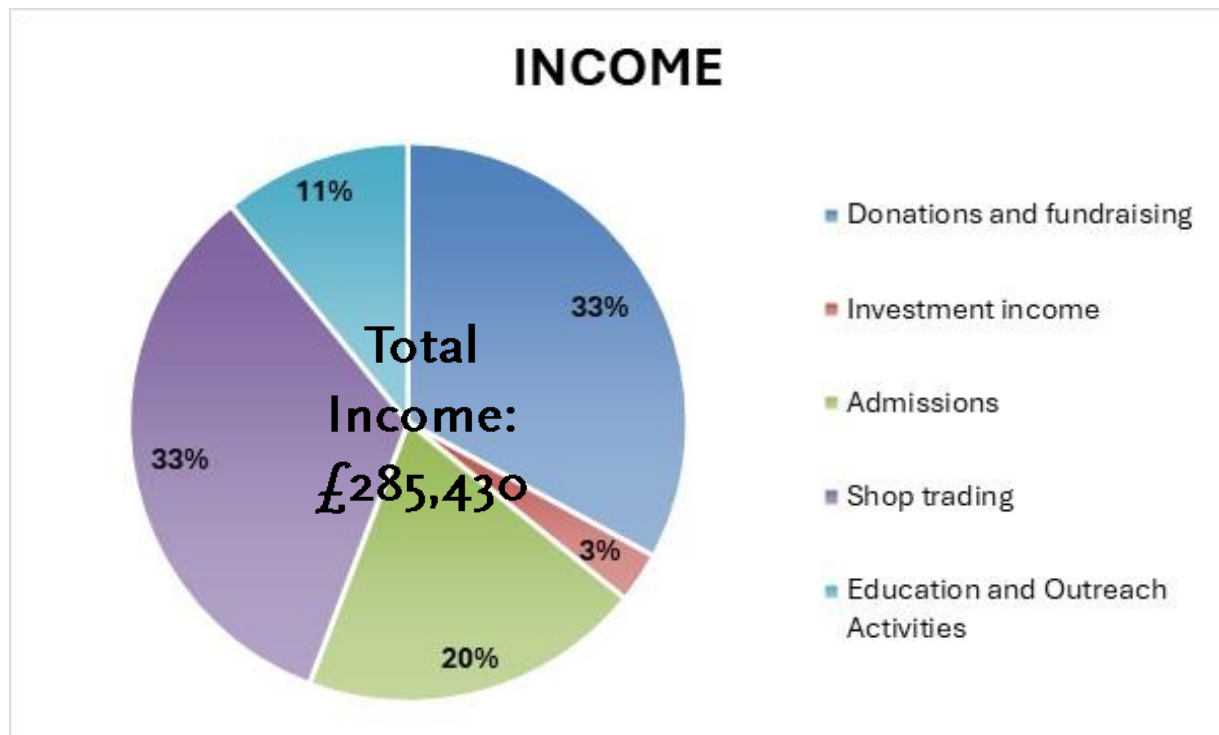
## Exhibitions

Our main exhibition of the year was ***Petri Anderson: Woodland scenes*** featuring dramatic woodland vistas by contemporary artist Petri Anderson. The artworks were inspired by the woodland habits of Anderson's native Finland as well as those in the Chiltern Hills. In the summer we hosted a small exhibition of selected competition entries to the Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass' 2023 Stevens Architectural Glass Competition, promoting emerging artists'.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Total income in 2022-23 (excluding specific grants in restricted income) was £285,430 (2021-22: £270,631). Unrestricted expenditure was £238,925 (2021-22: £188,276).

Income from donations and fundraising was higher than usual thanks to a bequest from the estate of Gwendoline Branigan. We are incredibly grateful to those trusts and foundations that have awarded unrestricted grants to the museum throughout the year, including the Wyss Foundation, The Lopylugs and Barbara Morrison Charitable Trust and The Glaziers Trust.



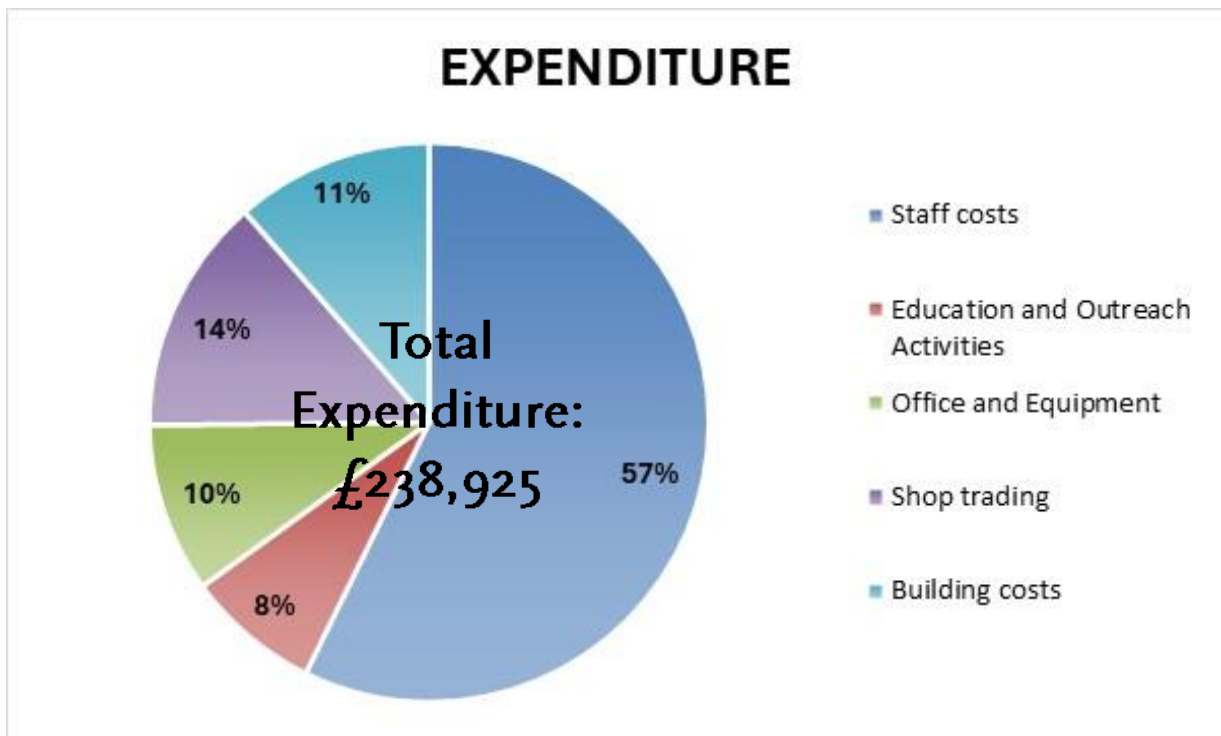
Project-specific funding was received from the Headley Trust, for gallery redisplay works and a new part-time staff role of Digital Producer. The Art Fund awarded an acquisition grant towards the purchase of a contemporary stained glass panel by Rosalind Grimshaw.



# 2022-2023

The Frank Litchfield Trust provided funding to enable three local schools in the Fenland area hire coaches to visit the museum.

Grants were awarded from Cambridgeshire County Council towards interactive family learning provision in the museum gallery and the purchase of a new set of audio tour headsets for touring churches. The City of Ely Council awarded funds towards the Window Wanderland event organised in conjunction with Babylon ARTS.



This financial information is taken from independently examined published financial statements for The Stained Glass Museum (registered charity no: 1169842) for the period 1 November 2022 - 31 October 2023, formally approved by Trustees on 23 April 2024.



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## WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Trustees of The Stained Glass Museum would like to thank the following benefactors and funding bodies for their support during the 2022-23 financial year:

- Headley Trust
- The Wyss Foundation
- The Loppylugs and Barbara Morrison Charitable Trust
- The Art Fund
- The Glaziers Trust
- The estate of Gwendoline Branigan
- The estate of Chloë Cockerill
- Friends and family of Peter Batchelor
- Museums in Cambrdgeshire
- City of Ely Council
- Friends of The Stained Glass Museum

THE  
**HEADLEY**  
TRUST



Art Fund\_