Annual Report (for the period 06/04/2025 – 05/04/2026)

The Brian Nolan Art Trust

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

1199427

Registered Address

Willow View Crooked Way
Stembridge
Martock
Somerset
TA12 6BP

Trustees

Martin Brown
Andrea Cooper
Joanne Dean
Russell Dean
Angela Henley
Steve Kelsall
Ian Nolan
Edward Yardley

1. Introduction

The object of the CIO is: The advancement of art

To advance education in the arts by the establishment and maintenance of a major collection of artwork by the artist Brian Nolan, this will be achieved by:

Exhibiting his work in a wide range of galleries, museums and public collections, particularly, but not exclusively, in the Manchester and Peak District areas

Promoting participation in watercolour painting and an interest in the medium

Permitting images to be used as appropriate

Enabling access to digital images and original work for research and educational purposes

2. Exhibitions 2025 - 2026

Derbyshire Open Arts
The charity exhibited Nolan's work alongside Hayfield artists during Derbyshire Open Arts weekend, in May 2025. The trust displayed some of Nolan's most admired work, prints of which were available to buy.

Hayfield Library
Two displays were held in Hayfield Library. From May to June 2025, 'Genius Loci – The Cherished Views of Brian Nolan' presented Nolan's pictures of the views he treasured and which he returned to time and again.

'All Roads Lead to Kinder', from December 2025 to February 2026 showed paintings of the paths and roads to Kinder and the views which are seen as the hill is approached.

These displays provide an opportunity for the trust to show pictures which may not have been exhibited for a long time and introduce visitors to a wider range of Nolan's work. Very positive feedback has been received in the Visitors' Book and from the library staff.

New Mills Library
New Mills Library invited the trust to exhibit work again this year. 'Summer Green to Autumn Gold' was held between July and October 2025 and 'In the Deep Midwinter' presented a selection of Nolan's snow scenes from November 2025 to February 2026.

Rock Mill Centre, New Mills
A display of Nolan's pictures of bridges was held to mark the 25th anniversary of the Millennium Walkway in New Mills. This included 'The Railway Viaduct, New Mills', 'Astride the Sett' and a print of 'Across Time'. The display coincided with the New Mills Festival and was included in the festival's publicity.

Future Exhibitions
An exhibition will be held at Darlington Library and Art Gallery from 19th June to 12th August 2027 and one is planned at the Foxlowe Art Centre in Leek in 2028. An exhibition is scheduled to take place at Manchester Central Library in 2031, to mark the centenary of Nolan's birth.

3. Storage and Conservation

Conservation work was completed on the picture 'St Mary's, Moss Side' which was donated to the trust in 2024.

4. Policy on the Sale of Pictures

The charity owns a large collection of Nolan's work. Some are framed and were exhibited by him in the past, but many are not. Most of the work we own was completed in the later part of his career, when he had decided not to sell so many of his pictures. We currently have a very limited range of his work from his early career and would like to acquire examples of this work when it becomes available. The trustees have therefore agreed that some of his pictures can be sold in order to help to fund the charity's work and, in particular, to enable us to buy work which is under-represented in our current collection. The work selected for sale is not part of the core collection. The pictures are generally from the later stage of his career and are not the best examples of his work (in a particular style or of a particular area), but are still appealing to the public.

Over the 2025 – 2026 reporting period no pictures were sold.

5. Sale of Prints

The trust has continued to sell prints of Nolan's work which are offered in three sizes. The new A3 prints, mounted to suit an A2 frame, have proved popular. Larger prints, printed to order, have continued to sell, slowly and steadily. We will continue to promote this important way of generating an income for the trust.

6. Acquisition of Pictures

In April 2025 the trust bought an abstract painting of Nolan's which was offered to us by a local resident in Hayfield. The picture was in quite good condition and signed. On the back was the title, 'Russian Ballet', and

Nolan's address in New Mills. We therefore know that it was completed before 1976. It was acquired from by someone who had completed work on Grotto House after Nolan had moved to Hayfield. The painting is a valuable addition to the trust's collection.

One of Nolan's early pictures, a small painting of St Peter, was donated to the trust in May 2025. This work, painted on thin tissue stuck to a board, may be linked to the work that Nolan was completing for churches in Manchester.

In January 2026 the trust bought a still life picture of buttercups, entitled 'Summertime'. The picture was painted in oils, which was an unusual medium for Nolan's still life work.

One of Nolan's early pictures, from his time in Manchester, became available at an auction in March 2026. The trust was successful in bidding for 'Blue Lamp' and has added it to its collection of Manchester pictures.

7. The Brian Nolan Art Trust

A new trustee, Steve Kelsall, was appointed in August 2025, bringing the number of trustees to eight. Steve lives close to the trust's collection of Nolan's work and is able to assist with exhibition preparations, the local promotion and the overall development of the trust's work. He was enthusiastically welcomed to the trust by the existing trustees.

Throughout the year the trust received enquiries about Nolan's work, through our website or by email, often concerning pictures that people owned or had inherited, or regarding the opportunity to buy pictures or prints. In the autumn of 2025 we were asked whether some of Nolan's pictures could be used in the background of a film set, a request which we happily agreed to.

8. Rock Mill Centre, New Mills

The trust has continued to work closely with Rock Mill Centre in New Mills, where the pictures are stored. Very productive discussions took place in early 2026 between the trust and the centre to explore how the two organisations could work more closely together. In particular, thought was given to how we could ensure that our exhibitions at the centre encourage new visitors and volunteers and how we can help the centre to raise funds towards its running costs. Rock Mill suggested drawing up a Memorandum of Understanding confirming the trust's use of the store room at Rock Mill and establishing the partnership between the centre and the trust. The trust supported the suggestion and agreed to sign the memorandum

9. Public Benefit

Over the year the charity held exhibitions at the Rock Mill Centre in New Mills, Hayfield Library and New Mills Library, all freely available to the public. Future exhibitions are planned for these venues and in Manchester Darlington and Leek.

The charity continued to review all the pictures in its collection, identifying those which require conservation, framing or particular storage requirements. Investing in the work in this way is a vital part of the charity's work and will ensure that the art work can be appreciated by the public in the future.

Storing the pictures in New Mills, within easy reach of three of the trustees, greatly facilitates public access to the collection. Members of the public are able to view the work by appointment and enjoy regular displays in the centre. The permanent display of information about Nolan enables the public to learn more about his work.

Through the year the charity has continued to take a great interest in the history of the locations depicted in Nolan's early pictures, particularly those set in Manchester.

10. Objectives for 2026 – 2027

- Seek opportunities to exhibit Nolan's work at suitable galleries, with the aim of drawing up a programme of future exhibitions in a variety of venues and areas of the country.

- Secure an income for the charity through the sale of high quality prints of Nolan's work.

- Promote watercolour painting through the charity's links with the Rock Mill Centre and New Mills Festival.

Joanne Dean, Chair of The Brian Nolan Art Trust 01.09.26

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Brian Nolan Art Trust	1199427	CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 06/04/2025	To	Period end date 05/04/2026

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	152	-	-	152	-
Sale of cards and booklets	174	-	-	174	361
Sale of prints	590	-	-	590	100
Interest earned on deposit account	88	-	-	88	125
Reimbursement of storage overpayment	-	-	-	-	316
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)*	1,004	-	-	1,004	902
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,004	-	-	1,004	902
A3 Payments					
Framing	45	-	-	45	179
Publicity and printing	99	-	-	99	71
Equipment and stationery	442	-	-	442	819
Transporting artwork	-	-	-	-	11
Exhibition refreshments	46	-	-	46	98
Accommodation	-	-	-	-	-
Exhibition fees	20	-	-	20	100
Website	173			173	204
Printing of booklets	-			-	
Prints	655			655	
Insurance	158			158	96
Commission on card payments	3			3	
Commission on sale of pictures	-			-	
Storage of art work	-	-	-	-	255
Conservation work	88	-	-	88	179
Sub total	1,729	-	-	1,729	2,012
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Purchase of pictures	543	-	-	543	523
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	543	-	-	543	523
Total payments	2,272	-	-	2,272	2,535
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 1,268	-	-	- 1,268	- 1,633
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	5,962	-	-	5,962	7,595
Cash funds this year end	4,694	-	-	4,694	5,962

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Co-operative bank current account	378	-	-
	Co-operative bank deposit account	4,277	-	-
	Cash	39	-	-
	Total cash funds	4,694	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Works of art by Brian Nolan		-	-
Storage boxes		-	-
Exhibition equipment		-	-
Picture frames and framing equipment		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Joanne Dean	Joanne Dean	01.09.26