

# CENTREPIECES

Mental Health Arts Project  
Registered Charity 1160300

## ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS AT 31 MARCH 2025



**'Sunset Glow on River Thames at Erith'**  
By Centrepieces Artist Kelly Gibbins

## **CENTREPIECES ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS**

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

### **Chairman's Report:**

#### **Mike Ellsmore**

#### **Chair of Trustees**

This is my final report as chair as I will be standing down as Chair and as a Trustee at this AGM after some 11 years. I will continue as a volunteer.

I would like to use this opportunity to pay tribute to a number of people who have developed Centrepieces into the vibrant organisation it is today. A big thank you to Geoff and Karen who provide the drive and enthusiasm which makes Centrepieces such an effective organisation. They are very well supported by Sue, Nicki, Natalie and Carla. Finally, Jean is very much the engine room behind the operation undertaking all the difficult back-office tasks.

I would also like to thank our Trustees who give their time so freely and in particular Jenny, our longest serving Trustee, and a thank you to Willow, our Patron, who is so supportive of the work we do.

If I have missed anyone, please accept my apologies, it's probably an age thing!

Mike Ellsmore

## **Coordinator's Report:**

Just when we thought that life could not get any busier at Centrepieces, we have now seen one of our most active years ever!

Over the last year we held 2 Exhibitions at the Stables Gallery Hall Place, the first funded by Bexley Council to help celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a London Borough and Centrepieces 25<sup>th</sup> entitled 'Reflections on Where We Live'. This enabled our artists to depict their feelings about living in the Borough with local scenes and history which received a very positive response from the public. The second Exhibition was part of the Bexley Night Visions Arts Council funded project which we called 'Bringing Light to Mental Health'. Both exhibitions were well received and a great deal of our artists work was sold, which was only made possible by the fantastic effort from our volunteers and artists to support and steward over the 2 months. Following the second exhibition Karen and the team of tutors held a number of workshops on the theme of Light which culminated in a very special one day Night Vision winter event both inside and outside the Lodge with illuminated Domes and Gazebos which was quite spectacular. I would like to thank everyone for their brilliant teamwork and Natalie Whiten in particular for making the event such a success.

It is anticipated that some of the Textiles and Canvas Art Panels will continue to be shown around the Borough in the Libraries and at other venues.

We broke some new ground as well with an Exhibition at Price Waterhouse Cooper near Tower Bridge and at the Canvas and Cream Gallery in Forest Hill. Thanks to all involved with these exhibitions including our Trustees Harriet Louth and Sharan Sanger and tutor Wendy Clay.

It was very special to see our artists at the Forest Hill show talk to the public about their work and mental health during the East Dulwich Open Studios week.

We also held a one day Art Fair in Rochester which was very successful as a trial and supported by a number of our artists and volunteers, so it is likely to be repeated this year.

Our last Winter Exhibition for the year was at the Drill Hall Sandwich which again went down very well with positive feedback about the value of our exhibitions there, on account of the quality of the artwork and the way in which our artists speak to viewers in ways they can relate to.

It is with great sadness we say goodbye to the Chair of our Trustees Mike Ellsmore who is stepping down after 11 years at the helm. Mike has been a rock in helping hold the organisation together, especially with our finances, premises, general guidance and direction, and this last year with a special Centrepieces 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Music Fundraising Event at the Erith Theatre in which he conjured up some brilliant Americana acts for a very entertaining evening!

I am grateful to Mike for all the support he has given and thankful for his offer of continuing to help Centrepieces in a volunteer capacity. Also, to Jenny Watson our Vice Chair who is due to retire soon but will also be helping with admin in the office.

We currently still hold Sidcup Manor House as our ancillary 'Pop Up' premises but are on the lookout for somewhere new as we will need to vacate due to development of the site.

Thanks also to all our volunteers who a few months ago did a fantastic job in helping set up a wonderful new 'Pop Up' gallery in an empty shop in Bexleyheath Broadway and even got as far as installing our first exhibition. Unfortunately, we were soon told that we had to vacate due to new tenants moving in.

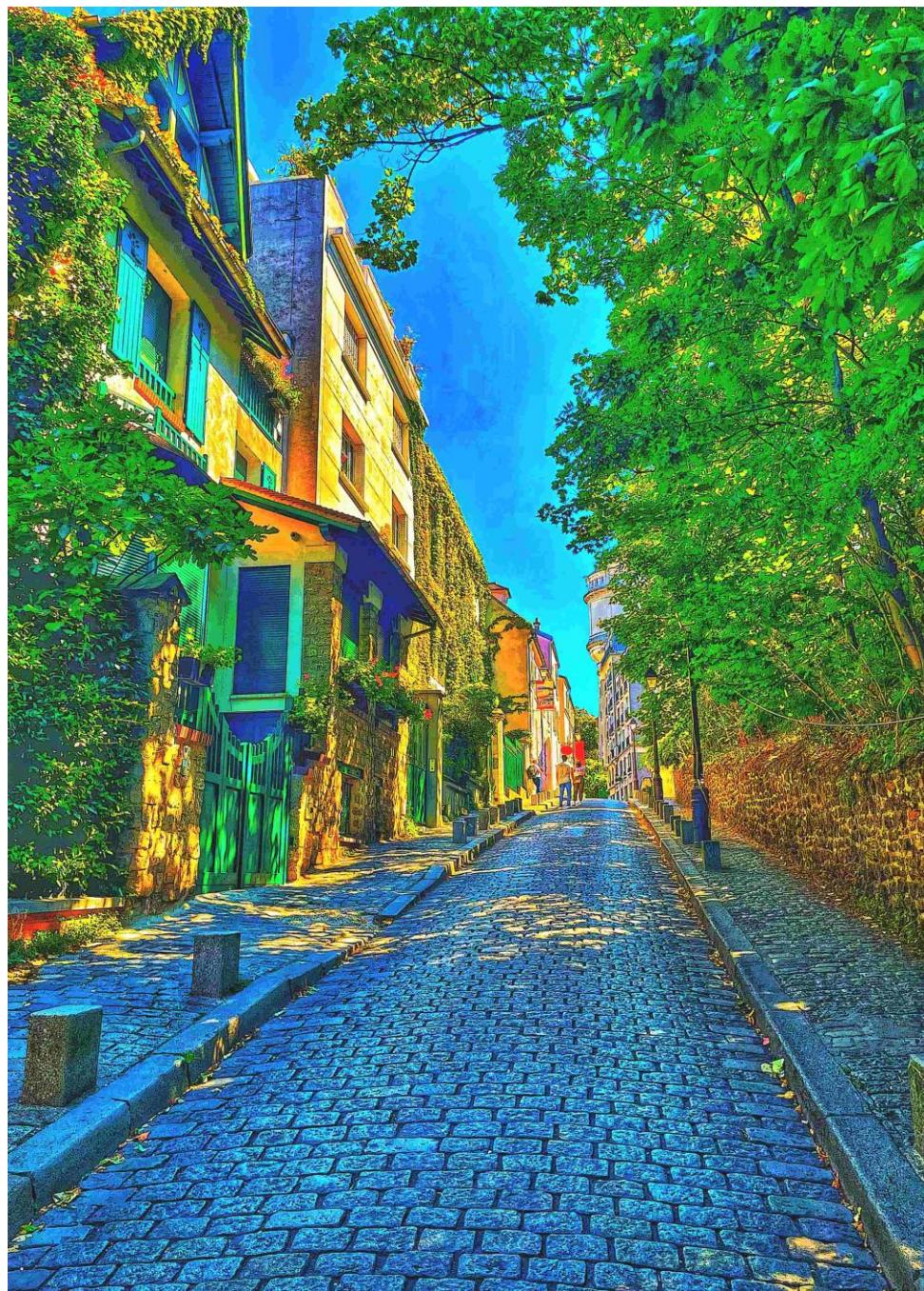
As ever Karen Larkin has overseen a rich and varied programme of art workshops with a great team of tutors who have inspired a lot of the artwork that we see in our exhibitions and helped our artists enormously in their mental health recovery.

There have been a number of other Trustee personnel changes this year, I would like to say thanks to Eileen Pallen, Sally Macgregor and Georgina for all their help and contributions and welcome to new Trustees Tracy Smith – Dance and Samsara Weerawarnasuriya.

So overall Centrepieces 25<sup>th</sup> year has been a very productive one and we look forward to many more.

**Geoff Norris**

**Coordinator**



**‘Parisian Perspectives - Dreamer’s Alley’**

**By Centrepieces Artist Matthew Delaney**

**Legal and Administrative Information:**

**Registered Office Address:**

The Lodge, Hall Place,  
Bourne Road  
Bexley, Kent.  
DA5 1PQ

**CIO Number:** 1160300

**Trustees of Centrepieces:**

Mike Ellsmore - Chair  
Jenny Watson - Deputy Chair  
Rosie Eaglen  
Georgina Lonergan  
Sally McGregor  
Fiona Miller  
Eileen Pallen  
Rashikkha Ra Iyer  
Guy Tarrant  
Britta Von Zweigbergk  
Frederick Clough  
Harriet Lough  
Sharon Sangar  
Sujatha Thaladi

The Trustees named have served during the period of the accounts. Appointment of Trustees is governed by the CIO Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the Trustee Board is authorised to appoint new trustees to fill vacancies arising through resignation, or the death of an existing trustee.

**Structure, Governance and Management:**

Centrepieces is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charities Commission on the 3rd of February 2015. The CIO has a volunteer Coordinator and a number of members who take on allocated voluntary responsibilities on a day-to-day basis. A Board of Trustees is responsible for the strategic direction and funding of the organisation, recruitment of new trustees as and when necessary, activities which are supported by 3 committees who meet periodically to discuss their specialist areas including Arts, Finance and Funding of the CIO, and then report to the full Board of Centrepieces.

**Objectives of organisation:**

To promote the recovery of adults in the London Borough of Bexley and surrounding areas who experience or have experienced, mental health problems by providing resources and support to enable them to participate in arts and related mental health enhancing activities, and to develop artistically and to achieve better social inclusion through art related activities.

- To promote mental health recovery through art
- To provide an outlet for artists with mental health issues to exhibit and sell their artwork
- To achieve long term financial sustainability
- To achieve long term security of tenure with regard to our premises
- To provide a safe and stimulating environment for our members

- To apply for available and appropriate funding
- To achieve a funding and income level allowing for the employment of paid staff

### **Centrepieces CIO – Financial Report**

The financial year ending 31 March 2025 was a particularly good one for Centrepieces. We received significant donations during the year. As the Mayor of Bexley's charity of the year in 2023/24, we received £10,000. We were also grateful to receive two legacies, £7,000 from the estate of Mary Jones and £2,000 from the estate of Alex Spendley.

These donations produced a surplus on our unrestricted funds of £8,735, leaving us with a healthy cash balance of £22,354 at the year end.

This was particularly pleasing as we continue to support two properties, namely Hall Place Lodge and Sidcup Manor House.

Our restricted funds' balance at 31 March 2025 was £8,451. These funds are earmarked for specific purposes and cannot be used to fund general expenditure.

My personal thanks to Jean Lyons and Annie Greywoode for keeping the financial show on the road.

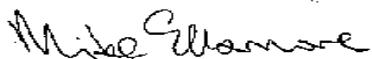
**Michael Ellsmore, CPFA**  
**Trustee**

**CENTREPIECES CIO**  
**Receipts & Payments Accounts for the period**  
**1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Last year
	£	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Artwork Sold	5,380	-	5,380	6,726
Bexley Community Lottery	759	-	759	613
Contribution to workshops	4,597		4,597	5,420
Donations Inc GA	25,242	-	25,242	11,824
Fundraising	616		616	1,839
Grants	-	1,000	1,000	-
Membership	2,387		2,387	2,900
Other	1,193	-	1,193	436
<i>Total receipts</i>	<i>40,174</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>41,174</i>	<i>29,758</i>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Artist Fees	3,165		3,165	3,992
Art Materials	1,181		1,181	1,814
Artwork Sold-payment to Artists	4,098	-	4,098	3,464
Building & Assoc Cost	1,384	-	1,384	1,453
Exhibitions	9	713	722	1,206
Function & Meeting Expenses	1,010	-	1,010	917
Inspire Awards	-	500	500	375
Insurance	536	-	536	530
IT & Office Equipment	368	-	368	977
Printing ,Postage & Stationery	1,112	38	1,150	1,285
Publications	379	-	379	155
Rent & Rates	7,885	-	7,885	5,621
Storage Costs	-	-	-	688
Telephone & Internet	1,262	-	1,262	1,401
Training	462			
Utilities	5,773		5,773	2,548
Volunteer Travel	2,366	336	2,702	4,418
Other Expenses	449	-	449	468
	-	-	-	-
<i>Total Payments</i>	<i>31,439</i>	<i>1,587</i>	<i>32,564</i>	<i>31,312</i>
<i>Surplus/Deficit</i>	<i>8,735</i>	<i>-587</i>	<i>8,148</i>	<i>1,554</i>
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>13,619</b>	<b>9,038</b>	<b>22,657</b>	<b>24,211</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>22,354</b>	<b>8,451</b>	<b>30,805</b>	<b>22,657</b>

Financial statements report and review:

- In my opinion the accounts above give a true and fair view of the CIO affairs at the end of this financial year.
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Commission for Charitable incorporated Organisations (CIO).



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**Mike Ellsmore CPFA**

**Trustee**

#### **Reserves Policy:**

The Trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain appropriate to the needs of the CIO. This is based on the size of the CIO and level of commitments held currently. The Trustees aim to ensure the CIO will be able to continue to fulfil its objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall of income.

#### **Risk Review:**

The Trustees conduct periodic reviews of the major risks to which the CIO is exposed and systems and procedures to manage those risks identified are implemented so as to minimise any potential impact on the CIO should any of those risks materialise.

#### **Plans for the Future:**

The CIO plans to continue its activities in the forthcoming year and beyond subject to satisfactory funding and income levels.

#### **We gratefully acknowledge and thank the support of:**

- The London Borough of Bexley
- Hall Place House and Gardens
- Bexley Voluntary Service Council