



THE STRADLING  
COLLECTION

ANNUAL REPORT  
and  
ACCOUNTS

for the year ending 31 December 2023

## INTRODUCING THE COLLECTION

The Stradling Collection is a unique holding of modern design 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 Collection together with a lively educational outreach programme.

## OUR PURPOSE

The 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

|                           |           |                         |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| <b>Karen White</b>        | Chair     | <b>Jo Elsworth</b>      |
| <b>David Beech</b>        |           | <b>Josephine Lanyon</b> |
| <b>Fiona Hallworth</b>    |           | <b>Jodie Inkson</b>     |
| <b>Geraldine Flanagan</b> | Treasurer | <b>Robin Jones</b>      |
| <b>Peter Dunscombe</b>    |           |                         |

## STAFF

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Tanya Martin</b>     | Curator       |
| <b>Bettina Langlois</b> | 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 four times a year at 48 Park Row, Bristol; proceedings are recorded in minutes taken by the Administrator and approved by the Trustees. There are at present nine Trustees, including the Chairman, and a quorum of two Trustees is required for a meeting.
3. There are two part-time staff, a Curator and administrator.
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.

## CHAIR'S REPORT



Four exhibitions, three new Trustees and a generous grant were just some of the highlights of this year.

Following Ken's death, there was much 'housekeeping' to be done with the sale of his house and a shake-up of the Board of Trustees, with the retirement of interim joint chairs Cleo Witt and Peter Metcalfe and Trustee Oliver Kent, to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude. We were pleased to make all three Honorary patrons of the Collection in recognition of their hard work over the years. Treasurer Tim Lloyd also moved on and so we welcomed three new Trustees to the Board, Treasurer Geraldine Flanagan, Peter Dunscombe, who is heading up our Governance subcommittee and Robin Jones, an expert in fundraising.

In the summer, we were very fortunately awarded a grant from The Nisbet Trust towards business development as we take the charity forward, enabling us to be more ambitious in our approach. We thank them for their confidence in our organisation. To assist us in our ambitions to make the Collection more accessible and financially self-sustaining, while continuing our valuable educational outreach, a number of Trustees undertook the Heritage Compass Business Support programme which has enabled us to focus on our business planning for the next three years.

We also welcomed some delightful students to our volunteer base and interns from the University of Bristol – both helping us and supporting their studies and careers. Ken was passionate about encouraging young people into the arts and particularly the discipline of design, so he would have very much approved. One of them produced the catalogue that accompanied our summer education exhibition 'The Art of Play'.

We rounded out the year with our flagship 'Design Icons: Made in Bristol' exhibition, celebrating five Bristol-based iconic design success stories from model making to medical training devices, which attracted visitors from across the country. This was generously supported by Peter Lord CBE who has been a long-term supporter. In our fresh approach to becoming much more financially self-sufficient in the long term, we introduced ticketing and I am pleased to say this was no barrier to the success of the exhibition.

As we navigate an increasingly challenging environment for funding, both public and private, I finally want to say a special thank you to our Friends and Volunteers who also act as an army of Ambassadors for the Collection. None of the above would be possible without your ongoing support.

Karen White

Chair



## EDUCATION REPORT



Our 2023 education programme had been devised as a response to a growing concern with what was happening in our schools and colleges and especially in arts education. In recent years we have seen the development of an increasingly restricted curriculum with little space for independent and playful learning. This unhappy situation, combined with the Covid lockdown, has resulted in a generation of young people anxious and fearful of making errors. The aim of our project was to encourage a more playful, joyful and creative approach to learning and making.

We developed the project with a small group of work experience students from the Bristol School of Art (SGS College), who then devised and delivered introductory workshops to the project with other students. One of our objectives was to get students to talk freely about their ideas and experiences of play as we were conscious that the Covid lockdown had caused a significant loss of self-confidence. In discussion with students we realised that many students were unable to recall any experience of free, independent and joyful play. Instead, students seemed to have experienced play as more formal, ruled-based games, which in turn dominated the type of creative response to the project (e.g. card and board games).

Having expressed those reservations, some very interesting and beautiful pieces were made in response to the project: animation, puppets, ceramics, textiles, graphic illustration, photography, video, musical instruments and - yes - toys.

The work was exhibited at the Stradling Collection in May and June and attracted more than 100 visitors in the first few days. Contributions to the exhibition came from Cardiff School of Art & Design (Illustration and Ceramics BA students), Bristol School of Art (Level 3 Diploma and Foundation Diploma) and year 8 and year 12 pupils from the Castle School in Thornbury.

Earlier in the summer we had supported a successful application from Florence Marling, a graduating English student at Bristol University, for a paid internship. Florence gave tremendous support to the whole project from the early development to the design and building of the exhibition itself. Florence also designed, wrote and illustrated the accompanying exhibition catalogue, which will be a valuable contribution to her CV and portfolio.

The success of Florence's placement encouraged our funding application for three more interns. In December we offered places, from a very strong field of applicants, to Orla McHale, Orla Brachi and Khava Chilaeva, funded by Art Fund. Almost immediately they started to develop with work experience students from the Bristol School of Art the 2024 project, which is on the theme of 'Collections'.

In 2023 we also developed a connection with the architecture department of UWE. We hosted visits by more than 80 1st year students and the illustrated magazines they produced will be exhibited in the gallery in 2024.

David Beech  
Educational Trustee



# CURATOR'S REVIEW

## EXHIBITIONS

We started 2023 with a 6-week long exhibition: "Ship Shape" – a celebration of life at sea and of all things nautical through our Collection and rare objects lent by friends including the Underfall Yard. The exhibition explored Bristol's rich marine history including the Floating Harbour, the Matthew, and also the SS Great Britain where for a number of years Ken Stradling MBE was involved in the Trust of this museum ship. Three events were organised to support this exhibition: a Sea Shanties evening in the Folk House and two Harbourside walks by Ed Hall.

A 6-week spring exhibition: "Toys and Tales" was next. The Stradling Collection is full of toys - from Ken's own little wooden tiger to Sam Smith's sophisticated toys for adults, and Peter Markey's endlessly kicking footballers. Local collectors and friends added their own flavour to this exhibition with toys which have never before been seen in public. There was a lot of interest in the exhibition from both adults and children.

The main 2023 exhibition which we opened in September for eight weeks was "DESIGN ICONS: Made in Bristol" featuring the work of five Bristol companies whose business is based on design.

## THE COLLECTION

The Collection is never static and in 2023 we accepted new objects as donations from friends including Hans Roericht's stacking cup and saucers and Pyro lidded casserole, and a book illustrated by Gason Hall.

Tanya Martin, Curator





# ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

## THE KEN STRADLING COLLECTION Registered Charity Number 1117689

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

|  | Unrestricted funds<br>to the nearest<br>£ | Restricted funds<br>to the nearest<br>£ | Total funds<br>to the nearest<br>£ | Last year<br>to the nearest<br>£ |
|--|---|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Incoming Resources</b>                |   |   |                                    |                                  |
| Donations and Subscriptions              | 9,982                                     |   | 9,982                              | 4,134                            |
| Grants                                   | 1,330                                     | 23,708                                  | 25,038                             | 8,953                            |
| Rent                                     | -   |   | 0                                  | 3,900                            |
| Lectures and Tours/Events                | 1,785                                     |   | 1,785                              | 1,078                            |
| Sales                                    | 3,845                                     |   | 3,845                              | 3,695                            |
| Tax repayment                            | 2,095                                     |   | 2,095                              | 855                              |
|  | 19,037                                    | 23,708                                  | 42,745                             | 22,715                           |
| Asset sales                              | 4,227                                     |   | 4,227                              | -                                |
| Loan                                     | -   | -                                       | -                                  | -                                |
|  | <u>23,264</u>                             | <u>23,708</u>                           | <u>46,972</u>                      | <u>22,715</u>                    |
| <b>Resources Expended</b>                |   |   |                                    |                                  |
| Direct Charitable expenditure ( Note 1 ) | 33,173                                    | 2,400                                   | 35,573                             | 29,467                           |
| Other expenditure ( Note 1 )             | 12,045                                    |   | 12,045                             | 15,780                           |
| Asset purchases                          | 2,841                                     |   | 2,841                              | -                                |
| Tax payment                              | -   |   | 0                                  | -                                |
| Total Payments                           | 48,059                                    | 2,400                                   | 50,459                             | 45,247                           |
| <b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b>  | -24,795                                   | 21,308                                  | -3,487                             | -22,532                          |
| Funds brought forward                    | 52,743                                    | 3,574                                   | 56,317                             | 78,949                           |
| Funds carried forward                    | 27,948                                    | 24,982                                  | 52,930                             | 56,417                           |

These Accounts were approved by the Trustees on 29/10/24 2024 and were signed on their behalf by

 2024  
K. White

## THE KEN STRADLING COLLECTION Registered Charity Number 1117689

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

#### 1. Resources expended

|                                    | Unrestricted funds<br>to the nearest<br>£ | Restricted funds<br>to the nearest<br>£ | Total funds<br>to the nearest<br>£ | Last year<br>to the nearest<br>£ |
|------------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Direct charitable –</b>         |   |   |                                    |                                  |
| Printing/publicity/exhibitions     | 686                                       | 2,400                                   | 3,086                              | 6,667                            |
| Administration                     | 32,487                                    |   | 32,487                             | 22,800                           |
|                                    | <u>33,173</u>                             | <u>2,400</u>                            | <u>35,573</u>                      | <u>29,467</u>                    |
| <b>Other –</b>                     |   |   |                                    |                                  |
| Electricity, Rates and Water       | 3,293                                     |   | 3,293                              | 3,712                            |
| Telephone and Communications       | 755                                       |   | 755                                | 608                              |
| Other                              | 294                                       |   | 294                                | 2,106                            |
| Insurance                          | 1,701                                     |   | 1,701                              | 1,467                            |
| Accountancy and Professional Costs | 2,810                                     |   | 2,810                              | 2,453                            |
| Subscriptions                      |   |   | 0                                  | 31                               |
| Equipment/Computer                 | 421                                       |   | 421                                | 2,568                            |
| Property expenses                  | 2,771                                     |   | 2,771                              | 2,635                            |
|                                    | <u>12,045</u>                             | <u>-</u>                                | <u>12,045</u>                      | <u>15,780</u>                    |
| Acquisitions                       | 2,841                                     |   | 2,841                              | 0                                |

#### 2. Trustees' emoluments

No emoluments or expenses were paid to the Trustees (2022 - nil).

#### 3. Property

The Charity is the beneficiary of a gift of the building from which it operates together with the adjacent car park. The value of this has not been determined.



# THE STRADLING COLLECTION

The Stradling Collection  
The Stradling Gallery  
48 Park Row  
Bristol  
BS1 5LH

☎ 0117 329 0566

🌐 [stradlingcollection.org](https://stradlingcollection.org)

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

@ [admin@stradlingcollection.org](mailto:admin@stradlingcollection.org)

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REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1117689