

OLD ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE
Annual Review 2016–2017



From the Chief Executive

Welcome to the 2016–17 annual report for the Old Royal Naval College, Sir Christopher Wren’s riverside masterpiece.

The year has seen the launch of Painted Hall Ceiling Tours, a wonderful opportunity for visitors to experience the lower hall ceiling closer than has ever been possible. This has been the culmination of an extensive process of planning and fundraising, both of which continue apace as we work to bring the Painted Hall Project to a close by the end of 2018. We are enormously grateful for the fantastic support we have received for this project from our dedicated supporters.

Changes to the Visitor Centre, previously known as Discover Greenwich, included bringing the Tourist Information Centre and our own information point together in a new central arrangement. This is all about ensuring that visitors who arrive in Greenwich, often for the first time and many from overseas, have the very best opportunity to gain as much information as possible on what’s available to see.

Our regular conservation programme of continuing repairs has carried on through the year and we have enjoyed developing many new partnerships through our Painted Hall Activity Plan. One particular outcome from this was the well received exhibition of Sir James Thornhill’s preparatory sketches of the Painted Hall, *‘A Great and Noble Design’*, held at the University of Greenwich’s Stockwell Street Gallery in September. It was also great to welcome Rob Pointon as our artist in residence towards the end of the year.

I hope you enjoy this brief synopsis of our activities. Visit our website to learn more about our charity and our work to make the Old Royal Naval College an ever more outstanding cultural destination.

Brendan McCarthy
Chief Executive

Opposite: The iconic domes of the Painted Hall and Chapel of St Peter and Paul.

Front cover: A visitor on a Painted Hall Ceiling Tour. The tours offer a closer look at Sir James Thornhill’s ceiling during the Painted Hall Project. Photograph by Linda Ny Lind, 2017.

Right: The architectural centrepiece of the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site, the Old Royal Naval College boasts the Painted Hall, Chapel and Visitor Centre as well as historic grounds.



Highlights of 2016-2017

April

Conservation of King Charles roof

This £300,000 project saw the roof of the King Charles building conserved, with the replacement of roof slates, renewal of lead valley gutters and stonework repairs.

Painted Hall street art project

The Old Royal Naval College welcomed almost 150 young people learning English at Lewisham Southwark College for a project exploring the Painted Hall and street art in different countries.

May

New Visitor Centre exhibits and joint venture with Visit Greenwich

The space of the Visitor Centre transformed throughout 2016 with the creation of a central welcome desk shared between Old Royal Naval College staff and Visit Greenwich, improved sightlines and wayfinding, and new interpretation panels and screens.

American Friends of the Old Royal Naval College (AFORNC) reception

More than 70 guests attended the third AFORNC reception at the New York Yacht Club, to hear engaging talks by the Painted Hall Project's architect Hugh Broughton and Director of Conservation Will Palin introducing the project. The event led to a number of pledges for support and has been followed by heartening growth of the AFORNC board.

June

Old Royal Naval College blog launches

Featuring editorial pieces by Old Royal Naval College staff, the blog offers a behind the scenes look at the Painted Hall during conservation and has become a significant driver of traffic to the website from the site's social media channels.

Right: The grand square transformed into a major London music venue during Greenwich Music Time.



July

Future Fund Catalyst campaign raises £1 million

July saw the completion of the Old Royal Naval College's endowment fundraising campaign. Thanks to overwhelming support, the Old Royal Naval College succeeded in reaching £1 million for its Future Fund endowment, a figure that was then matched by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

Greenwich Music Time

The annual music festival saw 2 Cellos, Joe Bonamassa, David Gray, Seal and Jamie Cullum perform in the Grand Square of the Old Royal Naval College. As well as a commercial success, the festival represented a huge effort on behalf of our volunteers, who gave a combined total of 420 hours and raised almost £3000 in donations over the six nights.

King William dome repairs

In preparation for the Painted Hall Project, a complex external scaffold allowed leadworkers and stonemasons to access and repair the King William dome and assess the health of the structure.

August

New master plan

Following a detailed discussion involving consultants Fourth Street, Old Royal Naval College staff and volunteers, and site partners, a new master plan was produced, providing a framework for future strategic decisions.

Art Happens – crowdfunding

In partnership with the Art Fund, the Old Royal Naval College raised almost £25,000 in online donations through the Art Fund's crowdfunding platform, Art Happens. This campaign, driven almost entirely through social media and email channels, harnessed the evolving landscape of digital fundraising.



Opposite:
the Painted
Hall scaffold
midway through
construction.
The final scaffold
weighs over
80 tonnes.

Right: Conservator
Jim Quenby
carefully repairs
woodwork in the
upper hall during
the early months
of conservation.



September

Painted Hall closes; Painted Hall Project begins

September saw the Painted Hall Project officially commence, with the old naval tables removed from the Painted Hall, and the beginning of the construction of the 80-tonne scaffold to support the observation deck for conservation work and Painted Hall Ceiling Tours.

Investing in Volunteers

Acknowledging the exemplary support for volunteers at the Old Royal Naval College, and their engagement with the organisation, the Old Royal Naval College was awarded the prestigious Investing in Volunteers standard.

A Great and Noble Design

Held at the Stockwell Street Gallery, this exhibition, curated by Research Curator Dr Anya Matthews, showcased original drawings by Sir James Thornhill alongside reproductions of his cartoons for the Painted Hall ceiling.

October

Shiver m' timbers

In partnership with immersive theatre company Grim Times, the Old Royal Naval College held an imaginative after-dark tour encountering ghosts and ghouls from the site's five-hundred-year history. The event was marketed with Museums at Night festival, which has since become a lasting events partner.

U3A photography partnership and U3A WRNS100 partnership

October saw the Old Royal Naval College welcome two groups from the adult learning organisation, the University of the Third Age. These groups have given enormous support to the organisation through two projects: photographing the Painted Hall Project, and curating the *WRNS: Untold Stories* exhibition in the Visitor Centre to celebrate the centenary of the Women's Royal Naval Service.

Opposite:
Conservator
Francesco Rosellini
cleans the grisaille
murals of the
upper hall.

Right: students
at Lewisham and
Southwark College
learn to paint the
marbling effect.
Their work was
exhibited in the
Painted Hall.



November

Conservation in the upper hall

During the construction of the Painted Hall's scaffold, areas of the upper hall not completed during the first phase of the project were cleaned, including the striking grisailles of the north and south walls. The wooden fittings of the upper hall were also removed and carefully conserved.

Recruitment drive

In preparation for Painted Hall Ceiling Tours, the Old Royal Naval College launched a large-scale volunteer recruitment drive, expanding by 77 volunteers. In addition to these volunteers, 16 new Ambassadors, 10 new Ticketing Assistants, and 2 Welcome Desk Supervisors were also recruited to support the tours.

December

Workshop for LESOCO Painting and Decorating students

December saw the Old Royal Naval College run the first of a series of visits and workshops for painting and decorating students at Lewisham and Southwark College - including a hard hat tour of the Painted Hall and a special introduction to gilding from DBR conservator Kim Reczek. The students would eventually produce work to feature on the Painted Hall's interior hoardings.

Appointment of our Access Mentor

Molly Bretton was appointed as our new Access Consultant and Mentor. Recruited as part of our Painted Hall Project and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the role of the Access Mentor is to guide our understanding and decision making in inclusive practice and to make sure the Old Royal Naval College is genuinely welcoming for all our visitors.





Opposite: One of the first Painted Hall Ceiling Tours. The tours continue until September 2018, alongside the conservation of the ceiling.

Right: Artist Rob Pointon up in the galleries of the Neoclassical Chapel, sketching out the space on his canvas at the beginning of a painting session.



January

The Gosling Foundation

A major gift of £1 million from The Gosling Foundation was announced in January 2017, providing a significant boost for the Painted Hall Project.

Volunteer and staff training begins

In order to run Painted Hall Ceiling Tours, Old Royal Naval College staff and volunteers underwent a comprehensive programme of training and assessment in order to provide the best possible visitor experience, amounting to some 5000 hours of training.

February

Autism Friendly Award

For demonstrating a commitment to welcoming and supporting visitors with autism, the Old Royal Naval College was presented the Autism Friendly Award by the National Autistic Society. To achieve the award, up-to-date information and a pre-visit guide was provided on the organisation's website, as well as regular basic autism awareness training for all staff and volunteers.

Painted Ceiling Experiences

February saw the learning team take the first bookings taken for Painted Ceiling Experiences, free workshops on the Painted Hall observation deck for KS 2, 3 and 4. These workshops, running in June and July, would have 100% of schools rate it as very good or excellent.

March

Painted Hall Ceiling Tours launch

March saw the soft launch of Painted Hall Ceiling Tours ahead of the official release to the public on 1 April. This month also saw the rollout of a multi-channel marketing campaign, driving bookings for the opening weeks of the tours, and press coverage from almost every major news publication in the UK, assisted by PR specialists Bolton & Quinn.

Artist in residence

Artists such as Canaletto and Turner have been inspired by Sir Christopher Wren's riverside masterpiece. In March, we invited *plein air* painter Rob Pointon to depict the site, which has since become an official residence with an exhibition planned for 2018.

Right: The elegant rooms of Admiral's House are an important part of the Old Royal Naval College's venue hire offering.



Financial report

The conservation maintaintence of the magnificent buildings and site running costs of the Old Royal Naval College accounted for 58% of our expenditure in 2016-17.

Whilst we generated a healthy surplus for the 2016-17, most of this relates to restricted funds raised for the Painted Hall Project as well as the endowment. The endowment funds have been invested and will provide the Old Royal Naval College with an investment income in perpetuity, helping to maintain the Painted Hall and Chapel for future generations to enjoy.

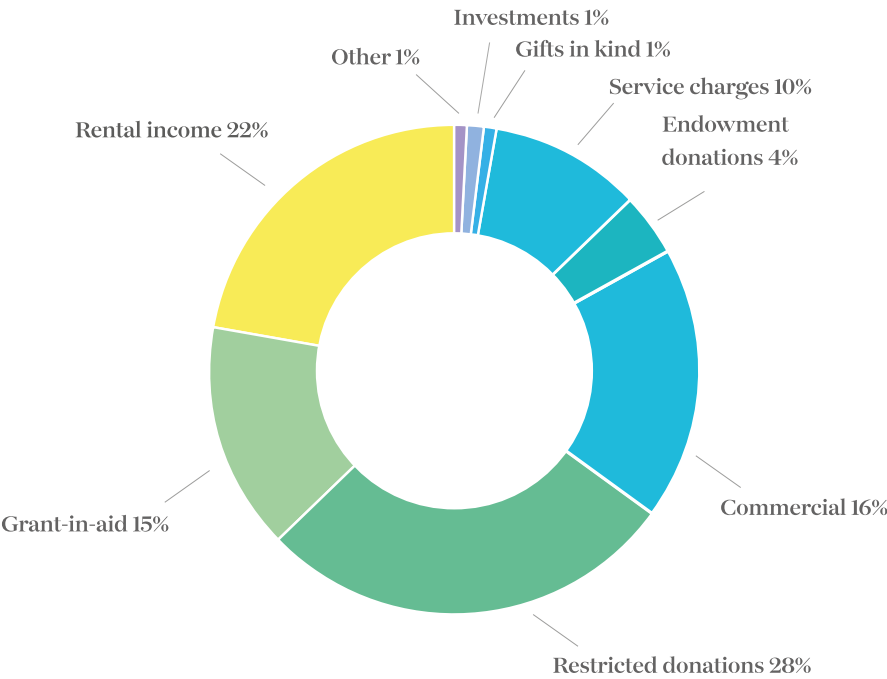
Our day-to-day unrestricted funding is coming under increasing pressure as our Grant-in-aid from DCMS continues to be cut. This is due to fall by over 30% in real terms during the current 4 year agreement, having already been reduced by over 33% in real terms since 2010.

Therefore our major challenge over the next few years is to continue to expand our commercial activities as well as income from philanthropic giving. This will ensure we can continue to conserve and look after our magnificant site, as well as developing our visitor experience and educational programmes.

During 2016-17, income from filming on site which can be very volatile on a year-to-year basis performed extremely well, bringing in over £450K. Whilst the substanital income from the events and catering in Painted Hall has temporarily ceased during the period of the project, income from Painted Hall Ceiling Tours will help to gernerate additional income during the works. In addition, a refurbishment and expansion of the Old Brewery by Young's completed in March 2017 will generate additional turnover rent in the years ahead.

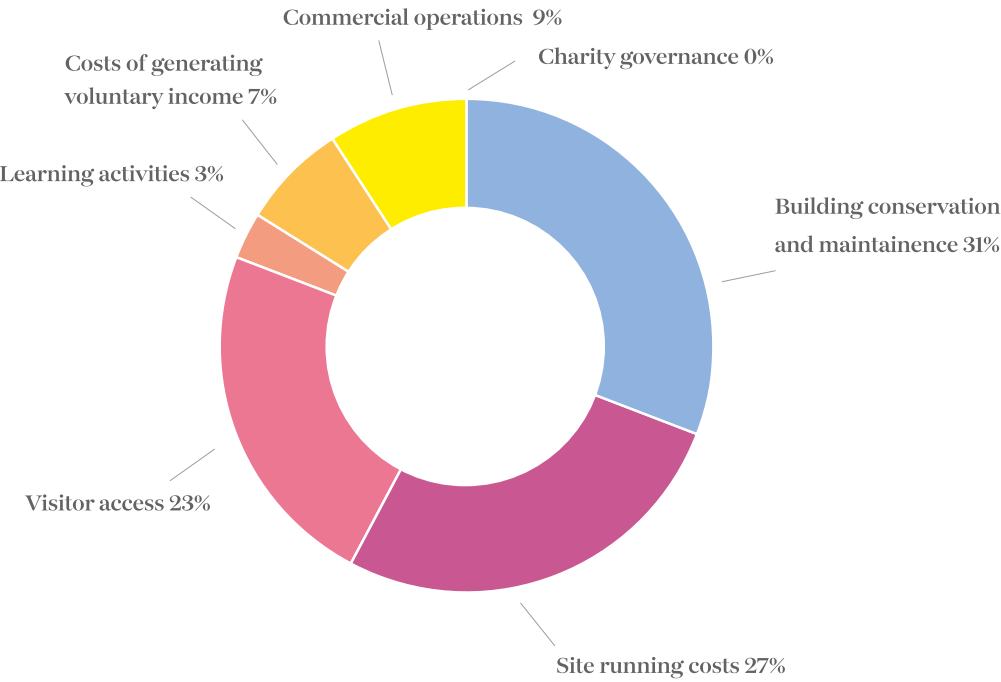
How we're funded...

	£'000s
Grant-in-aid	1,040
Gifts in kind	65
Endowment donations	280
Restricted donations	1,930
Rental income	1,528
Service charges	664
Commercial	1,260
Investments	95
Other	37
	6,899



...and how we spend it

	£'000s
Building conservation & maintenance	1,855
Site running costs	1,668
Visitor access	1,420
Learning activities	182
Costs of generating voluntary income	426
Commercial operations	512
Charity governance	24
	6,087



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Supporters of the Painted Hall Project 2016-17

Major Benefactors

The Heritage Lottery Fund
The Department for Digital, Culture,
Media and Sport
The Gosling Foundation
The Sackler Trust

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And all those who prefer to remain anonymous

*Gifts made through the American Friends of
the Old Royal Naval College



Sir Christopher Wren's riverside masterpiece

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