



THE ARTS SOCIETY COTSWOLDS

Registered Charity Number 284674

President: Carolyn Walton

ANNUAL REPORT and Financial Accounts

For the year ended 31st December 2025

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President's Rambles 2025

The main message I have in my first year as President is to express my huge thanks to your team. Firstly, and mostly to Alison for stepping up to be the Chairman and doing such a brilliant job. Thank her, and goodness, because this past year has thrown rather unexpected obstacles at your ex-president, John White and myself, which means we haven't had as much time and energy to devote to TASC as previously.

Alison could not do her job as Chairman without the help of your excellent committee. Susan Burne has continued Lyn Fogden's vital role as Membership Secretary, and Angela Clark is doing a very good job as our "Young Arts" representative – the presentation in September went well – it is nice to see the beneficiaries of our awards and their art work. And the rest of the team: –

- Jill Wright producing our very readable and informative monthly newsletters.
- Lisa Etheridge and her programming team (Rachel Gallagher and Diane Raitt) ensuring we have an interesting and varied programme.
- Clare Iley continuing with the Heritage programme – the Trails of Discovery around the Wychwoods have been very successful.
- Mark Aveline organising the digital "Talking about Art" sessions,
- Jane McMorro holding everything together administratively as secretary and organising our social events.
- And, though not actually on the committee, the very reliable Martin and Patricia Walsh do a great job as Registrars counting us in.

Thank you all.

A special thanks goes to Andrew Weaver who I think pretty much single-handedly rescued TASC from the potential death-threat of the Covid lock-down by enabling us to Zoom our lectures. His familiarity with Zoom and audio transmission has enabled us to maintain (indeed increase) our membership so we still educate and amuse those members who can't or do not want to attend the talks in the Warwick Hall. Of course, that was not Andrew's main task which was being our Treasurer. As the accounts show we still have a very healthy balance at the bank thanks to his careful husbandry. Very sadly, Andrew is ceasing to be on our team – it is sad to see him go, but I hope he will still be joining us to listen to the talks and even come to our social events. Thank you so much, Andrew, for all you've done for TASC over the last 6 years.

This year we have two new Trustees: Robin McCullough and Dorrit Marshall, who join Fiona Rossington, who are ultimately responsible for us as a charity and keep an eye on what we are up to and our finances.

The highlight for me this year was the joint tour with TAS West Oxon to Eastern Sicily when we visited some fantastic sights and works of art – and enjoyed lovely food – I recommend these joint tours. My favourite talk in 2025 was the Christmas one "The Music of Epiphany", perhaps because of the mulled wine – but the really outstanding day was last February's SID, "Adventures in Textiles: A Journey through Central Asia" with Chris Aslan. I continue to enjoy and learn from all the talks, but I especially enjoy meeting members at our social events – so many thanks to all of you for belonging to and attending TASC events.

Carolyn Walton

President

Chairman's Report 2025

This is my first report as Chairman, and I am very happy to write that our Society continues to thrive.

Our membership continues at a full cohort – with a waiting list for potential members. Our “hybrid” approach - both in person in the Warwick Hall and transmitted on Zoom continues to be popular. We have a mix of regulars and occasional attendees on Zoom. It enables us to give any member access whatever their personal circumstances.

It has been another good year for the quality and range of our lectures and SIDs thanks to Lisa Etheridge and the team helping out with programme selection. Regrettably we did have technical difficulties in the hall with the projector. The Warwick Hall team, who own and manage the Audio-Visual (AV) kit that we use here, have worked with us to ensure (as much as anyone can guarantee that kit won't break!) that our future events won't be impacted again.

This year Carolyn Walton organised the tour, in conjunction with The Arts Society West Oxfordshire (TASWOX), to Western Sicily in early November. It was my first experience of an Arts Society tour and I personally loved many aspects of the week: the Roman mosaics at Piazza Armerina were truly astonishing in their quality and quantity; the gorgeous Baroque architecture in all the towns we visited; and did I mention that we saw 2 Caravaggios?!

Carolyn also organised a coach trip to take us to the Wallace Collection for a private guided tour, with a well-informed and passionate guide as well as entry to the Grayson Perry 'Delusions of Grandeur' exhibition. For me, hearing him speak on the audio-guide about each of the pieces made his works come alive.

We continue to hold successful social events which are well attended. We held our Spring Lunch at The Wychwood Golf Club (with one of Carolyn's quizzes included!) and our Summer Party in July was, for the first time, a chargeable event, but did not deter many of you coming along to enjoy the glorious late afternoon sunshine in the garden of the Warwick Hall Café (accompanied by some delicious canapes, courtesy of Hubert, who runs the café).

I recommend the reports on Heritage, Talking about Art, and Young Arts for details of our other activities last year and the ever-entertaining Registrars' report!

At headquarters (The Arts Society), after some turbulence in 2024, the new Board of Trustees have settled in, and they continue to provide the support, guidance and direction that we have historically enjoyed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to personally thank our Trustees. Robin McCullough and Dorrit Marshall stepped into these posts this year, joining Fiona Rossington. Their support is invaluable to me. I also want to give a huge thanks to Carolyn Walton who is both our Visits Secretary and our President. She continues to give lots of time and lots of background encouragement and wisdom as I continue to learn the ropes! Thank you, Carolyn.

Andrew Weaver, Treasurer and Technical Guru! Apparently, he's looking forward to retirement and travelling. It is with a heavy heart that I have accepted that padlocking him to the Warwick Hall doors isn't an appropriate way forward! I think most members understand that taking on the Treasurer's post and setting up Zoom during lockdown and subsequently transitioning us to our Hybrid presentation capability has been a gamechanger. And as Treasurer, he has continued to steer us to a position of financial security.

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Honestly, there are no words to express my gratitude to him on behalf of us all. I wish him a fulfilling and happy retirement.

Susan Burne stepped up to become Membership Secretary for her first full year, and I thank her sincerely for managing and coping with Renewals and New Joiners for this year! Angela Clarke, very welcome addition, also joined the committee this year to lead our Young Arts team. And I hope you all appreciate the stellar work that Jill Wright does every month in producing our highly professional and engaging Newsletter. And I'd also like an honourable mention for Jane McMorrow, our Secretary, who battles to keep me organised! But I couldn't do any of this without the whole Committee. Each and every one of them make this role a joy. I have inherited from Carolyn and her predecessors an amazing team of people. Thank you all!

And finally, a thank you to our members and those of you who volunteer and support this committee. This Society is yours and for you.

Alison Morgans

Chairman

chair@theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk

The Arts Society Cotswolds

Registered Charity 284674

Report for the year end 31st December 2025

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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 and 12th March 2025.
- (2) The principal address for correspondence is Hyde Cottage, 129 The Hill, Burford OX18 4RE.
- (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 2025 the Officers of TASC were:-
President – Carolyn Walton of Mullenders, Swan Lane, Burford OX18 4SH
Chairman – Alison Morgans of Hyde Cottage, 129 The Hill, Burford, OX18 4RE
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:-
Dorrit Marshall of Glenthorne House, 174 The Hill, Burford OX18 4QY
Robin McCulloch of New Oak Barn, The Green, Bledington OX7 6XQ
Fiona Rossington of The Old Coach House, New Street, Chipping Norton OX7 5LJ
- (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. Most were of a very high standard.

Special Interest Days – Three were planned but one was cancelled due to the speaker's ill-health.

Visits and Tours – The tour in conjunction with West-Oxfordshire Arts Society was a two centre, 7-day tour of the west coast of Sicily. There was a visit to the Wallace Collection to see Grayson Perry's 'Delusions of Grandeur' Exhibition.

Young Arts - We were able to identify five aspiring art students, two from Burford School, one from Carterton Community College and two from the Cotswold School, to receive awards.

Heritage – Trails of Discovery – We continue to supply paper copies in various locations around the Wychwood area. We are currently exploring new Heritage activities and opportunities for our members.

Talking about Art - Six 'Talking about Art' morning sessions took place throughout the year. Four were on Zoom and two, in May and September, were in person.

Other Activities - We held two social events, a Spring Lunch at the Wychwood Golf Club and a Summer Garden Party at the Warwick Hall. Both were much enjoyed by the attendees.

Approved, signed and dated by:

Trustee F. Rossington Date 11.02.26

Trustee Janet Marshall Date 11.02.26

Trustee Robin McCulloch Date 18.02.26

Registrars' Report 2025

It's pleasing to report that lecture participation continues to grow year on year, with just over 1300 engagements by members and visitors being recorded during 2025; this is an astonishing growth of 14% on 2024; a remarkable growth figure that a Government of whatever persuasion can only dream about!

It remains encouraging to see that TASC's hybrid delivery remains extremely popular; 25% of the 2025 audience used Zoom for their edification.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL PARTICIPATION</u>	<u>MEMBERS – WARWICK HALL</u>	<u>VISITORS – WARWICK HALL</u>	<u>ZOOM PARTICIPATION</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE ZOOM PARTICIPATION</u>	<u>INCREASE IN PARTICIPATION OVER PREVIOUS YEAR</u>
2025	1304	919	62	322	25%	14.2%
<i>2024 total incl bonus Zoom for Aug</i>	1197	804	87	306	25.6%	
2024 (Less Aug Zoom)	1142	805	86	251	22.0%	5%
2023	1091	702	72	317	29%	24%
2022	880	844	36	2 Presentations were Zoom only due to issues at Warwick Hall		-3%
2021	904	887	17	Zoom only until Sep 21 due to Covid-19		

Standout observations are:

- The most well-attended presentation was “Velasquez and Goya: Traditionalists or Modern Masters” delivered by Alice Foster on 12 Feb. In total, 147 people enjoyed the lecture, with over a fifth of members watching on Zoom!
- As in previous years, the total annual TASC audience was approximately 70% female.

And now, the moment that you have all been waiting for! We are pleased to announce that the (fictional) Annual TASC Participation Award recognising 100% engagement at all 10 presentations was earned by 22 exceptional members in 2025 (remarkably, massively up from the previous year's figure of 10!). 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, when you enter Warwick Hall, PLEASE ensure that you prioritise registering your actual physical attendance as soon as possible; this will help us (the registrars) and avoid a last-minute crush when the audience is asked to take their seats at 1050hrs. Ideally, do this BEFORE you get your refreshments or find

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your seat. Just visit us at the Registration Desk and make your presence known by giving us your name. Importantly, this applies even if you have used the BookWhen facility. Employing this very useful tool only indicates an intention to attend; physically presenting yourself at the desk confirms that you have actually made it to Warwick 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, for 2026, are YOU up to the challenge of making it 10 out of 10?

Martin & Tricia Walsh

Your Friendly Registrars

Heritage Report

Trails of Discovery

I have been maintaining our three Family Trails of Discovery of the villages of Shipton-under-Wychwood, Milton-under-Wychwood and Ascott-under-Wychwood. These are available on our website and in various locations around the Wychwood villages, as well as in Warwick Hall. Do try them out if you have not already done so. We plan to add some non-Arts Society trails of Chipping Norton to our website in the near future.

New directions

Last year I reported that we were looking to take Heritage in a new direction by working with the Oxfordshire Museums Service to help conserve their collection of artefacts at the Resource Centre at Standlake. Due to staffing issues at the Museums Service and their being without a Conservator, this has not been able to happen. Instead I have been giving my time to supporting our Young Arts team, working with the art departments of our local secondary schools.

Clare Iley

Heritage Representative

heritage@theartsocietycotswolds.org.uk

Talking about Art – Coffee Mornings

We are now in the sixth 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 and in person. We aim to have six meetings each year.

In 2025, we introduced an **in-person** variant. There have been two of these organised by Carolyn Walton and held at the new Cotswold Gate Care Home. Carolyn selected eight paintings under the theme of “Summer and Autumn” of which the group elected to discuss four on each occasion in an informal setting with refreshments kindly provided by the management.

Over Zoom, there were two shared talks and two less formal occasions where several participants showed items they have collected in a “From my Walls” or which were in some way favourites, “A Potpourri”, for enjoyment and discussion. Modern ceramics, wildlife and landscape paintings, a fine Victorian seascape, a tree installation of porcelain bells, a Danish cartoonist working in the 1930s & 40s and a remote place in the high mountains featured. “Dudes, hats and dogs” celebrated their rich representation in paintings from the 1800’s and early 1900’s. The year ended with a detailed look at “The Great Exhibition of 1851”.

Attendance ranged between 8 and 13. Three members made their debut as presenters.

I thank presenters for their contributions. To minimise Zoom technical problems when there are multiple presenters, 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, an equal number who, over time, enjoy participating and nominating and an over-lapping population that likes in person occasions and reacting to art without formal presentation. The formats have 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 Awards 2025

The Anne Stevens Bursary was designed to support students in the Cotswolds who were studying the Arts through tertiary education.

The scheme initially involved TASC supporting students at Burford School but the scheme expanded to include Chipping Norton, Carterton and Bourton on the Water. The number of awards made each year has varied year on year depending upon the number of appropriate candidates who apply in the year.

TASC has a small sub-team of 3 TASC members, who work with me. We liaise with the heads of Art departments in our local secondary schools and hope to develop these relationships. The sub-committee and the heads of art departments work together to determine which students should receive awards.

In 2025 5 awards were made to students from Carterton, Burford and the Cotswold School at Bourton on the Water. The student from Carterton has yet to start her course and we have agreed to postpone her award for 12 months.

The students indicate to the sub-team how they wish to use their own awards. Guidance has been given to the students how they would like this to be done. Funds have already been provided as a contribution towards the cost of a new computer; software and Art materials.

Other

The sub-team has become aware of the financial constraints faced by pupils studying art and related subjects in Carterton. The school does not have a Parents Teacher Association. PTAs elsewhere regularly provide financial support to a school's Art Department.

TASC has agreed to provide some support to the 6th form pupils at Carterton. We have provided kits of brushes and oil paints that enable students to try out oil paints as part of their homework.

We acknowledge the importance of Young Arts being able to provide such support and we hope to develop this in the future.

Angela Clarke

Young Arts representative

youngarts@theartssocietycotswolds.org.uk

Treasurer's Report 2025

I am delighted to say that again this year we have been able maintain our strong financial position with a small profit of £1,816 for the year and an end of year bank balance of just over £22,333. The budget for the year was for a loss in order to reduce our overall balance, but a larger than expected income from Visitors, spending slightly less than expected and higher than expected income from renewals for FY26 meant that we made a small 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 (£318) and 2025 (£1600). We raised the membership fee this year to better reflect our overall operating budget which has generally increased, e.g. Hall hire, lecturer's 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 that did so.

This year we have continued with our new norm of hybrid lectures (Zoom & in-person) and continued our 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) and have proved very popular being generally fully subscribed. The continued in person events in the Warwick Hall covering popular topics has resulted in an increased interest from Visitors which has resulted in over 90 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 around 20 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 just under 60% of you having used it.

We expect to continue funding bursaries – four for 2026 – and continue to invest in technology and services 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 2025

	Unrestricted funds		Unrestricted funds		Unrestricted funds	
	2025	2025	2024	2024	2023	2023
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary receipts						
Visitor Donations		£620		£0		£847
Charitable activities						
Subscriptions	£11,070		£10,830		£9,932	
Income from Visits	£1,536		£1,892		£1,345	
Income from Special Interest Days	£6,436		£4,936		£3,793	
Income from Social Events	£622		£405		£752	
Income from Spring Lunch	£1,483	<u>£21,147</u>	£1,508	<u>£19,571</u>	£1,269	<u>£17,091</u>
Other receipts						
COIF and Bank interest received	£229		£227		£156	
Gift Aid Refund	£1,989		£1,690		£1,746	
Other (Grants, etc)	£430		£0		£651	
TAS refund of fares paid	£0	<u>£2,647</u>	£0	<u>£1,918</u>	£0	<u>£2,553</u>
Total receipts		<u>£24,414</u>		<u>£21,489</u>		<u>£20,491</u>
PAYMENTS						
Costs of charitable activities						
Cost of Lectures	£5,957		£0		£5,175	
Cost of Visits	£1,495		£1,229		£1,192	
Cost of Special Interest Days	£5,088		£4,316		£3,862	
Cost of Spring Lunch	£1,370		£1,630		£1,320	
Cost of Garden Party	£718		£790		£907	
Cost of Christmas Meal	£0		£785		£1,320	
Heritage Trails	£830		£0		£434	
Gift and Donations	£0		£0		£0	
Young Art Award	£883	<u>£16,340</u>	£0	<u>£8,750</u>	£2,060	<u>£14,949</u>
General Society Expenses	£1,077		£0		£1,693	
TAS Affiliation fees & dues	£3,091		£0		£3,092	
TAS Expenses	£0		£0		£0	
Equipment Purchases	£0		£0		£1,149	
IT Support	£1,434		£0		£815	
Fees for Card Payments	£165		£0		£0	
Room/Hall rentals	£391		£0		£317	
Independent Examination fee	£100	<u>£6,259</u>	£0	<u>£0</u>	£100	<u>£7,167</u>
Total payments		<u>£22,599</u>		<u>£8,750</u>		<u>£22,116</u>
Net Receipts/Expenditure		<u>£1,816</u>		<u>£12,739</u>		<u>-£1,625</u>
Cash funds last year end		<u>£19,885</u>		<u>£19,885</u>		<u>£21,510</u>
Cash funds this year end		<u>£22,333</u>		<u>£20,520</u>		<u>£19,885</u>

THE ARTS SOCIETY COTSWOLDS

Statement of Assets & Liabilities 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Unrestricted funds 2024	Unrestricted funds 2023
Cash funds			
Current account	£8,013	£3,199	£3,064
Bank Deposit account	£14,320	£17,320	£16,820
	£22,333	£20,520	£19,885
Other monetary assets			
Estimated tax reclaimable on Gift	£1,989	£0	£1,746
Aided subscriptions			
Assets retained for the charity's own use			
Equipment	£829	£1,037	£1,296
(Estimated value based on previous accounts)			
Liabilities			
TAS charges due 01 Jan 2026	£3,051	£3,091	£3,331
Subscriptions paid in November for the following year	£7,810	£7,571	£6,184
Independent Examiner	£100	£100	£100
	£10,961	£10,662	£9,616

Approved, signed and dated by:

Trustee F. Rossington Date 11.02.26

Trustee Gavin Mookham Date 11.02.26

Trustee Rein McQuinn Date 18.02.26

5 The Leaze
Barns Lane
Burford
Oxon
OX18 4NE

07968 019813

22nd January 2026

**Independent Examiner's Report on the accounts of
The Arts Society Cotswold - Registered charity 284674
For the period 1 January 25 to 31 December 2025**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 31 December 2025

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")

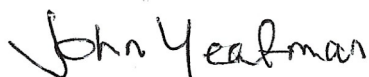
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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.



Signed John Yeatman