



THE ARTS SOCIETY COTSWOLDS

Registered Charity Number 284674

President: John White

ANNUAL REPORT and Financial Accounts

For the year ended 31st December 2023

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Presidential Meanderings 2023

Your Society continues to thrive, mainly because you are such a splendid bunch! It gladdens the heart and delights and encourages your hard-working Committee enormously to see the Warwick Hall stuffed to the gunnels every month. We are averaging well over 100 attendees per talk taking into account those who tune in on Zoom. That makes it all worth-while. It was sad that the Northleach Society could not continue independently but we were delighted to offer its members a new home and trust that they feel as pleased to have joined us as we are to have them.

We were lucky enough to have some star speakers during 2023. Douglas Skeggs on Hockney and Angela Findlay on Art in Prisons stand out but my favourite was Hilary Williamson and her fascinating virtual tour of the Frick Collection. Add those to the visit to Dulwich to see the Berthe Morisot exhibition and the six -day coach tour of Northern Europe (jointly with WestOx) and you have got the best value £48 ever.

We all know that nothing good happens without soaring imagination, dedicated effort and boundless energy – all attributes the members of your Committee have in spades. The newest Committee members come from the same mould I am thrilled to say. So a tumultuous round of applause and a standing ovation for all of them. Thanks a million!

John White
President

Chairman's Report 2023

I am very happy to report that 2023 was a really good year for TASC! Maybe the best ever! There were a number of contributory factors to this success:

We have certainly recovered from the vicissitudes of the pandemic – in fact we have benefited from one of its side-effects – the Zoom effect. We all learnt how to communicate visually digitally using Zoom and this continues to benefit our society in two ways in particular. Thanks to Andrew's amazing technical skills, we have been able to continue to broadcast our lectures on Zoom simultaneously with the lectures in the Hall (unlike many other TAS societies). Many of our members make use of this if they are not feeling great, or perhaps away but with access to a screen, and I am sure this has helped maintain our membership numbers. Thank you, Andrew. The other benefit has been our Talking about Art Zoom sessions which are increasingly popular – they enable us to share our thoughts about works of art which have attracted our attention.

For the first time in the 54 years of our existence we had to create a waiting list. During the year our membership rose from 172 to 198 with a waiting list of 20 people. (We had to limit the membership because of the size of the hall). This is mainly because of the sad demise of The Arts Society Northleach which had to fold because of lack of volunteers to run it. But our immigrants are very welcome and we are grateful for their enthusiastic participation, and indeed volunteering to help out with our activities. The increased membership has a welcome knock-on effect on our coffers as can be seen from our Treasurer's report and the accounts.

I think the most popular lecture last year was probably Douglas Skeggs on David Hockney which sadly I missed! But I think my favourite was Lois Oliver on Berthe Morisot which was an eye-opener for me and I much enjoyed the exhibition of her art at the Dulwich Picture Gallery. I also enjoyed Jo Walton's talk on Donatello.

Our Trails of Discovery are a great success – thanks to our Heritage representative, Clare, with helpers, developed and published the trail around Milton-under-Wychwood, and is soon to print the new one around Ascott-under-Wychwood.

Four students benefitted from our Young Arts bursaries – see Pippa's report.

I also really loved our trip with TASWOX to Ghent and Delft despite having to be the tour leader! Seeing the Ghent Altarpiece and the wonders of the Mauritshuis were real treats.

As well as Northleach, other TAS societies closed last year because of lack of volunteers. I am happy to report that the TASC team is strong and getting stronger with new volunteers coming forward as a result of the questionnaire we organised. All the TASC team work really hard – both those on the committee, and the other assistants – in particular our Registrars, Martin and Patricia Walsh, and Silvia Pumfrey and Marika March sorting the Spring Lunch. I am very grateful to all of them – THANK YOU, Team!

Carolyn Walton

Chairman

The Arts Society Cotswolds

Registered Charity 284674

Report for the period ended 31st December 2023

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- (1) TASC is regulated under a constitution adopted on 15th April 1982 and amended on 13th September 2017.
- (2) The principal address for correspondence is Mullenders, Swan Lane, Burford, OX18 4SH.
- (3) The Officers and Members of the Committee are elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting and serve until the next Annual General Meeting.
- (4) At 31st December 2023 the Officers of TASC were:-
 - President - John White of Mullenders aforesaid
 - Chairman - Carolyn Walton of Mullenders aforesaid
 - Honorary Secretary - Judith Branston of 2 Chapmans Piece, Burford, OX18 4DN
 - Honorary Treasurer - Andrew Weaver of 14 High Street, Ascott-under-Wychwood OX7 6AW

and the Trustees were:-

- Juliet Stedeford of 23 High Street, Ascott-under-Wychwood, OX7 6AW
- Fiona Rossington of The Old Coach House, New Street, Chipping Norton OX7 5LJ
- Judy Wigfield of Coneygar Lodge, Quenington GL7 5BZ

- (5) The name of TASC's banker is TSB, Witney Branch.
- (6) TASC's activities during the period in furtherance of its objects were:-
 - Lectures** - We maintained our tradition of ten lectures all hybrid i.e. in the Warwick Hall with attendance by Zoom available for those who wanted it. All were of a uniformly high standard.
 - Special Interest Days** - We held three, all in-person, in the Warwick Hall.
 - Visits and Tours** - The outstanding tour was a 6-day coach tour of Ghent, Delft, Amsterdam and The Hague – a truncated Grand Tour – in conjunction with The West Oxfordshire Arts Society.We also visited the Berthe Morisot exhibition at The Dulwich Art Gallery.

Talking about Art – We had 8 digital talking art sessions held digitally on Zoom.

Young Arts – We were again able to award four bursaries of £400 each of four aspiring art students.

Heritage – Trails of Discovery – During the year another Trail of Discovery was developed – this one around Milton-under-Wychwood.

Other Activities – We held two social events, a Spring Lunch at The Swan Inn, Ascott-under-Wychwood and a Summer Garden Party at Mullenders. Both were hugely enjoyed by the attendees.

Approved and signed by:-

Trustee.....*Juliet L. Stedford*.....

Trustee.....*F. Rossington*.....

Trustee.....*John K. Wiggins*.....

Registrars' Report 2023

It is heartening to record that membership participation at the monthly presentations during 2023 increased explosively as we eventually recovered from the downturn experienced during Covid. Additionally, the increase of membership following the unfortunate demise of the Northleach group has seen a surge in active participation, initially as visitors and, subsequently, many as members. Whatever the contributory factors, an average of 109 people attended each presentation last year, up from 88 in the previous period. Yet again, the introduction of Zoom presentations during lockdown has proved to remain popular with a significant tranche of 30% of the membership.

TASC ATTENDANCE ANALYSIS							
		2023		2022 ¹		2021 ²	
MEMBERS	WARWICK HALL	706	70%	377	45%	192	22%
	ZOOM	313	30%	466	55%	682	78%
VISITORS	WARWICK HALL	70	97%	36	100%	12	70%
	ZOOM	2	3%			5	30%
TOTAL		1091		879		891	

¹ Presentations were hybrid in 2022 on all months except Jan 22 and Mar 22, which were Zoom only, hence the unusual distribution.

² Until Sep 21, in response to Covid measures, presentations were entirely on Zoom. From Sep 21, Zoom delivery continued but was offered in concert with reinstituted presentations in Warwick Hall.

Standout observations are:

- The most popular presentation was *"The Frick Collection, New York: A Feast for the Eyes"* on 13 Sep 23 – 124 people enjoyed the lecture, including 13 visitors.
- Drilling deeper into the participation figures, an attention-grabbing revelation is that the ratio of female to male attendance is approximately 70:30, for 2023 and 2022 for both members and visitors.

Finally, for yet another year we are pleased to announce that the (fictional) TASC Annual Participation award in recognition of a 100% attendance at all scheduled monthly presentations was earned by 9 commendable members in 2023. Well done to each of these individuals!

Should you wish to become a member of this elite group, all that you have to do **BEFORE you find your seat, is visit us at the Registration Desk**. Even if you have used the BookWhen facility to 'reserve' a seat, **PLEASE** ensure that you register your attendance at the desk as you enter the Hall. We are a happy team and assure you that we will offer you a warm welcome and a smile to start the day's presentation! So, this year, can YOU make it 10 out of 10?

Martin & Tricia Walsh

Registrars

Heritage – Trails of Discovery

Following the success of our previous two Trails of Discovery, of Shipton under Wychwood and Milton under Wychwood, I have been working throughout the past year on a family trail of the third Wychwood village of Ascott under Wychwood. The village has a very rich history, including being the home of the Ascott Martyrs, whose 150th anniversary was in 2023. I am very grateful for the assistance and input of Ascott residents Caroline Weaver and Carol Anderson, a local history expert, in devising the latest trail, which we aim to launch this Spring. The Arts Society has also awarded us a grant to help with printing costs.

Like the two previous trails, it will be available to download on our website, as well as being available in various locations around the Wychwoods. The language is simple enough for children to follow, but is suitable for all ages. The trail is split into three parts, with optional amounts of walking and does not have to be completed in one session. There will be posters around the village with a QR code on so that the trail can be downloaded onto a smart phone or tablet and then printed off as necessary. Paper copies will also be available in various locations.

Do look out for our new trail this Spring if you are looking for a fun, educational activity to do with children or grandchildren – or just on your own - whilst also exploring one of our beautiful, historic Cotswolds villages.

Clare Iley

Heritage Representative

Talking about Art – Virtual Coffee Mornings

We had another enjoyable year. TaA is a niche activity for the Society but is valued by those members who chose to participate. In conversation at our mainstream events, prospective participants often seem apprehensive, perhaps because of the Zoom technology or having their art appreciation/knowledge challenged in some way. From my perspective, it's more like sharing enthusiasms with friends albeit with quite a lot of preparation to make a pleasing presentation.

The technology continues to throw up unexpected problems with microphones and losing focus on the presentation. Once, our audio was replaced by someone's working conversation! It would streamline my job as organiser if I could create Zoom meetings.

Six meetings were held:

January: Two outstanding women artists. 11 participants

February: Of people and of dogs: representations. 8 participants

March: Influential art. 12 participants

September: Early Christian art: ivory panels in the British museum. 10 participants

October: From my walls. 9 participants

November: Art treasures of Northern Europe. 16 participants

For 2024, I anticipate a similar programme including another Favourite Building and From my Walls; contributions wanted. I welcome Beverley Stanford's offer to help with the admin.

Mark Aveline

Members' Art Discussions

Young Arts – Anne Stevens Bursaries 2023

The Anne Stevens Bursary was established in 2013 to award support to students in the Cotswold area who are going into tertiary education in the Arts. The scheme began with Burford School and expanded to include Chipping Norton School, the Cotswold School and Carterton Community College.

The Young Arts Representative works closely with the art teachers at the schools to select candidates and the bursary is awarded to students who are judged to be keen, talented and hard working. The Bursary is not provided as cash, but can be used to purchase a combination of tokens, memberships, art material or other relevant expenses.

In 2023 The Arts Society Cotswolds awarded four bursaries to the following students:

Imogen Bissett (Chipping Norton) - Studying Set Design and Production at the University of Wales Trinity St David.

Nell Joynes (Cotswold)

Zac Malcolm-Dawe (Cotswold) – Studying an Art Foundation Year at Oxford Brookes.

Shannon Osborne (Burford) - Studying Fine Art at Bath Spa

The TASC members were able to meet three of the four students and view most of their work. Unfortunately, due to the school requesting remarking, Zac's work was unavailable and printed copies of photos had to suffice, which did not do justice to his creativity or the skill he put into his work. This year the students have used their bursaries for computer design accessories, art supplies using gift vouchers and as a significant contribution towards the costs of art course overseas.

In 2024 I will be working with the schools again as the students approach their study leave. It is always an honour and pleasure to view the students' work and, thanks to the generosity of TASC, give financial support to four local students to pursue further education in the Arts.

Pippa Davy

Young Arts Representative

Treasurer's Report 2023

I am delighted to say that again this year we have been able maintain our strong financial position with a loss of only £1,625 for the year with an end of year bank balance of just over £19,885. This loss – although less than budgeted – includes the purchase of a new laptop to drive the lectures and Zoom to successfully address the audio issues we were having. It should also be noted that there is an ongoing liability of Young Arts Bursaries that have been awarded but not paid yet for 2023 (£870). We did not raise the membership fee this year despite the general increased costs, e.g. Hall hire, due to our reserves and a wish to not pass these on at least this year.

Our Gift Aid income was similar to last year which is important as this helps fund our bursaries and other charitable efforts. The amount is directly related to the number of members that “tick the Gift Aid” box when paying their membership fees, so thank you to all those that did so.

This year has been about adapting to the new norm of a hybrid lectures and a welcome return to in-person visits and SIDs. All credit to the committee and the lecturers we had booked that resulted in TASC delivering – in my opinion – a full and varied program of interesting and fascinating lectures both online (via Zoom) and in-person back in the Warwick Hall; note there is still space for those that wish to attend in person. The SIDs and Visits overall covered their costs (as planned) – mainly due to the very popular in-person visit to Dulwich Gallery. The return to in person events in the Warwick Hall has resulted in increased interest from Visitors which has resulted in approximately 85 visitors spread over the year, some of whom have since joined TASC which again is great to see.

We will continue to deliver lectures this year both online (through Zoom) and in the Warwick Hall as we have found that this suits all members and it is good to see that the Warwick Hall is pretty full for each lecture and between 20 and 40 attending online. We will therefore continue with our use of Bookwhen – for booking seats for lectures, Visitor donations, SIDs, Visits, etc. – Mailchimp and Zoom for the foreseeable future. We also have used Bookwhen to offer another means to renew your membership which has proved to be popular again with over 50% of you having used it.

We expect to continue fund bursaries, four for 2024, extend the number of Heritage Group trails and continue to invest in technology to enhance and streamline our operations.

Andrew Weaver

Treasurer



THE ARTS SOCIETY COTSWOLDS

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds		Unrestricted funds		Unrestricted funds	
	2023	2023	2022	2022	2021	2021
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary receipts						
Donations		£847		£339		£124
Charitable activities						
Subscriptions	£9,932		£8,456		£7,496	
Income from Visits	£1,345		£1,053		£2,502	
Income from Special Interest Days	£3,793		£3,792		£2,288	
Income from Social Events	£752		£401		£260	
Income from New Year's/Spring Lunch	£1,269	£17,091	£1,554	£15,255	£0	£12,546
Other receipts						
COIF and Bank interest received	£156		£71		£61	
Gift Aid Refund	£1,746		£1,758		£1,464	
Other (Grants, etc)	£651		£0		£0	
TAS refund of fares paid	£0	£2,553	£0	£1,829	£0	£1,524
Total receipts		£20,491		£17,423		£14,194
PAYMENTS						
Costs of charitable activities						
Cost of Lectures	£5,175		£4,187		£3,360	
Cost of Visits	£1,192		£825		£2,195	
Cost of Special Interest Days	£3,862		£4,365		£1,876	
Cost of Social Events	£907		£0		£0	
Cost of Spring Lunch	£1,320		£1,492		£84	
Heritage Trails	£434		£0		£261	
Gift and Donations	£0		£0		£150	
Young Art Award	£2,060	£14,949	£890	£11,759	£0	£7,926
General Society Expenses	£1,693		£1,127		£1,774	
TAS Affiliation fees & dues	£3,092		£2,670		£2,554	
TAS Expenses	£0		£0		£0	
Equipment Purchases	£1,149		£268		£781	
IT Support	£815		£1,023		£759	
Room/Hall rentals	£317		£611		£307	
Independent Examination fee	£100	£7,167	£100	£5,800	£100	£6,275
Total payments		£22,116		£17,559		£14,201
Net Receipts/Expenditure		-£1,625		-£136		-£6
Cash funds last year end		£21,510		£21,646		£21,652
Cash funds this year end		£19,885		£21,510		£21,646

THE ARTS SOCIETY COTSWOLDS

Statement of Assets & Liabilities 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds 2023	Unrestricted funds 2022	Unrestricted funds 2021
Cash funds			
Current account	£3,064	£5,389	£2,725
Bank Deposit account	£16,820	£16,120	£18,920
	<u>£19,885</u>	<u>£21,510</u>	<u>£21,646</u>
Other monetary assets			
Estimated tax reclaimable on Gift Aided subscriptions	£1,746	£1,464	£1,389
Assets retained for the charity's own use			
Equipment (Estimated value based on previous accounts)	£1,296	£184	£230
Liabilities			
TAS charges due 01 Jan 2024	£3,331	£2,832	£2,127
Subscriptions paid in November for the following year	£6,184	£5,821	£4,744
Independent Examiner	£100	£100	£100
	<u>£9,616</u>	<u>£8,753</u>	<u>£6,971</u>

Signed & dated

Trustee Juliet L. Stedford.

Trustee F. Rossington.

Trustee John A. Wiggins

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Barns Lane
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**Independent Examiner's Report on the accounts of
Cotswolds - Registered charity 284684
December 2023**

**The Arts Society
For the period 1 January 23 to 31**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparations of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act")

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act
or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Yeatman 28-1-2024

Signed John Yeatman