



## THE STRADLING COLLECTION

### ANNUAL REPORT and ACCOUNTS

for the year ending 31 December 2022

## INTRODUCING THE COLLECTION

The Ken Stradling Collection is a unique holding of modern design and craft that tells a very particular story of one man's connection to well-designed and iconic objects. Ken Stradling joined the Bristol Guild of Applied Art in 1948 and over the next 50 years, developed the Guild as a major centre for the appreciation of contemporary design. At the same time he began his own personal collection of C20th and C21st pieces.

Considered to be of national significance, the Collection is now in the care of a charitable trust that provides public access through exhibitions and events at the Stradling Gallery together with a lively educational outreach programme.

## OUR PURPOSE

The Ken Stradling Collection is an educational charitable trust that exists to engage a wide range of audiences with design and creativity through the Collection and its interpretation, by means of exhibitions, talks and outreach projects.

## TRUSTEES

**Cleo Witt** MA FMA Acting Chair

**Peter Metcalfe** MPHIL

**David Beech**

**Oliver Kent** MA PhD PGCE

**Mike Cannings**

**Tim Lloyd** Treasurer

**Karen White**

**Jo Elsworth**

**Fiona Hallworth**

**Josephone Lanyon**

**Jodie Inkson**

## STAFF

**Tanya Martin** Curator

**Bettina Langlois** Administrator

## THE GOVERNANCE OF THE TRUST

1. The Ken Stradling Collection is held in part at 48 Park Row, Bristol BS1 5LH and in part at the home of Ken Stradling.
2. The Trust is governed by a panel of Trustees who meet at least five times a year at 48 Park Row, Bristol, chaired by Ken Stradling; proceedings are recorded in minutes taken by the Administrator and approved by the Trustees. There are at present eleven Trustees, including the Chairman, and a quorum of two Trustees is required for a meeting.
3. The Trust is managed by two part-time consultant staff: the Curator and an Administrator, each of whom report regularly to these meetings.
4. The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the annual accounts. They are available for public scrutiny, and have been independently examined and approved by an external firm of accountants.
5. The Trust complies fully with the requirements of health and safety, and has a certificate for full public liability that is displayed at 48 Park Row.
6. The Collection is fully insured, and the premises at 48 Park Row are protected by an alarm system.
7. The Collection is curated to full professional standards, and recorded by a computer system approved by the Museums Association. The Trust intends in due course to apply for Accreditation as resources permit.

## CHAIR REPORT



This was a year of dramatic change – and of a real transformation for the Trust. It began with a memorable tea party in January to celebrate Ken's 100th birthday and continued with the exhibition ***A Lifelong Passion for Design*** which enabled us to tell his story fully for the first time, thanks to its sponsorship by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Ken's peaceful passing in July completed a period of staunch support from two trustees in particular, Peter Metcalfe and Mike Cannings, and our Curator, Tanya, all of whom paid him regular visits which provided a treasury of reminiscences. He relished hearing about the success of his exhibition and choosing his 8 Desert Island Objects for the 20th Century Society's April journal. His passing left the Clifton house (which he bought for £100 in the 1960s) containing a significant element of the Collection, which we became fully occupied in processing and securing: both the Times and the Guardian published obituaries for him contributed by trustees.

The Board of Trustees received welcome strengthening, thanks to the intervention of an enthusiastic supporter, Jacqueline Kingsley. A professional fundraiser, she steered us towards development, first by organizing the recruitment of four new trustees, who came on board in November. With the retirement of the invaluable Janet Brinnand from the Chair the previous December, the Chairmanship had rotated among the trustees but In November I agreed to take it on. During the year we gained Karen White, an invaluable trustee, and in September we were particularly fortunate in the appointment of a highly experienced Treasurer, Tim Lloyd, a longstanding friend and neighbour of Ken's.

The year's exhibitions highlighted again what makes us successful and unique. ***A Lifelong Passion for Design*** created two exciting new opportunities - the successful design seminar at Arnolfini ***Marketing Design and Craft in Postwar Britain***, and a new collaboration with the Knowle West Media Centre's Creative Hub, an evening group of 10-14 year olds who thoroughly engaged with the project.

For visitors, the exhibition was “Wonderfully curated, lots of local interest.” and “Wonderfully documenting life and design in this city.” The Education Report describes in more detail the remarkable response of students displayed in the autumn exhibition ***My Family and Other Objects***.

Throughout the year key staff worked to develop the online offer which is now essential for success. Our Administrator, Bettina, was able to deliver a new and much improved website in March, while Curator Tanya fostered our social media presence, and further developed her highly successful Curator’s Tours. Our Patrons, Friends and volunteers continued to give us sterling support, particularly the voluntary stewards who are so vital to us. They enable us to open up the Collection, deliver the exhibition programme, and most importantly they act as ambassadors for the Collection’s unique qualities.

The year ended with a successful application by one of our new trustees for a funded mentoring programme during 2023 run by the ***Heritage Fund Business Support Programme***, which is proving invaluable. With a new vision and objectives, supported by our newly refreshed Board and our solid existing team of Bettina and Tanya, we look forward to an active and successful year of development in 2023.

Cleo Witt Saunders

Chair



## EDUCATION REPORT



The year began with the final sessions with Bristol School of Art BA Art history students. The students had selected objects from the collection to research and their final outcome was a public presentation and leaflet.

Students from the Bristol School of Art (Foundation Diploma course) came to us for their mandatory work experience placement. Together we devised a new education project relating to our exhibition celebrating the life of Ken Stradling through 100 objects. Our education project (titled 'My Family and Other Objects') required participants to bring in an object which told a story about them, their family or community. These stories would be shared with others and form the inspiration for creative work.

Students - with ages ranging from year 8 to final year degree - from Castle School, Bristol School of Art (SGS College) and Cardiff School of Art & Design took part. Presentations were made by myself and my work experience team from the Bristol School of Art and a selection of their creative work was exhibited in the KSC gallery.

Later in the year I started to devise a new education project (The Art of Play) with a new group of students from the Bristol School of Art, which we will present to other pupils and students in 2023.

This year also saw us collaborating with the Knowle West Media Centre. I launched the My Family and Other Objects project with their Monday after-school Art Club (10 to 14 year olds). I taught 3 workshops, hosted a visit by the children to the KSC and together with the Chair were pleased to attend an exhibition at KWMC showcasing their work. Feedback from KWMC staff emphasised that the value of the collaboration was that it encouraged often shy children to talk about themselves and their ideas. This lies at the heart of our education programme which is essentially about 'education through design'; helping young people to develop self confidence and self esteem.

Other events included renting our study room to Bristol School of Art to classes for adults with mental health issues.

David Beech  
Educational Trustee



## CURATOR'S REVIEW



Our first and major exhibition of 2022 'A **Lifelong Passion for Design** curated by Cleo was dedicated to Ken's 100th birthday and celebrated Ken's role in the cultural world of Bristol and the South West and his influence on people's taste in home design over 60 years as Managing Director of the Bristol Guild.

The exhibition was made of 100 objects to tell the story of Ken's life, his development of the Bristol Guild into a design emporium of the South West; his friendships with many artists, makers and designers; as well as to show his unique collection reflecting his own taste and personality. The exhibition was supported by a generous grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and had many supplementary events including a day seminar in Arncliffe, a Desert Island objects publication in C20 magazine, several workshops, Curator's Tours, and talks.

It became a destination place for more than 800 visitors, many of whom knew Ken and had admired his work. This exhibition also drew a lot of admiring comments on our social media.

Over the summer we held window exhibitions by two Bristolian collectors: '**Museum of Spoons**' by Matt Benton in July and '**An Ambush of Tigers**' by Tony Eastman in August, curated by the collectors themselves. We have never seen so many children and passers-by stopping to admire these joyful and riotous displays.







The short '**Sitting Pretty**' exhibition in September celebrated Ken's eclectic collection of iconic chairs, which also included some lovely contributions from friends of the Collection. The 18 beautiful chairs drew many admiring remarks, and we even ran a 'People's Vote' for the most popular chair - the winner was Karl Jacob's Jason chair designed in 1950.

The last exhibition of 2022 was the show '**Crafts for Christmas**' featuring our own talented artists and makers including our trustees, staff, volunteers and friends of the Collection showing their own ceramics, jewellery, cards, prints, collages and paintings – all for sale for Christmas shoppers.

### **Catalogue database**

The KSC online database is now close to completion. After the death of our founder Ken in summer 2022 we worked in his house separating our collection pieces from other items, securing them and moving them gradually to Park Row, and we continue to receive more items from Ken's house. Some of these often are unknown to us and need investigation together with a subsequent decision from the trustees to determine their place in the Collection.

Tanya Martin  
Curator



## HONORARY TREASURER'S STATEMENT

This had been a mixed year for the charity. In January we celebrated the 100th birthday for Ken Stradling, our founder and main benefactor with a large exhibition. However later in the year he sadly passed away having had a rich and fulfilled life.

Like many others in the arts and heritage sector, we face financial challenges. We have applied for a number of grants to help address the fact that the income for the year is down to £22,715. Expenses in 2022 are very much in line with the previous year, but in the end leading to a net outflow in Cash of £22,532 in the year. The unrestricted Funds carried forward to 2023 have now reduced to £52,743.

Changes have been made, with an additional four new Trustees joining KSC towards the end of the year, bringing with them new life and ideas into the charity.

2023 will be a transitional year. The charity has taken up a place in the Heritage Compass programme which it sees as a catalyst to restructure and refocus its direction such that it can still fulfil its mission and values yet get itself onto a firmer basis such that it can become financially self-sufficient in the future.

# ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

## THE KEN STRADLING COLLECTION Registered Charity Number 1117689

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
Donations and Subscriptions	4,134		4,134	5,239
Grants	0	8,953	8,953	20,717
Rent	3,900		3,900	2,217
Lectures and Tours/Events	1,078		1,078	2,093
Sales	3,695		3,695	2,686
Tax repayment	955		955	528
	<u>13,762</u>	<u>8,953</u>	<u>22,715</u>	<u>33,480</u>
Loan	-	-	-	-
	<u>13,762</u>	<u>8,953</u>	<u>22,715</u>	<u>33,480</u>
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
Direct Charitable expenditure ( Note 1 )	23,384	6,083	29,467	28,286
Other expenditure ( Note 1 )	15,780		15,780	16,478
Tax repayment		-	0	0
Total Payments	<u>39,164</u>	<u>6,083</u>	<u>45,247</u>	<u>44,764</u>
<b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b>	<u>-25,402</u>	<u>2,870</u>	<u>-22,532</u>	<u>-11,284</u>
Funds brought forward	<u>78,145</u>	<u>804</u>	<u>78,949</u>	<u>90,233</u>
Funds carried forward	<u>52,743</u>	<u>3,674</u>	<u>56,417</u>	<u>78,949</u>

These Accounts were approved by the Trustees on .....2023 and were signed on their behalf by

..... 2023  
C. Witt Saunders

## THE KEN STRADLING COLLECTION Registered Charity Number 1117689

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

1. Resources expended	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>Direct charitable –</b>				
Acquisitions	0		0	156
Printing/publicity/exhibitions	584	6,083	6,667	2,078
Administration	<u>22,800</u>		<u>22,800</u>	<u>26,052</u>
	<u>23,384</u>	<u>6,083</u>	<u>29,467</u>	<u>28,286</u>
<b>Other –</b>				
Electricity, Rates and Water	3,712		3,712	1,987
Telephone and Communications	608		608	258
Other	2,106		2,106	2,216
Insurance	1,467		1,467	1,337
Accountancy and Professional Costs	2,453		2,453	1,199
Subscriptions	31		31	62
Equipment/Computer	2,568		2,568	6,488
Property expenses	<u>2,835</u>		<u>2,835</u>	<u>2,931</u>
	<u>15,780</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,780</u>	<u>16,478</u>



The Ken Stradling Collection  
The Stradling Gallery  
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Bristol  
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🌐 [stradlingcollection.org](https://stradlingcollection.org)

Visitor and accessibility information: <https://stradlingcollection.org/contact/>

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REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1117689