



THE ARTS SOCIETY COTSWOLDS

Registered Charity Number 284674

President: John White

ANNUAL REPORT and Financial Accounts

For the year ended 31st December 2024

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Presidential Meanderings 2024

I was first elected in 2012. All those with sufficient fingers can calculate that it is time for me to leave the stage and I will do so at the forthcoming AGM – it is time for fresh blood. I do so with mixed feelings, of course. I shall miss the warmth of the friendship of the members as a whole and the collegiate atmosphere of the Committee in particular. I shall miss the wrangling over the varying qualities of speakers – outstanding, excellent, very good, acceptable and awful. Thanks to the acumen of the Programme Secretary and the combined wisdom of the Committee we rarely have a speaker outside the top two.

I shall miss hosting the Members Annual lunch, the Committee's Annual Christmas lunch and the Society's Garden Party. I shall not miss the monthly panic (i.e. terror) that the speaker will not turn up and that I shall have to lecture for 60 minutes on the origins of Dadaism. Nor the equally chilling fear that all the audio visual and microphone high tech will fail with Andrew stuck in traffic the wrong side of Burford Bridge.

But, for all that, it has been a blast. Thanks for having me.

John White

President

Chairman's Report 2024

I am very happy to report that the success of the previous year (2023) was repeated in 2024.

Our membership has been full – with a waiting list for potential members. The decision to continue to have “hybrid” talks both in person in the Warwick Hall, and transmitted on Zoom has been very popular. We have regular “Zoomers” as well as those who occasionally watch on Zoom because they are on holiday, or not feeling like, or not able to brave the elements. Huge thanks to Andrew for ensuring this happens (as well as keeping our finances in order). Please read our Registrars amusing report on our attendances.

The quality and interest of our talks and SIDs have been fantastic thanks to Lisa Etheridge and the team helping out with programming. There was one exception which was a disappointment, however we had an excellent Zoom talk on the Pre-Raphaelites by way of compensation – which was an added bonus. One highlight for me was, unexpectedly, the talk about Lord Leighton, but the Special Interest Day, “The Seine: River of Light and Artists Delight – Home to Impressionism” was the star in my book.

The tour, with The Arts Society West Oxfordshire (TASWOX), to Dublin and the Wicklow Hills last May was much enjoyed – I particularly enjoyed Russborough House and seeing the Book of Kells. Our two visits were popular – the very local little visit to the garden of the Priory to see Matthew Freud's two Gormley statues following the talk on Antony Gormley was easy as we only needed to walk there. The trip to the National Gallery to enjoy the “once in a century” exhibition of Van Gogh's paintings was more difficult to organise but worth it because members were able to enjoy Van Gogh's paintings as well as other galleries.

Both our social events were well attended: our Spring Lunch at “The Windmill” (now the Farmers Dog!) and our Summer Party in July was fun and the rain just managed to hold off.

I recommend the reports on Heritage, Talking about Art, and Young Arts for details of our other activities last year.

Looking up to “head-office”, The Arts Society, there was much change last year. There was a revolt by member societies who did not like the direction in which the then Trustees were taking the Society (on-line talks) and mounted a coup before and at the AGM last August which resulted in the then Trustees (bar one) resigning to be replaced by a new board of Trustees. It has not been easy for them as they had to get to grips with the finances with little help from the outgoing board – but things are settling down and the Society will continue to thrive and offer what it has always been good at – accrediting excellent speakers.

There are also some changes taking place for your society. Two Trustees – Judy Wigfield and Jill Stedeford - have tendered their resignation as they have been fulfilling the role for many many years and feel it is time for them to relinquish their responsibilities. We are most grateful for their guidance and checking of the finances over the years. Thank you, Jill and Judy. Fortunately we will have two new Trustees – both of whom have already served this Society as Committee members for many years, and have happily agreed to take on the responsibilities of Trustees: Robin McCullough and Dorrit Marshall. Robin effectively ran our Society by being vice-chair, secretary and newsletter producer during all of David Shepherd’s chairmanship – 8 years or so. Dorrit was our Treasurer and active team member during that period. I hope you will approve the committee’s appointment of them.

Our President, John White, is also stepping down. He became President in about 2012 when the society needed to boost its membership – as Mayor of Burford he was able to spread the word and our membership soon happily increased. He has been a great help in steadying the ship and ensuring that your Chairman does not allow committee meetings to go on for too long. John is also expert at ensuring the wine flows at social events and SIDs, and he is a master of the short, funny, votes of thanks. We shall miss him!

Your membership secretary, Lyn Fogden is also leaving the Committee after 5 years, having done a great job of managing membership. Happily she will continue to “meet and greet”.

It also time for me to relinquish the Chairmanship as I have been in place for over six years. I have enjoyed my time as Chairman very much – getting to know you, meeting the lecturers, going to the Area meetings and the annual Arts Society events and visiting interesting places. I shall however continue with the role I originally had as Visits Secretary, until someone else is keen to take over arranging visits.

My time as Chairman has been eased by the huge support of all the team throughout my tenure, particularly Andrew for his Zoom in lockdown, and Jill for her professional use of Mailchimp (for our engaging newsletters) and Bookwhen. I thank them and everyone on the Committee and all the other volunteers who have helped me and the Society. I am very grateful to them.

**Carolyn Walton,
Chairman**

The Arts Society Cotswolds

Registered Charity 284674

Report for the year end 31st December 2024

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(1) TASC is regulated under a constitution adopted on 15th April 1982 and amended on 13th September 2017 and amended on 10th April 2024

(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 2024 the Officers of TASC were:-

President – John White of Mullenders aforesaid

Chairman – Carolyn Walton of Mullenders aforesaid

Honorary Secretary – Jane McMorrow of 8 Oak Drive, Shipton-under-Wychwood, OX7 6EG

Honorary Treasurer – Andrew Weaver of 14 High Street, Ascott-under-Wychwood OX7 6AW

and the Trustees were:-

Juliet (Jill) 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 person in the Warwick Hall with attendance by Zoom available for those who chose, and we had one extra Zoom-only lecture in the summer. Most were of a very high standard.

Special Interest Days – We held three, all in-person, in the Warwick Hall.

Visits and Tours – The tour in conjunction with West-Oxfordshire Arts Society was a 5-day coach tour of Dublin and the Wicklow Mountains. There was a visit to the National Gallery to see the Van Gogh exhibition, "Poets and

Lovers”, and we also had the privilege of visiting the gardens of The Priory in Burford to view two Gormley sculptures following the very popular talk on Antony Gormley’s work.

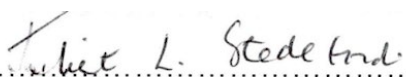
Young Arts - We were able to identify two aspiring art students from Burford School and the Cotswold School to receive an award of £400 each.

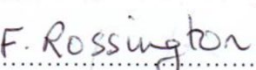
Heritage – Trails of Discovery - We launched our third Family Trail of Discovery in late May. This is of Ascott-under-Wychwood and completes the set of Wychwood trails, the first two being of Shipton-under-Wychwood and Milton-under-Wychwood.

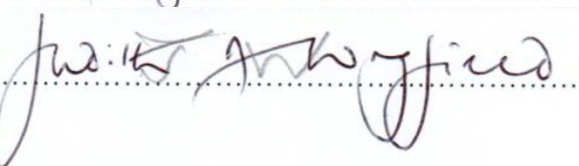
Talking about Art - Six “Talking about Art” morning sessions on Zoom only took place throughout the year.

Other Activities - We held two social events, a Spring Lunch at the Windmill Restaurant, Asthall Barrow roundabout and a Summer Garden Party at Mullenders. Both were hugely enjoyed by the attendees.

Approved and signed by:-

Trustee 

Trustee  04.02.25

Trustee 

Registrar's Report - 2024

It's pleasing to report that lecture participation continues to grow year on year, with just shy of 1200 engagements by members and visitors being recorded during 2024. However, we offer a small caveat. As members may recall, your committee offered an unprogrammed additional Zoom-only lecture in August to compensate for a somewhat sub-optimal lecture in March. Therefore, this bonus event artificially swelled the annual figures by 55. Nevertheless, even when this anomalous event is discounted, last year saw a commendable increase in participation over previous years.

Furthermore, it is most encouraging to see that TASC's hybrid delivery remains popular; during the reporting period, approaching a quarter of participants made use of the Zoom facility.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL PARTICIPATION</u>	<u>VISITORS</u>	<u>ZOOM PARTICIPATION</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE ZOOM PARTICIPATION</u>
2024 total	1197	87	306	25.6%
<i>2024 (Less Aug Zoom)</i>	<i>1142</i>	86	251	22.0%
2023	1091	72	317	29%
2022	880	36	2 Presentations were Zoom only due to issues at Warwick Hall	
2021	904	17	Zoom only until Sep 21 due to Covid-19	

Standout observations are:

- The most well-attended presentation was *"The Body as a Place: The Sculpture of Antony Gormley"* delivered by Anna Moszynska on 11 Sep. In total, 142 people enjoyed the lecture, with close to a quarter of the attendees in Warwick Hall that day being visitors (26)!!
- Once more, it is notable that 2024 continues to mimic the observations of 2022 and 2023 in that the ratio of female to male attendance for both members and visitors is in the order of approximately 70:30.

And now, the moment that you have been waiting for! We are pleased to announce that the (*fictional*) Annual TASC Participation Award recognising 100% engagement at all 11 presentations was earned by 10 exceptional members in 2024 (up from the previous year!). To spare any blushes, we won't put names in the public domain, but you know who you are

and each of you can take a well-earned pat on the back for your unquenchable thirst for knowledge!

Finally, **PLEASE** ensure that you **register your actual physical attendance IMMEDIATELY after you enter the main hall**; this will help the registrars and avoid a last-minute crush when asked to take your seats at 1050. Ideally, do this **BEFORE you get your refreshments or find your seat**. Just visit us at the Registration Desk and make your presence known. This applies even if you have used the Bookwhen facility to indicate your intention to attend. 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, in 2025, are YOU up to the challenge of making it 10 out of 10?

Martin & Tricia Walsh

Registrars

Trails of Discovery - Heritage Report - 2024

We launched our third Family Trail of Discovery in late May. This is of Ascott-under-Wychwood and completes the set of Wychwood trails, the first two being of Shipton-under-Wychwood and Milton-under-Wychwood. All three trails are available in several locations as paper copies and online, including on our website. Do try them out if you haven't already done so. They are ideal for educating and entertaining visiting children, grandchildren and yourselves, getting fresh air and exercise, all whilst learning about three fascinating, historic Cotswold villages. Do ask me if you would like any more information about these.

I would like to thank all my volunteers, the Wychwoods Local History Society and the Arts Society for helping to make these trails happen.

New directions

Since launching the third trail, I have been looking into taking Heritage in a new direction. I have researched and contacted several organisations with a view to organising a small group of regular volunteers to be involved in some kind of conservation activity. The most promising response has been from Oxfordshire Museums Service and I am hoping that a group of us can be involved with caring for the vast collection of artefacts at the Museum Resource Centre at Standlake. I hope to be able to bring more news about this soon. If you think this would be of interest to you, please let me know.

Clare Iley

Heritage Representative

heritage@theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk

Talking about Art – Virtual Coffee Mornings

We are now in the fifth year of Talking about Art sessions (TaA). Begun in August 2020 to mitigate Covid-19 restrictions, TaA offers the opportunity for TASC members to share art enthusiasms over Zoom. We aim to have six or more meetings each year. In 2024, there was a mixture of solo and shared talks and three less formal occasions where five to seven participants nominate their favourites for enjoyment and discussion. One TaA reviewed two excellent current exhibitions. The effects on artists, writers, politicians and rulers of the Franco-Prussian War and Siege of Paris were explored over two sessions. We visited France, Spain and London to discover favourite buildings and, on another occasion, had many nominations of favourite paintings. To complement October's SID on the River of Light, we devoted a session to Camille Pissarro. The year ended with a favourite portrait. Attendance ranged between 10 and 17. Five members made their debut as presenters.

I thank presenters for their contributions and Beverley Stanford for her help. To minimise Zoom technical problems, I now make a single slide show of all the segments. I research additional material and prepare slides for those who wish for that help.

Experience suggests that there is a small core of members who relish the challenge of presenting and an equal number who, over time, enjoy participating and nominating. The format has flexibility for all. Offers to present or nominate and ideas for topics are most welcome.

Mark Aveline

Organiser

talkingart@theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk

Young Arts – Anne Stevens Bursaries 2024

The Anne Stevens Bursary award is designed to support 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, depending on suitable candidates.

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 is used to purchase a combination of tokens, memberships, art material or other relevant expenses.

For 2024 two students, one from Burford School and one from the Cotswold School, are being awarded bursaries of £400 each. Unfortunately no candidates were forthcoming from Chipping Norton or Carterton.

The successful students are:

Elizabeth Bradley (Cotswold School)

Elizabeth's A-level art coursework focused on her project "The art of botanical forms". This led her into her repeat pattern wallpaper concept, which coincides with her passion for interior design. Elizabeth studied the renowned artist, William Morris, and his work inspired her to create her own wallpaper, using natural forms from his own garden at Kelmscott Manor.

Neve Stanworth (Burford School)

Neve's work was based on the theme of time, through which she explored ageing and the effects of time on various aspects of life. Neve created approximately eight final pieces throughout her development of this topic. Another part of her coursework and exam piece followed her chosen theme of "Light in the Landscape", which, during the 15-hour exam she produced a triptych in acrylic.

2025 brings in a new Young Arts representative, Angela Clarke, who will be working with the schools again this year.

Pippa Davy

Young Arts Representative

youngarts@theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk

Treasurer's Report 2024

I am delighted to say that again this year we have been able to maintain our strong financial position with a small profit of £635 for the year and an end of year bank balance of just over £20,500. The budget for the year was for a small loss in order to reduce our overall balance, but a larger than expected income from visitors and spending slightly less than expected meant that we made a nominal profit. It should also be noted that there is an ongoing liability of Young Arts Bursaries that have been awarded but not paid yet for 2024 (£1600). We raised the membership fee this year to better reflect our overall operating budget which has generally increased, e.g. hall hire, lecturers' fees, and so on.

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 who did so.

This year we have continued with our hybrid lectures (Zoom & in-person) and our 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 programme of interesting and fascinating lectures. The SIDs and Visits overall covered their costs (as planned) and have proved very popular being generally fully subscribed. The events in the Warwick Hall covering popular topics have generated an increased interest from visitors which has resulted in over 80 visitors spread over the year, some of whom have since joined TASC which again is great to see.

We will continue to deliver hybrid lectures this year as we have found that this suits all members. It is good to see that the Warwick Hall is pretty full for each lecture and between 20 and 40 attending online. We will continue with our use of Zoom, Mailchimp for communication and Bookwhen for booking seats for lectures, visitor donations, SIDs, Visits etc. We have also used Bookwhen to offer another means to renew your membership which has proved to be popular again with over 60% of you having used it.

We expect to continue funding bursaries – four for 2025 – and continue to invest in technology to enhance and streamline our operations.

Andrew Weaver

Treasurer

treasurer@theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk



THE ARTS SOCIETY COTSWOLDS

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds		Unrestricted funds		Unrestricted funds	
	2024	2024	2023	2023	2022	2022
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary receipts						
Visitor Donations		£851		£847		£339
Charitable activities						
Subscriptions	£10,830		£9,932		£8,456	
Income from Visits	£1,892		£1,345		£1,053	
Income from Special Interest Days	£4,936		£3,793		£3,792	
Income from Social Events	£405		£752		£401	
Income from Spring Lunch	£1,508	<u>£19,571</u>	£1,269	<u>£17,091</u>	£1,554	<u>£15,255</u>
Other receipts						
COIF and Bank interest received	£227		£156		£71	
Gift Aid Refund	£1,690		£1,746		£1,758	
Other (Grants, etc)	£0		£651		£0	
TAS refund of fares paid	£0	<u>£1,918</u>	£0	<u>£2,553</u>	£0	<u>£1,829</u>
Total receipts		<u>£22,340</u>		<u>£20,491</u>		<u>£17,423</u>
PAYMENTS						
Costs of charitable activities						
Cost of Lectures	£5,358		£5,175		£4,187	
Cost of Visits	£1,229		£1,192		£825	
Cost of Special Interest Days	£4,316		£3,862		£4,365	
Cost of Spring Lunch	£1,630		£1,320		£1,492	
Cost of Garden Party	£790		£907		£0	
Cost of Christmas Meal	£785		£1,320		£1,492	
Heritage Trails	£657		£434		£0	
Gift and Donations	£0		£0		£0	
Young Art Award	£1,140	<u>£15,905</u>	£2,060	<u>£14,949</u>	£890	<u>£11,759</u>
General Society Expenses	£1,089		£1,693		£1,127	
TAS Affiliation fees & dues	£3,324		£3,092		£2,670	
TAS Expenses	£0		£0		£0	
Equipment Purchases	£0		£1,149		£268	
IT Support	£935		£815		£1,023	
Room/Hall rentals	£353		£317		£611	
Independent Examination fee	£100	<u>£5,800</u>	£100	<u>£7,167</u>	£100	<u>£5,800</u>
Total payments		<u>£21,705</u>		<u>£22,116</u>		<u>£17,559</u>
Net Receipts/Expenditure		<u>£635</u>		<u>-£1,625</u>		<u>-£136</u>
Cash funds last year end		<u>£19,885</u>		<u>£21,510</u>		<u>£21,646</u>
Cash funds this year end		<u>£20,520</u>		<u>£19,885</u>		<u>£21,510</u>

THE ARTS SOCIETY COTSWOLDS

Statement of Assets & Liabilities 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Unrestricted funds 2023	Unrestricted funds 2022
Cash funds			
Current account	£3,199	£3,064	£5,389
Bank Deposit account	£17,320	£16,820	£16,120
	<u>£20,520</u>	<u>£19,885</u>	<u>£21,510</u>
Other monetary assets			
Estimated tax reclaimable on Gift	£1,690	£1,746	£1,464
Aided subscriptions			
Assets retained for the charity's own use			
Equipment	£1,037	£1,296	£184
(Estimated value based on previous accounts)			
Liabilities			
TAS charges due 01 Jan 2025	£3,091	£3,331	£2,832
Subscriptions paid in November for the following year	£7,571	£6,184	£5,821
Independent Examiner	£100	£100	£100
	<u>£10,762</u>	<u>£9,616</u>	<u>£8,753</u>

Signed & dated

Trustee

Juliet L. Stedford 28th January 2025

Trustee

F. Rossington 04.02.25

Trustee

John A. Wofford

5 The Leaze
Barns Lane
Burford
Oxon
OX18 4NE

07968 019813

**Independent Examiner's Report on the accounts of
The Arts Society Cotswold - Registered charity 284674
For the period 1 January 24 to 31 December 2024**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 31 December 2024

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 23/1/2025

Signed John Yeatman