

FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 251683

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1967-11-07

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Stable End
The Square
Ducklington
Witney
Oxfordshire
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Phone 07904765725

Email finance@furniturehistorysociety.org

Website www.furniturehistorysociety.org

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE STUDY OF FURNITURE OF ALL PERIODS, PLACES AND KINDS, AND TO FURTHER PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND APPRECIATION OF IT. THE SOCIETY SHALL ASSIST AS FAR AS POSSIBLE IN THE PRESERVATION OF FURNITURE AND OF ITS RECORDS FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT.

Activities: The study of furniture in all countries and in all periods

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Other Finance, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NATIONAL
- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Canada
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Malaysia
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Northern Ireland
- Russia
- Scotland
- Slovenia
- Spain
- United States
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£239,987	£243,160	-	-
2024-06-30	£205,420	£220,075	-	-
2023-06-30	£189,079	£195,471	-	-
2022-06-30	£138,329	£147,180	-	-
2021-06-30	£138,597	£131,322	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Adriana Edith Turpin		2024-11-23
Amy Lim		2025-11-29
Charlie Thomas		2023-11-25
Christopher Rowell		2013-12-05
David Oakey		2023-11-25
Dr Megan Aldrich FSA		2018-11-17
Dr Rebecca Lesley Tilles		2025-11-29
Iain Stephens		2025-11-29
Martin Blue Macintosh Williams		2010-01-01
Sir Jonathan Marsden		2025-11-29
Thomas Williams		2024-11-23

Accounts

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

*Annual Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements
for the Year ended 30 June 2025,
together with Notices of the Sixtieth Annual General Meeting,
and a Special General Meeting,
both to be held at The East India Club,
16 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LH
on Saturday, 29 November 2025 commencing at 11.00 am*

c/o The Department of Performance, Furniture, Textiles and Fashion,
Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7 2RL

www.furniturehistorysociety.org

Registered Charity No. 251683

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2025

**AGENDA for the 61st Annual General Meeting of
The Furniture History Society to be held at
The East India Club, 16 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LH
at 11.00 am on Saturday, 29 November 2025**

1. Apologies
2. To hear read Notice of the meeting, to note that the meeting has been convened in accordance with the Rules of the Society; and to note that a quorum is present
3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Sixtieth Annual General Meeting
4. Adoption of the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025
5. Adoption of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025
6. Election of the President, Chairman and Honorary Officers each for a period of one year
 - The President
Council notes that Simon Swynfen Jervis does not offer himself for re-election and proposes Christopher Neville Rowell
 - The Chairman
Council notes that Christopher Rowell does not offer himself for re-election and proposes Sir Jonathan Mark Marsden KCVO
 - The Honorary Secretary
Council proposes Thomas Williams
 - The Honorary Treasurer
Council proposes Martin Blue Macintosh Williams
 - The Honorary Editorial Secretary
Council proposes Dr Megan Brewster Aldrich
7. Re-election of four existing ordinary (or non-executive) members of Council for a further term
Council proposes David Oakey, Charlie Thomas, Adriana Turpin and Rebecca Tilles
8. Election of two new ordinary members of Council During 2023, an elected member of Council proposes Iain Stephens and Dr Amy Lim
9. Appointment of the Independent Examiner
Council proposes Christopher Pexton FCA of Messrs Begbies, Chartered Accountants
10. Any Other Business
11. Votes of Thanks

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA for a Special General Meeting of the Society to be held on 29 November 2025 at 12 noon (or so soon as the preceding meeting shall finish or be adjourned).

1. To hear read Notice of the meeting.
2. To consider, and if thought appropriate, to approve a Special Resolution to amend the Society's constitution by inserting the following wording in the existing Rule 7 so as to form the second paragraph thereof.

'Honorary Officers appointed on or after the date of adoption of this Rule and also those Honorary Officers appointed before that date shall not serve in any one role for more than nine years following the date of their appointment, unless agreed by the Council and approved by the Society in General Meeting.'

NB A Special Resolution requires the consent of a two-thirds majority of Members present and voting at the Meeting. This meeting is deemed to be held contemporaneously with the preceding meeting.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Members may recall that the Society's rules were amended in 2024 by changes to Rule 7 intended to clarify the length of service of a member who has been appointed to Council in the place of an existing member who has demitted office before the expiry of their three-year term. In addition, there were two minor amendments intended to simplify the governance arrangements.

At meetings of Council during 2024-25, it became clear that a majority of members of Council also wished to limit the length of time that the Honorary Officers can serve. The further changes to Rule 7 of the Society's constitution now proposed give effect to this.

Currently, the Rules of the Society do not limit the length of time Honorary Officers may serve in their respective roles (namely as President, Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Editorial Secretary). This has led to a proposal to Council that Honorary Officers should not serve for more than nine years, in order to comply with the Charity Commission's guidance that charity trustees should not typically serve for more than nine years. The guidance itself makes clear that this is not a legally binding requirement and that charities are entitled to order their affairs on this aspect in a way that best suits their particular circumstances.

In the case of the Society the Honorary Officers have a dual role as executive officers responsible for management and as trustees, and are subject to re-election each year at the AGM. The executive role of the Honorary Officers currently allows them to carry out their management

¹"Trustees are appointed for an agreed length of time, subject to any applicable constitutional or statutory provisions relating to election and re-election. If a trustee has served for more than nine years, their reappointment [should be]: (a) subject to a particularly rigorous review [taking] into account the need for progressive refreshing of the board [and] (b) explained in the trustees' annual report."

Charity Governance Code for larger charities s.5.7.4, Charity Governance Code Steering Group, 2020

functions without the constraint of a time limited appointment. This is similar to executives of, usually larger and better resourced, charities which employ staff to run the day-to-day affairs of their charity and who typically are not trustees and are not limited to a fixed term of engagement.

Following discussion, it was agreed by a majority of Council members to approve the proposal for a fixed term of nine years' service for Honorary Officers, with the caveat that the length of service could be extended in a particular case with the approval of the Council and the Society's members. Since this involves a change to the Rules, the Society's members are required to consider and vote on the proposed change, as a special resolution for which a two thirds majority in favour is needed. Details of the proposed change are incorporated within a re-drafted Rule 7 set out below, which contains other minor changes which do not require comment. The position of ordinary (or non-executive) members of Council in Rule 7 is not affected.

Existing Rule 7	Proposed re-worded Rule 7
The affairs of the Society shall be administered by a Council consisting of a President, a Chairman and three Honorary Officers - namely, Secretary, Treasurer and Editorial Secretary - and six ordinary members of the Society (or such higher number of ordinary members of the Council as the Society or the Council may decide). All members of the Council shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), but the ordinary members shall serve for a term not exceeding three years ending at the third AGM following the AGM at which they were first elected, and shall not be eligible for re-election in that year. At the AGM in each year the Society shall elect two ordinary members of the Society (or such other number as the Society or the Council may decide) as ordinary members of the Council to replace those ordinary members retiring in that year or to fill a casual vacancy. A vacancy in the ordinary members of the Council occurring between AGMs may be filled by the Council appointing another member of the Society as an ordinary member, and any member so appointed shall continue in that capacity until the next AGM after their appointment, but shall be eligible for election by the Society for a new term at that AGM.	The affairs of the Society shall be administered by a Council consisting of a President, Chairman and three other Honorary Officers - namely Secretary, Treasurer and Editorial Secretary - and six ordinary or non-executive members, each being a member of the Society (or such higher number of non-executive members as the Council or the Society may decide). Honorary Officers appointed on or after the date of adoption of this Rule and also those Honorary Officers appointed before that date shall not serve in any one role for more than nine years following the date of their appointment, unless agreed by the Council and approved by the Society in General Meeting. Ordinary or non-executive members of Council shall serve for a term not exceeding three years ending at the third AGM following the AGM at which they were first elected and shall not be eligible for re-election in that year. All members of Council shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. At the AGM in each year the Society shall elect two members of the Society (or such other number as the Council or the Society may decide) as non-executive members of Council to replace those non-executive members retiring in that year or to fill a casual vacancy.

Existing Rule 7 (cont.)	Proposed re-worded Rule 7 (cont.)
The Council may from time to time appoint officers to carry out administrative duties on behalf of the Society.	A vacancy in the non-executive members occurring between AGMs may be filled by the Council appointing another member of the Society as a non-executive member of Council, and any member so appointed shall continue in that capacity until the next AGM and shall be eligible for election as a non-executive member for a new term at that AGM. The Council may from time to time appoint officers to carry out administrative duties on behalf of the Society.

The existing Honorary Officers

The President, the Chairman, and the Hon. Treasurer have each served for more than nine years. The President and the Chairman are not offering themselves for re-election: as planned the Hon. Treasurer will serve for a further year in order to provide continuity in the management of the Society's affairs. The Hon. Editorial Secretary was first appointed in 2019, and the Hon. Secretary in 2024.

Members may like to note that a copy of the Rules is sent to each member on joining. Further copies may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary at secretary@furniturehistorysociety.org. In addition, copies will be available at the meeting. There is a link to the Rules at the foot of the 'About Us' page of the Society's website.

Council is very grateful to members Philip Peacock and Jenny Saunt for their assistance with the revision of this Rule.



PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

Both meetings will be held corporeally. The persistent technical issues which have arisen in previous years in connection with the transmission of the meeting means that the meeting and the talks will not be available as a live broadcast, but it is hoped that a recording of the proceedings can be made available. Please make enquiry to the Events Secretary at events@furnituresociety.org.

Admission to both the meetings is free and open to all members, but those wishing to attend are asked to notify the Events Secretary at least seven days in advance so that the necessary arrangements can be made. Coffee will be served from 10.30 am and the meeting will start at 11.00 am prompt.

At the conclusion of the formal business, presentations will be made to the Society's outgoing President, Simon Swynfen Jarvis, and Beatrice Goddard, the former Events Secretary.

As is customary, this will be followed by a series of short talks. Speakers will include:

- Jo Sovin, Collections Manager for the Frederick Parker Collection & Archive, and Peter Fisher, Outreach Manager for Special Collections at London Metropolitan University (where the Collection and Archive have been housed since 2002) will give an illustrated talk exploring the history and uses of the Archive.
- Yannick Chastang, independent restorer, will talk about a project with Stephanie Auffret of The Getty Conservation Institute, the aim of which is to interview private restorers to (re)create a bridge between the dying traditional craft of restoration and the more formal conservation carried out by conservators / curators.
- Victoria Bradley, Curatorial Operations Coordinator at the Victoria & Albert Museum, will give a presentation on the new storage site at Stratford, East London, exploring the new approach to museum storage and discussing the selection and preparation for display of objects from the furniture collection which are prominent on the public visitor route.
- Alexander Collins, Curator of Decorative Arts at the Wallace Collection, will explore several exciting projects in development at the Collection, from Boulle and Japanese lacquer to Renaissance works-of-art.

At the conclusion of the presentations, a sandwich lunch will be available. Tickets, to include a glass of wine, cost £24 per head, and should be booked at least seven days in advance through the Events Secretary, at events@furniturehistorysociety.org.

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

MINUTES of the Sixtieth Annual General Meeting held on 23 November 2024

Notice

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Megan Aldrich and a number of other members.

Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 59th Annual General Meeting held on 25 November 2023 were taken as read and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2024

The Chairman began by thanking members for their support; and the Society's trustees, officers, paid staff and volunteers for their work for the Society during the year. He also thanked Megan Wheeler, the outgoing Hon. Secretary, for her hard work and dedication, noting that she would continue to serve the Society as Website Officer. He introduced Thomas Williams, who was standing for election as her successor.

He then commended the proposed new members of Council: Adriana Turpin's election reflected the importance of British and Irish Furniture Makers Online ('BIFMO') of which she was the Deputy Chair as well as her indefatigable work as chair of the Grants committee; and Dr Rebecca Tilles who would bring a wealth of international experience to Council.

The Society's membership had increased in the year, and to ensure the continuation of this trend, he encouraged those present to actively recruit new members. He drew attention to the deaths of Dr Brian Austen, who had served the Society faithfully for over three decades, and Belinda (Mindy) Papp who had been an energetic member in New York.

The Chairman apologised for the late mailing of *Furniture History*, which had been given a purple cover in recognition of the imperial taste of the late Philip Hewat-Jaboor—to whom it was dedicated. The 2025 volume would focus on the furniture and interiors of the National Trust which, he hoped, would encourage similar partnerships with other organisations.

He thanked both Lady Goodison and James Joll for their generous donations towards the costs of producing both the Journal and its decennial Index which would cover the volumes published between 2010 and 2019.

The Chairman went on to acknowledge the work of the Co-editors of the Newsletter, Kate Hay and Iain Stephens, who had produced four wonderful editions. He welcomed Kate Hay's successor, Harry Bonar-Law. Iain Stephens was also managing the introduction of paid-for

advertising in the Newsletter, which would help offset the costs of its production.

Turning to BIFMO, he noted that the editors, volunteers and interns had continued to expand the database and had also produced a varied and profitable programme of events and outreach activities in the year. He thanked all of them for their hard work and dedication to BIFMO. He added that Adriana Turpin and Jill Bace had organised a very successful Early Career Development (ECD) Symposium at The Metropolitan Museum of New York—a collaboration he hoped would continue.

He then thanked all those involved in organising and administering the full and varied programme of events and visits, and welcomed Cristina Alfonsin to the post of Overseas Events Manager.

Lastly, the Chairman thanked the officers who had helped to arrange the meeting as well as Sara Heaton, Kate Dyson and Anne-Marie Bannister for their practical support; the staff of the East India Club; and Pawel Olszewski, from the Society of Antiquaries of London, for help with the audio-visual equipment.

There being no questions, the Chairman commended the adoption of the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2024 to the meeting. Agreed *nemine contradicente*.

Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

The Hon. Treasurer presented the Financial Statements of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2024. He began by drawing members' attention to the flier that had been distributed to the meeting correcting the text relating to BIFMO. He added that the officers had hoped to mail all three publications (Annual Report, Newsletter and *Furniture History*) together, but production problems beyond their control had stymied this plan. He was grateful to the Society's printers, Lavenham Press, for maintaining the high production standards of the Society's publications.

He went on to say that whilst Britain's political outlook had become clearer in 2024, the economic one had not: the impact of higher taxation was not yet clear. Nonetheless, he was hopeful that the quality of the Society's events programme and its publications would not only help to retain members, but also encourage non-members to join.

Directing attention to the Statement of Financial Activities, the Hon. Treasurer explained that whilst total income had risen by £16,341 to £205,420, expenditure on charitable activities had also risen by over £25,000 to £220,705. This was the result of several factors, principally the lower than planned surplus on events (although the income generated by the events and visits programme had risen and was well on its way to returning to pre-pandemic levels), and the higher-than-anticipated cost of the Journal. The result was a net deficit of £15,285 (against a net deficit in 2023 of £6,392), although this had been offset by an increase in the value of the Society's investments of £28,278. He reported that the Society's net wealth had risen by £12,993 to £866,525—a good result in the circumstances.

The Hon. Treasurer also expressed his appreciation of the generosity on Lady Goodison and James Joll for their generosity in helping the Society to establish a dedicated fund to support the production of the Journal. He then turned to membership, saying that it had risen by an encouraging 19 to 1,069.

In conclusion, he said that the Annual Report paid tribute to the support given to the Chairman and the honorary officers by the paid staff and volunteers who managed the day-to-day operations of the Society. In particular, he singled out the members of the Operations Group which met every six weeks or so and were fundamental to the smooth operation of the Society. He thanked them for their unstinting hard work, good humour and loyalty.

He commended the Financial Statements for adoption by the meeting. There were no questions and they were adopted *nem. con.*

Keith Nicholls, Finance Officer

Mr Williams expressed his gratitude for the dedication and hard-work of Keith Nicholls who had been the Society's Finance Officer for more than ten years. He would miss his common-sense approach, as well as his good nature and his idiosyncratic sense of humour. He was pleased to welcome Anna Clarke, Mr Nicholl's successor as Finance Officer, who worked in a similar role at one of Oxford University's permanent private halls.

Elections

- a) The following officers were proposed for re-appointment::

PRESIDENT Simon Swynfen Jervis
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL Christopher Neville Rowell
HONORARY TREASURER Martin Blue Macintosh Williams
HONORARY EDITORIAL SECRETARY Dr Megan Brewster Aldrich

- b) The following member was proposed for appointment as HONORARY SECRETARY, Thomas Williams.
- c) The following ordinary members of Council were proposed for re-election: Dr Jenny Saunt, Philip John Peacock, David Oakey and Charlie Thomas.
- d) Members noted that during 2023, an ordinary member of Council (Jurgen Huber) had resigned and that, in accordance with the Rules, Council had appointed Adriana Turpin in his place until the next AGM. Noted also that Council now proposed Adriana Turpin for election as an ordinary member of Council.
- e) The following member was proposed for election as an ordinary member of Council: Dr Rebecca Tilles.

All five motions were put to the meeting and each was agreed *nem. con.* The President recorded his thanks to Dr McCaffrey-Howarth for her service.

Subscription Rates

The Hon. Treasurer addressed the question of subscription rates. He said that they had last been increased in 2021. In 2015, Council had adopted the general precept that they should be reviewed every three to four years more or less in line with inflation. He reminded members that any change agreed at the current meeting would not come into effect until 1 July 2025.

At the existing rates, the Society's annual income from subscriptions, sales of publications and any surplus on the events & visits programme exceeded the costs of servicing the membership, the events & visits programme, and publishing costs by about £10,000, leaving little margin for inflationary cost increases. He noted that the Retail Prices Index had increased by 13.8% since July 2022 and the Consumer Prices Index rate by 10.4%. Assuming an inflation rate of 2.5% for the next 12 months, these figures would increase to approx. 14.2% and 10.6%. In addition, overseas postage costs had increased at a significantly higher rate during the past three years.

With the above in mind, Council was proposing an increase of just over 10% in the standard subscription rate for individual and joint UK Members, with increases ranging from 6-11% for the other classes of membership. The proposed rates for young members (i.e., under 35) had been shaded slightly and those for International Institutional members adjusted so that they were more in line with that for Overseas Joint members. The proposed new rates were:

Membership category	
UK Individual (or Sole) members	£72
UK Young individual members (aged under 35)	£40
UK Joint members (i.e., two people receiving one mailing at the same address)	£82
UK Institutional or Corporate members	£96
International individual members	£93
International Young individual members (aged under 35)	£50
International Joint members	£105
International Institutional or Corporate members	£113

There were no questions from the floor and the new rates were approved *nemine contradicente*.

Re-appointment of independent examiner

The President thanked Christopher Pexton of Messrs Begbies, Chartered Accountants and proposed that he be re-appointed for a further year. Agreed *nem. con.*

Votes of Thanks

The Chairman thanked Megan Wheeler for her sterling service as Hon. Secretary since 2016 and presented her with a bouquet of flowers and a book token.

Keith Nicholls, who had stepped down in June 2024, was thanked for his dedicated service as Finance & Membership Officer. The Hon. Treasurer reported that there had been a liberal and generous response to the appeal that had been made to members and Mr Nicholls was presented with a cheque. Thanking the members for their generosity, Mr Nicholls indicated that the Society's gift would be donated to the Hampton Wick Royal Cricket Club, of which he had been the chairman for a number of years and whose pavilion had recently been destroyed in an arson attack. He added that he had made many friends whilst working with the Society and wished it well for the future.

Any other business

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

MINUTES of a Special General Meeting held on 23 November 2024

Notice

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Governance and procedure

Members noted that the Society's Rules required that a resolution put to a special general meeting be passed by two-thirds majority of those members present and voting. In addition, it was agreed that the meeting be treated as being held contemporaneously with the foregoing annual general meeting.

Explanatory Note

Members noted that an explanatory note setting out the reasons for the proposed rewording of Rule 7 of the Society's constitution had been sent out with the Notice of the meeting.

During 2023, an ordinary member of Council resigned and, in accordance with the Rules, in 2024 a member of the Society (Adriana Turpin) was appointed to Council in their place. When Council had considered the matter, it became clear that the existing rule whereby one-third of the ordinary members of Council retired each year and were not eligible for re-election, meant that in certain circumstances, the length of service of a member appointed to fill a casual vacancy on Council could be significantly curtailed.

Accordingly, Council recommended that the Rule was reworded so that the length of service of ordinary members on Council would be determined by reference to an individual's years of service rather than a fraction of the number of ordinary members on Council. The effect would be the same: membership of Council would be regularly refreshed, and the operation of the rule whereby a casual vacancy had been filled by Council would be clarified.

In addition, in recent years, it had become clear that because of the rise in the amount and the complexity of the Society's activities, it might become necessary to increase the number of ordinary members of Council and the proposed rewording enabled such an increase to be made by Council as well as the members in general meeting.

Finally, in line with modern practice, the re-worded rule had been framed in gender-neutral language.

Special Resolution

The President put the Special Resolution to amend the Society's Rules by deleting the existing Rule 7 and substituting the following.

'The affairs of the Society shall be administered by a Council consisting of a President, a Chairman and three Honorary Officers – namely, Secretary, Treasurer and Editorial Secretary – and six ordinary members of the Society (or such higher number of ordinary members of the Council as the Society or the Council may decide).

‘All members of the Council shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), but the ordinary members shall serve for a term not exceeding three years ending at the third AGM following the AGM at which they were first elected, and shall not be eligible for re-election in that year.

‘At the AGM in each year the Society shall elect two ordinary members of the Society (or such other number as the Society or the Council may decide) as ordinary members of the Council to replace those ordinary members retiring in that year or to fill a casual vacancy.

‘A vacancy in the ordinary members of the Council occurring between AGMs may be filled by the Council appointing another member of the Society as an ordinary member, and any member so appointed shall continue in that capacity until the next AGM after their appointment, but shall be eligible for election by the Society for a new term at that AGM.

‘The Council may from time to time appoint officers to carry out administrative duties on behalf of the Society.’

The proposal was carried *nem. con.*

Any other business

There being no other business, the President closed the meeting.

Talks

Following the formal business of the AGM, the following short talks were given:

Amreet Kular (Object Conservator, Victoria and Albert Museum) outlined her conservation of a spinning wheel or ‘charkha’ in the Museum’s collection.

Dr Jenny Saunt (Senior Furniture Curator, Victoria and Albert Museum) and Dr Megan Wheeler (Assistant National Curator, Furniture, National Trust) recounted the story of the return of bookcases, designed by Robert Adam and made by Vile & Cobb, from the Museum to Croome Court; and their replacement in the British Galleries by the Medal Cabinet made for Charlemont House, Dublin to a design by Sir William Chambers.

Dr Anna Stutchbury (Independent Researcher/Consultant) and Dr Alice Strickland (Cultural Heritage Curator, National Trust) spoke about Standen, an important Arts & Crafts house designed in the 1890s for the Beale family by Philip Webb, and the re-ordering of the interiors in the 1970s by Arthur and Helen Grogan—the first tenants of the National Trust.

Adriana Turpin, Clarissa Ward and Bridget Garza Griffin described progress of the Society’s BIFMO arm during the year, with an emphasis on two projects: the transcription of the catalogues of The Arts & Crafts Exhibition Society, 1888-1916 together with the compilation of a comprehensive index; and the identification of British and Irish immigrant furniture makers in Early America, c. 1700-1820.



THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCIL 2024-25

The Council (the charity trustees) of The Furniture History Society has pleasure in presenting its 60th Annual Report together with Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Principal address c/o Department of Performance, Furniture, Textiles & Fashion,
Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7 2RL

Website (Society) <https://furniturehistorysociety.org>
(BIFMO) <https://bifmo.history.ac.uk/>

President and Honorary Officers

President Simon Swynfen Jervis FSA

Chairman Christopher Neville Rowell FSA
chairman@furniturehistorysociety.org

Hon. Secretary: Dr Megan Wheeler FSA (until 23 November 2024)
Thomas Williams (from 23 November 2024)
secretary@furniturehistorysociety.org

Hon. Treasurer: Martin Blue Macintosh Williams FSA
treasurer@furniturehistorysociety.org

Hon. Editorial Secretary: Dr Megan Brewster Aldrich FSA
meganbrewsteraldrich@gmail.com

Other officers and committee chairpersons

BIFMO Management Committee: Adriana Turpin FSA (Project Manager)
bifmoprojectmanager@furniturehistorysociety.org

Dr Laurie Lindey (Managerial Editor)
bifmoeditor@furniturehistorysociety.org

Clarissa Ward (19th century Editor)
bifmoeditor@furniturehistorysociety.org

Ann Davies (Outreach Programme Co-ordinator)
bifmo@furniturehistorysociety.org

Co-Chairs, Events Committee: Kate Hay
katehay86@gmail.com

Dr Amy Lim
info@amylimart.com

Secretary, Events Committee: Beatrice Goddard (until 30 September 2025)
events@furniturehistorysociety.org

Chair, Grants Committee: Adriana Turpin FSA
grantschair@furniturehistorysociety.org

Grants Secretary: Jill Bace
grants@furniturehistorysociety.org

Chair, Digital Strategy Group: Kate Hay
katehay86@gmail.com

Finance & Membership Officer: Dr Anna Clarke
finance@furniturehistorysociety.org
membership@furniturehistorysociety.org

Editors, Newsletter: Iain Stephens and Harry Bonar-Law
newsletter@furniturehistorysociety.org

Publications Officer: Jill Bace
publications@furniturehistorysociety.org

Publications Officer: Jill Bace
publications@furniturehistorysociety.org

Website officer: Dr Megan Wheeler FSA

Professional Advisers

Independent Examiner: Christopher Pexton FCA
c/o Begbies, London EC2A 4DJ

Accountants: Begbies, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
www.begbiesaccountants.co.uk

Bankers: CAF Bank Limited, ME19 4JQ
Barclays Bank Plc, Leicester LE87 2BB
HSBC Bank Plc, East Grinstead RH16 4LU

Constitution

The Furniture History Society is an unincorporated membership body constituted by rules, and a registered charity numbered 251683. It was founded in 1964 to advance the study of furniture of all periods, places and kinds and to further public knowledge and appreciation of it.

Charitable Purposes and Public Benefit

The charitable purpose of the Society is the advancement of the arts, culture and heritage, and education in relation thereto. It does this by promoting the study of furniture and interior design of all periods, places and kinds and by furthering public knowledge and appreciation. The Society also assists with the preservation of furniture and associated records.

To these ends, it:

- Publishes original research in its annual journal *Furniture History* — much of which would otherwise remain unpublished.
- Finances its seminal reference work, the *Dictionary of British Furniture Makers* (now *British and Irish Furniture Makers Online* or *BIFMO*), with a view to covering the whole of the British Isles and making the work available to all without charge to all in the form of an online searchable database.

- Makes grants towards the preparation and publication of books and articles of a non-commercial nature.
- Helps fund the collection of oral history on the furniture trades.
- Arranges an annual international symposium, open to the public, on a topic of current interest and often related to an exhibition at a national institution.
- Encourages study by young people by providing reduced subscription rates for membership and making funds available for overseas study tours as well as study visits and weekends in the United Kingdom.
- Lobbies to save important collections of furniture and archives relating to furniture, which are under threat.
- Disseminates information and advice to the general public on matters relating to the history of furniture and interior design.
- Maintains a comprehensive website.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Society is managed by the Council, i.e., the trustee body of the charity. The trustees who served during the year 2023-24 were:

Simon Swynfen Jervis (President)	<i>first appointed 2020</i>
Christopher Rowell (Chairman)	<i>ditto 2013</i>
Thomas Williams (Hon. Secretary)	<i>ditto 23 November 2024</i>
Dr Megan Wheeler (Hon. Secretary)	<i>retired 23 November 2024</i>
Martin Williams (Hon. Treasurer)	<i>ditto 2013</i>
Dr Megan Aldrich (Hon. Editorial Secretary)	<i>ditto 2018</i>
*Dr Caroline McCaffrey-Howarth	<i>retired 23 November 2024</i>
*Dr Jenny Saunt	<i>first appointed 2022</i>
*Philip Peacock	<i>ditto 2022</i>
*David Oakey	<i>ditto 2023</i>
*Charles Thomas	<i>ditto 2023</i>
*Adriana Turpin	<i>appointed to fill a casual vacancy</i>
	<i>7 May 2024 and elected 23 November 2024</i>
*Dr Rebecca Tilles	<i>elected 23 November 2024</i>

* indicates an ordinary member of Council

Council is made up of: the President; the Chairman, three Honorary Officers and six ordinary (or non-executive) members all of whom are appointed annually by the members of the Society at the Annual General Meeting.

The President

Simon Jervis's predecessor as President, Sir Nicholas Goodison, described him as the 'perfect furniture historian'. Simon took issue with the word 'perfect', but there is no doubt of his considerable scholarship and publishing output. In his professional and voluntary life, he has also achieved a rare breadth of expertise and exhibited many other qualities which have been to the Society's benefit. He was elected President of the Society in 2020 succeeding Sir Nicholas, another polymath whose wise counsel was paramount. Whenever there was an issue affecting the Society, Simon's advice has always been sought and has always made a difference.

He said he would serve as President for three years, but hardly surprisingly it has been five. Simon was delighted – as are the rest of us – by the receipt only weeks ago of the largest donation in the Society's history. This was Brian Austen's bequest in excess of £400,000, which at the donor's behest is to be applied to 'the publication of research'. Simon will be involved as a continuing member of the Journal's Editorial Advisory Group in ensuring that Brian's legacy is fulfilled in accordance with his wishes.

The Chairman

Christopher Rowell has served as Chairman of the Society since 2013. He has brought to the post a wealth of knowledge and deep experience of furniture both British and continental, and he has skilfully handled the wide range of issues that have arisen during his term of office whilst representing the Society at the highest levels.

It is appropriate that his retirement from Council will be marked by a unique collaboration with the National Trust on the forthcoming volume (LXI) of *Furniture History* which is devoted to furniture in the collections of the National Trust where Rowell was National Specialist in the history, collecting, display and acquisition of furniture, as well as the advisor on the display of historic interiors.

Council proposes his appointment as President in the place of Simon Swynfen Jervis.

Sir Jonathan Marsden KCVO

The Society is exceptionally fortunate that the distinguished art historian and former Surveyor of The Queen's Works of Art, Sir Jonathan Marsden, has accepted an invitation to chair Council.

Marsden held several curatorial rôles with the National Trust before joining the Royal Collection in 1996 as Deputy Surveyor of The Queen's Works of Art—succeeding Sir Hugh Roberts as Surveyor and Director of the Royal Collection in 2010. As Director, Marsden also chaired the Royal Collection Management Committee. He retired from the Household in December 2017.

He is, or has been, a trustee of a number of bodies connected with the heritage and the fine and decorative arts including the Art Fund, the City & Guilds of London Art School, the Georgian Group, Historic Royal Palaces, the Royal Yacht Britannia Trust and the Household Cavalry Museum Trust. He is a trustee of English Heritage and a commissioner of Historic England.

Closer to home, Marsden served as the Society's honorary editorial secretary from 2005 to 2011, editing six volumes of *Furniture History*.

He has published and lectured widely on sculpture and the decorative arts and is the author of the forthcoming authoritative catalogue of European Sculpture in the Royal Collection.

Council proposes his election as Chairman.

Ordinary members of Council

The ordinary (or non-executive) members of Council may serve for a maximum of three years but are subject to re-election each year. Echoing the spirit of the proposed amendment of the constitution relating to terms of office, the foregoing list of members of Council has been enhanced by the addition of the dates of first appointment of members to their current posts.

In accordance with the Rules, Dr Jenny Saunt and Philip Peacock, having completed their three-year terms of office as ordinary (or non-executive) members of the Council, retire and do not offer themselves for re-election. Council is very grateful to them for the work they have devoted to the affairs of the Society during their respective terms of office.

Council proposes Iain Stephens and Dr Amy Lim for election as ordinary members.

Iain Stephens

Iain developed a passion for collecting Cape Dutch furniture, whilst reading Biochemistry and Horticulture in Natal before gaining a doctorate from Universiteit Stellenbosch. He subsequently read Theology at Stellenbosch Seminary before moving to Taiwan to take up a professorship where for eight years, he developed an ongoing passion in the study and collection of Chinese Ethnic Minority Festival Costume alongside a furniture focus on Chinese yoke back armchairs.

Several years later, he had a career change to explore and better understand the ‘lumps-and-bumps’ encountered in traditionally upholstered furniture, when he was apprenticed for three years under French upholsterers in the United Kingdom. This led to the Royal Household where he became Senior Conservator – Restorer of Upholstery before expanding this into his current rôle leading the Royal Household’s team of gilders, cabinetmakers, upholsterers and soft furnishers.

Dr Amy Lim

Dr Lim is a distinguished art historian, curator and lecturer, with broad research interests spanning the fine and decorative arts in Britain from the 17th to 20th centuries. She combines her roles as Curator of the Faringdon Collection at Buscot Park, Oxfordshire, and Departmental Tutor at the University of Oxford Lifelong Learning with freelance lecturing, curating and research. Dr Lim joined the Society’s Events Committee in 2022, and has served as its co-chair since January 2025.

Attendance

Council ordinarily meets four times each year, both in person and online, and is responsible for the management of the Society. During the year, attendance at Council meetings was as follows:

President	4 out of a possible 4
Chairman	4 ditto
Hon. Secretary	3 out of a possible 3
Hon. Treasurer	4 out of a possible 4
Hon. Editorial Secretary	4 ditto
Dr Jenny Saunt	4 ditto
Philip Peacock	4 ditto
David Oakey	2 out of a possible 4
Charles Thomas	3 ditto
Adriana Turpin	4 ditto
Dr Rebecca Tilles	2 out of a possible 3

Committees and other groups

Currently there are five groups which report to Council: three committees – Events, Grants and BIFMO Management; and two groups, the Digital Strategy Group and the Editorial Group (reports via the Hon. Editor). The members of all these assemblies are appointed by Council. The Honorary Officers are ex-officio members of all committees. Any actions, including the decisions of any committee, must be reported to and confirmed by Council as soon as is practicable and this is done by circulating the minutes of their meetings to Council.

As trustees, Council members take decisions in the best interests of the Society as a whole, and they operate in accordance with a code of conduct which makes explicit reference to the need for objectivity.

Governance activity during the year included consideration of the terms of office of the senior members of Council, i.e., President, Chairman and honorary officers, and the decision to further review Rule 7 (see Explanatory Note on pp. 4ff).

Officers

The Society's day-to-day business is managed by the Honorary Officers together with a small group of staff namely Anna Clarke (Finance & Membership Officer); Jill Bace (Publications Officer and Grants Secretary); The Events Secretary; Dr Megan Wheeler (Website Officer), and Ann Davies (BIFMO Outreach Programmes Co-ordinator).

These individuals, together with the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Secretary and BIFMO's Project Manager (Adriana Turpin), make up an informal Operations Group (chaired by the Hon. Treasurer) which meets every 4-6 weeks.

Council is deeply appreciative of the commitment and hard work of all these individuals as well as that of the honorary officers and all who serve on the Society's committees.

Tributes and Appreciations

Dame Rosalind Savill DBE FSA, 1951-2024

Many members will have seen the deservedly fulsome obituaries of Ros Savill, that have appeared in many national newspapers and publications such as *The Burlington Magazine*. Those who knew her—and there were many—will mourn the loss of her learning, her encyclopædic knowledge of Sèvres porcelain and above all, her love of life. It was entirely appropriate that one of her Christian names was 'Joy'. She shared her passion for the fine arts with everyone she encountered whether duke or amateur collector. Her laughter was infectious: her friendship something to relish. We miss her presence in our lives and extend our deepest condolences to her family.

Among other deaths notified to the Society were Michael Whiteway (1948-2024), an authority on nineteenth-century design and one of London's most influential dealers in the decorative arts; and Georg Himmelheber (1929-2024), the most prominent German furniture historian of the past half-century.

We are pleased to record the appointment of member Sara Heaton as a Member of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO)—for her service as Course Administrator, Royal Collection Studies.

Publications

The Journal

During the year, the overdue decennial index of Furniture History from 2010 to 2019 was compiled and delivered by Christine Shuttleworth, who reported that it was a ‘fascinating project’. The electronic files are now stored by the Hon. Editorial Secretary and will likely be available on JSTOR from early in 2026. The Society must now consider under what circumstances it wishes to proceed with printing the Index in paper form—possibly on a subscription basis for those who want it in hard copy.

The Journal for 2024 (Volume LX) was an attractive one with a variety of topics pertaining to the interests of the late Philip Hewat-Jaboor, to whose memory it was dedicated. It is noteworthy that articles on *pietre dure* and hardstones in general, one of his great interests, now regularly appear within the pages of *Furniture History*.

Volume LXI of the Journal (2025) represents a departure for the Society in that it is dedicated to furniture in National Trust collections; the Trust has not only very generously supplied all the photography at no cost, but it has also commissioned new photography for this volume. There will be 22 articles on a range of furniture and furnishings at varied and diverse Trust properties.

The volume has a single author (not wholly without precedent in the Journal’s history)—the Society’s retiring Chairman, Christopher Rowell. The articles were researched during his 20-year long career with the Trust as its Curator of Furniture, making it a fitting tribute to his Chairmanship of the Society. The Hon. Editorial Secretary is extremely grateful to the Editorial Advisory Group for its hard work and dedication in reading a large number of draft articles that were shaped and selected for inclusion in this volume. In addition, special thanks are due to Megan Wheeler as the liaison between the Society and the Trust for this volume. Her hard work has helped to shape this volume of *Furniture History*, and we are very grateful to her.

Finally, two finished articles have already been received for the 2026 volume (LXII) of the Journal! About ten further proposals have been received for consideration by the Editorial Advisory Group in the autumn of 2025, when work will begin in earnest on *Furniture History* 2026. The Hon. Editorial Secretary is pleased to report that the Journal appears to be in robust health at present.

Newsletter

The editing of the Newsletter was shared by Iain Stephens (February and August issues), and Harry Bonar-Law (May and November issues). The editors would like to thank all the contributors, including the Society’s officers, report-writers, the authors of the lead articles and the shorter ‘New Discoveries and Research’ articles.

During the year, lead articles were written by Clive Edwards on *What’s in a Name? ‘The Cabinet Makers Society’* (No. 235); Dr Jenny Saunt entitled *Cabinet Reshuffle* (236), and Christopher Payne on *François Linke at Buckingham Palace* (238). Other contributions include regular updates on BIFMO and its work.

The editors also thank Dr Wolf Burchard for continuing to commission and edit a wide variety of book reviews, and thanks are also due to the many contributing book reviewers. Anyone

considering writing about a discovery, fresh research, news, or a forthcoming exhibition or conference relevant to furniture history, is encouraged to get in touch with the editors whose contact details are set out on the back page of each Newsletter. The editors will supply guidelines on house style, including recommended word-counts, on request.

Publications for sale

During the 2024-25 year, sales have remained low, with the few requests for purchase once again confined to recent volumes of *Furniture History*. No new publications have been added to the stock since 2017, and this reflects the lack of interest in the books currently available. The physical stock is now located at the Society's printers, Lavenham Press, with a dedicated person to manage the despatch of orders. Notice of the availability of the Society's publications for purchase has been posted on the Instagram platform.

Back issues of *Furniture History* remain priced at £30 (UK), £35 (Continental Europe) and £48 for the rest of the world, including postage and packing charges. Anyone interested in purchasing books or Journals should consult the website for the complete list of publications on offer along with an up-to-date price list.

British and Irish Furniture Makers Online ("BIFMO")

BIFMO is managed through a dedicated management committee which is chaired by Christopher Rowell as Chairman of the Society. Members are the four honorary officers *ex officio* as well as the Project Manager and Deputy Chairman of the committee, Adriana Turpin, and Stephen Jackson. Anna Clarke (Finance Officer), Dr Laurie Lindey (Managerial Editor) and Clarissa Ward (19th Century Editor) attend meetings of the committee.

BIFMO's outreach programme is advised by an informal group consisting of Christopher Claxton-Stephens, Leela Hardy, Tessa Wild and Matthew Winterbottom, led by Adriana Turpin. We are very grateful to these individuals for their contributions to the various research projects as well as to Ann Davies, who continues to ably administer the BIFMO courses and the Digital Research Programme.

Outreach

During the year, the Society ran two online courses with the intention of promoting BIFMO and raising money to support it. The November 2024 course, 'British Furniture Abroad in the Eighteenth Century: its impact and influence' comprised three presentations each lasting 150 minutes and delivered once a week. The total number of attendees was 113, of whom 100 were members. The course raised £5,915 gross.

The June 2025 course dealt with 'The Evolution of the British Villa: 1600-1900' and was configured differently with three presentations totalling two hours delivered each week over four weeks. The total number attending was 110 and the gross ticket sales totalled £6,267 gross.

BIFMO-FHS Digital Research Programme.

This programme was created for students based in the UK to enable them to work collaboratively with a student in the US on a research project devised by a country house curator with a

digital outcome enabling it to be used on the website of the house or estate involved. The US-based Iris Foundation generously supports the project with a grant spread over the three years 2024-2026.

In March 2025, a well-attended online workshop was held to showcase the outcomes of the two summer 2024 projects: the first on early 18th century chairs in the Castle Howard collection, and the recreation of the dining room at Cleveland House, forming part of the history of Raby Castle.

Applicants for the 2025 programme were selected in April. There were 17 excellent applicants for six places. Thanks to the generous support of the houses involved, it was decided to involve nine students in four projects based at Chatsworth, the Buccleuch Estates and Raby Castle. The projects commenced in June 2025 with the outcomes due in the autumn.

Research and data

Laurie Lindey (Managing Editor) and Clarissa Ward (Editor, 1840-1914) created 672 new biographical accounts and developed 1,025 existing accounts with published and/or primary information. The BIFMO database now contains 86,293 records. Members may enjoy reading some, such as Charles Wilkinson of Wilkinson & Sons (1808-1890) in Old Bond Street, London; and two English furniture makers who immigrated to Early America: Gabriel Leaver (1780-1795), a cabinet maker and upholsterer from London, who settled in Savannah, Georgia and Daniel Silcox (1835-1873), a Somerset cabinet maker, who established his business in Charleston, South Carolina.

The BIFMO editors also completed two sponsored projects: The Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society (Albert Dawson Education Trust); and the Graham Gadd Archive of trade cards and letterheads (Canaday Family Charitable Trust and Abrams Foundation). Our third funded project, Migration and Craftmanship is ongoing; generous backing from The Dean F. Failey, Decorative Arts Trust grant ended in January, but the project is currently supported by funds from The Canaday Trust and the Abrams Foundation.

The database attracted over 79,500 readers in the period 30 June 2024-30 June 2025. 70 per cent were from English speaking countries, particularly the United Kingdom, United States, Ireland and Australia, the remainder from countries across continental Europe, and further afield, Egypt, Vietnam, and India, amongst others.

BIFMO's editorial work and hosting is supported through generous support from the Society's 50th Anniversary Fund, the charitable trusts mentioned elsewhere in this report as well as private donors and outreach initiatives.

Grants

In addition to the four honorary officers *ex officio*, during 2024-25, the members of the Grants committee were Adriana Turpin (Chair), Rufus Bird, Olivia Fryman, Peter Holmes, Helen Jacobsen and Lucy Wood. The Finance Officer and the Grants Officer, Jill Bace, also attend

its meetings. The committee received with regret the resignation of Peter Holmes, and Hon. Secretary's decision to stand down from active engagement because of the pressure of work.

The following grants were authorised during the period from the Ingram Fund.

Name:	Amount:	Purpose:
Rumeysa Memis	£563.00	Research travel to Scotland
Dominic Bannister	700.00	Participation in Society's Study Trip to Dresden
Barro Willen De Gast	1,500.00	Book photography
Alienor Cros	65.00	Participation in Society's visit to Buckingham Palace
Caroline Newton	790.00	ditto Leeds Study weekend
Penny Sparke	1,500.00	Homes from Home project
Lola Cindric	500.00	Workshop at University of Derby
Ann Davies	484.70	Research travel to Wales
Annie Coggan	£787.70	Travel costs related to research in London

Early Career Development ('ECD')

The Society's ECD programme is organised under the auspices of the Grants committee and since Autumn 2023, has been managed by five co-ordinator members: Penelope Hines, Isabelle Vaudrey, Alienor Cros, Simon Spier and Adele Bourbonne. This year the group welcomed Rainer Schraepen and Ana Moas and bid farewell with many thanks to Alienor Cros and Simon Spier. In the US, the ECD group is ably managed by Catherine Doucette and Maeve Diepenbrock.

Well-attended events included a tour of the André-Charles Boulle exhibition at the Wallace Collection; a view of the Abel Sloane collection; a visit to the Treasure House Fair; and an evening at Bonhams followed by a social gathering. In the US, a trip to the Walters Art Gallery and the Hillwood Estate in Baltimore was the highlight of the calendar.

The ECD WhatsApp group continues to be a great success, with members actively participating and facilitating the planning of events. Plans are underway for the Society to host the eighth ECD Research Symposium in London, which is scheduled for January 2026.

Events

As well as the four Hon. Officers *ex officio*, membership of the Events committee includes: Elizabeth Baxter, Anne-Marie Bannister, Conor Deasy, Dr Melanie Doderer-Winkler, Sara Heaton, William Lorimer, Kerry Monaghan Smith, Dr Tessa Murdoch, Michael Shrive and Maude Willaerts. The committee is chaired by Kate Hay and Dr Amy Lim and ably shepherded by the Overseas Events Manager (Cristina Alfonsin) and the Events Secretary.

Annual Lecture

Dr Susan Weber gave the Annual Lecture on 'Philip Speakman Webb, Architect and Designer of the Arts and Crafts Movement' on 26 March 2025 at the Society of Antiquaries. In addition to being a good friend of the Society, Dr Weber is founder and Director of the Bard Graduate Center in New York where she is the Iris Horowitz Professor in the History of Decorative Arts.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on 23 November 2024 at the East India Club. The proceedings, and the talks delivered afterwards, are summarised elsewhere in this Report.

Annual Symposium

The 49th Annual Symposium 'The Art of the Dolls' House' was held on 22 March 2025 at the Victoria & Albert Museum. It was organised by Dr Tessa Murdoch and co-chaired by Christopher Rowell and Dr Megan Wheeler. There was an excellent attendance (100+) and the event was also live-streamed. There was an associated visit to the Huguenot Museum, Rochester to view Sarah Lethieullier's 1730s dolls' house, on loan from Uppark.

Tours and Visits

During the year, the Events committee organised a series of events which were generally well supported by members. There were two weekend UK study trips: Merseyside led by Lucy Wood and Dr Stephen Lloyd; and to Leeds led by Adam Toole, Curator at Temple Newsam. There were two Overseas Study trips: to Dresden led by Dr Melanie Doderer-Winkler; and to Northern Ireland led by Willie Lorimer and Sara Heaton—both ably organised by the new Overseas Events Manager, Cristina Alfonsín.

In the six months commencing 1 July 2024, there were day visits to Spencer House, SW1; Grimsthorpe Castle, Lincolnshire; and Christopher Howe's Gallery & Showroom. This year to date, there have been viewings of the Chambers Medal Cabinet recently installed at the Victoria & Albert Museum; John Hardy's personal collection and the exhibition entitled 'Versailles: Science and Splendour' at the Science Museum; as well as visits to two London clubs (Brooks's and the Athenæum); Buckingham Palace; the Foreign Secretary's official residence, Dorneywood; and Nick Wright's collection of twentieth-century furniture. In addition, there was a successful Study Day at Clough Williams-Ellis's baroque Italianate fantasy, Portmeirion. Sadly, our group did not catch sight of 'Prisoner number Six'.

Thanks

As rich a programme as that detailed above is only possible because of the generosity of our hosts, speakers and collaborators to whom we are extremely grateful. Many devoted considerable time and effort in preparing for these events to ensure that the Society continues to fulfil one of its charitable aims—the promotion of the study of the history of furniture.

Events Secretary

Although strictly speaking, it falls outside the period under review, it is with great regret that we record the resignation of the Events Secretary, Beatrice Goddard, from the end of September

2025. Since her appointment in 2018, she has ably guided the Society's events in the UK (and exceptionally for two years, the overseas ones as well) always unflappable and herding members with great good humour and efficiency. The Society's loss is the Attingham Trust's gain.

The co-chairs of the Events committee are leading on finding Beatrice's successor who will be in place before the end of the year.

Digital Steering Group

The Society continues to be active on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and Linktree. A social media presence is essential in a fast-changing communications world. Its presence reaches well beyond the membership, raising the profile of the Society and promoting the study of furniture history. The Instagram account now has over 9000 regular 'followers' but has a much wider reach, with 129,609 views over in the 90 days to July 2025, 25% of which were by non-followers.

Instagram also has a wide geographical reach with 30% of viewers during that period in the UK, 18% in the US and others world-wide. The most popular posts included reports of the Society's activities, a call for new members to join the Society, and recruitment for a new Events Secretary. Our Social Media Manager, Maeve Diepenbrock, notes that short videos are also much viewed.

Posts on Instagram are simultaneously posted on the Society's Facebook page, which has over 1200 followers. The LinkedIn page has over 500 followers and is used for circulating the ECD Group news and other updates aimed at professionals and students.

The Steering Group meets quarterly to monitor the Society's online presence. At the year-end, in addition to the Honorary Officers *ex officio*, membership comprised Kate Hay (Chair), Adriana Turpin, Megan Wheeler (Website Officer) and Ella Jerman-Riddell, external adviser (from April 2025). Maeve Diepenbrock (Social Media Manager), Ann Davies (BIFMO Events Organiser), and the Events Secretary attend meetings.

Website

The number of users of the FHS website rose to 13,400 in the 12 months prior to 30 June 2025 (2024: 11,000). Increasingly, users are being directed to the website from AI platforms and the Society's social media channels. The most popular pages are those dedicated to Events, Membership, 'About Us' and Journals.

The Events page for the Society's 49th Annual Symposium received over 1,083 visitors and videos of the events, posted on the website for members only, continue to be popular. The five videos which are publicly available on our YouTube channel (all generated by the Early Career Development (ECD) Research Symposium) have received a combined total of 767 views.

Of those views, 523 were of Episode V, *A painted wooden Crate Chair designed by Gerrit Rietveld with Maude Willaerts*. Given this success, the Society might want to consider making more of its content public, whilst reserving some content solely for members. Plans for 2025-26 include producing a page dedicated to the ECD group.

If members have any suggestions for the content of the Society's website, please contact Megan Wheeler at website@furniturehistorysociety.org.

Membership

The net movement in the number of members during the year was a positive 28, bringing the total at the year-end (30 June 2025) to 1097 (2024: 1069). The net movement is made up of 127 new members (2024: 116) offset by the resignation of 10 members (2024: 54) and the striking off for non-payment of 89 members (2024: 43). The Membership Officer is working on a solution to improve the collection of payments from Overseas members as the Society is no longer able to bank cheques drawn in foreign currency or on a non-UK bank.

Finance

The late Dr Brian Austen

In 2024, the Society was told that it had been named as a beneficiary in Brian Austen's Will and Council is pleased to report that soon after the year-end, the Society received a sum in excess of £400,000.

Brian served the Society faithfully for more than 35 years as Membership Secretary; author of *A Handbook of Styles in English Antique Furniture* (1974), and an assistant editor of the *Dictionary of English Furniture Makers 1660-1840*, published by the Society in 1986. He was a world expert on and an assiduous collector of Tunbridge Ware as well as an extremely astute stamp collector.

In his Will, he specified that the benefaction is 'for the publication of research' and Council will be discussing the benefaction in order to ensure that his wishes are carried out as faithfully as possible.

Ways & Means—Overview

The budgeted overall position for the financial year ending 30 June 2025 was a deficit of £15,000. It is pleasing to be able to report that the actual outturn position is a surplus of £4,585 (2024: £5,384 deficit) on the Unrestricted Fund, and overall a small net deficit of £3,173 (2024: £15,285 deficit) before adjusting for the movements in the value of the investments. The contributing factors are made up from variances in both income and expenditure.

The late Sir Nicholas and Lady (Judith) Goodison have been exceptionally generous to the Society since its inception in many ways, most recently by enabling the creation of a restricted fund to assist with the costs of publishing the Journal in future years. During the year Council named this fund the Goodison Journal fund.

Income & Expenditure

Total Income of the Society for the year 2024-25 amounted to £239,987 (2024: £205,420) with the underlying income from membership subscriptions rising to £85,100 (2024: £81,906). In part, the increase arises from an increase of approx. £3,600 in the Gift Aid recovery from HMRC.

During the year, we have also seen favourable variances arising from, first, the introduction of paid advertising in the Newsletter—thanks to the joint editors for their efforts in this area; second, a higher-than-expected income from Visits & Events; and third, two generous

donations. The creation of the current decennial index meant that the costs of the Journal overran the initial budget by some £8,000, but this was financed in part by generous gifts from Lady Goodison and James Joll.

Expenditure totalled £243,160 (2024: £220,705). The higher income from the Visits & Events programme was accompanied by a corresponding rise in the associated costs. There were savings on the costs associated with the officers' remuneration, website costs and office administration.

The draw down from the Anniversary Fund to finance part of the underlying administration and IT costs associated with BIFMO and its activities was within budget totalling just under the agreed budget figure of £12,000.

There was a second draw-down of £8,051 from the Anniversary Fund to support the large Grants programme which amounted to £8,051 against an original budget figure of £5,000.

Balance Sheet

Charity accounting regulations stipulate that the increase or decrease in the value of the Society's investment assets during an accounting period must be reflected in the accounts. On 30 June 2025, the net valuation of the investments exceeded the 2024 figure by £6,079 (2024: £28,278 gain). We are looking to our external accountants (Messrs Begbies) for guidance on the appropriate timing of a revaluation of the property investment underlying the Gadd fund.

At 30 June 2025, the Society's net current assets amounted to £95,162 together with listed investments valued at £398,269 (2024: £392,190) and its total net wealth £869,431 (2024: £866,525).

Other financial matters

During the year, our new Finance Officer, Anna Clarke, quickly mastered the complexities of the Society's accounting and membership systems—still largely paper-based. One important target was the setting-up and implementation of finance software package named QuickBooks. A sector standard, it has benefit of moving the Society's accounts towards a paperless environment which is better suited to a primarily remote working operations team. A further benefit is that the Society is now able to submit VAT returns without the support of its external accountants, resulting in a modest cost saving.

The Society's bankers have said that they will not accept cheques drawn on a bank outside the UK. This has caused an issue around subscriptions received from abroad: the Finance Officer is working on a solution, but this is inevitably going to inconvenience the small number of members who pay in this way.

Outlook

It is a positive sign that the Society has made a surplus during this financial year on the Unrestricted fund and the position for the current year should further improve given the modest rise in the subscription rates that are being implemented in the current financial year.

Following the receipt of the Austen bequest, the Society's cash and investments total in excess of £1M and the Hon. Treasurer recommends that Council investigates the appointment of an investment advisor.

Post of Honorary Treasurer

About 18 months ago, the Honorary Treasurer said that he would not be offering himself for re-election in 2026, and Council is seeking a successor. The post is not remunerated, part-time and takes up perhaps three days per month. The Treasurer currently chairs the Operations group and attends meetings of Council (four per annum) and of some committees (the majority of all meetings on Zoom). It is not necessary to be a qualified accountant although familiarity with the profit & loss account and balance sheet of an SME would be helpful.

Any member who is interested is encouraged to ask Martin Williams at mail@mbmwiliams.co.uk or 20 Rutland Terrace, Stamford, Lincs. PE9 2QD for further details and a rôle description.

Governance

The constitutional matters arising from the change to Rule 7 have been addressed earlier in the report, as have the appointment of a new President and Chairman.

The Future

The Chairman writes 'It is impossible to predict the future, but the Society is increasingly well placed to take advantage of whatever it offers. Brian Austen, whose generous and munificent bequest has been mentioned elsewhere in this report, has specified the 'publication of research' as the purpose of his legacy, which sits well with the Society's devotion to that aim. One hopes that there will be a rising trend of membership and that we shall continue to encourage overseas members who have remained at about a third of the Society's strength.

Meanwhile, all aspects of this energetic Society continue to thrive from grants, events, publications, the international encouragement of younger scholars (Early Career Development), the expansion of the almost ten-year-old BIFMO and its self-financing events and courses, the annual conference and lecture and a myriad of other activities germane to the Society's fundamental purposes. The future looks bright, especially as the Society is so well served by its voluntary and paid staff, and by its trustees.

Responsibilities of Council

The Charities Act 2011 requires the Officers and Council of the Society (i.e., the charity trustees) to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the surplus or deficit of the Society for that period. In preparing these accounts the Council and Officers are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate.
- Follow applicable accounting standards

The Officers are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society, and the Officers and

Council are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities, by establishing and maintaining a satisfactory system of control over the Society's accounting records, cash holdings and all its receipts and remittances.

Risk Review

Some years ago, Council (as the trustee body) conducted an informal review of the major risks to which the Society is exposed and systems have been put in place to mitigate those risks. Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for the authorisation of transactions and projects and to ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the Society.

These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet its needs. It is at least seven years since Council did this and the arrival of a new Chairman seems an appropriate moment to repeat the exercise. The Treasurer and the Finance Officer will lead.

Statement of Disclosure to the Independent Examiner

So far as Council is aware, there is no relevant information concerning the independent examination of the Accounts of which the Society's independent examiner is unaware. In addition, the members of Council have taken all the steps they ought to have taken as members of Council and charity trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the Society's independent examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

At the Annual General Meeting, Council will propose that Christopher Pexton FCA of Messrs Begbies, Chartered Accountants, be re-appointed to act as the independent examiner of the Society's financial statements for the ensuing year..

Approved by Council and signed on their behalf on 2 October 2025..

Christopher Rowell
Chairman of Trustees

Martin Williams
Trustee and Hon. Treasurer

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income From:-						
Membership Subscriptions	2	85,100	—	—	85,100	81,906
Donations, Grants and Legacies	3	4,204	16,250	15,321	35,775	22,709
Charitable Activities	4	84,753	—	11,122	95,875	80,070
Trading Activities	5	5,532	—	—	5,532	3,608
Investment Income	6	5,040	—	12,665	17,705	17,127
Total		184,629	16,250	39,108	239,987	205,420
Expenditure On:-						
Charitable Activities	7	179,039	10,044	54,077	243,160	220,705
Total		179,039	10,044	54,077	243,160	220,705
Transfers between funds		—	—	—	—	—
Net (Deficit) Surplus		5,590	6,206	(14,969)	(3,173)	(15,285)
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)						
Gains (Losses) on Investment Assets		(1,005)	—	7,084	6,079	28,278
Net Movement in Funds		4,585	6,206	(7,885)	2,906	12,993
Reconciliation of Funds						
Total Funds Brought Forward		118,264	13,256	735,005	866,525	853,532
Total Funds Carried Forward		122,849	19,462	727,120	869,431	866,525

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Investments			
- Listed Investments	11(a)	398,269	392,190
- Property	11(b)	376,000	376,000
Total Fixed Assets		<u>774,269</u>	<u>768,190</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	12	29,019	8,351
Interest-Earning Deposits		22,895	26,109
Balances at Bank		<u>97,360</u>	<u>110,897</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>149,274</u>	<u>145,357</u>
Current Liabilities			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(54,112)	(46,678)
Net Current Assets		<u>95,162</u>	<u>98,679</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>869,431</u>	<u>866,869</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			
Deferred Income - Membership		—	(344)
Total Net Assets		<u>£869,431</u>	<u>£866,525</u>
The Funds of the Charity:			
Unrestricted General Fund	14	122,849	118,264
Designated Fund			
Howard Fund	14	7,850	8,256
Journal Fund	14	11,612	5,000
Restricted Funds			
Ingram Fund	14	232,405	228,509
Anniversary Fund	14	118,557	130,338
Hilda Gadd Fund	14	376,000	376,000
Card Makers Donation	14	<u>158</u>	<u>158</u>
		<u>727,120</u>	<u>735,005</u>
Total Charity Funds		<u>£869,431</u>	<u>£866,525</u>

Approved on behalf of the Council on 2 October 2025
CHRISTOPHER ROWELL: *Chairman*

MARTIN WILLIAMS: *Hon Treasurer*

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

1. **Accounting Policies**

(a) *Basis of preparation*

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

(b) *Public benefit entity*

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

(c) *Cash Flow*

The Society has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it qualifies as a smaller charity.

(d) *Incoming Resources*

Voluntary income and subscriptions are accounted for as received by the Society. We have received donations in the year relating to restricted funds.

(e) *Life Membership Subscriptions*

An annual transfer was made to the credit of subscriptions equal to the amount which each life member would have paid on an annual basis. The balance was carried forward as deferred income. This fund is now exhausted as Life Membership has been suspended.

(f) *Investments*

Investments are stated at market value. Realised and unrealised gains and losses are dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment income and interest are accounted for as received by the Society.

(g) *Allocation of Costs*

Costs are allocated to General Fund unless specific to other funds.

(h) *Resources Expended*

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred.

(i) *Governance Costs*

Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. The costs include those relating to external audit.

(j) *Foreign Currencies*

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange ruling at the end of the financial year. All exchange differences are dealt with in the profit and loss account.

(k) *Restricted Funds*

Restricted Funds are funds which are used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed. There are five restricted funds. (1) The Tom Ingram Fund (the "Ingram Fund") is an endowment fund which is used to assist young members of the Society to pursue studies and research into furniture and its history. (2) The Fiftieth Anniversary Appeal Fund (the "Anniversary Fund") is an expendable fund which has been set up to assist with education, research and publication on furniture and its history. (3) The Hilda Colquhoun Gadd Fund (the "Hilda Gadd Fund") is an endowment fund, the asset of which was gifted to advance the study of the history of furniture or bibliographies of the same. (4) The Goodison Journal Fund (the "Goodison Journal Fund") is a restricted fund established to defray part of the cost of producing the Society's Journal. (5) The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards Donation (the "Card Makers Donation") is an expendable fund established using a grant from the aforesaid Company to subsidise the subscriptions to the Society of young people over a period of three years.

2. Subscriptions - General Fund	2025	2024
	£	£
	Subscriptions under Gift Aid	33,956 34,341
	Income Tax Recovered	8,492 8,585
	Subscriptions not under Gift Aid	42,652 38,980
	85,100	81,906
3. Donations, Grants and Legacies	2025	2024
	£	£
	Gifts	4,204 7,618
	Grants	31,571 15,091
	Legacies	— —
	35,775	22,709
4. Income From Charitable Activities	2025	2024
	£	£
	Visits and Tours	77,860 54,302
	Lectures and Symposia	18,015 25,768
	95,875	80,070

5. Income From Trading Activities				2025	2024
				£	£
	Publications and Royalties			5,532	3,608
				5,532	3,608
6. Investment Income				2025	2024
				£	£
	Income from Listed Investments			16,609	16,024
	Interest Receivable on Cash Deposits			1,096	1,103
				17,705	17,127
7. Expenditure	Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	Total	Total
	Fund	Funds	Funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable Activities					
Visits and Tours	73,335	—	—	73,335	53,094
Lectures and Symposia	5,232	8,200	—	13,432	18,088
Donations and Grants	—	28,402	406	28,808	18,282
Journals	16,504	—	9,638	26,142	17,905
Newsletters	12,257	—	—	12,257	11,625
	107,328	36,602	10,044	153,974	118,994
Support Costs					
Secretarial and Administration	43,695	11,650	—	55,345	59,116
Travel	664	—	—	664	662
Mailing, Postage and Telephones	11,290	—	—	11,290	13,668
Printing and Stationery	334	—	—	334	621
Warehousing	732	—	—	732	1,925
Finance and Accountancy Software	3,901	60	—	3,961	6,160
Website costs	6,431	5,640	—	12,071	13,143
	67,046	17,350	—	84,396	95,295
Governance Costs					
Examiner's remuneration	2,940	—	—	2,940	2,400
Insurance	1,635	—	—	1,635	1,518
Trustees' Costs	90	125	—	215	2,498
	4,665	125	—	4,790	6,416
Total	179,039	54,077	10,044	243,160	220,705

8. Visits and Tours	2025	2024
	£	£
Income	77,860	54,302
Less: Expenditure	(73,335)	(53,094)
Surplus for Year	4,525	1,208
9. Lectures and Symposia	2025	2024
	£	£
Income	18,015	25,768
Less: Expenditure	(13,432)	(18,088)
Surplus for Year	4,583	7,680
10. Net Incoming Resources	2025	2024
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Accountants' remuneration	2,940	2,400
11. Investments	2025	2024
	£	£
a) Listed Investments:		
Market Value at 1 July 2024	392,190	363,912
Purchases During the Year at Cost	—	32,626
Disposals/Proceeds During the year	—	(32,626)
Realised gain on Disposals	—	12,560
Changes in Unrealised Gains	6,079	15,718
Market Value at 30 June 2025	398,269	392,190
Historical Cost at 30 June 2025	277,259	277,529

11. Investments *continued*

	General Fund £	Ingram Fund £	Anniversary Fund £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Listed Investments - UK					
M&G 'Charifund' Income Shares	51,122	66,133	—	117,255	113,064
COIF Income Shares	59,282	14,821	—	74,103	77,641
Schroders Charity Multi Asset Fund	—	58,457	114,647	173,104	167,633
CAF ESG Cautious Fund	—	33,807	—	33,807	33,852
	110,404	173,218	114,647	398,269	392,190

The investments are held primarily to provide an investment return for the Society.

b) Property	2025 £	2024 £
At Valuation at 1 July 2024	376,000	376,000
Revaluation in year	—	—
At Valuation at 30 June 2025	376,000	376,000

In 2015, a residential property in Twickenham was donated to the Society subject to a tenancy for life at no rent in favour of the donors. It is Council's intention that, when vacant possession is obtained, the freehold interest will be sold and the monies realised used to provide an income for the purposes of the Hilda Gadd fund (see Note 1(k)).

12. Debtors	2025 £	2024 £
Prepayments and Accrued Income	14,456	7,290
Gift Aid	12,762	—
Value Added Tax	1,801	1,061
	29,019	8,351

13. Current Liabilities

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts Falling Due Within One Year		
Deferred Income	20,925	38,098
Accruals	33,187	8,580
	54,112	46,678

Deferred Income comprises income from subscriptions, tours, lectures and visits, received in advance and which will form part of incoming resources during the following financial year.

14(a) Movements in Funds

Current year (2024-25)	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Funds					
	General Fund £	Howard Fund £	Goodison Journal Fund £	Ingram Fund £	Anniversary Fund £	Hilda Gadd Fund £	Card Makers Donation £	Total 2024 £
Income From:-								
Membership Subscriptions	85,100	—	—	—	—	—	—	85,100
Donations, Grants and Legacies	4,204	—	16,250	—	15,321	—	—	35,775
Charitable Activities	84,753	—	—	—	11,122	—	—	95,875
Other Trading Activities	5,532	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,532
Investment Income and Interest	5,040	—	—	8,265	4,400	—	—	17,705
Total	184,629	—	16,250	8,265	30,843	—	—	239,987
Expenditure On:-								
Charitable Expenditure	179,039	406	9,638	7,830	46,247	—	—	243,160
Total	179,039	406	9,638	7,830	46,247	—	—	243,160
Transfers between funds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net (Deficit)/Income	5,590	(406)	6,612	435	(15,404)	—	—	(3,173)
Other Recognised Gains and (Losses)								
Gains on Investment Assets	(1,005)	—	—	3,461	3,623	—	—	6,079
Net Movements in Funds	4,585	(406)	6,612	3,896	(11,781)	—	—	2,906
Balance Brought Forward at 1 July 2024	118,264	8,256	5,000	228,509	130,338	376,000	158	866,525
Balance Carried Forward at 30 June 2025	122,849	7,850	11,612	232,405	118,557	376,000	158	869,431

14(b) Movements in Funds

Previous year (2023-24)	Unrestricted Fund		Designated Fund	Restricted Funds				
	General Fund £	Howard Fund £	Journal Fund £	Ingram Fund £	Anniversary Fund £	Gadd Fund £	Card Makers Donation £	Total 2024 £
Income From:-								
Membership Subscriptions	81,906	—	—	—	—	—	—	81,906
Donations, Grants and Legacies	5,999	—	5,000	—	11,710	—	—	22,709
Charitable Activities	62,608	—	—	—	17,462	—	—	80,070
Other Trading Activities	3,608	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,608
Investment Income and Interest	4,850	—	—	7,962	4,315	—	—	17,127
Total	158,971	—	5,000	7,962	33,487	—	—	205,420
Expenditure On:-								
Charitable Expenditure	174,775	—	—	6,419	39,511	—	—	220,705
Total	174,775	—	—	6,419	39,511	—	—	220,705
Transfers between funds	1,845	(1,734)	—	—	—	—	(111)	—
Net (Deficit)/Income	(13,959)	(1,734)	5,000	1,543	(6,024)	—	(111)	(15,285)
Other Recognised Gains and (Losses)								
Gains on Investment Assets	8,575	—	—	11,412	8,291	—	—	28,278
Net Movements in Funds	(5,384)	(1,734)	5,000	12,955	2,267	—	(111)	12,993
Balance Brought Forward at 1 July 2023	123,648	9,990	—	215,554	128,071	376,000	269	853,532
Balance Carried Forward at 30 June 2024	118,264	8,256	5,000	228,509	130,338	376,000	158	866,525

14(c). Split of Movements in Anniversary Fund

	2025			2024		
	BIFMO	Anniversary Fund	Total	BIFMO	Anniversary Fund	Total
Income From:-						
Membership Subscriptions	—	—	—	—	—	—
Donations, Grants and Legacies	15,321	—	15,321	11,710	—	11,710
Charitable Activities	11,122	—	11,122	17,462	—	17,462
Other Trading Activities	—	—	—	—	—	—
Investment Income and Interest	—	4,400	4,400	—	4,315	4,315
Total	26,443	4,400	30,843	29,172	4,315	33,487
Expenditure On:-						
Charitable Expenditure	38,196	8,051	46,247	39,511	—	39,511
Total	38,196	8,051	46,247	39,511	—	39,511
Transfers between funds	11,753	(11,753)	-	10,339	(10,339)	—
Net (Deficit)/Income	—	(15,404)	(15,404)	—	(6,024)	(6,024)
Other Recognised Gains and (Losses)						
Gains on Investment Assets	—	3,623	3,623	—	8,291	8,291
Net Movements in Funds	—	(11,781)	(11,781)	—	2,267	2,267
Balance Brought Forward	—	130,338	130,338	—	128,071	128,071
Balance Carried Forward	—	118,557	118,557	—	130,338	130,338

15(a). Movements in Funds

Current year (2024-25)	Balance 1/7/2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfer £	Gains and Losses £	Balance 30/6/2025 £
Restricted Funds						
Ingram Fund	228,509	8,265	(7,830)	—	3,461	232,405
Anniversary Fund	130,338	30,843	(46,247)	—	3,623	118,557
Hilda Gadd Fund	376,000	—	—	—	—	376,000
Card Makers Donation	158	—	—	—	—	158
Designated Funds						
Howard Fund	8,256	—	(406)	—	—	7,850
Goodison Journal Fund	5,000	16,250	(9,638)	—	—	11,612
Unrestricted Funds						
General Fund	118,264	184,629	(179,039)	—	(1,005)	122,849
	866,525	239,987	(243,160)	—	6,079	869,431

15(b). Movements in Funds

Previous year (2023-24)	Balance 1/7/2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfer £	Gains and Losses £	Balance 30/6/2024 £
Restricted Funds						
Ingram Fund	215,554	7,962	(6,419)	—	11,412	228,509
Anniversary Fund	128,071	33,487	(39,511)	—	8,291	130,338
Hilda Gadd Fund	376,000	—	—	—	—	376,000
Card Makers Donation	269	—	—	(111)	—	158
Designated Funds						
Howard Fund	9,990	—	—	(1,734)	—	8,256
Goodison Journal Fund	—	5,000	—	—	—	5,000
Unrestricted Funds						
General Fund	123,648	158,971	(174,775)	1,845	8,575	118,264
	853,532	205,420	(220,705)	—	28,278	866,525

16(a). Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

Current year (2024-25)	Investments £	Other Assets £	Total £
Unrestricted General Fund	110,404	12,445	122,849
Designated Fund			
Howard Fund			
Goodison Journal Index Fund	—	7,850	7,850
Restricted Funds	—	11,612	11,612
Ingram Fund	173,218	59,187	232,405
Anniversary Fund	114,647	3,910	118,557
Hilda Gadd Fund	—	376,000	376,000
	398,269	471,162	869,431

16(b). Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

Previous year (2023-24)	Investments £	Other Assets £	Total £
Unrestricted General Fund	111,409	6,855	118,264
Designated Fund			
Howard Fund	—	8,256	8,256
Restricted Funds			
Goodison Journal Index Fund	—	5,000	5,000
Ingram Fund	169,757	58,752	228,509
Anniversary Fund	111,024	19,314	130,338
Hilda Gadd Fund	—	376,000	376,000
Card Makers Donation	—	158	158
	392,190	474,335	866,525

17. Taxation

As a registered charity the society is exempt from corporation tax since all income is applied for charitable purposes.

18. Trustees' Expenses and Remuneration

Dr Megan Aldrich was paid a total of £5,125 (2024 £5,460) comprising £5,000 (2024 £5,000) for editing the annual journal and other sundry costs £125 (2024 £460).

Dr Megan Wheeler was paid a total of £2,665 (2024 £2,631) comprising £2,575 (2024 £2,600) for website administration services and other sundry costs £90 (2024 £31).

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Furniture History Society (the 'Charity') for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Christopher Pexton FCA
Begbies, Chartered Accountants
9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4DJ

Date: 13 November 2025

Accounts

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

*Annual Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements
for the Year ended 30 June 2024,
together with Notices of the Sixtieth Annual General Meeting,
and a Special General Meeting,
both to be held at The East India Club,
16 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LH
on Saturday, 23 November 2024 commencing at 11.00 am*

c/o The Department of Performance, Furniture, Textiles and Fashion,
Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7 2RL

www.furniturehistorysociety.org

Registered Charity No. 251683

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2024

Agenda for the 60th Annual General Meeting of
The Furniture History Society
to be held at The East India Club, 16 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LH
at 11.00 am on Saturday, 23 November 2024

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Fifty-ninth Annual General Meeting
3. Adoption of the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2024
4. Adoption of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024
5. Re-election of the President, Chairman and Honorary Officers
 - The President
Council proposes Simon Swynfen Jervis
 - The Chairman
Council proposes Christopher Neville Rowell
 - The Honorary Secretary
The incumbent, Dr Megan Wheeler, does not wish to offer herself for re-appointment, and Council proposes Thomas Williams
 - The Honorary Treasurer
Council proposes Martin Blue Macintosh Williams
 - The Honorary Editorial Secretary
Council proposes Dr Megan Brewster Aldrich
6. Re-election of four members of Council
Council proposes Dr Jane (Jenny) Laura Saunt, Philip John Peacock, David Oakey and Charles Thomas
7. Election of an ordinary member of Council who was appointed to a casual vacancy during the year
During 2023, an elected member of Council resigned and Adriana Turpin was appointed in her place. Council now proposes the latter for election as an ordinary member of Council.
8. Election of one ordinary member of Council
Council proposes Rebecca Tilles for election.
9. Proposed changes in subscription rates
Council proposes the increases set out in the explanatory note at the foot of this agenda to take place with effect from 1 July 2025.
10. Appointment of the Independent Examiner
Council proposes Christopher Pexton of Messrs Begbies
11. Any Other Business
12. Votes of Thanks

EXPLANATORY NOTE - SUBSCRIPTION RATES

During the last 15 months, it has become apparent that the basic subscription no longer covers the costs of servicing the membership. Although the officers are reviewing all aspects of the Society’s expenditure, the underlying costs have to be covered if the Society’s general fund is not to be further eroded.

The Honorary Treasurer writes: ‘There is never a right time to propose an increase in subscription rates. Subscriptions have been maintained at the same level since 1 July 2022, but inflationary costs and an increase in the range and number of the Society’s activities now mean that subscription income no longer covers the ongoing running costs. To ensure that your Society’s affairs remain on a sound footing, Council proposes an increase in subscription rates which we would again hope to hold for the following three years. This change is in line with the general precept agreed in 2015 that subscriptions should be raised every three years more or less in line with inflation.’

The Retail Prices Index has risen by 13.8% since July 2022 and the Consumer Prices Index rate by 10.4%. Assuming an inflation rate of 2.5% for the next 12 months, these figures would increase to approx. 14.2% and 10.6%. With this in mind we propose the following rates.

Membership category	Current rate	Proposed rate
UK Individual (or Sole) members	£65	£72
UK Young individual members (aged under 35)	£37	£40
UK Joint members (i.e., two people receiving one mailing at the same address)	£75	£82
UK Institutional or Corporate members	£87	£96
International individual members	£85	£93 (\$110, €121)
International Young individual members (aged under 35)	£47	£50 (\$55, €60)
International Joint members	£95	£105 (€131, \$125)
International Institutional or Corporate members	£108	£113 (€147, \$134)

The \$ and € figures are indicative only.

The new rates for overseas members reflect the cost of postage to the US and continental Europe where rates have risen far faster than the RPI over the last three years. In addition, since Brexit, the paperwork required to post printed material to the EU has increased very significantly, and

an increasing number of the Society’s mailings get ensnared in a web of Kafka-like regulations with the recipient either being (wrongfully) charged an impost or the mailing being detained for weeks before being returned to sender.

Council is looking into the possibility of offering an online only membership package that would see just one hard copy mailing each year (of the Annual Report and AGM papers) being sent to those members who opt for this. It would undoubtedly save money on postage but might have a negative impact on production and other costs. A simple questionnaire asking members whether they would be interested did not attract a large degree of support. Further work is being done with a view to implementing a change in 2025.

Thanks to the efforts of the finance officers, approximately 450 members now pay by direct debit representing about two-thirds of the individual members who pay from sterling denominated bank accounts—something that makes the implementation of any change in subscription rates much easier to administer.



AGENDA

for the Special General Meeting to be held at 12 noon (or so soon as the preceding meeting shall finish or be adjourned)

To consider, and if thought appropriate, to approve a Special Resolution to amend the Society's constitution by substituting the following wording for the existing Rule 7 so that the Rule shall read as follows.

"The affairs of the Society shall be administered by a Council consisting of a President, a Chairman and three Honorary Officers - namely, Secretary, Treasurer and Editorial Secretary - and six ordinary members of the Society (or such higher number of ordinary members of the Council as the Society or the Council may decide).

All members of the Council shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), but the ordinary members shall serve for a term not exceeding three years ending at the third AGM following the AGM at which they were first elected, and shall not be eligible for re-election in that year.

At the AGM in each year the Society shall elect two ordinary members of the Society (or such other number as the Society or the Council may decide) as ordinary members of the Council to replace those ordinary members retiring in that year or to fill a casual vacancy.

A vacancy in the ordinary members of the Council occurring between AGMs may be filled by the Council appointing another member of the Society as an ordinary member, and any member so appointed shall continue in that capacity until the next AGM after their appointment, but shall be eligible for election by the Society for a new term at that AGM.

The Council may from time to time appoint officers to carry out administrative duties on behalf of the Society

NB A Special Resolution requires the consent of a two thirds majority of Members present and voting at the Meeting. In addition, this meeting is deemed to be held contemporaneously with the preceding one.

Explanatory Note

The members of the Society's Council may be divided into two groups: first, the President, the Chairman and the Honorary Officers and second, six ordinary members who can serve for a period of up to three years. All members of Council are subject to annual re-election.

During 2023, an ordinary member of Council resigned and, in accordance with the Rules, in 2024 a member of the Society (Adriana Turpin) was appointed to Council in their place. When the Hon. Officers discussed the matter, it became clear that the existing Rule whereby one-third of the ordinary members of Council retire each year and are not eligible for re-election, means that in certain circumstances, the length of service of a member appointed to fill a casual vacancy could be significantly curtailed.

Council recommends that the Rule is reworded so that the length of service of ordinary members on Council is determined by reference to years of service rather than a fraction of the number of ordinary members on Council. The effect will be the same: membership of Council is regularly refreshed and the operation of the rule where a casual vacancy has been filled by Council will be clarified.

In addition, for some time, it has been clear that because of the rise in the amount and the complexity of the Society's activities, it may become necessary to increase the number of ordinary members of Council and this rewording enables such an increase to be made by Council as well as the members in general meeting.

Finally, in line with modern practice, the re-worded rule has been framed in gender-neutral language. In due course, it may be necessary to revise and up-date the whole document.

For ease of reference, the wording of the existing and the new rule is set out below.

Existing Rule 7	Proposed re-worded Rule 7
The affairs of the Society shall be administered by a Council consisting of a President, a Chairman and three Honorary Officers – namely, Secretary, Treasurer and Editorial Secretary – and six ordinary members of the Society. All members of the Council shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting, but one third of the Ordinary Council Members shall retire in rotation in order of seniority of service and be ineligible for re-election in that year. Vacancies in the Council occurring between Annual General Meetings may be filled by the Council's appointing another ordinary member to be a member of the Council, and any member so appointed under this Rule shall continue a member of the Council until the next Annual General Meeting after his appointment, and shall be eligible for re-election at that Meeting. The Council may from time to time appoint officers to carry out administrative duties on behalf of the Society.	The affairs of the Society shall be administered by a Council consisting of a President, a Chairman and three Honorary Officers - namely, Secretary, Treasurer and Editorial Secretary - and six ordinary members of the Society (or such higher number of ordinary members of the Council as the Society or the Council may decide). All members of the Council shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), but the ordinary members shall serve for a term not exceeding three years ending at the third AGM following the AGM at which they were first elected, and shall not be eligible for re-election in that year. At the AGM in each year the Society shall elect two ordinary members of the Society (or such other number as the Society or the Council may decide) as ordinary members of the Council to replace those ordinary members retiring in that year or to fill a casual vacancy. A vacancy in the ordinary members of the Council occurring between AGMs may be filled by the Council appointing another member of the Society as an ordinary member, and any member so appointed shall continue in that capacity until the next AGM after their appointment, but shall be eligible for election by the Society for a new term at that AGM. The Council may from time to time appoint officers to carry out administrative duties on behalf of the Society.

Members may like to note that a copy of the Rules is sent to each member on joining. Further copies may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary at secretary@furniturehistorysociety.org. In addition, copies will also be available at the meeting. There is a link to the Rules at the foot of the 'About Us' page of the Society's website.

Council is very grateful to member Philip Peacock for his assistance with the revision of this Rule.



PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

Both meetings will be held corporeally. The talks will be recorded and will be available on the Society's website after the meeting. The log-in details required to access these recordings will be sent out by e-mail to all the members for whom the Society has an email address.

Admission to both meetings is free and open to all members, but those wishing to attend in person are asked to notify the Events Secretary at events@furniturehistorysociety.org, at least seven days in advance so that the necessary arrangements can be made. Coffee will be served from 10.30 am and the meeting will start at 11.00 am.

At the conclusion of the formal business, presentations will be made to two outgoing officers: Keith Nicholls, the former Finance Officer and Dr Megan Wheeler, who is not offering herself for re-appointment as Hon. Secretary.

As is customary, this will be followed by a series of short talks. Speakers will include:

- Dr Anna Stutchbury (Independent Researcher/Consultant) and Dr Alice Strickland (Cultural Heritage Curator, National Trust) who will speak on 'Furnishing Standen's interior in the 1970s'
- Amreet Kular (Objects Conservator, Victoria & Albert Museum) will report on the conservation of a spinning wheel, or 'charkha'.
- Dr Jenny Saunt (Senior Furniture Curator, Victoria & Albert Museum) with Dr Megan Wheeler (National Trust) 'Update on the Cabinet Reshuffle: Adam bookcases go to Croome Court and the Chambers Medal Cabinet arrives at the V&A'.
- Adriana Turpin (BIFMO Project Manager) will give an update on BIFMO's activities.

At the conclusion of the presentations, a sandwich lunch will be available. Tickets, to include a glass of wine, cost £24 per head, and should be booked at least seven days in advance through Beatrice Goddard, Events Secretary, at events@furniturehistorysociety.org

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

MINUTES of the Fifty-ninth Annual General Meeting of The Furniture History Society held on 25 November 2023

Notice

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Apologies

An apology for absence had been received from Stephen Jackson.

Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 26 November 2022 were taken as read and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

The Chairman thanked everyone involved in the production of the Annual Report, as well as the trustees, paid staff and volunteers for a busy and productive year.

The Chairman reported with regret that Jürgen Huber, a Trustee, had reluctantly resigned due to the competing pressures of work and family life. He thanked Mr Huber for his contribution, not only as a member of Council but also as an advocate for the Society's work. He noted that Council would fill the vacancy by co-option. In accordance with the Society's Rules, the replacement trustee would be formally elected at the AGM in 2024.

Turning to publications, he congratulated the Hon. Editorial Secretary on the 2023 issue of *Furniture History*, which had run to 340 pages (50 pages more than the 2022 volume) and had included a range of articles leavened by international contributions. He thanked the Editorial Group for its help and advice, not only with the Journal, but occasionally with the Newsletter and the BIFMO database. He went on to ask for contributions to the compilation and printing of an Index of *Furniture History* 2010-2019, planned for 2025.

The Chairman thanked Kate Hay and Iain Stephens for so ably managing the production of four Newsletters in 2023. He reported that since the 2022 AGM, Wolf Burchard had decided to remain as the Book Review Editor, and had continued to be very active in commissioning the reviews. Lastly, he drew members' attention to the rich and exciting list of publications for sale on the FHS website, and asked members who were interested in a re-print of Volume I of *Furniture History* to contact Jill Bace at publications@furniturehistorysociety.org.

The Society's membership had, he said, remained static at around 1,050 members, despite Council's best efforts to increase it. He felt this was a respectable figure by comparison with other similar societies, but urged those present to help recruit new members, particularly as

membership subscriptions had been, and would continue to be, the Society's main source of income. He suggested that members might, in future, bring prospective members as guests to the Annual Lecture.

He drew attention to the obituaries included in the Annual Report and added that the Society's thoughts continued to be with Dr Laurie Lindey, one of BIFMO's Managing Editors, the widow of the late John Lindey.

A dedicated Management Committee had been created to run BIFMO, reflecting its importance to the Society. He thanked Adriana Turpin, the Deputy Chairman of that committee, for working indefatigably for the project during the website's translation to its new host, Blue-Bag, in 2023. The new website would, he said, be re-branded so as to make clear that BIFMO was a defined branch of the Society.

BIFMO's online courses had, he reported, been both popular and profitable, and he thanked all contributors. He also thanked the editors, Dr Lindey and Clarissa Ward, for continuing to add information and entries to the website. Members of the Early Careers Development Group had attended the online courses and were very grateful to David Dewing and Jürgen Huber in connection with ECD events in 2022 and 2023. In addition, the Oliver Ford Trust had once again generously funded an overseas study trip to Maastricht.

He went on to thank the members of the Events Committee, Beatrice Goddard (Events Secretary) and Kate Hay (Events Committee Chair) for having put together a programme of exciting trips both in the UK and abroad to destinations as varied as Paris, Cardiff, Scotland and Tuscany. Some visits had been so popular that they had had to be repeated.

He expressed his gratitude to everyone involved in the highly successful Symposium, Rococo Across Borders, held jointly with the French Porcelain Society, particularly thanking the Director of the V&A Museum, who had allowed the Society to use its auditorium at a reduced price, and to Bonhams through member, Charlie Thomas, which had generously hosted a drinks reception after the event. Instagram coverage had been very popular and the event itself had been academically worthwhile, reaping considerable benefits not least of which was a surplus for both the societies involved.

Lastly, he encouraged ECD members to take advantage of the support available from the Society by applying for grants to attend similar future events.

There being no questions, he commended the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2023 to the meeting and it was adopted *nemine contradicente*.

Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

The Hon. Treasurer presented the Financial Statements for the charity for the year. He said the Society had recovered well from lockdown, but that the political and economic outlook remained uncertain, particularly with regard to inflation.

The Society's finances had remained stable, with income from all sources of £189,079 whilst expenditure had totalled £195,471, resulting in a budgeted deficit of £6,392 (2022: £8,851) to which had to be added unrealised losses on the investment portfolio of £14,358. He reminded

members that there had been a similar gain of some £65,000 on the portfolio in the previous financial year.

Income and expenditure had largely reverted to pre-pandemic levels: however, subscription income had risen by approximately £5,750 to £77,310 reflecting the increase in rates implemented in 2022 and the income arising on the Society's charitable activities had increased from £44,499 in 2022-23 to £70,465. This was thanks to the resumption of a full programme of events, visits, &c. as well as to the efforts of the Events committee and the Events Secretary, Beatrice Goddard—both of whom deserved members' thanks. The events, &c. programme had made a healthy surplus.

Expenditure on the website had increased significantly to £18,897 (2022: £2,236) due to improvements to the site including the transition of the BIFMO website and its associated database to the new provider, as well as the creation of the My Account area on the Society's website. This had proved a success, with around 450 members already signed up to their personal dashboard.

BIFMO had generated a healthy income of £33,281 compared with £18,892 in the previous year. Expenditure on the project had also increased to £40,458, giving a deficit on immediate operations of £7,177. After transfers from reserves, however, the project had achieved a book surplus of £8,232.

Membership subscriptions had, he said, not risen at the budgeted rate, but this may have reflected the resignation, either active or passive, of those who had joined the Society simply to access its excellent online programme during the pandemic.

The Treasurer concluded his summary by saying that at the year-end, the Society's net wealth was £853,532, of which £729,884 was attributable to the restricted funds.

Finance Officer

Mr Williams informed members that he and the honorary officers had been working hard to appoint a successor to Keith Nicholls, the Society's diligent Finance & Membership Officer, who had notified the Society in 2022 of his intention to resign at the end of 2023. An appointment had been made in mid-November, but he was disappointed to report that the appointee had withdrawn. He and his colleagues were working to make another appointment as soon as possible. Mr Nicholls had characteristically and generously agreed to carry on until the end of January 2024.

Lastly, the Hon. Treasurer thanked his colleagues – Megan Wheeler, Philip Peacock, Keith Nicholls, Beatrice Goddard, Jill Bace, Adriana Turpin and Ann Davies—all members of the small Operations Group which managed the day-to-day running of the Society for their unstinting hard work and loyal service.

He commended the Financial Statements for adoption by the meeting. There were no questions and they were adopted *nem. con.*

Elections

- a) The following officers were proposed for re-election:

PRESIDENT Simon Swynfen Jervis
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL Christopher Neville Rowell
HONORARY SECRETARY Dr Megan Laura Wheeler
HONORARY TREASURER Martin Blue Macintosh Williams
HONORARY EDITORIAL SECRETARY Dr Megan Brewster Aldrich

- b) The following ordinary members of Council were proposed for re-election:

Dr Caroline McCaffrey-Howarth, Dr Jenny Saunt and Philip Peacock

- c) The following members were proposed for election as ordinary members of Council:-
David Oakey and Charles Thomas

All three motions were put to the meeting and each agreed *nem. con.*

The President recorded his thanks to the retiring members of Council, viz., Dr Alexandra Gerstein and Stephen Jackson, for their service to the Society.

Re-appointment of independent examiner

The President thanked Christopher Pexton of Messrs Begbies and proposed that he be re-appointed for a further year. Agreed.

Any other business

Adriana Turpin, Deputy Chair of the BIFMO Management Committee, directed those present to the newly designed BIFMO website and database, and invited contributions on furniture-makers to the blog section. She went on to outline plans for the forthcoming ECD Symposium, to take place at the Metropolitan Museum, New York in January 2024.

Kate Dyson, a retiring member of the Events Committee, was presented with flowers in recognition of her long service to the Society and for having arranged so many wonderful events and visits.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by the President who thanked all of the Society's officers for their work. He added his appreciation to those who had helped arrange the meeting, viz., Sara Heaton, Kate Dyson and Anne-Marie Bannister; Pawel Olszewski, the technical support officer of the Society of Antiquaries of London; and the staff at the East India Club. He coupled their names to those of the speakers whose talks would follow the formal business.

Talks

Dr Stacey Clapperton (Curator) and Lucy Odlin (Collections Conservation Manager) outlined the history, design and conservation of the Speaker's State Coach, the oldest of the three gilded State Coaches to survive in Britain.

Dr Amy Frost (Senior Curator, Bath Preservation Trust) described the work underway to conserve Beckford's Tower and re-fit the Museum inside it, prior to the building's re-opening.

Dr Tessa Kilgariff (Curator of Collections and Interiors, English Heritage) spoke about the history of Marble Hill in Twickenham, home to Henrietta Howard, Countess of Suffolk (1689-1767), and the project – *Marble Hill Revived* – to restore the house, collections and gardens.

Louis Platman (Curator, Museum of the Home) outlined the changes underway at the Museum of the Home as part of the *Real Rooms* project. He also updated the meeting on plans for the Cotton Collection of English Regional Chairs, and the recently acquired Cotton Archive.



THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCIL 2023-24

The Council of the Furniture History Society has pleasure in presenting its 59th Annual Report together with Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Principal address c/o Department of Performance, Furniture, Textiles & Fashion,
Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7 2RL

Website (Society) <https://furniturehistorysociety.org>
(BIFMO) <https://bifmo.furniturehistorysociety.org/>

President and Honorary Officers

President Simon Swynfen Jarvis FSA

Chairman Christopher Neville Rowell FSA
chairman@furniturehistorysociety.org

Hon. Secretary: Dr Megan Laura Wheeler FSA
secretary@furniturehistorysociety.org

Hon. Treasurer: Martin Blue Macintosh Williams FSA
treasurer@furniturehistorysociety.org

Hon. Editorial Secretary: Dr Megan Brewster Aldrich FSA
meganbrewsteraldrich@gmail.com

Other officers and committee chairpersons

Finance & Membership Officer: Keith Nicholls / Anna Clarke (with effect from 1 July 2024)
finance@furniturehistorysociety.org
membership@furniturehistorysociety.org

Publications Officer & Grants Secretary: Jill Bace
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grants@furniturehistorysociety.org

Chair, Events Committee: Kate Hay
katehay86@gmail.com

Secretary, Events Committee: Beatrice Goddard
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Chair, Grants Committee: Adriana Turpin FSA
grantschair@furniturehistorysociety.org

Co-Editors, Newsletter: Kate Hay, Iain Stephens and, from August 2024,
Harry Bonar-Law
newsletter@furniturehistorysociety.org

BIFMO:

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Clarissa Ward (19th century Editor)
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Chair, Digital Strategy Group: Kate Hay
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Professional Advisers

Independent Examiner: Christopher Pexton FCA
c/o Begbies, London EC2A 4DJ

Accountants: Begbies, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
www.begbiesaccountants.co.uk

Bankers: CAF Bank Limited, ME19 4JQ
Barclays Bank Plc, Leicester LE87 2BB
HSBC Bank Plc, East Grinstead RH16 4LU
COIF Charity Funds, London EC4V 4ET

Constitution

The Furniture History Society is an unincorporated membership body constituted by rules, and a registered charity numbered 251683. It was founded in 1964 to advance the study of furniture of all periods, places and kinds and to further public knowledge and appreciation of it.

Charitable Purposes and Public Benefit

The charitable purpose of the Society is the advancement of the arts, culture and heritage, and education in relation thereto. It does this by promoting the study of furniture and interior design of all periods, places and kinds and by furthering public knowledge and appreciation. The Society also assists with the preservation of furniture and associated records.

To these ends, it:

- Publishes original research in its annual journal *Furniture History* — much of which would otherwise remain unpublished.
- Finances its seminal reference work, the *Dictionary of British Furniture Makers* (now *British and Irish Furniture Makers Online* or BIFMO), with a view to covering the whole of the British Isles and making the work available to all without charge to all in the form of an online searchable database.
- Makes grants towards the preparation and publication of books and articles of a non-commercial nature.
- Helps fund the collection of oral history on the furniture trades.

- Arranges an annual international symposium, open to the public, on a topic of current interest and often related to an exhibition at a national institution.
- Encourages study by young people by providing reduced subscription rates for membership and making funds available for overseas study tours as well as study visits and weekends in the United Kingdom.
- Lobbies to save important collections of furniture and archives relating to furniture, which are under threat.
- Disseminates information and advice to the general public on matters relating to the history of furniture and interior design.
- Maintains a comprehensive website.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Society is managed by the Council, i.e., the trustee body of the charity. The trustees who served during the year 2023-24 were:

Simon Swynfen Jarvis (President)
 Christopher Rowell (Chairman)
 Dr Megan Wheeler (Hon. Secretary)
 Martin Williams (Hon. Treasurer)
 Dr Megan Aldrich (Hon. Editorial Secretary)
 *Dr Alexandra (Sacha) Gerstein *retired 25 November 2023*
 *Stephen Jackson *retired 25 November 2023*
 *Dr Caroline McCaffrey-Howarth
 *Jürgen Huber *resigned October 2023*
 *Dr Jane (Jenny) Laura Saunt
 *Philip Peacock
 *David Oakey *elected 25 November 2023*
 *Charles Thomas *elected 25 November 2023*
 *Adriana Turpin *appointed 7 May 2024*

* indicates an ordinary member of Council

Council is made up of: The President; the Chairman, three Honorary Officers and six ordinary members all of whom are appointed annually by the members of the Society at the Annual General Meeting. The elected members of Council serve for a maximum of three years.

Council ordinarily meets four times each year, both in person and online, and is responsible for the management of the Society. During the year, attendance at Council was as follows:

President	3 out of a possible 4
Chairman	4 ditto
Hon. Secretary	4 ditto
Hon. Treasurer	4 ditto
Hon. Editorial Secretary	3 ditto
Dr Sacha Gerstein	0 out of a possible 2
Stephen Jackson	2 out of a possible 2
Dr Caroline McCaffrey-Howarth	3 out of a possible 4
Jürgen Huber	0 out of a possible 2
Dr Jenny Saunt	3 out of a possible 4

Philip Peacock	4 ditto
David Oakey	2 out of a possible 2
Charles Thomas	1 out of a possible 2

Currently there are three committees – Events, Grants and BIFMO Management – together with two other teams: the Digital Strategy Group and the Editorial Group. The members of the committees are appointed by Council and the Honorary Officers are ex-officio members of all committees. Any actions, including the decisions of any committee, must be reported to and confirmed by Council as soon as is practicable.

As trustees, Council members take decisions in the best interests of the Society as a whole, and they operate in accordance with a code of conduct that makes explicit reference to the need for objectivity.

Governance activity during the year included consideration of the way in which casual vacancies on Council are filled, and the decision to review Rule 7 (see Explanatory Note on p.4 ff).

Officers

The Society's day-to-day business is managed by the Honorary Officers together with a small group of paid staff namely Anna Clarke (Finance & Membership Officer); Jill Bace (Publications Officer and Grants Secretary); Beatrice Goddard (Events Secretary); Dr Megan Aldrich (Editor, Journal); Dr Megan Wheeler (Website Officer) and Ann Davies (BIFMO Outreach Programmes Co-ordinator).

These individuals, together with the Hon. Treasurer and the BIFMO's Project Manager (Adriana Turpin), form an Operations Group (chaired by the Hon. Treasurer) which meets every 4-6 weeks to manage the Society's routine business.

Council is deeply appreciative of the commitment and hard work of these individuals as well as that of the honorary officers and all who serve on the Society's committees.

Honorary Secretary – Dr Megan Wheeler FSA

We are sorry to report that Megan Wheeler is not offering herself for re-election to the post of Honorary Secretary. This will enable her to concentrate on her writing about furniture and its history, as well as working full-time for the National Trust as Assistant National Curator (Furniture). For the past nine years, she has efficiently filled one of the two or three key rôles within the Society: one which is often under-appreciated and involves so much more than managing the governance of the Society. She has effectively but unobtrusively modernised several important aspects of the organisation's management, and it was principally thanks to her that the Society was able to manage so well the impact of the pandemic on the meetings of committees and Council. We are fortunate that she will continue to manage the Society's website.

Thomas Williams

We are pleased to announce that Thomas Williams, International Head of English Furniture & Clocks at Christie, Manson and Woods, has accepted Council's invitation to offer himself for election as Honorary Secretary. Thomas is International Head of English Furniture & Clocks at Christie's.

Before embarking on a career in the art world, Thomas trained as a solicitor with the firm Withers LLP. He joined Sotheby's furniture department as a cataloguer in 2013 eventually rising to the position of Director. During this period, he was involved with many of the department's most successful auction sales. He started at Christie's in 2024 assuming overall responsibility for English Furniture and Clocks. Thomas is an active member of the Society and has been a member of the Grants Committee since 2023.

Council – Elected Members

In accordance with the Society's constitution, Dr Caroline McCaffrey-Howarth steps down this year. Sadly, Jurgen Huber resigned in October 2023 due to the twin pressures of work and parenthood. Council is very grateful for their work for the Society during their terms of office. Following Mr Huber's resignation, in May 2024, Adriana Turpin was appointed to Council in his place and, in accordance with the Rules, Council proposes her for re-election as an ordinary member together with Dr Rebecca Tilles.

Adriana Turpin

Adriana Turpin is a well-known and widely respected member of the Society managing its BIFMO and Early Career Development activities and chairing the Grants committee. Adriana studied History at Oxford University and then History of Art at the Courtauld Institute. She teaches the history of collecting and English furniture and is the Academic Director of the Erasmus Mundus MA course 'Managing Art and Cultural Heritage in Globalised Markets' for the Institut d'Études Supérieures des Arts in Paris. She is a founder member of the Seminar on Display and Collecting at the Institute of Historical Research, and is the co-editor of their publications.

Adriana is also the President of the Society for the History of Collecting and a member of a number of editorial boards including the *Journal of the History of Collections*. She has written on a wide variety of topics related to collecting and to the history of furniture.

Dr Rebecca Tilles

Rebecca Tilles is Senior Project Manager of Exhibitions at L'École School of Jewelry Arts in Paris. Currently, she is currently organizing an exhibition in Hong Kong entitled 'Wearing Japonisme: 19th Century Shakudo Jewelry', and another in Paris, 'Jewels of Transcendence'.

From 2008-2014, Dr Tilles worked as a research fellow at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and from 2018-2022, she was curator of 18th-Century Western European Art at the Hillwood Museum in Washington, DC, where she mounted three exhibitions and led a scientific examination of its two Riesener commodes. Dr Tilles completed her PhD in Art History from the University of Sussex in 2019 where her dissertation was entitled *George and Florence Blumenthal: A Collecting Partnership in the Gilded Age, 1858-1941*.

She also holds a degree in French and French Cultural Studies from Wellesley College, an MA in European Decorative Arts from The Bard Graduate Center in New York, and studied at the Ecole du Louvre, Paris.

She was a contributor to *The Houses and Collections of Marjorie Merriweather Post: The Joy of It* (Rizzoli, 2022), as well as to two forthcoming publications *The Museum and the Art Market* (Bloomsbury's "Contextualizing Art Market" series) and *The Wonder of Wood: Decorative Inlay*

and *Marquetry in Europe and America, 1600-1900* (Winterthur). She is currently working on a publication on the collectors, George and Florence Blumenthal, for Bloomsbury. Rebecca has lectured for a wide range of universities, museums and societies.

Membership

Membership increased by a net figure of 19 during the year to a total of 1,069 (2023: 1,050). 116 individuals joined the Society (2023: 108) whilst 54 resigned (2023: 93), and 43 members were struck off for non-payment (2023: 54). During the year the Society was notified of the deaths of Dr Brian Austen and Belinda (Mindy) Papp.

The introduction in 2023 of a members-only area within the website to enable members to update their own records has been largely successful, although the take-up could still be greater. Members in North America should note that the Society's bankers no longer accept US dollar cheques.

Publications

Furniture History

During 2023-24, volume LIX (2023) has been published with a bumper crop of articles, the two lengthiest, one exploring in depth the documentation and furnishing of two major country houses, and the second, reproducing documents pertaining to furnishings at the Portuguese royal palaces in Brazil. The volume finally worked out at 346 printed pages, the longest produced by the Society in recent years. Inevitably, with the higher associated costs of materials, postage, and labour, lengthier journals will produce challenges for the Society's budget, and this is foremost in the mind of the Editorial Secretary.

Journal LX (2024) is well underway. It is dedicated to the memory of Philip Hewat-Jaboor, a long-term member of the Society whose estate sale was held at Christie's on 8 February 2024. The three sections of this volume will contain articles on porphyry and hardstones, one of Philip's great interests, along with a section on classical design, followed by a final section on interiors, a key focus of Philip's long career. The articles cover aspects of these topics from the seventeenth century through to the early twenty-first century. It will be a full volume, coming in at slightly over 300 pages.

Journal LXI (2025) is underway in terms of planning; this will be a departure from previous volumes in that it will present a collaboration between the Society and the National Trust, cast perhaps in the mould of the former collaboration between the Trust and the magazine Apollo. It will consist entirely of articles about furniture in the Trust's collections, and the Trust will supply the images. This opens the door to future possibilities for collaboration with other organisations that address furniture history.

Journal LXII (2026) will be an 'open' volume without a particular theme, and the Editorial Secretary is delighted to report that she already has several proposals for this volume.

Work on indexing *Furniture History* from 2010-19 will begin in October 2024, as this is now overdue. Thanks to the generosity of two members, Lady Goodison and James Joll, it will be published during 2024-25.

Newsletter

The editing of the Newsletter was again shared by Iain Stephens (February and August issues),

and Kate Hay (May and November issues). The editors would like to thank all the contributors, including the Society's officers, report-writers, the authors of the lead articles and the shorter 'New Discoveries and Research' articles.

During the year, the four lead articles were written by Dr Adam Bowett on *The Hardwick Hall Cupboards*; Simon Gillespie and Christopher Payne on *Vernis Martin—a restoration project*, Grace Ford-Dirks on *Rediscovered: British and Irish Furniture Makers in Early America 1700-1840: Daniel Hay (1751-1798)*, and Dr Jenny Saunt on *An Untouched William and Mary Chest Rediscovered*.

The editors also thank Dr Wolf Burchard for continuing to commission and edit a wide variety of book reviews, and thanks are also due to the many contributing book reviewers.

Anyone considering writing about a discovery, fresh research, news, or a forthcoming exhibition or conference relevant to furniture history, is encouraged to get in touch with the editors whose contact details are set out on the back page of each Newsletter. The editors will supply guidelines on house style, including recommended word-counts, on request.

Publication sales

During 2022-23, sales of FHS publications remained low, with the few requests for purchase again confined to recent volumes of *Furniture History*. No new publications have been added to the inventory since 2017, and this no doubt reflects the lack of interest in the books currently available.

It has been agreed that the publications inventory should be moved to the Society's printers, The Lavenham Press, by the end of 2024, which company will then manage the despatch of requests for books and journals.

Back issues of *Furniture History* remain priced at £30 (UK), £35 (Continental Europe) and £48 for the rest of the world, including postage and packing. Anyone interested in purchasing books or journals should consult the website for the complete list of publications on offer along with an up-to-date price list.

British and Irish Furniture Makers Online ("BIFMO")

BIFMO is managed through a management committee which is led by the Chairman. Members include the four honorary officers *ex officio* as well as the Project Manager and Deputy Chairman of the committee, Adriana Turpin, and Stephen Jackson. Dr Laurie Lindey (Managerial Editor), Clarissa Ward (19th Century Editor) and the Finance Officer attend meetings of the Committee.

BIFMO's outreach programme is advised by an informal group consisting of Christopher Claxton-Stephens, Leela Hardy, Tessa Wild and Matthew Winterbottom. We are very grateful to them for their several contributions.

Dictionary of British & Irish Furniture-makers ("DBIFM")

During the year, Dr Laurie Lindey (Managing Editor) and Clarissa Ward (19th Century Editor) created and/or revised over 6000 biographical accounts. Members may be interested to look at some of the entries originally created by Geoffrey Beard and Christopher Gilbert in *The Dictionary of English Furniture Makers* which have been updated with new information, illustrated with trade cards and objects, and with the layout transformed into a more user-friendly style. They include biographies of Jasper Breame (1661-1697), Phillip Hunt (1662-1710), Henry Hill (1741-

1777) and George Seddon (II) (1815-1870), his forebears and the eponymous firms.

In addition, over 450 accounts of Edinburgh furniture makers from 1750 to 1850 were created or updated. Much of the background material was drawn from contemporary directories by a number of interns in a collaborative project with the University of Edinburgh, work which included plotting the locations of individuals and firms on historical maps.

Entirely new biographical accounts were mostly focused in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, for example, the firms Ercolani (1888-1970) and Hille (1906-1984).

Finance

The Society received three grants from the US to support work on BIFMO. Two were to support the editorial work being \$10,000 from the Canady Foundation and \$1,000 from the Abrahams Foundation. This has enabled the ongoing revision of entries. In addition, BIFMO received a three-year grant from the Iris Foundation of \$5,000 per annum for Digital Research projects.

BIFMO's finances are underpinned by grants and donations such as those outlined above as well as the annual draw-down of £12,000 from the Society's own resources via the Anniversary fund. The surplus generated by BIFMO's own outreach fund also makes an essential contribution.

Online activity

BIFMO attracted 53,095 readers over the period (2022: c. 48,000); of whom 89 per cent were new to the site. As would be expected, the majority were from English speaking countries: 56% (UK); 30% (US); with the remainder from around the globe particularly Australia, Canada and continental Europe. The editors are delighted to hear of new material, especially in regard to family firms.

Outreach Programme

In February 2024, nine of the researchers who have worked over the past years on the mapping of London and Edinburgh furniture makers and the three interns from the Decorative Arts Trust project entitled 'Migration and Craftmanship', spoke about their research into the locations of migrants into Eastern seaboard cities.

During 2023-24 BIFMO organised two online courses, well attended by both members and non-members. They continued to engage international audiences, often through the online recordings. Designed and chaired by Adriana Turpin, the courses aim to present various aspects of the history of furniture and the furniture trade, while also offering insights into new or unpublished research. The November 2023 course, 'Designing and Making Furniture: Examining the Creative Process from 1600-1950', held over five weeks highlighted the relationships between architects, designers and makers in the making of furniture and the implementation of new stylistic developments.

The summer course concentrated on the furnishing and decorating of country houses between the Regency and 1950 and considered the changing uses of the country residence during this period. We are enormously grateful to our speakers and audience for their continued support.

Grants Committee

In addition to the four Honorary Officers *ex officio*, the members of the Grants committee during the year Adriana Turpin (Chair), Helen Jacobsen, Lucy Wood, Peter Holmes, Thomas Williams, Rufus Bird, Olivia Fryman. The committee is managed by Jill Bace (Grants Officer).

During the period, the following grants were authorised from the Tom Ingram fund.

Name:	Amount:	Purpose:
Joanna Ross	£600.00	Travel costs connected with the Design History Conference in Porto
Elizabeth Marsh	£165.00	Travel costs to Temple Newsam for research
Emma Baillie	£450.00	FHS Study Trip to Devon
Catherine Doucette	£404.98	Travel costs related to the New York ECD Symposium
Maeve Diepenbrock	£231.43	Travel costs related to the New York ECD Symposium
Adam Toole	£660.00	Attendance on the Study Trip to Derbyshire
Gregor Wittrick	£550.00	Attendance on the Study Trip to Brussels
Doris Hattink	£575.00	Travel costs related to Netherlandish Art Conference, Cambridge
Annie Coggan	£787.70	Travel costs related to research in London

Early Career Development ('ECD')

Annual ECD Symposium. Thanks to the long-standing support of the Oliver Ford trustees, the Society hosted the seventh ECD Symposium at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York in January 2024. Participants in this sold-out event included ten young curators and art historians from across Europe and the United States. The speakers also enjoyed a visit to the Winter Show at the Armoury and a group dinner with the Metropolitan's curators, who also treated them to a special tour of the museum's galleries.

The Society is extremely grateful to Sarah Lawrence, Danielle Kisluk-Grosheide, Wolfram Koeppe, Alyce Perry Englund and Wolf Burchard (Department of European Sculpture & Decorative Arts) for so generously offering their time and expertise in helping to make the Research Symposium a success, and to Sarah Gregory for co-ordinating the day so efficiently.

Other ECD activities. The ECD programme is organised under the auspices of the Grants Committee and since Autumn 2023 has been managed by a team of five: Penelope Hines; Isabelle Vaudrey; Alienor Cros; Simon Spier and Adele Bourbonne.

Well-attended events organised for members included a tour of the Ashmolean Museum led by Matthew Winterbottom; a visit to Eltham Palace with Tessa Kilgariff and a tour of the Treasure

House Fair guided by Peter Holmes and Adriana Turpin. In addition, there have been two successful online research clinics in December and June.

The creation of a dedicated WhatsApp group to facilitate planning ECD events has been a great success, with members actively participating.

Events Committee

In addition to the Honorary Officers *ex officio*, members of the committee were: Kate Hay (Chair), Anne-Marie Bannister, Dr Melanie Doderer-Winkler, Kate Dyson (to January 2024), Sara Heaton, Dr Amy Lim, William Lorimer, Kerry Monaghan Smith (from April 2024), Dr Tessa Murdoch, Michael Shrive and Maude Willaerts—all ably shepherded by Beatrice Goddard (Events Secretary).

Annual Lecture

In October 2023, Christopher Payne presented 'Decade by Decade: not just "nineteenth century", British Furniture 1820 to 1920' being some of his findings made whilst researching for his book *British Furniture 1820 to 1920—The Luxury Market*.

AGM

The AGM was held on 25 November 2023. Full report is made elsewhere.

Annual Symposium

The 48th Annual Symposium, 'New Light on Arts and Crafts Furniture and Interiors', was held on 23 March 2024 at the Art Workers' Guild, WC1 and live streamed as well. The day was capably organised by Kate Hay, and chaired by Tessa Wild and Martin Levy.

Tours and Visits

During the year, the following series of events and visits events were organised for members.

- Long week-end study trips to North Devon led by Kate Dyson; and to Seville led by Cristina Alfonsín and Félix Zorzo; as well as a study trip to Brussels focusing on Art Nouveau led by Maude Willearts; and another to Derbyshire led by Dr Amy Lim.
- Day visits to the Faringdon Collection at 28 Brompton Square, SW7 and Buscot Park, Oxfordshire, both led by their curator, Dr Amy Lim; to Beckford Tower and 19 Lansdown Crescent, Bath with Dr Amy Frost as well as a third visit to Chequers (by popular demand).
- London visits were also made to the exhibition entitled 'Highlights from the Collection of Clive and Jane Wainwright' at H. Blairman & Sons knowledgeably presented by Martin Levy; and to Farley Prop Hire led by Kate Dyson.
- There were three online events: a seminar in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art on its exhibition 'Eternal Medium: Seeing the world in Stone' with speakers Lola Cindric, Nicholas Grindley, Rosie Mills and Alice Minter; a lecture by Dr Barbara Lasic on 'Joseph Duveen and the formation and donation of the Tuck Collection at the Petit Palais', and a lecture by Stephen Jackson on 'Scottish Furniture, 1500-1914'.

Thanks

Such a rich programme is only possible thanks to the generosity of our speakers and collaborators to whom we are extremely grateful. All devoted much time and effort in preparing for these

events to ensure that the Society continued to realise in full measure one of its charitable aims—the promotion of the study of the history of furniture.

Website

The website attracted 11,000 users in the 12 months period to 30 June 2024, approximately the same number as recorded in 2022-23. Thanks to the work of the Social Media Managers, Natalie Voorheis and Maeve Diepenbrock, the proportion of referrals to the website from social media platforms continues to rise.

The website's main draws remain the Events, Membership and Journal pages. Thanks to the work of the Events, BIFMO and Early Career Development teams, there are now over eighty lectures, seminars and talks available to members on the Society's Online Lectures page <https://www.furniturehistorysociety.org/events/online-lectures/>. These can now be accessed using the member's username and password which also allow access to the My Account area of the website.

If members have any suggestions as to content they would like to see on the website, please contact Megan Wheeler at website@furniturehistorysociety.org.

Social Media & Digital Strategy

The Society is active on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and Linktree. The Instagram account continues to be our strongest offering, with over 7,200 followers. It is steadily building a presence in an overcrowded field, with growth of over thousand followers since the last Report. Our presence on social media allows us to reach far beyond our paid-up membership of approximately 1,050; it raises the profile of the Society; and promotes the interest and study of furniture history to a wider audience.

Instagram posts also enabled the Society to publicise the wide range of its events held during the year. They increased sales of tickets to the public events, including the Annual Symposium and the online courses organised by the Society and BIFMO.

Posts on Instagram simultaneously appear on the Society's Facebook page, which has 749 followers. Our LinkedIn page has 272 followers and is used for circulating the Early Career Development Group news or other updates, mainly aimed at professionals and students.

During the year Natalie Voorheis stepped down and Maeve Diepenbrock took over as the post of Social Media Manager. The Digital Strategy Group, which meets quarterly, thanks Natalie for her work establishing the Society's social media presence so well and welcomes Maeve Diepenbrock. We would also like to thank Alienor Cros, who has stepped down from the group, for her contribution. .

Finance

Overview

Inflation peaked during the period and has been falling back steadily. Although after the year end, the result of the recent election has brought a form of stability to the domestic economic and political climate and we may hope that the new government is more sympathetic to the organisations such as your Society—albeit against a very difficult financial background.

In this context, the Society's finances exhibited a similar picture to the preceding year in that outgoings exceeded the income from all sources with an overall deficit of just over £15,000—significantly more than the budget. The net outcome, after accounting for the surplus on the revaluation of the Society's investment assets at 30 June 2024, was an increase in the net wealth of the Society of nearly £13,000.

The deficit of just on £14,000 on the ordinary activities in the General fund was significantly more than anticipated largely due to two factors: a much reduced margin on the Visits & Events programme and an overrun on the costs of the Journal. With the Events Secretary, we shall be looking at the costings of the Visits, &c. programme and the charges made to participants. This year's Journal will be a slimmer volume than the preceding year and the Editor believes that the costs will be noticeably less.

Income & Expenditure

Total Income amounted to £205,420 (2022-23: £189,079) with the income from membership subscriptions (£81,906) above the budget figure for the first time for several years thanks to the Finance Officer's success in chasing overdue subscriptions. In addition, our receipts from our outreach activities were approximately £10,000 more than 2022-23.

Expenditure totalled £220,075 (2022-23: £195,471). The major cost variances from budget were (a) the higher-than-estimated cost of printing the Journal and the associated distribution costs due mainly to the size of the publication, and (b) the lower than hoped-for margin on Visits & Events (principally the Andalucía tour where we made a fortunate last-minute decision to engage a second 'whipper-in' for the party).

The deficit on BIFMO's activities of £10,339 (2023: £7,177) meant that the draw-down from the Anniversary fund was £2,161 less than budgeted. Thanks to Adriana Turpin's persuasive fund-raising efforts, one of the grants from the US (of \$10,000 from the Canady Foundation for editorial costs) has been renewed for 2024-25 and another (of \$5,000 from the Iris Foundation for the same purpose) is a three-year commitment. Together they will have the effect of reducing the draw-down from the Anniversary Fund currently budgeted at £12,000 p.a.

Balance Sheet

Charity accounting regulations dictate that the increase or decrease in the value of the Society's investment assets has to be reflected in the accounts. At 30 June 2024, the valuation of the investments exceeded the 2023 figure by £28,278. The property investment under-pinning the Gadd fund will be revalued in 2024-25.

At the year-end, the charity's funds totalled £866,525 (2023: £853,532) of which £735,005 (2023: £719,894) was attributable to restricted funds.

Outlook

It is a concern that the deficits arising on the Society's ordinary activities continue to erode the General fund whilst almost all the grants, donations and particularly legacies the Society receives are for specific purposes. For this reason, the underlying deficit must be addressed. Whilst we believe that some economies can be made in area of administration, it is important to ensure that the income from members' subscriptions covers the basic out goings and for that reason an increase of approximately 10% in the basic subscription for 2025-26 is proposed (see pages 4 ff).

Legacies

No legacies were received or pledged in the year (2024: nil).

Future plans

The Chairman writes “We shall continue to give our membership good value. The Society offers an annual Journal (*Furniture History*) which is the world’s foremost authority on furniture and historic interiors. Our Hon. Editorial Secretary is to be congratulated on the high standards of content and of publication.

“The 2024 volume is dedicated to the memory of Philip Hewat-Jaboor involving a plethora of articles on subjects that were of interest to Philip, including hardstones and his devotion to Beckford studies. The overdue index to the Journal for the years 2010-19 has been generously supported by the charitable trusts of James Joll and Judith Goodison—to whom the Society is most grateful.

“Members receive no less than four Newsletters per annum. The joint Newsletter Editors produce publications of high quality and elegant design. The leading article is always a scholarly account of some facet of furniture history. There are book reviews and accounts of visits organized by our Events Committee, as well as news of BIFMO and other Society activities.

“With Council’s approval, we intend to experiment with advertising to offset the costs of publication. We shall retain editorial control so that the advertisements are discreet and stylish. We hope that this endeavour will be popular with advertisers. We feel that it could save the Society money allowing us to divert at least some of the expenditure on the Newsletters to other purposes.

“Kate Hay retires as Co-Editor and we welcome Harry Bonar Law as her successor. She is to be congratulated for the excellence of the Newsletters and we are fortunate that she will continue to be co-Chair of the Events Committee.

“As always, we need to find a way of recruiting new members on a larger scale. At present the membership stands at just over 1,050. It grew slightly in 2023-24, which is reassuring, but the larger the membership the more funding for the Society’s core purposes. We hope that members will continue to encourage friends to join the Society and that we shall soon see a stronger upward trend.

“Members of the ECD Group had a highly successful day of lectures on furniture and historic interiors held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, to whose staff we are most grateful. This augurs well for the future as it was the second such day at the MMA and we hope that it will become a regular event. We are indebted to the Oliver Ford Trust for its continuing support. BIFMO continues to offset its editorial costs by offering popular and profitable online courses chaired by the Deputy Chairman of the BIFMO committee.

“Many members give their time freely to help the Society fulfil its objectives by attending meetings of Council and the committees, sitting on working groups or undertaking many other tasks or functions on behalf of the charity. Council is greatly indebted to these individuals for their generous support of the Society.

During the year, at the suggestion of Lady Goodison, and with her generous support, Council has created a restricted fund to be used to underpin the finances of the Journal.

Responsibilities of Council

The Charities Act 2011 requires the Officers and Council of the Society (i.e., the charity trustees) to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the surplus or deficit of the Society for that period. In preparing these accounts the Council and Officers are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate.
- Follow applicable accounting standards

The Officers are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society, and the Officers and Council are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities, by establishing and maintaining a satisfactory system of control over the Society’s accounting records, cash holdings and all its receipts and remittances.

Risk Review

Council has conducted an informal review of the major risks to which the Society is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures of authorisation of all transactions and projects and to ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the Society and these procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet its needs.

Statement of Disclosure to the Independent Examiner

So far as Council is aware, there is no relevant information concerning the independent examination of the Accounts of which the Society’s independent examiner is unaware. In addition, the members of Council have taken all the steps they ought to have taken as members of Council and charity trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the Society’s independent examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

At the Annual General Meeting, Council will propose that Christopher Pexton FCA of Messrs Begbies, Chartered Accountants be re-appointed the independent examiner of the Society’s financial statements for the ensuing year.

Approved by Council and signed on their behalf on 3 October 2024.

Christopher Rowell
Chairman of Trustees

Martin Williams
Trustee and Hon. Treasurer

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income From:-						
Membership Subscriptions	2	81,906	—	—	81,906	77,310
Donations, Grants and Legacies	3	5,999	5,000	11,710	22,709	20,840
Charitable Activities	4	62,608	—	17,462	80,070	70,465
Trading Activities	5	3,608	—	—	3,608	3,988
Investment Income	6	4,850	—	12,277	17,127	16,476
Total		158,971	5,000	41,449	205,420	189,079
Expenditure On:-						
Charitable Activities	7	174,775	—	45,930	220,705	195,471
Total		174,775	—	45,930	220,705	195,471
Transfers between funds		1,845	(1,734)	(111)	—	—
Net (Deficit) Surplus		(13,959)	3,266	(4,592)	(15,285)	(6,392)
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)						
Gains (Losses) on Investment Assets		8,575	—	19,703	28,278	(7,966)
Net Movement in Funds		(5,384)	3,266	15,111	12,993	(14,358)
Reconciliation of Funds						
Total Funds Brought Forward		123,648	9,990	719,894	853,532	867,890
Total Funds Carried Forward		118,264	13,256	735,005	866,525	853,532

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Investments			
- Listed Investments	11(a)	392,190	363,912
- Property	11(b)	376,000	376,000
Total Fixed Assets		768,190	739,912
Current Assets			
Debtors	12	8,351	17,543
Interest-Earning Deposits		26,109	35,487
Balances at Bank		110,897	103,460
Total Current Assets		145,357	156,490
Current Liabilities			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(46,678)	(41,611)
Net Current Assets		98,679	114,879
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		866,869	854,791
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			
Deferred Income - Membership		(344)	(1,259)
Total Net Assets		£866,525	£853,532
The Funds of the Charity:			
Unrestricted General Fund	14	118,264	123,648
Designated Fund			
Howard Fund	14	8,256	9,990
Journal Fund	14	5,000	—
Restricted Funds			
Ingram Fund	14	228,509	215,554
Anniversary Fund	14	130,338	128,071
Hilda Gadd Fund	14	376,000	376,000
Card Makers Donation	14	158	269
		735,005	719,894
Total Charity Funds		£866,525	£853,532

Approved on behalf of the Council on 3 October 2024
CHRISTOPHER ROWELL: *Chairman*

MARTIN WILLIAMS: *Hon Treasurer*

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

1. Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

(b) Public benefit entity

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

(c) Cash Flow

The Society has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it qualifies as a smaller charity.

(d) Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and subscriptions are accounted for as received by the Society. No permanent endowments have been received in this period.

(e) Life Membership Subscriptions

Investments are stated at market value. Realised and unrealised gains and losses are dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment income and interest are accounted for as received by the Society.

(f) Investments

Investments are stated at market value. Realised and unrealised gains and losses are dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment income and interest are accounted for as received by the Society.

(g) Allocation of Costs

Costs are allocated to General Fund unless specific to other funds.

(h) Resources Expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred.

(i) Governance Costs

Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. The costs include those relating to external audit.

(j) Foreign Currencies

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange ruling at the end of the financial year. All exchange differences are dealt with in the profit and loss account.

(k) Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds are funds which are used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed. There are six restricted funds. (1) The Tom Ingram Fund (the "Ingram Fund") is an endowment fund which may be used to assist anyone - member or non-member alike - to pursue studies and research into furniture and its history. (2) The Anniversary Fund (the "Anniversary Fund") is an expendable fund which has been set up to assist with education, research and publication on furniture and its history. (3) The Hilda Colquhoun Gadd Fund (the "Hilda Gadd Fund") is an endowment fund, the asset of which was gifted to advance the study of the history of furniture or bibliographies of the same. (4) The Alison Kelly Journal Fund (the "Alison Kelly Fund") is an expendable fund established using a legacy intended to defray the cost of producing the Society's Journal. (5) The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards Donation (the "Card Makers Donation") is an expendable fund to subsidise the subscriptions to the Society of 5-10 young people over a period of three years. (6) The Journal Fund ("Journal Fund") established during the year to defray the costs of all aspects of the Society's Journal.

2. Subscriptions - General Fund

	2024	2023
	£	£
Subscriptions under Gift Aid	34,341	33,368
Income Tax Recovered	8,585	8,324
Subscriptions not under Gift Aid	38,980	35,618
	81,906	77,310

3. Donations, Grants and Legacies

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gifts	7,618	2,279
Grants	15,091	18,561
Legacies	—	—
	22,709	20,840

4. Income From Charitable Activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Visits and Tours	54,302	42,610
Lectures and Symposia	25,768	27,855
	80,070	70,465

5. Income From Trading Activities	2024	2023		
	£	£		
Publications and Royalties	3,608	3,688		
Other Income	—	300		
	3,608	3,988		
6. Investment Income	2024	2023		
	£	£		
Income from Listed Investments	16,024	I 5,856		
Interest Receivable on Cash Deposits	1,103	620		
	17,127	16,476		
7. Expenditure	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	2024	2023
			£	£
Charitable Activities				
Visits and Tours	53,094	—	53,094	32,904
Lectures and Symposia	10,348	7,740	18,088	16,187
Donations and Grants	4,062	14,220	18,282	5,034
Journals	17,905	—	17,905	13,687
Newsletters	11,625	—	11,625	11,375
	97,034	21,960	118,994	79,187
Support Costs				
Secretarial and Administration	42,698	16,418	59,116	69,607
Travel	662	—	662	1,257
Mailing, Postage and Telephones	13,668	—	13,668	13,001
Printing and Stationery	621	—	621	1,422
Warehousing	1,925	—	1,925	1,631
Sundry expenses	5,916	244	6,160	3,941
Website costs	6,295	6,848	13,143	18,897
	71,785	23,510	95,295	109,756
Governance Costs				
Examiner's remuneration	2,400	—	2,400	2,400
Insurance	1,518	—	1,518	1,558
Trustees' Costs	2,038	460	2,498	2,570
	5,956	460	6,416	6,528
Total	174,775	45,930	220,705	195,471

7. Expenditure continued	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
8. Visits and Tours			2024 £	2023 £
Income			54,302	42,610
Less: Expenditure			(53,094)	(32,904)
Surplus for Year			1,208	9,706
Margin			2.2%	22.8%
9. Lectures and Symposia			2024 £	2023 £
Income			25,768	27,855
Less: Expenditure			(18,088)	(16,187)
Surplus for Year			7,680	11,668
10. Net Incoming Resources			2024 £	2023 £
This is stated after charging:				
Accountants' remuneration			2,400	2,400
11. Investments			2024 £	2023 £
a) Listed Investments:				
Market Value at 1 July 2023			363,912	371,878
Purchases During the Year at Cost			32,626	—
Disposals/Proceeds During the year			(32,626)	—
Realised gain on Disposals			12,560	—
Changes in Unrealised Gains			15,718	(7,966)
Market Value at 30 June 2024			392,190	363,912
Historical Cost at 30 June 2024			277,529	264,698

11. Investments *continued*

	General Fund £	Ingram Fund £	Anniversary Fund £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Listed Investments - UK					
M&G 'Charifund' Income Shares	49,295	63,769	—	113,064	104,748
COIF Income Shares	62,114	15,527	—	77,641	71,456
Schroders Charity Multi Asset Fund	—	56,609	111,024	167,633	155,113
CAF ESG Cautious Fund	—	33,852	—	33,852	—
CAF Equity Fund B Shares	—	—	—	—	32,595
	111,409	169,757	111,024	392,190	363,912

The investments are held primarily to provide an investment return for the Society.

b) Property	2024 £	2023 £
At Valuation at 1 July 2023	376,000	376,000
Revaluation in year	—	—
At Valuation at 30 June 2024	376,000	376,000

In 2015, a residential property in Twickenham was donated to the Society subject to a tenancy for life at no rent in favour of the donors. It is Council's intention that, when vacant possession is obtained, the freehold interest will be sold and the monies realised used to provide an income for the purposes of the Hilda Gadd fund. (see Note I(k)).

12. Debtors	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments	7,290	6,984
Gift Aid	—	8,342
Value Added Tax	1,061	2,217
	8,351	17,543

13. Current Liabilities	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts Falling Due Within One Year		
Deferred Income	38,098	31,057
Accruals	8,580	10,554
	46,678	41,611

Deferred Income comprises income from subscriptions, tours, lectures and visits, received in advance and which will form part of incoming resources during the following financial year.

14(a) Movements in Funds

	Unrestricted Designated Fund Fund			Restricted Funds				
	General Fund £	Howard Fund £	Journal Fund £	Ingram Fund £	Anniversary Fund £	Gadd Fund £	Card Makers Donation £	Total 2024 £
Current year (2023-24)								
Income From:-								
Membership Subscriptions	81,906	—	—	—	—	—	—	81,906
Donations, Grants and Legacies	5,999	—	5,000	—	11,710	—	—	22,709
Charitable Activities	62,608	—	—	—	17,462	—	—	80,070
Other Trading Activities	3,608	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,608
Investment Income and Interest	4,850	—	—	7,962	4,315	—	—	17,127
Total	158,971	—	5,000	7,962	33,487	—	—	205,420
Expenditure On:-								
Charitable Expenditure	174,775	—	—	6,419	39,511	—	—	220,705
Total	174,775	—	—	6,419	39,511	—	—	220,705
Transfers between funds	1,845	(1,734)	—	—	—	—	(111)	—
Net (Deficit)/Income	(13,959)	(1,734)	5,000	1,543	(6,024)	—	(111)	(15,285)
Other Recognised Gains and (Losses)								
Gains on Investment Assets	8,575	—	—	11,412	8,291	—	—	28,278
Net Movements in Funds	(5,384)	(1,734)	5,000	12,955	2,267	—	(111)	12,993
Balance Brought Forward at 1 July 2023	123,648	9,990	—	215,554	128,071	376,000	269	853,532
Balance Carried Forward at 30 June 2024	118,264	8,256	5,000	228,509	130,338	376,000	158	866,525

14(b). Movements in Funds

	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Funds					
	General Fund	Howard Fund	Ingram Fund	Anniversary Fund	Hilda Gadd Fund	Alison Kelly Fund	Card Makers Donation	Total 2023
Previous year (2022-23)	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income From:-								
Membership Subscriptions	77,310	—	—	—	—	—	—	77,310
Donations, Grants and Legacies	2,279	—	—	18,561	—	—	—	20,840
Charitable Activities	56,045	—	—	14,720	—	—	—	70,765
Other Trading Activities	3,688	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,688
Investment Income and Interest	4,628	—	7,561	4,287	—	—	—	16,476
Total	143,950	—	7,561	37,568	—	—	—	189,079
Expenditure On:-								
Charitable Expenditure	148,039	—	6,974	40,458	—	—	—	195,471
Total	148,039	—	6,974	40,458	—	—	—	195,471
Transfers between funds	2,844	(545)	—	—		(1,855)	(444)	—
Net (Deficit)/Income	(1,245)	(545)	587	(2,890)	—	(1,855)	(444)	(6,392)
Other Recognised Gains and (Losses)								
Gains (Losses) on Investment Assets	(1,122)	—	(3,589)	(3,255)	—	—	—	(7,966)
Net Movements in Funds	(2,367)	(545)	(3,002)	(6,145)	—	(1,855)	(444)	(14,358)
Balance Brought Forward at 1 July 2022	126,015	10,535	218,556	134,216	376,000	1,855	713	867,890
Balance Carried Forward at 30 June 2023	123,648	9,990	215,554	128,071	376,000	—	269	853,532

14(c). Split of Movements in Anniversary Fund

	2024			2023		
	BIFMO	Other	Anniversary Fund	BIFMO	Other	Anniversary Fund
Income From:-						
Membership Subscriptions	—	—	—	—	—	—
Donations, Grants and Legacies	11,710	—	11,710	18,561	—	18,561
Charitable Activities	17,462	—	17,462	14,720	—	14,720
Other Trading Activities	—	—	—	—	—	—
Investment Income and Interest	—	4,315	4,315	—	4,287	4,287
Total	29,172	4,315	33,487	33,281	4,287	37,568
Expenditure On:-						
Charitable Expenditure	39,511	—	39,511	40,458	—	40,458
Total	39,511	—	39,511	40,458	—	40,458
Transfers between funds	10,339	(10,339)	—	7,177	(7,177)	—
Net (Deficit)/Income	—	(6,024)	(6,024)	—	(2,890)	(2,890)
Other Recognised Gains and (Losses)						
Gains on Investment Assets	—	8,291	8,291	—	(3,255)	(3,255)
Net Movements in Funds	—	2,267	2,267	—	(6,145)	(6,145)
Balance Brought Forward	—	128,071	128,071	—	134,216	134,216
Balance Carried Forward	—	130,338	130,338	—	128,071	128,071

15(a). Movements in Funds

Current year	Balance 1 July 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfer £	Gains and Losses £	Balance 30 June 2024 £
Restricted Funds						
Ingram Fund	215,554	7,962	(6,419)	—	11,412	228,509
Anniversary Fund	128,071	33,487	(39,511)	—	8,291	130,338
Hilda Gadd Fund	376,000	—	—	—	—	376,000
Card Makers Donation	269	—	—	(111)	—	158
Designated Funds						
Howard Fund	9,990	—	—	1,734)	—	8,256
Journal Fund	—	5,000	—	—	—	5,000
Unrestricted Funds						
General Fund	123,648	158,971	(174,775)	1,845	8,575	118,264
	853,532	205,420	(220,705)	—	28,278	866,525

15(b). Movements in Funds

Previous year	Balance 1 July 2022 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfer £	Gains and Losses £	Balance 30 June 2023 £
Restricted Funds						
Ingram Fund	218,556	7,561	(6,974)	—	(3,589)	215,554
Anniversary Fund	134,216	37,568	(40,458)	—	(3,255)	128,071
Hilda Gadd Fund	376,000	—	—	—	—	376,000
Alison Kelly Fund	1,855	—	—	(1,855)	—	—
Card Makers Donation	713	—	—	(444)	—	269
Designated Funds						
Howard Fund	10,535	—	—	(545)	—	9,990
Unrestricted Funds						
General Fund	126,015	143,950	(148,039)	2,844	(1,122)	123,648
	867,890	189,079	(195,471)	—	(7,966)	853,532

16(a). Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

Current year	Investments £	Other Assets £	Total £
Unrestricted General Fund	111,409	6,855	118,264
Designated Fund			
Howard Fund	—	8,256	8,256
Journal Index Fund	—	5,000	5,000
Restricted Funds			
Ingram Fund	169,757	58,752	228,509
Anniversary Fund	111,024	19,314	130,338
Hilda Gadd Fund	—	376,000	376,000
Card Makers Donation	—	158	158
	392,190	474,335	866,525

16(b). Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

Previous year	Investments £	Other Assets £	Total £
Unrestricted General Fund	102,834	20,814	123,648
Designated Fund			
Howard Fund	—	9,990	9,990
Restricted Funds			
Ingram Fund	158,347	57,207	215,554
Anniversary Fund	102,731	25,340	128,071
Hilda Gadd Fund	—	376,000	376,000
Card Makers Donation	—	269	269
	363,912	489,620	853,532

17. Taxation

As a registered charity the society is exempt from corporation tax since all income is applied for charitable purposes.

18. Trustees' Expenses and Remuneration

The Honorary Secretary, Dr. Megan Wheeler, was paid a total of £2,631 (2023: £2,636) comprising £2,600 (2023: £2,550) for website administration services and other sundry costs £31 (2023: £86).

Dr Megan Aldrich was paid a total of £5,460 (2023-£5,400) comprising £5,000 (2023 £5,000) for editing the annual journal and other sundry costs £460 (2023: £400).

Expenses paid to one trustee in the year totalled £720 (2023: £941), comprising reimbursed travel £650 (2023: £762) and sundry other costs £70 (2023: £79).

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Furniture History Society (the 'Charity') for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Christopher Pexton FCA
Begbies, Chartered Accountants
9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4DJ

Date: 13 October 2023

Accounts

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

*Annual Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements
for the Year ended 30 June 2023,
together with Notice of the Fifty-ninth Annual General Meeting
to be held at The East India Club,
16 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LH
on Saturday, 25 November 2023 commencing at 11.00 am*

c/o The Department of Furniture, Textiles and Fashion,
Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7 2RL

www.furniturehistorysociety.org

Registered Charity No. 251683

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

AGENDA

for the 59th Annual General Meeting of
The Furniture History Society
to be held at The East India Club, 16 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LH
at 11.00 am on Saturday, 25 November 2023

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 58th Annual General Meeting
3. Adoption of the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2023
4. Adoption of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023
5. Re-election of the Honorary Officers
 - The President
Council proposes Simon Swynfen Jervis
 - The Chairman
Council proposes Christopher Neville Rowell
 - The Honorary Secretary
Council proposes Dr Megan Wheeler
 - The Honorary Treasurer
Council proposes Martin Blue Macintosh Williams
 - The Honorary Editorial Secretary
Council proposes Dr Megan Brewster Aldrich
6. Re-election of four members of Council
*Council proposes Dr Caroline McCaffrey-Howarth, Jürgen Huber,
Dr Jane (Jenny) Laura Saunt and Philip John Peacock*
7. Election of two new members of Council
Council proposes David Oakey and Charles Thomas
8. Re-appointment of the Independent Examiner
Council proposes Christopher Pexton of Messrs Begbies
9. Any Other Business
10. Votes of Thanks

PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

We plan to hold the Society's Annual General Meeting in person. The talks will be recorded and the recording of the meeting will be placed on the Society's website after the meeting. The log-in details required to access it will be communicated by e-mail to all the members for whom the Society has an email address.

Admission to the Annual General Meeting ("AGM") is free and open to all members, but those wishing to attend in person are asked to notify the Events Secretary, Beatrice Goddard, at events@furniturehistorysociety.org, at least seven days in advance so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Coffee will be served from 10.30 am and the meeting will start at 11.00 am.

As is customary, the formal business will be followed by a series of short talks. Speakers will include:

- Louis Platman (Curator at the Museum of the Home) who will talk about 'Real Rooms', a redevelopment project that will see the construction of many new period rooms and immersive displays at the museum. He will also update members on the Cotton Collection of English Regional Chairs, and the recently acquired associated Cotton Archive;
- Dr Tessa Kilgariff (English Heritage, Curator of Collections and Interiors, South London) will speak on the Marble Hill Revived project;
- Callan Davies (Assistant Manager, Research and Engagement) and Lucy Odlin (Collections Conservation Manager, Palace of Westminster), will outline the history of the design and use of the Speaker's State Coach.
- Dr Amy Frost (Senior Curator, Bath Preservation Trust) will reveal the work currently underway at Beckford's Tower to conserve the building and refit the museum. Her talk will include details of how the collection of Beckford material and furniture will be presented and interpreted when the museum reopens in March 2024.

At the conclusion of the presentations, a sandwich lunch will be served. Tickets for this, to include a glass of wine, costing £22 per head, should be booked at least seven days in advance through Beatrice Goddard, Events Secretary, at events@furniturehistorysociety.org

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

MINUTES of the Fifty-eighth Annual General Meeting of the Furniture History Society held on 26 November 2022

Notice

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20 November 2021 were taken as read and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2022

The Chairman summarised Council's report which reflected the Society's vitality and the variety of its activities in 2020-21. He thanked all involved in its production.

He drew attention to the fact that the Society's membership had stabilised, falling by a net figure of just two over the twelve months. He noted that the Society's increased activity on social media platforms should help to maintain, and hopefully grow, membership figures in the coming year.

Turning to publications, he reported that Lavenham Press – the Society's printers since 2021 – had already proved effective in streamlining the process of compiling, printing and distributing the Journal and Newsletter. He congratulated the Hon. Editorial Secretary, on the 2022 issue of *Furniture History*. He reported that the 2024 volume would reflect the many enthusiasms – such as hardstones, William Beckford, the Masterpiece Fair, &c. of the late Philip Hewat-Jaboor. Philip had been a great supporter of the Society in particular of its Early Careers activities, and would be much missed by the Society as well as his many friends.

The Hon. Editorial Secretary's involvement in *BIFMO* would, he said, continue to pay dividends, as would the expertise of the Editorial Group, which also advised the editors of both the Society's Newsletter and the *BIFMO* publications.

He reported with regret that Sharon Goodman had decided to step down from the post of Editor of the Newsletter, having heroically edited and produced four issues each year for the past five years. He thanked her for her service, and welcomed her successors, Kate Hay and Iain Stephens, who would serve as co-Editors. Plans were already underway, he said, to streamline the Newsletter's design so as to reduce the costs of production.

The Chairman noted that Dr Wolf Burchard would also be stepping down as Book Review Editor due to pressure of work and would welcome suggestions for his successor.

He reported that *BIFMO* had, in terms of both editorial work and its outreach and education programme, gone from strength-to-strength over the past year. By means of the incorporation of entries on 19th century cabinet-makers, and the Cotton Archive, the database had been expanded and now comprised over 86,000 entries, and was attracting around 4,000 readers per month. The Chairman thanked everyone involved with particular reference to Mr & Mrs Cotton for their generosity in sharing a life time of research with the Dictionary of British & Irish Furniture-Makers (“DBIFM”).

The Grants committee, chaired by Adriana Turpin, had been active and awards had been made to those attending the Society’s visits and events, as well as in support of the publications and activities linked to the excellent Early Careers Development programme. The principal event during the year had been the very successful Research Symposium.

He congratulated the Events committee (and the co-chairs, Kate Hay and David Oakey) and the Events Secretary on devising and staging another outstanding programme, involving both traditional visits and online events notwithstanding the difficulties arising from the pandemic restrictions. He thanked all those involved—hosts, speakers and volunteers – for giving so generously of their time.

Looking to the future, he added that social media and digital strategy would be increasingly important in raising the profile of the Society and attracting new members. Thanks to Natalie Voorheis, the Social Media Manager, the Society’s account was now followed by over 4,500 people—more than three times the number of members.

Finally, he drew attention to the fact that the *BIFMO* website and database would be moving to a new host to allow further development of the database in line with the Society’s ambitious plans. It was hoped that this would make it easier to attract grants and other external funding.

There being no questions, he commended the Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2022 to the meeting and it was adopted *nemine contradicente*.

Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

The Hon. Treasurer presented the Financial Statements of the charity for the year. He began by thanking the Chairman, his colleagues, and in particular the Finance and Membership Officer, for their hard work.

He drew members’ attention to the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet. The income from all sources for the year ended 30 June 2022 had been £138,329 whilst total expenditure had totalled £147,180, resulting in a budgeted deficit of £8,851. However, this deficit had been counterbalanced by gains on investment assets of £65,019, meaning an overall gain in net funds of £56,168.

He noted that there had been a fall in the income from Donations, Grants and Legacies from a figure of £35,885 in 2021 to £3,241 in the year ending 30 June 2022, but this had been more than compensated for by an increase in the income from Charitable Activities from £7,506 to £44,499—an increase which demonstrated the success of the resumption of a full programme of visits and lectures.

Expenditure on Charitable Activities had also shown a corresponding increase, moderated by an outflow of funds on *BIFMO*. The costs of producing the Journal had fallen following the move to Lavenham Press although the cost of producing the Newsletter had increased in the previous year. Its editorial team was actively investigating ways to streamline the publication to reduce costs.

He added that there had been upward movement in support costs, such as an increase in costs associated with secretarial and administrative work, but that this had been moderated by savings made on postage. *BIFMO* had made a headline deficit of £14,832 on its operations.

He asked members to note that the Balance Sheet reflected the re-valuation of the Society's assets, in particular the property in Twickenham underlying the Hilda Gadd Fund, which had increased in value significantly since the last formal valuation in 2010. He and the Finance Officer had taken a conservative view of the rise.

The Life Members' fund was now exhausted because of changes in the demographics of Society and the remaining Life members would be asked whether they would be prepared to renew their support of the Society. The increase in Subscriptions, which had been approved by the members at the 2021 AGM, would be reflected in the figures presented at the 2023 meeting.

To conclude, he said that the Society had recovered well from the restrictions imposed on its activities by the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. He thanked his colleagues on the Operations Group - Keith Nicholls, Beatrice Goddard, Jill Bace, Ann Davies and Megan Wheeler – who met regularly to manage the day-to-day activities of the Society. He noted with regret that Keith Nicholls wished to retire at the end of 2023 and the Society would be actively searching for his successor.

He commended the Financial Statements for adoption by the meeting. Adopted *nem. con.*

Elections

- a) The following officers were proposed for re-election:

PRESIDENT	Simon Swynfen Jervis
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL	Christopher Neville Rowell
HONORARY SECRETARY	Dr Megan Laura Wheeler
HONORARY TREASURER	Martin Blue Macintosh Williams
HONORARY EDITORIAL SECRETARY	Dr Megan Brewster Aldrich

- b) The following members of Council were proposed for re-election:
Dr Alexandra (Sacha) Gerstein, Stephen Jackson, Dr Caroline McCaffrey-Howarth and Jürgen Huber
- c) The following new members of Council were proposed for election:
Dr Jane (Jenny) Laura Saunt and Philip John Peacock

These motions were put to the meeting and each agreed *nem. con.*

The President recorded his thanks to the retiring members of Council, *viz.*, Dr Esmé Whittaker and Dr Mark Westgarth, for their service to the Society.

Re-appointment of independent examiner

The President thanked Christopher Pexton of Messrs Begbies and proposed that he be re-appointed for a further year. Agreed.

Any other business

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by the President who thanked all the Society's officers and particularly those who had set up the meeting as well as the staff of the East India Club. He coupled their names to those of the speakers whose talks would follow the formal business.

Talks

Hugo Burge, a director of Marchmont Farms Limited, talked about how Marchmont House, Berwickshire had been restored and developed to become a home to makers and creators, celebrating creativity across the arts, crafts, business and social enterprise.

Matthew Hirst, Curator, Woburn Abbey and Gardens, described the major refurbishment project at Woburn Abbey which had begun in the autumn of 2019. He outlined several aspects of this major undertaking, including the restoration of walls in the Court, the reinstatement of the Grotto Apartment built for the 4th Earl of Bedford around 1630, the restoration of Mortlake *Acts of the Apostles* tapestries as well as other work in progress.

Norman Hudson, Chairman, Historic Houses Foundation, described the work of this important grant-giving body and how it helped fill a funding gap in the restoration of country houses and the associated buildings, which might include integral furnishings and historically associated paintings.

Jessica Eddie, Curator of the Gilbert Collection at the Victoria & Albert Museum, spoke about work on its Roman Tabernacle. Jessica described how close examination and analysis of this tabernacle, always thought of as early 18th century, revealed that it was, in fact, a 19th century confection incorporating an important early *pietre dure* panel.



THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCIL 2022-23

The Council of the Furniture History Society has pleasure in presenting its fifty-eighth Annual Report together with Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Principal address c/o Department of Furniture, Textiles & Fashion,
Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7 2RL

Website (Society) <https://furniturehistorysociety.org>
(BIFMO) <https://bifmo.history.ac.uk/>

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Independent Examiner:	Christopher Pexton FCA c/o Begbies, London EC2A 4DJ
Accountants:	Begbies, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors www.begbiesaccountants.co.uk
Bankers:	CAF Bank Limited, ME19 4JQ Barclays Bank Plc, Leicester LE87 2BB HSBC Bank Plc, East Grinstead RH16 4LU COIF Charity Funds, London EC4V 4ET

Constitution

The Furniture History Society is an unincorporated membership body constituted by rules, and a registered charity numbered 251683. It was founded in 1964 to advance the study of furniture of all periods, places and kinds and to further public knowledge and appreciation of it.

Charitable Purposes and Public Benefit

The charitable purpose of the Society is the advancement of the arts, culture and heritage, and education in relation thereto. It does this by promoting the study of furniture and interior design of all periods, places and kinds and by furthering public knowledge and appreciation. The Society also assists with the preservation of furniture and associated records.

To these ends, it:

- Publishes original research in its annual journal *Furniture History* — much of which would otherwise remain unpublished.
- Finances its seminal reference work, the *Dictionary of British Furniture Makers* (now *British and Irish Furniture Makers Online* or *BIFMO*), with a view to covering the whole of the British Isles and making the work available to all without charge to all in the form of an online searchable database.
- Makes grants towards the preparation and publication of books and articles of a non-commercial nature.

- Helps fund the collection of oral history on the furniture trades.
- Arranges an annual international symposium, open to the public, on a topic of current interest and often related to an exhibition at a national institution.
- Encourages study by young people by providing reduced subscription rates for membership and making funds available for overseas study tours as well as study visits and weekends in the United Kingdom.
- Lobbies to save important collections of furniture and archives relating to furniture, which are under threat.
- Disseminates information and advice to the general public on matters relating to the history of furniture and interior design.
- Maintains a comprehensive website.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Society is managed by the Council, i.e., the trustee body of the charity. The trustees who served during the year 2022-23 were:

Simon Swynfen Jervis (President)
 Christopher Rowell (Chairman)
 Dr Megan Wheeler (Hon. Secretary)
 Martin Williams (Hon. Treasurer)
 Dr Megan Aldrich (Hon. Editorial Secretary)
 Dr Esmé Whittaker *retired 26 November 2022*
 Dr Mark Westgarth *retired 26 November 2022*
 Dr Alexandra (Sacha) Gerstein
 Stephen Jackson
 Dr Caroline McCaffrey-Howarth
 Jürgen Huber
 Dr Jane (Jenny) Laura Saunt *elected 26 November 2022*
 Philip John Peacock *elected 26 November 2022*

The Council is made up of: The President; the four Honorary Officers and eight elected members all of whom are appointed annually by the members of the Society at the Annual General Meeting. The elected members of Council serve a three-year term of office.

Council ordinarily meets four times each year, both in person and online, and is responsible for the management of the Society. During the year, attendance at Council was as follows:

President	3 out of a possible 4
Chairman	4 ditto
Hon. Secretary	4 ditto
Hon. Treasurer	4 ditto
Hon. Editorial Secretary	4 ditto
Dr Sacha Gerstein	2 ditto
Stephen Jackson	2 ditto
Dr C McCaffrey-Howarth	4 ditto
Jürgen Huber	2 ditto
Dr Jenny Saunt	2 ditto
Philip Peacock	3 ditto

Currently there are three committees – Events, Grants and *BIFMO* Management – together with the Digital Strategy Group and the Editorial Group. The members of the committees are appointed by Council and the Honorary Officers are ex-officio members of all committees. Any actions, including the decisions of any committee, must be reported to and confirmed by Council as soon as is practicable.

As trustees, Council members take decisions in the best interests of the Society as a whole, and they operate in accordance with a code of conduct that makes explicit reference to the need for objectivity.

Governance activity during the year included the regularisation of the status of the Editorial Group (recognition that it is an informal group of individuals advising the Hon. Editorial Secretary); and the adoption by Council of a protocol for the appointment of individual members of its committees.

Officers

The Society's day-to-day business is managed by the Honorary Officers together with a small group of remunerated staff namely Keith Nicholls (Finance & Membership Officer) and his colleagues: Jill Bace (Publications Officer and Grants Secretary); Beatrice Goddard (Events Secretary); Dr Megan Aldrich (Editor, Journal); Dr Megan Wheeler (Website Officer) and Ann Davies (*BIFMO* Outreach Programmes Co-ordinator). Council is deeply appreciative of the commitment and hard work of these individuals as well as by the honorary officers and all those who serve on the Society's two committees.

An Operations group consisting of the Hon. Treasurer (Chairman), the Hon. Secretary, the Finance Officer, the Events Secretary, the Publications Officer and the *BIFMO* Programmes Co-ordinator meets every 4-6 weeks to manage the Society's routine business.

Council – Elected Members

In accordance with the Society's constitution, two members of Council (Dr Alexandra (Sacha) Gerstein and Stephen Jackson) retire. Council is very grateful for their work for the Society during their terms of office and proposes the election of David Oakey and Charlie Thomas.

David Oakey FSA

David Oakey is the curator of a private art collection following a seven-years stint in the Decorative Arts Section of the Royal Collection Trust, and as Director of Research for a leading furniture dealer. He spent some ten years on the Society's Events Committee, the last four as its co-Chair. He has published and lectured widely in the fields of eighteenth and nineteenth century European decorative arts and architecture, and is currently undertaking a part time PhD at the Courtauld Institute of Art. In 2021 he was elected as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

Charles Thomas

Charlie Thomas is the UK Group Director for Private & Iconic Collections, Furniture, Works of Art and Carpets at Bonhams, where he started work in 2002. His areas of expertise include 18th and 19th century English and Continental furniture, with a special interest in 18th century vernacular furniture.

Charlie is also a senior auctioneer at Bonhams working across four continents. He has overseen a succession of high-profile, single-owner collection sales, many of which achieved 100% sell-through rates. Among the exceptional sales were The Savoy Collection; and the contents of Lord Glenconner's Caribbean property; Trellisick House; Count and Countess Martignone's Milanese and Genoese properties and Nicky Haslam's Hunting Lodge. More recently, headline auctions have included Sir Michael Caine's collection and the Estate of the late Sir Terence Conran.

Membership

During the year, membership fell by a net figure of 37 to 1,050 at the year-end (30 June 2022: 1,087). 108 individuals or institutions joined the Society (2022: 132) whilst 93 resigned (2022: 70). In addition, 52 members were struck off for not paying their subscriptions (2022: 64). The small fall in membership over the period is disappointing following the 'no change' position in the previous year.

During the year the Society invested in creating a dedicated membership area on the website—My Account. This enables members to update their personal details and simplifies the renewal process for those members who do not pay by Direct Debit.

During the year the Society was notified of the deaths of the following members: Paul Bruce, John Lindey and Paul Baker.

Publications

Furniture History

The year saw the publication of Journal LVIII (2022), the second with the new design and a cover printed in colours. There were seven articles in all within a total of 257 pages, five on British furniture and interiors from the seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries. The remaining two articles were on aspects of Continental European furniture, one exploring the impact of Chinese woodblock prints during the eighteenth century, thereby bringing a welcome 'global' perspective to the publication.

Journal LIX (2023) is well underway and approaching the first-proofs stage. It will be a large volume at more than 300 pages and contains ten articles by twelve authors. Eight of the articles address aspects of British furniture history from the beginning of the seventeenth century to the early twentieth; two of the articles examine discrete areas of Continental European furniture, including collections in Prague and the tastes of the Portuguese court in Brazil during the nineteenth century—again a welcome broadening of the publication's remit. The articles on British furniture history vary widely in scope and subject matter and are scholarly and informative, but the Hon. Editorial Secretary would also like to encourage authors working in the areas of Continental European, American or other regions of furniture history to consider offering material for publication in future issues.

Plans are well advanced for Journal LX (2024), which will take as its point of inspiration the interests and tastes of the late Philip Hewat-Jaboor. This volume will not be a traditional *festschrift*; rather, it is an affectionate acknowledgement of the wide-ranging interests of a long-term member of the Society. It will contain articles on hardstones; classical imagery and design

across varied periods; and aspects of the antiques and furnishing trades. There is room for more articles; about eight have reached the proposal or draft stage.

At the time of writing, the Hon. Editorial Secretary is beginning to assemble the digital files required to produce the next index of the Journal covering the years 2010–2019. The indexer who prepared the previous index is available and interested in taking on this volume. Estimates will need to be prepared, based upon the files, before an amount can be put into the Society's budget in 2024–25. Any member(s) who would like to sponsor this publication is invited to contact the Hon. Editorial Secretary.

Finally, the fruitful collaboration of the Hon. Editorial Secretary with both the *BIFMO* management committee and the Newsletter editors appears to be working extremely well.

Newsletter

Sharon Goodman, the Editor of the Newsletter for five years, produced her final issue in August 2022, and the Society would like to record its thanks to her for the huge amount of work she did in single-handedly editing every issue, each of which was produced to a high professional standard and packed with information. She also steered the Newsletter through both a change of publisher and the pandemic. The editing is again being divided between two editors, Kate Hay and Iain Stephens, who work on alternate issues.

The editors would like to thank all the contributors, including Society's officers, report-writers, and authors of the lead articles and the shorter 'New Discoveries and Research' articles.

During the year, the four lead articles were written by a distinguished range of international contributors: Maureen Cassidy-Geiger, curator and scholar based in New-York; Max Donnelly, Curator, Furniture and Woodwork 1800-1915 at the V&A; Dr Alexander Dencher and Paul Van Duin, Curator of Furniture and Head of Furniture Conservation at the Rijksmuseum respectively; and Dr Tessa Murdoch, Professorial Research Fellow, University of Buckingham, and formerly Research Curator, Gilbert Collection, Victoria & Albert Museum.

Thanks must also be returned to Dr Wolf Burchard for offering to continue commissioning and editing a wide variety of book reviews, and to the many contributing book reviewers. The Newsletter is designed by Gina Moidinis and produced by The Lavenham Press Ltd.

Anyone considering making a contribution about a discovery, fresh research, news, or a forthcoming exhibition or conference relevant to furniture history and of interest to members, is encouraged to get in touch with the editors whose contact details are set out on the back page of each Newsletter. The editors will supply guidelines on house style including recommended word-counts, on request.

Publication sales

Sales of publications were again low in the period, with the few requests for purchase confined to recent volumes of *Furniture History*. No new Society publications have been added to the inventory since 2017, and no doubt this is reflected in the lack of interest in the books currently available.

To encourage interest to a broader audience, the publications list has been posted on the Society's Instagram account. During the year, a member facilitated a donation of £200 to the Society from the sale of the complete run of *Furniture History*—formerly the property of Brian Austen, the Society's long-standing Finance Officer.

All issues of *Furniture History* remain priced at £30 (UK), £35 (Continental Europe) and £48 for the rest of the world, including postage and packing charges. Anyone interested in purchasing books or Journals should consult the Society's website for the complete list of publications with an up-to-date price list.

British and Irish Furniture Makers Online

BIFMO is managed by the Society through a dedicated management committee which is chaired by the Chairman and. Members include the four honorary officers ex officio as well as the Project Manager and Deputy Chairman of the committee, Adriana Turpin, and Stephen Jackson. Keith Nicholls (Finance Officer), Dr Laurie Lindey (Managerial Editor) and Clarissa Ward (19th Century Editor) report to the Committee.

BIFMO's outreach programme is advised by an informal group consisting of Christopher Claxton-Stephens, Joanna Norman (retired 2023) and Tessa Wild, led by Adriana Turpin. We are very grateful to them for their contributions to the various research projects.

Dictionary of British & Irish Furniture-makers Online

Dr Laurie Lindey (Managing Editor) and Clarissa Ward (19th Century Editor) created and/or revised over 6000 biographical accounts. Members may be interested to look at some of the entries originally created by Geoffrey Beard and Christopher Gilbert in *The Dictionary of English Furniture Makers* which have been updated with new information, illustrated with trade cards and objects, and the layout transformed into a more user-friendly style. They include biographies of Jasper Breame (1661-1697), Phillip Hunt (1662-1710), Henry Hill (1741-1777) and George Seddon (II) (1815-1870), his forebears and the eponymous firms.

Over 450 accounts of Edinburgh furniture makers from 1750 to 1850 were created or updated. Much of the background material was drawn from contemporary directories by a number of interns in a collaborative project with the University of Edinburgh, work which included plotting the locations of individuals and firms on historical maps.

Entirely new biographical accounts were mostly focused in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, for example, the firms Ercolani (1888-1970) and Hille (1906-1984).

The Society received two important research grants for *BIFMO*. The Albert Dawson Educational Trust generously awarded £11,000 to transcribe and publish the catalogues of the Arts & Crafts Exhibition Society, 1888-1916, and to edit the associated index. Secondly, the Decorative Arts Trust (based in the US), made a grant from its Dean F. Failey funds of \$9,500 to document British and Irish immigrant furniture makers working in America.

BIFMO attracted 53,095 readers over the period (2022: c. 48,000); of whom 89 per cent were new to the site. As would be expected, the majority were from English speaking countries: fifty-six per cent (UK); thirty per cent (US); with the remainder from around the globe particularly from Australia, Canada and continental Europe. The editors have been delighted to receive many enquiries—some correcting misinformation and others providing entirely new material, especially in regard to family firms.

Outreach Programme

This year *BIFMO* organised two online courses, well attended by both members and non-members, and reaching audiences as far afield as Brazil, Hawaii and New Zealand. These courses aim to present various aspects of the history of furniture and the furniture trade, while also offering new or unpublished research. The November course, British Furniture Making and the Globalised Trade, held over five successive weeks, highlighted the connections between British furniture makers and those in continental Europe, the US, China, Australia and New Zealand, through migration from the seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

The summer course, Furnishing the Country House: makers, designers and patrons c. 1650-1914 held in June 2023 over two weeks, brought out the commissions and the role of patrons in a number of country houses throughout the British Isles. The courses have brought visitors to the site, whilst raising funds for *BIFMO*'s continuing editorial work. We are enormously grateful to our speakers and audience for their continued support.

Grants Committee

The members of the committee who served during the year were: Adriana Turpin (Chair), Guy Apter, Rufus Bird, Dr Olivia Fryman, Peter Holmes, Dr Helen Jacobsen, Joanna Norman, Thomas Williams and Lucy Wood, ably managed by Jill Bace (Grants Officer). During the year, Guy Apter and Joanna Norman stepped down and were replaced by Messrs Bird and Williams. We thank all the members of the committee for their enthusiastic commitment and support.

Awards from the Tom Ingram Fund		
Name:	Amount:	Purpose:
Michele Deldicque	£121.64	Travel costs related to the Boiseries Symposium Decoration and Migration from the Eighteenth Century ...
Ulrich Leben	£171.60	Travel costs related to Boiseries Symposium (as above)
Cameron Di Leo	£340.00	FHS Study Trip to Versailles for the Louis XV exhibition
Mia Wolpert	£243.55	Travel to Waddesdon Manor for a research project
Michelle Kirk	£96.50	FHS Visit to Brotherton Research Centre, Leeds
Emma Olver	£590.00	FHS Study Trip to Scotland

Early Career Development ('ECD')

The Society's ECD programme is organised under the auspices of the Grants Committee and until January 2023 was managed by Katherine Hardwick and Elliot Sterling. Sadly, both individuals then had to step down due to career commitments, and the group will henceforth be managed by a small team of ECD members. We thank them for the hard work.

In October, a welcome reception was held at the Georgian Society for the early career groups of the Society, the French Porcelain Society, the Silver Society, and the Young Georgians. In November, David Dewing led a study of Windsor chairs after hours at the Museum of the Home. In June, Council Member Jürgen Huber, Chief Conservator at the Wallace Collection, presented an innovative talk on Sustainability at the Society of Antiquaries. These events were funded in part through the Della Howard Fund.

Five curators took part in the study trip to the European Art Fair, Maastricht, funded by the Oliver Ford Trust. They were accompanied by Adriana Turpin and David Wheeler, chief conservator, Royal Collections Trust. Over the two days of their visit, the group was shown many exceptional pieces, and discussed attributions and techniques. We are grateful to the many dealers who shared their knowledge and their passions and in particular to Jonathan Coulborn for his generous hospitality.

Events Committee

Members of the committee were: Kate Hay (Chair) and David Oakey (Joint Chair until April 2023 when he stepped down from the Committee), Anne-Marie Bannister, Dr Melanie Doderer-Winkler, Kate Dyson, Jessica Eddie, Sara Heaton, Dr Amy Lim (from September 2022), William Lorimer, Dr Tessa Murdoch, Michael Shrive and Maude Willaerts (from April 2023). Lucy Howgego stepped down in September 2022.

Annual Lecture

On 7 November 2022, Sir Hugh Roberts, former Surveyor of The Queen's Works of Art and Director of The Royal Collection, spoke at the Society of Antiquaries about his joint publication with Charles Cator, *Ince and Mayhew: Interpreting the record*. The event was also live-streamed.

AGM

The AGM was held in November 2022 at the East India Club. A full report is set out elsewhere in this Report.

Annual Symposium

The 2023 Annual Symposium, held jointly with the French Porcelain Society, took place on 24 and 25 March 2023 at the V & A and was live-streamed. Entitled *Rococo Across Borders: Designers & Makers*, it was organised by a group comprising Dr Diana Davis, Patricia Ferguson, Beatrice Goddard, Dr Caroline McCaffrey-Howarth, David Oakey and Adriana Turpin.

The April 2022 Annual Symposium (inadvertently omitted from last year's Annual Report since there were two Symposia that year) was held at the Wallace Collection. Entitled *Making the Old New: the Twentieth Century Interior Designer's Promotion of Furniture and its History*, the event was live-streamed and organised by David Oakey and chaired by Professor Edward Hollis, Professor of Interior Design at the University of Edinburgh.

Tours and Visits

2022 saw weekend study trips to Cardiff (led by Kate Hay) and Tuscany (led by Kate Dyson). In 2023, John Whitehead led a two-day study trip to Paris which included a visit to the exhibition Louis XV: Passion d'un Roi at the Palace of Versailles and Charlotte Rostek and William Lorimer led a weekend in Scotland.

There were day visits to Chequers, Longford Castle (so popular that a second visit had to be set up), the Royal Oak Foundation Conservation Studio at Knole to see the conservation of Hardwick Hall's 'Sea-Dog Table' and the newly restored Soane Museum Drawing Office. Visits were also made to the Palace of Westminster, the Freud Museum, Pitzhanger Manor, Ranger's House, and the new John Evan Bedford Study Room at the Brotherton Library, Leeds, with Professor Mark Westgarth.

There was also an online lecture, A Sense of Proportion and Puritanical Love of Simplicity: The Furniture Designs of C F A Voysey by Tony Peart, Senior Lecturer in Graphic Design & Illustration at The University of Cumbria Institute of the Arts, supported by the Voysey Society, in association with BIFMO.

Thanks

The rich programme that is set out above is only made possible through the generosity of our hosts, and our speakers and collaborators, to all of whom we are extremely grateful. They devote considerable time and effort in preparing for these events to ensure that we continue to fulfil one of the Society's principal charitable aims—the promotion of the study of the history of furniture.

Website

The website attracted 11,421 users in the period to 30 June 2023, a fall on the number of visitors recorded in 2021-22 of 21.5%. This disappointing performance was offset somewhat by an increase both in the number of pages viewed per session and the average session duration. Thanks to the work of the Social Media Manager, the proportion of referrals to the website from social media platforms has risen.

The website's main draws remain the Events, Membership and Journal pages and the fifty-or-so talks and lectures available to members on our Online Lectures page <https://www.furniturehistorysociety.org/events/online-lectures/>. These can now be accessed using the member's username and password which also allow access to the My Account area of the website.

If members have any suggestions as to content they would like to see on the website, please contact Megan Wheeler at website@furniturehistorysociety.org.

Social Media & Digital Strategy

The Society is active on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and Linktree. The Instagram account continues to be the strongest offering, with over 6,100 followers (30 June 2022: 4,500). Since the Instagram account was established in 2018, regular posting has resulted in a steady monthly increase in our following. Our presence on social media has allowed us to reach far beyond our

membership of approximately 1,050 and promote the interest and study of furniture history to a wide and diverse audience and to build an online community of people interested in furniture history and provide an online space for our social media savvy members to interact.

In 2023, the focus has been on raising the profile of the Society, encouraging new members, the promotion of Society events and sharing information about the furniture related to these events.

A very large increase in social media activity connected with the Rococo Across Borders symposium was undoubtedly the high point of the year and the Society was able to capture a multitude of positive responses from attendees. These responses, along with a sample of the social media offering in the run up to, and live from the symposium itself, can be viewed as an 'Instagram Highlight', found under the title 'Rococo' at the top of the Society's Instagram homepage @furniturehistorysociety.

In recognition of the value of the Society's presence online, a Digital Strategy Group was established in April 2021. It meets quarterly and has proved to be a helpful forum for the sharing of ideas. The Group is currently updating and expanding the Society's Wikipedia entry.

Finance and legacies

Overview

Whilst inflation remains high and the economic and political climate remain uncertain - albeit less volatile than 12 months ago - the Society's finances have remained stable.

In summary, there was a deficit of just over £2,000 on the General Fund and a loss of £7,000 on the operations of *British & Irish Furniture Makers Online* ("BIFMO")—a little more than the budgeted overall figure of £7,000. Other Restricted Funds show a deficit of £5,000 on their activities resulting in an overall deficit for the year of £14,000 (2022: Deficit £9,000).

The deficit on the Restricted Funds was mainly thanks to the fall in the value of the Society's listed investments of £8,000 over the period - a figure reflecting the weakness of the UK stock market in the past 12 months. This figure forms part of the overall deficit of £14,000 referred to above.

The property investment underpinning the Gadd fund has not been revalued this year.

Statement of Financial Activities

The Income arising from all sources in the year to 30 June 2023 was £189,079 compared to £138,329 in the previous year. Expenditure totalled £195,471 (2022: £147,180) with both the current year's figures reflecting the increase in the Society's visits & events activity compared with the pandemic years.

General Fund. There was a small loss on ordinary activities of £1,245 (2022: gain £3,080). Income increased from £108,747 to £143,950 mainly thanks to the increased number of visits, particularly overseas, and the highly successful Symposium. However, membership fell short of expectations. There was a 7.6% increase in membership income to £77,310 reflecting a full year of the increases implemented in 2022-23.

Expenditure increased by £39,500 to £148,039 due to the increase in the costs and volume of the visits and events programme. Inflationary pressure resulting in a small increase in publication costs.

BIFMO. Income totalled £33,281 (2022: £18,892) with much of the increase resulting from major grants from the Decorative Arts Trust (“DAT”) and Dawson Trust. As in 2022, income was also generated from study programmes. Expenditure totalled £40,458 (2022 £33,604) due to expenditure related to the Dawson and DAT grants whilst editorial costs were slightly less than in 2022. The expenditure required to complete the two grants-funded programmes (£12,103) has been carried forward to 2024-25.

During the year, Council agreed to bring forward the transfer of the *BIFMO* database to Blue Bag Limited, a company with experience in hosting and managing academic databases. Subject to funding, it is planned to enhance the *BIFMO* database and website in 2024, something that was unachievable if hosting of the database had remained with the University of London.

Balance sheet. At 30 June 2023 fixed assets totalled £739,912 (2022 £747,878) and net Current Assets £114,879 (2022 £121,376) The decrease in net assets results from the losses incurred across the various activities of the Society. At the year-end, the charity’s funds totalled £853,582 (2022 £867,890) of which £719,894 (2022 £731,340) was attributed to restricted funds.

Legacies. No legacies were received or pledged in the year (2022: nil).

Finance Officer. Keith Nicholls, the Society’s indefatigable Finance and Membership Officer, retires this autumn and we are actively recruiting for his successor with a view to filling the post by the time of the AGM.

Future plans

Last year we were still adapting to post-pandemic life. This year we are back to normal. However, the new normal includes Zoom meetings and virtual events. The Society’s remit is to encourage the study of furniture and historic interiors internationally and a third of our members live overseas. The Society has a considerable online presence, which helps to keep our international membership in touch.

Who would have thought in 1986 when the magisterial *Dictionary of English Furniture Makers* was published that it would morph into British and Irish Furniture Makers Online and be freely available to all, with an ever-increasing raft of new material, at the click of a mouse? *BIFMO* has been a catalyst not only for developing scholarship but also for encouraging the young to participate, to learn and to seek inspiration from the Society’s broad remit.

The fact that *BIFMO*’s online courses on the history of furniture are profitable, with the money being ploughed back into its work is due to an enthusiastic audience and above all to those scholars who give their time and expertise. The *BIFMO* project is both ambitious and expensive. It receives external grants towards its editorial and outreach work and is supported by the Society’s Anniversary Fund. *BIFMO* has huge potential and will continue to develop and expand in imaginative ways. Fundraising remains a perennial requirement, however.

The 2023 symposium on international Rococo held at the V&A showed the potential for partnerships with sister charities, in this case, the French Porcelain Society. The two Societies

benefitted and shared a profit. Our partnership symposium with the Chippendale Society in Leeds during the anniversary year of 2018 was another success. The next Early Careers Development symposium will return to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, in 2024.

Our publications continue to deliver excellent value to our members. The quarterly Newsletters offer the perfect combination of the topical and the scholarly. *Furniture History* is fundamental to the Society's continuing purpose while its triennial translation online to JSTOR ensures its legacy.

On Instagram, the Society is now followed by more than six times its current membership of 1050. Despite this, attracting new members to join the Society remains a challenge. In future, we shall need to increase our numbers and our income.

Volunteers

Many members give their time freely to help the Society fulfil its objectives by attending meetings of Council and the committees, sitting on working groups or undertaking many other tasks or functions on behalf of the charity. Council is greatly indebted to these individuals for their generosity to the Society.

Responsibilities of Council

The Charities Act 2011 requires the Officers and Council of the Society (i.e., the charity trustees) to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the surplus or deficit of the Society for that period. In preparing these accounts the Council and Officers are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate.
- Follow applicable accounting standards

The Officers are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society, and the Officers and Council are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities, by establishing and maintaining a satisfactory system of control over the Society's accounting records, cash holdings and all its receipts and remittances.

Risk Review

Council has conducted its own review of the major risks to which the Society is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures of authorisation of all transactions and projects and to ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the Society and these procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet its needs.

Statement of Disclosure to the Independent Examiner

So far as Council is aware, there is no relevant information concerning the independent examination of the Accounts of which the Society's independent examiner is unaware. In addition, the members of Council have taken all the steps they ought to have taken as members of Council and charity trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the Society's independent examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

At the Annual General Meeting, it will be proposed that Christopher Pexton FCA of Messrs Begbies, Chartered Accountants be re-appointed the independent examiner of the Society's accounts for the ensuing year.

Approved by Council and signed on their behalf on 5 October 2023.

Christopher Rowell
Chairman of Trustees

Martin Williams
Trustee and Hon. Treasurer

LEGACIES

The Society depends for its core income entirely on its members and supporters. Please consider leaving it a legacy in your will. The Society is a registered charity and in the United Kingdom, legacies to registered charities are exempt from Inheritance Tax without limit. In addition, a legacy to a UK charity may, in certain circumstances, reduce the overall rate of Inheritance Tax suffered by your estate.

Legacies can take the form of a lump sum or the residue or a fraction of your estate. They will not be spent on administrative costs but go towards developing the publication programme, helping to promote research projects and enabling the Society to campaign more vigorously to protect the furniture heritage.

The following is a suitable form of wording for your solicitor or financial adviser to include in your will or when adding a codicil to an existing one: 'I bequeath to the Furniture History Society, c/o Department of Performance, Furniture, Textiles & Fashion, Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7 2RL, a legacy of [*insert amount*] free of all taxes.' The Hon. Treasurer and the Finance Officer are always happy to advise potential benefactors.

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income From:-						
Membership Subscriptions	2	77,310	—	—	77,310	71,794
Donations, Grants and Legacies	3	2,279	—	18,561	20,840	3,241
Charitable Activities	4	55,745	—	14,720	70,465	44,499
Trading Activities	5	3,988	—	—	3,988	3,987
Investment Income	6	4,628	—	11,848	16,476	14,808
Total		143,950	—	45,129	189,079	138,329
Expenditure On:-						
Charitable Activities	7	148,039	—	47,432	195,471	147,180
Total		148,039	—	47,432	195,471	147,180
Transfers between funds		2,844	(545)	(2,299)	—	—
Net (Deficit)/Income		(1,245)	(545)	(4,602)	(6,392)	(8,851)
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)						
Gains on Investment Assets		(1,122)	—	(6,844)	(7,966)	65,019
Net Movement in Funds		(2,367)	(545)	(11,446)	(14,358)	56,168
Reconciliation of Funds						
Total Funds Brought Forward		126,015	10,535	731,340	867,890	811,722
Total Funds Carried Forward		123,648	9,990	719,894	853,532	867,890

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Investments			
- Listed Investments	11(a)	363,912	371,878
- Property	11(b)	376,000	376,000
Total Fixed Assets		<u>739,912</u>	<u>747,878</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	12	17,543	1,203
Interest-Earning Deposits		35,487	34,339
Balances at Bank		<u>103,460</u>	<u>129,027</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>156,490</u>	<u>164,569</u>
Current Liabilities			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(41,611)</u>	<u>(43,193)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>114,879</u>	<u>121,376</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		854,791	869,254
Creditors:			
Amounts falling due after more than one year			
Deferred Income - Membership		<u>(1,259)</u>	<u>(1,364)</u>
Total Net Assets		<u>£853,532</u>	<u>£867,890</u>
The Funds of the Charity:			
Unrestricted General Fund	14	123,648	126,015
Designated Fund			
Howard Fund	14	9,990	10,535
Restricted Funds			
Ingram Fund	14	215,554	218,556
Anniversary Fund	14	128,071	134,216
Hilda Gadd Fund	14	376,000	376,000
Alison Kelly Fund	14	-	1,855
Card Makers Donation	14	<u>269</u>	<u>713</u>
		719,894	731,340
Total Charity Funds		<u>£853,532</u>	<u>£867,890</u>

Approved on behalf of the Council on 5 October 2023
CHRISTOPHER ROWELL: *Chairman*

MARTIN WILLIAMS: *Hon Treasurer*

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

1. **Accounting Policies**

(a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

(b) Public benefit entity

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

(c) Cash Flow

The Society has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it qualifies as a smaller charity.

(d) Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and subscriptions are accounted for as received by the Society. No permanent endowments have been received in this period.

(e) Investments

Investments are stated at market value. Realised and unrealised gains and losses are dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment income and interest are accounted for as received by the Society.

(f) Allocation of Costs

Costs are allocated to General Fund unless specific to other funds.

(g) Resources Expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred.

(h) Governance Costs

Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. The costs include those relating to external independent examination.

(i) *Foreign Currencies*

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange ruling at the end of the financial year. All exchange differences are dealt with in the profit and loss account.

(j) *Restricted Funds*

Restricted Funds are funds which are used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed. There are five restricted funds. (1) The Tom Ingram Fund (the "Ingram Fund") is an endowment fund which is used to assist anyone - member or non-member alike - to pursue studies and research into furniture and its history. (2) The Fiftieth Anniversary Appeal Fund (the "Anniversary Fund") is an expendable fund which has been set up to assist with education, research and publication on furniture and its history. (3) The Hilda Colquhoun Gadd Fund (the "Hilda Gadd Fund") is an endowment fund, the asset of which was gifted to advance the study of the history of furniture or bibliographies of the same. (4) The Alison Kelly Journal Fund (the "Alison Kelly Fund") is an expendable fund established using a legacy intended to defray part of the cost of producing the Society's Journal. (5) The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards Donation (the "Card Makers Donation") is an expendable fund established during the year using a grant from the aforesaid Company to subsidise the subscriptions to the Society of 5-10 young people over a period of three years.

2. Subscriptions - General Fund	2023	2022
	£	£
Subscriptions under Gift Aid	33,368	29,461
Income Tax Recovered	8,324	7,358
Subscriptions not under Gift Aid	35,618	34,975
	77,310	71,794
3. Donations, Grants and Legacies	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations	2,279	3,241
Grants	18,561	—
Legacies	—	—
	20,840	3,241

4. Income From Charitable Activities			2023 £	2022 £
Visits and Tours			42,610	17,996
Lectures and Symposia			27,855	26,503
			70,465	44,499
5. Income From Trading Activities			2023 £	2022 £
Publications and Royalties			3,688	3,987
Other Income			300	—
			3,988	3,987
6. Investment Income			2023 £	2022 £
Income from Listed Investments			15,856	14,768
Interest Receivable on Cash Deposits			620	40
			16,476	14,808
7. Expenditure	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Charitable Activities				
Visits and Tours	32,904	—	32,904	13,133
Lectures and Symposia	9,716	6,471	16,187	19,483
Donations and Grants	—	5,034	5,034	3,139
BIFMO	—	—	—	—
Journals	13,687	—	13,687	10,493
Newsletters	11,375	—	11,375	10,927
	67,682	11,505	79,187	57,175
Support Costs				
Secretarial and Administration	38,376	31,231	69,607	62,092
Travel	1,119	138	1,257	775
Mailing, Postage and Telephones	13,001	—	13,001	13,767
Printing and Stationery	1,422	—	1,422	1,379
Warehousing	1,631	—	1,631	1,582
Sundry expenses	3,647	294	3,941	3,417
Website costs	15,033	3,864	18,897	2,236
	74,229	35,527	109,756	85,248

7. **Expenditure continued**

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Governance Costs				
Examiner's remuneration	2,400	—	2,400	2,000
Insurance	1,558	—	1,558	1,540
Trustees' Costs	2,170	400	2,570	1,217
	6,128	400	6,528	4,757
Total	148,039	47,432	195,471	147,180

8. **Visits and Tours**

	2023 £	2022 £
Income	42,610	17,996
Less: Expenditure	(32,904)	(13,133)
Surplus for Year	9,706	4,863

9. **Lectures and Symposia**

	2023 £	2022 £
Income	27,855	26,503
Less: Expenditure	(16,187)	(19,483)
Surplus for Year	11,668	7,020

10. **Net Incoming Resources**

	2023 £	2022 £
This is stated after charging:		
Accountants' remuneration	2,400	2,000

11. **Investments**

	2023 £	2022 £
a) Stock Market Investments:		
Market Value at 1 July 2022	371,878	391,357
Disposals/Proceeds During the year	—	—
Realised (loss) on Disposals	—	—
Net (Loss) on Revaluation	(7,966)	(19,479)
Market Value at 30 June 2023	363,912	371,878
Historical Cost at 30 June 2023	264,698	264,698

11. Investments *continued*

	General Fund £	Ingram Fund £	Anniversary Fund £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Listed Investments - UK					
M&G 'Charifund' Income Shares	45,669	59,079	—	104,748	110,709
COIF Income Shares	57,165	14,291	—	71,456	69,608
Schroders Charity Multi Asset Fund	—	52,382	102,731	155,113	160,031
CAF Equity Fund B Shares	—	32,595	—	32,595	31,530
	102,834	158,347	102,731	363,912	371,878

The investments are held primarily to provide an investment return for the Society.

b) Property	2023 £	2022 £
At Valuation - 1 July 2022	376,000	291,500
Revaluation in year	—	84,500
At Valuation 30 June 2023	376,000	376,000

In 2015, a residential property in Twickenham was donated to the Society subject to a tenancy for life at no rent in favour of the donors. It is Council's intention that, when vacant possession is obtained, the freehold interest will be sold and the monies realised used to provide an income for the purposes of the fund (see Note 1). The property was revalued by the trustees in 2022.

12. Debtors	2023 £	2022 £
Prepayments	6,984	691
Gift Aid	8,342	—
Value Added Tax	2,217	512
	17,543	1,203

13. Current Liabilities	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts Falling Due Within One Year		
Deferred Income	31,057	23,315
Accruals	10,554	19,878
	41,611	43,193

Deferred Income comprises income from subscriptions, tours, lectures and visits, received in advance and which will form part of incoming resources during the following financial year.

14(a) Movements in Funds

	Unrestricted Designated Fund Fund		Restricted Funds					
Current year	General Fund £	Howard Fund £	Ingram Fund £	Anniversary Fund £	Hilda Gadd Fund £	Alison Kelly Fund £	Card Makers Donation £	Total 2023 £
Income From:-								
Membership Subscriptions	77,310	—	—	—	—	—	—	77,310
Donations, Grants and Legacies	2,279	—	—	18,561	—	—	—	20,840
Charitable Activities	56,045	—	—	14,720	—	—	—	70,765
Other Trading Activities	3,688	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,688
Investment Income and Interest	4,628	—	7,561	4,287	—	—	—	16,476
Total	143,950	—	7,561	37,568	—	—	—	189,079
Expenditure On:-								
Charitable Expenditure	148,039	—	6,974	40,458	—	—	—	195,471
Total	148,039	—	6,974	40,458	—	—	—	195,471
Transfers between funds	2,844	(545)	—	—	—	(1,855)	(444)	—
Net (Deficit)/Income	(1,245)	(545)	587	(2,890)	—	(1,855)	(444)	(6,392)
Other Recognised Gains and (Losses)								
Gains on Investment Assets	(1,122)	—	(3,589)	(3,255)	—	—	—	(7,966)
Net Movements in Funds	(2,367)	(545)	(3,002)	(6,145)	—	(1,855)	(444)	(14,358)
Balance Brought Forward at 1 July 2022	126,015	10,535	218,556	134,216	376,000	1,855	713	867,890
Balance Carried Forward at 30 June 2023	123,648	9,990	215,554	128,071	376,000	—	269	853,532

14(b). Movements in Funds

	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Funds					
Previous year	General Fund £	Howard Fund £	Ingram Fund £	Anniversary Fund £	Hilda Gadd Fund £	Alison Kelly Fund £	Card Makers Donation £	Total 2022 £
Income From:-								
Membership Subscriptions	71,794	—	—	—	—	—	—	71,794
Donations, Grants and Legacies	2,631	—	—	610	—	—	—	3,241
Charitable Activities	26,217	—	—	18,282	—	—	—	44,499
Other Trading Activities	3,987	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,987
Investment Income and Interest	4,158	—	6,444	4,206	—	—	—	14,808
Total	108,787	—	6,444	23,098	—	—	—	138,329
Expenditure On:-								
Charitable Expenditure	108,539	—	3,537	35,104	—	—	—	147,180
Total	108,539	—	3,537	35,104	—	—	—	147,180
Transfers between funds	2,832	(832)	—	—	—	(2,000)	—	—
Net (Deficit)/Income	3,080	(832)	2,907	(12,006)	—	(2,000)	—	(8,851)
Other Recognised Gains and (Losses)								
Gains on Investment Assets	(4,589)	—	(7,626)	(7,266)	84,500	—	—	65,019
Net Movements in Funds	(1,509)	(832)	(4,719)	(19,272)	84,500	(2,000)	—	56,168
Balance Brought Forward at 1 July 2021	127,524	11,367	223,275	153,488	291,500	3,855	713	811,722
Balance Carried Forward at 30 June 2022	126,015	10,535	218,556	134,216	376,000	1,855	713	867,890

14(c). Split of Movements in Anniversary Fund

	2023			2022		
	BIFMO	Other	Anniversary Fund	BIFMO	Other	Anniversary Fund
Income From:-						
Membership Subscriptions	—	—	—	—	—	—
Donations, Grants and Legacies	18,561	—	18,561	610	—	610
Charitable Activities	14,720	—	14,720	18,282	—	18,282
Other Trading Activities	—	—	—	—	—	—
Investment Income and Interest	—	4,287	4,287	—	4,206	4,206
Total	33,281	4,287	37,568	18,892	4,206	23,098
Expenditure On:-						
Charitable Expenditure	40,458	—	40,458	33,604	1,500	35,104
Total	40,458	—	40,458	33,604	1,500	35,104
Transfers between funds	15,409	(15,409)	—	14,124	(14,124)	—
Net (Deficit)/Income	8,232	(11,122)	(2,890)	(588)	(11,418)	(12,006)
Other Recognised Gains and (Losses)						
Gains on Investment Assets	—	(3,255)	(3,255)	—	(7,266)	(7,266)
Net Movements in Funds	8,232	(14,377)	(6,145)	(588)	(18,684)	(19,272)
Balance Brought Forward	3,869	130,347	134,216	4,457	149,031	153,488
Balance Carried Forward	12,101	115,970	128,071	3,869	130,347	134,216

15(a). Movements in Funds

Current year	Balance 1 July 2022 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfer £	Gains and Losses £	Balance 30 June 2023 £
Restricted Funds						
Ingram Fund	218,556	7,561	(6,974)	—	(3,589)	215,554
Anniversary Fund	134,216	37,568	(40,458)	—	(3,255)	128,071
Hilda Gadd Fund	376,000	—	—	—	—	376,000
Alison Kelly Fund	1,855	—	—	(1,855)	—	—
Card Makers Donation	713	—	—	(444)	—	269
Designated Funds						
Howard Fund	10,535	—	—	(545)	—	9,990
Unrestricted Funds						
General Fund	126,015	143,950	(148,039)	2,844	(1,122)	123,648
	867,890	189,079	(195,471)	—	(7,966)	853,532

15(b). Movements in Funds

Previous year	Balance 1 July 2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfer £	Gains and Losses £	Balance 30 June 2022 £
Restricted Funds						
Ingram Fund	223,275	6,444	(3,537)	—	(7,626)	218,556
Anniversary Fund	153,488	23,098	(35,104)	—	(7,266)	134,216
Hilda Gadd Fund	291,500	—	—	—	84,500	376,000
Alison Kelly Fund	3,855	—	—	(2,000)	—	1,855
Card Makers Donation	713	—	—	—	—	713
Designated Funds						
Howard Fund	11,367	—	—	(832)	—	10,535
Unrestricted Funds						
General Fund	127,524	108,787	(108,539)	2,832	(4,589)	126,015
	811,722	138,329	(147,180)	—	65,019	867,890

16(a). Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

Current year	Investments £	Other Assets £	Total £
Unrestricted General Fund			
	102,834	20,814	123,648
Designated Fund			
Howard Fund	—	9,990	9,990
Restricted Funds			
Ingram Fund	158,347	57,207	215,554
Anniversary Fund	102,731	25,340	128,071
Hilda Gadd Fund	—	376,000	376,000
Alison Kelly Fund	—	—	—
Card Makers Donation	—	269	269
	363,912	489,620	853,532

16(b). Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

Previous year	Investments £	Other Assets £	Total £
Unrestricted General Fund	103,954	22,061	126,015
Designated Fund			
Howard Fund	—	10,535	10,535
Restricted Funds			
Ingram Fund	161,934	56,622	218,556
Anniversary Fund	105,990	28,226	134,216
Hilda Gadd Fund	—	376,000	376,000
Alison Kelly Fund	—	1,855	1,855
Card Makers Donation	—	713	713
	371,878	496,012	867,890

17. Taxation

As a registered charity the society is exempt from corporation tax since all income is applied for charitable purposes.

18. Trustees' Expenses and Remuneration

The Honorary Secretary, Dr. Megan Wheeler, was paid a total of £2,636 (2022: £ 1,968) comprising £2,550 (2022:£1,875) for website administration services.and other sundry costs £86 (2022: £92).

Dr Megan Aldrich was paid a total of £5,400 (2022-£5,375) comprising £5,000 (2022 £5,000) for editing the annual journal and £400 for other sundry costs (2022:£375).

Expenses paid to two trustees in the year totalled £941 (2022:£750), comprising reimbursed travel £762 (2022: £500) and other costs £179 (2022: £250).

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Furniture History Society (the 'Charity') for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Christopher Pexton FCA
Begbies, Chartered Accountants
9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4DJ

Date: 13 October 2023

Accounts

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

*Annual Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements
for the Year ended 30 June 2022,
together with Notice of the Fifty-eighth Annual General Meeting,
to be held at the East India Club,
16 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LH
on Saturday, 26 November 2022 commencing at 11.00 am.*

c/o The Department of Furniture, Textiles and Fashion,
Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7 2RL

www.furniturehistorysociety.org

Registered Charity No. 251683

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

AGENDA

for the 58th Annual General Meeting of
The Furniture History Society
to be held at The East India Club, 16 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LH
on Saturday, 26 November 2022 at 11.00 am

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Fifty-seventh Annual General Meeting
3. Adoption of the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2022
4. Adoption of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022
5. Re-election of the Honorary Officers
 - The President
Council proposes Simon Swynfen Jervis
 - The Chairman
Council proposes Christopher Neville Rowell
 - The Honorary Secretary
Council proposes Dr Megan Wheeler
 - The Honorary Treasurer
Council proposes Martin Blue Macintosh Williams
 - The Honorary Editorial Secretary
Council proposes Dr Megan Brewster Aldrich
6. Re-election of four members of Council
*Council proposes Dr Alexandra Gerstein, Stephen Jackson,
Dr Caroline McCaffrey-Howarth and Jürgen Huber*
7. Election of two new members of Council
Council proposes Dr Jane (Jenny) Laura Saunt and Philip John Peacock
8. Re-appointment of the Independent Examiner
Council proposes Christopher Pexton of Messrs Begbies
9. Any Other Business
10. Votes of Thanks

PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

We plan to hold the Society's Annual General Meeting ("AGM") corporeally and to live-stream the proceedings for those members who cannot attend in person. The meeting will also be recorded and the recording placed on the Society's website. The log-in details for the streaming and the recording will be communicated by e-mail to those members for whom the Society has e-mail addresses.

Admission to the Annual General Meeting is free and open to all members, but those wishing to attend in person are asked to notify the Events Secretary, Beatrice Goddard, at events@furniturehistorysociety.org, at least seven days in advance so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Coffee will be served from 10.30 am and the meeting will commence at 11.00 am. As is customary, the formal business will be followed by a series of short talks. Speakers will be Matthew Hirst (Curator at Woburn Abbey and Gardens), who will give an update on works in progress and some of the conservation projects that have been undertaken at Woburn Abbey, and Hugo Burge (a director of Marchmont Makers Foundation) who will talk about how Marchmont House in the Borders has become a home to makers and creators, celebrating creativity across the arts, crafts, business and social enterprise. Jessica Eddie (Curator, Gilbert Collection, V&A Museum) will report on a Roman tabernacle in the museum's collections, which has recently been analysed and taken apart to reveal some of its secrets. Norman Hudson (Chairman, Historic Houses Foundation) will describe the work of the charity and how it helps to fill an important funding gap in the restoration of country houses, associated buildings and their contents.

At the conclusion of the presentations, a buffet lunch will be served. Tickets for a sandwich lunch, to include a glass of wine, costing £22 per head, should be booked at least seven days in advance through the Events Secretary at events@furniturehistorysociety.org

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

MINUTES

of the Fifty-seventh Annual General Meeting
of the Furniture History Society
held on 20 November 2021 at 11.00 am

Notice

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

Sir Nicholas Goodison (1934-2021)

Members observed a short silence in memory of Sir Nicholas Goodison, President of the Society for more than 30 years.

Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28 November 2020 were taken as read and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2021

The Chairman summarised Council's report and thanked everyone involved in its production. He regretted that, because of a mistake by the printers, an early and incorrect version of the Financial Report had been reproduced. The headline figures were accurate and the correct version had been circulated to those present and would be sent to all members.

He drew attention to the photograph of Sir Nicholas Goodison reproduced in the report and said that members would remember him with gratitude, respect and affection.

He noted that, once again, the year under review had been affected by the pandemic, but that technology had enabled the Society to reach its members around the world. Some had reported that they now felt more connected with it than ever before. Where possible, events such as the Annual Lecture had been live-streamed. The delayed Annual Symposium on the theme of *Design 1900-Now* had worked well on-line.

Turning to future plans, he said that *British & Irish Furniture Makers On-line* ("BIFMO") had gone from strength-to-strength, with its website and database receiving over 100,000 hits in the last 12 months. The site's popularity would prove very helpful in raising funds to continue and expand the project, as would the recent appointment of a Digital Editor.

The Chairman noted that Dr Adam Bowett had resigned as Editor and he recorded the Society's gratitude for all he had done to lay the foundations of the enterprise and his enhancement of the quality of the database entries. The Editorial committee would continue to provide specialist art historical advice. In future, *BIFMO* and the associated *Dictionary of British and Irish Furniture Makers* ("DBIFM") database would be even more closely aligned with the Society

and its scholarly activities by means of better branding on its website.

The Society's increased social media presence had helped to attract new members and he encouraged the existing membership to promote it to friends and colleagues. Younger scholars had been supported by the rich programme of events devised and hosted by the Early Career Development programme ("ECD") and he commended the forthcoming ECD Symposium to members.

Members' attention was drawn to the new style cover of *Furniture History* 2021 (Volume LXVII)—one result of the Society's decision to switch to Lavenham Press for the production and distribution of both the Journal and Newsletter. He thanked Megan Aldrich, the Society's Hon. Editorial Secretary, for negotiating the move with Lavenham and for establishing the new arrangements.

He invited questions. There being none, he commended the Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2021 to the meeting. It was adopted *nemine contradicente*.

Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

The Hon. Treasurer then presented the Financial Statements of the charity. He began by thanking his colleagues, and in particular Keith Nicholls, the Finance and Membership Officer, for their conscientious work.

He drew members' attention to the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet. The income from all sources for the year ended 30 June 2021 had totalled £138,597, a significant fall from the previous year's figure which had included income from a much fuller Events programme. This fall was counterbalanced by a decline in the Society's expenditure to £131,322, and the Society had generated an overall surplus of £7,275 on its activities. This figure was made up of a surplus of £19,125 in the General Fund, but a budgeted deficit of £11,721 on *BIFMO*. The net deficit compared well with the 2019-20 figure (£45,496 deficit).

Fortunately, there had been gains (both realised and unrealised) of £49,425 on the Society's investments resulting in a net increase in total funds of £56,700 which, at the year-end, had amounted to £811,722.

Turning to *BIFMO*, the deficit on its operations had amounted to £14,155 following generous grants from the Marc Fitch Foundation and others of £29,357. He reminded members that future *BIFMO* activities would have to be funded by fund-raising, plans for which had been set in train already by Adriana Turpin, Deputy Chair of the *BIFMO* Committee.

The Hon. Treasurer was pleased to report that the Society's investments had recovered well over the course of the 12 months under review. He drew members' attention to the fact that approximately 70% of the Society's total funds represented dedicated funds earmarked for specific purposes.

He thanked the members of the Operations Group: Keith Nicholls (Finance & Membership Officer), Megan Wheeler (Hon. Secretary & Website Officer), Jill Bace (Grants Committee Secretary & Publications Officer), Beatrice Goddard (Events Secretary) and Ann Davies (*BIFMO* Outreach Programmes Co-ordinator) – for their hard work.

Turning to the Membership Report, he said that numbers had recovered well after the effects of the pandemic perhaps because the programme of on-line lectures had made it much easier for members overseas to involve themselves.

Subscriptions

The Hon. Treasurer then addressed the matter of subscription rates. He said that the Society had last increased them for UK members in 2017 and, at the time, Council had suggested that they were reviewed every five years. Any change made at the meeting would not come into effect until July 2022.

At the current rates, the Society's income from subscriptions, sales of publications and any surplus on the events & visits programme would exceed the costs of servicing the membership, the events & visits programme, and publishing costs by about £5,000, leaving little margin for inflationary cost increases. He noted that the Retail Prices Index had increased by about 5.5% between July 2019 and July 2021 and a further increase of 4% had recently been forecast by the Bank of England. For these reasons, Council was proposing an increase of just over 8% on the standard subscription rate for individual UK Members, and a parallel increase in rates for other classes of membership. Increases for overseas members would be slightly larger, as the costs of distribution had risen very sharply in recent years. The increase for members under the age of thirty-five had been shaded to less than 6%.

Looking to the future, he said that Council was considering introducing a 'paperless subscription' for those members who preferred to receive the Society's publications digitally, rather than in print.

He concluded by commending the Financial Statements, and the proposed increase in subscription rates, for adoption by the meeting. Both were approved *nemine contradicente*.

Elections

- a) The following officers were proposed for re-election:

PRESIDENT	Simon Swynfen Jervis
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL	Christopher Neville Rowell
HONORARY SECRETARY	Dr Megan Laura Wheeler
HONORARY TREASURER	Martin Blue Macintosh Williams
HONORARY EDITORIAL SECRETARY	Dr Megan Brewster Aldrich

- b) The following existing members of Council were proposed for re-election:
Dr Esmé Whittaker, Dr Mark Westgarth, Dr Alexandra (Sacha) Gerstein and Stephen Jackson.
- c) The following new members of Council were proposed for election:
Dr Caroline McCaffrey-Howarth and Jürgen Huber.

The motions were put to the meeting and each agreed unanimously.

The President recorded his thanks to the retiring members of Council, *viz.*, Dr Christophe de Quénetaïn and Adrian Hume-Sayer, for their service to the Society.

Re-appointment of independent examiner

The President thanked Christopher Pexton of Messrs Begbies and proposed that he be re-appointed for a further year. Approved.

Any other business

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by the President who thanked all of the Society's officers and particularly those who had set up the meeting including Beatrice Goddard, David Oakey, Anne-Marie Bannister, and Ann Davies as well as Emma Rock (The Museum of the Home). He also thanked the speakers whose talks would follow the formal business.

Talks

Helen Dorey (Deputy Director and Inspectress of Sir John Soane's Museum) spoke about the project to restore the architect's drawing office, which was thought to be the earliest architect's office to survive intact.

William Palin (Chief Executive Officer, Barts Heritage Trust) outlined the planned restoration of the North Wing of St Bartholomew's Hospital in anticipation of the 900th anniversary of that institution in 2023.

Hannah Phillip (Programme Director for the Grinling Gibbons National Centenary 2021) described the programme of events to mark the anniversary of Gibbons's death in 1721 as well as the exhibition *Centuries in the Making* at Bonhams, London in August 2021 and at Compton Verney, Warwickshire from autumn 2021 until January 2022.

Emma Rock (Commercial and Fund-raising Events Co-ordinator, The Museum of the Home) then gave a brief introduction to the recently completed major project to expand and re-display the museum.



THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCIL 2021-22

The Council of the Furniture History Society has pleasure in presenting its fifty-eighth Annual Report together with Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Principal address c/o Department of Furniture, Textiles & Fashion,
Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7 2RL

Website (Society) <https://furniturehistorysociety.org>
 (BIFMO) <https://bifmo.history.ac.uk/>

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Chairman Christopher Neville Rowell FSA
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Hon. Secretary: Dr Megan Laura Wheeler
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Hon. Treasurer: Martin Blue Macintosh Williams FSA
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Hon. Editorial Secretary: Dr Megan Brewster Aldrich FSA
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Other officers and committee chairpersons

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 David Oakey
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Chair, Digital Strategy committee:	Kate Hay katehay86@gmail.com
<i>BIFMO</i> :	Adriana Turpin (Deputy Chair, Management Committee) Dr Laurie Lindey (Managerial Editor) research.bifmo@furniturehistorysociety.org Ann Davies (<i>BIFMO</i> Outreach Programmes Co-ordinator) bifmo@furniturehistorysociety.org
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Accountants:	Begbies, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors www.begbiesaccountants.co.uk
Bankers:	CAF Bank Limited, ME19 4JQ Barclays Bank Plc, Leicester LE87 2BB COIF Charity Funds, London EC4V 4ET

Constitution

The Furniture History Society is an unincorporated membership body constituted by rules, and a registered charity numbered 251683. It was founded in 1964 to advance the study of furniture of all periods, places and kinds and to further public knowledge and appreciation of it.

Charitable Purposes and Public Benefit

The charitable purpose of the Society is the advancement of the arts, culture and heritage, and education in relation thereto. It does this by promoting the study of furniture and interior design of all periods, places and kinds and by furthering public knowledge and appreciation. The Society also assists with the preservation of furniture and associated records.

To these ends, it:

- Publishes original research in its annual journal *Furniture History* — much of which might otherwise remain unpublished.
- Finances its seminal reference work, the *Dictionary of British Furniture Makers* (as *British and Irish Furniture Makers On-line*), with a view to covering the whole of the British Isles and making the work available to all without charge in the form of an on-line searchable database.
- Makes grants towards the preparation and publication of books and articles of a non-commercial nature.

- Helps fund the collection of oral history on the furniture trades.
- Arranges an annual international symposium, open to the public, on a topic of current interest and often related to an exhibition at a national institution.
- Encourages study by young people by providing reduced subscription rates for membership and making funds available for overseas study tours as well as study visits and weekends in the United Kingdom.
- Lobbies to save important collections of furniture and archives relating to furniture, which are under threat.
- Disseminates information and advice to the general public on matters relating to the history of furniture and interior design.
- Maintains a comprehensive website.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Society is managed by the Council, i.e., the trustee body of the charity. The trustees who served during the year 2021-22 were:

Simon Swynfen Jervis (President)
 Christopher Rowell (Chairman)
 Dr Megan Wheeler (Hon. Secretary)
 Martin Williams (Hon. Treasurer)
 Dr Megan Aldrich (Hon. Editorial Secretary)
 Adrian Hume-Sayer *retired 20 November 2021*
 Dr Christophe de Quénetaïn *retired 20 November 2021*
 Dr Esmé Whittaker
 Dr Mark Westgarth
 Dr Alexandra (Sacha) Gerstein
 Stephen Jackson
 Dr Caroline McCaffrey-Howarth *elected 20 November 2021*
 Jürgen Huber *elected 20 November 2021*

The Council is made up of: The President; the four Honorary Officers and six elected members all of whom are appointed annually by the members of the Society at the Annual General Meeting. The elected members of Council serve a three-year term of office.

Council ordinarily meets four times each year and is responsible for the management of the Society. Currently there are four committees: Events; Grants; Editorial; BIFMO Management as well as the Digital Strategy group. The members of the committees are appointed by Council and the Honorary Officers are ex-officio members of all committees. Actions, including the decisions of any committee, must be reported to and confirmed by Council as soon as is practicable.

As trustees, Council members take decisions in the best interests of the Society as a whole, and they operate in accordance with a code of conduct that makes explicit reference to the need for objectivity.

Officers

The Society's day-to-day business is managed by the Honorary Officers together with a small group of remunerated staff namely Keith Nicholls (Finance & Membership Officer)

and his colleagues: Jill Bace (Publications Officer and Grants Secretary); Ann Davies (*BIFMO* Outreach Co-ordinator), Beatrice Goddard (Events Secretary); Sharon Goodman (Newsletter Editor), Dr Megan Aldrich (Editor, Journal), Dr Megan Wheeler (Website Officer), and Natalie Voorheis (Social Media Manager). Council is deeply appreciative of the commitment and hard work of these individuals as well as that of the honorary officers and all those who serve on the Society's committees.

An Operations group consisting of the Hon. Treasurer (Chairman), the Hon. Secretary, the Finance Officer, the Events Secretary, the Publications Officer and the BIFMO Programmes Co-ordinator meets every 4-6 weeks to manage the Society's routine business.

Council – Elected Members

In accordance with the Society's constitution, two members of Council (Dr Esmé Whittaker and Dr Mark Westgarth) retire. Council is very grateful for their work for the Society during their terms of office and proposes the election of Dr Jane (Jenny) Laura Saunt and Philip Peacock to succeed them.

Dr Jane (Jenny) Laura Saunt

Dr Saunt is the Oliver Ford Curatorial Research Fellow at the Victoria & Albert Museum where she works in the Furniture & Woodwork section of the Performance, Furniture, Textiles and Fashion Department. She specializes in furniture and interiors of the long 18th century.

Jenny is an active member of the Furniture History Society and convenes the annual New Insights Conference at the Society of Antiquaries of London, which focuses on the architecture and interiors of the early modern period in Great Britain.

Before arriving at the V&A, Jenny worked as a curator for the Bryan Collections, a private collection of English furniture and decorative arts, during which time she collaborated with other private collections and museums on numerous research projects, exhibitions, publications, and online collections projects. Her PhD at the Courtauld focused on the design and production of decorative lime plasterwork in early modern England. Jenny came originally from a design and practice background, working first as a theatre designer, then in research and conservation of historic interiors. She has published and lectured widely, and taught at the Courtauld Institute, the V&A and on the Royal College of Art courses.

Philip John Peacock

Philip Peacock has been a member of the Furniture History Society for a number of years and has provided professional or pro bono legal advice to its trustees at various times during this period. He was formerly a solicitor in private practice in London at Lovell, White & King (now Hogan Lovells) and Radcliffes. He has been involved in management at both firms in addition to his specialisation in business and corporate work, including partnerships, charities and NGOs. He is now retired from regular practice but continues to offer informal advice largely of a practical nature as a member of particular charitable organisations. These include two boat clubs and the Canada-UK Council which is a bilateral public policy group of which he was Chair for fourteen years and remains a Board member.

He has had a long-standing interest in antique furniture and architecture as well as in antiquarian books, paintings and the decorative arts. He is actively involved in furniture making,

furniture restoration, book binding and book conservation. He is married to Helena, a fellow (retired) solicitor who is currently involved in the magistracy, higher education governance and pensions. They live in North London, with connections to Devon (notably Exeter Chiefs).

Whilst delighted to put his name forward for election to Council, Philip wishes to emphasise that he cannot match the knowledge and expertise of other members in those fields most closely connected with the Society's core objectives.

Membership

During the year membership fell by a net figure of two to 1,087 at 30 June 2022. 132 (2021: 166) individuals and institutions joined the Society and 70 resigned or died (2021: 72). In addition, 64 members were struck off (2021: 13). The increase in the Society's social media activity, particularly on Instagram, swelled the number of new members. The reason for the higher number of membership resignations and non-payment of subscriptions was due in part to the easing of the pandemic restrictions, and the consequent fall in the demand for on-line lectures.

Deaths

During the year the Society was told of the deaths of the following members: James Adams, Philip Astley-Jones, Joseph Gordon, Phillip Hewat-Jaboor, Anthea Laing, Phillip Wellesley-Davies and Graham Wells.

Publications

Furniture History

The year 2022 was a demanding one in terms of the Hon. Editorial Secretary's time. In addition to editing *Furniture History*, the role has expanded to include regular attendance at BIFMO management meetings, where interesting developments are taking place including the eventual departure of the DBIFM database from the University of London so strengthening its place as the Society's major digital resource, as well as managing the editorial considerations thrown up by the continuation and expansion of the remit of this important project, and its relationship to the Society's printed publications.

The Hon. Editorial Secretary has also become more closely involved in planning and producing the Newsletter and the May 2022 issue was co-edited by her, which gave her a useful insight into how the publication is put together.

Furniture History continues to be the focus of the Hon. Editorial Secretary's work for the Society, assisted by the Editorial Committee. This year's issue features eight articles by nine authors, some articles being slightly longer than usual, and some with substantial appendices or documents reproduced. The periods covered range from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries, with aspects of British, French, German and Chinese furniture and design considered. Three of the articles focus on women patrons and designers. One draft article has been received for consideration for 2023, and the Hon. Editorial Secretary has invited proposals from three authors, but there is still space for further articles. Subjects with a focus on Continental Europe, or further afield, are most welcome.

The Hon. Editorial Secretary continues to enjoy working with Lavenham Press with their specialist expertise in academic copy editing and layout. It is hoped that, once the production of the Newsletter is running smoothly under its new joint editors, the Hon. Editorial Secretary

will be able to devote more time to the 2023 and 2024 issues. The latter is planned as a tribute to the late Philip Hewat-Jaboor, and to his wide-ranging interests, including classicism, hardstones, the Middle East, collecting, William Beckford, and Thomas Hope as well as the Masterpiece Fair.

Newsletter

The Newsletter has continued to receive contributions from an international range of writers and the Editor thanks all who have submitted either articles or reports. The four leading articles were written by Marc-Henri Jordan (Art Historian based in Berne); Abraham Thomas (Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York); Peter Lindfield (lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University); and Michael Shrive (Assistant Curator, Waddesdon Manor).

The Discoveries and Research section, begun during lockdown when there were no visits and events to report on, and people perhaps had more time to write, continues to attract a range of informative shorter articles. The Book Review Editor, Dr Wolf Burchard, has commissioned a reliable stream of high-quality reviews, keeping the membership up to date with new publications. Notices of, and reports on, future visits and events were resumed in May.

Other recent innovations have been the inclusion of research news from BIFMO; information about BIFMO courses, and reports on the activities of the Early Career Development Group ("ECD"). One consequence of this new material has been an expansion in the size of the publication which now runs to more than 50 pages and consideration is being given to the introduction of word-count limits. Another concern has been some unexpected costs of production by Lavenham Press, and the incoming editors will be looking at ways to minimise these costs.

Anyone considering writing a contribution that they think will be of interest to members, be it about a discovery, fresh research, news, a forthcoming exhibition or a conference relevant to furniture history, is encouraged to get in touch with the editors.

In August 2022, Sharon Goodman stepped down as editor after five years of sterling service, and Council is very appreciative that she has confirmed that she will be available to the new editors for advice and opinions. She will be succeeded by Kate Hay working on issues alternately with a new assistant editor—Iain Stephens, Senior Conservator-Restorer of Upholstery in the Royal Household.

Publication sales

During 2021-2022, sales of publications remained stagnant, with most requests confined to recent volumes of *Furniture History*. This lack of orders may reflect the revision of prices that came into effect in 2019-2020, as well as the fact that no new publications have been added to the inventory since 2017.

Back issues of *Furniture History* are priced at £30 (UK), £35 (Continental Europe) and £48 for the rest of the world, including shipping and packing charges. Members interested in purchasing books should consult the website at www.furniturehistorysociety.org for the complete list of publications on offer along with an up-to-date price list.

British and Irish Furniture Makers On-line

BIFMO is managed by the Society through a Management Committee that meets quarterly. It

is chaired by Christopher Rowell and includes the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Editorial Secretary as well as the Project Manager and Deputy Chairman, Adriana Turpin. The Society's Finance Officer, Dr Laurie Lindey (Managerial Editor), Clarissa Ward (19th Century Editor) and Jonathan Blaney (Digital Editor) report to the Committee.

BIFMO's outreach programme is advised by a group consisting of Christopher Claxton-Stephens, Joanna Norman, Tessa Wild, and Adriana Turpin. Ann Davies, as *BIFMO* administrator, attends meetings of both the Management Committee and the Outreach group.

Editorial work

Dr Laurie Lindey (Managing Editor) and Clarissa Ward (19th Century Editor) are continuing to update and improve the existing biographies by transforming the layout into a more suitable digital format, illustrating accounts with trade cards, advertisements, and images of provenanced furniture, and establishing digital links between makers' biographies and museums, private collections, and other sources.

BIFMO currently attracts approximately 4,000 readers per month and the database contains c. 86,370 entries. The most considerable content development over the past twelve months has been drawn from the period from 1840-1914, amounting to 9,926 tradespeople of whom 5,217 have been documented through a comprehensive review of the Victorian illustrated trade journal, *The Furniture Gazette*, published weekly from 1873-1892. The database also holds 27,130 London Joiners' Company apprenticeship bindings and freedom registers representing the vast majority of this Company's indenture archive.

In September 2021, the Bernard and Geraldine Cotton archive was welcomed into the database, being 7,522 accounts of regional English chair makers. The Society is most grateful to the Cottons for this very generous contribution which represents a lifetime's work.

Outreach and Education

BIFMO has continued to support research from emerging scholars. In September 2021, three pairs of students completed blogs about the Drawing Room at Raby Castle; the Long Gallery at Castle Howard; and Chippendale's desk at Temple Newsam, and an associated on-line discussion with the students and curators was held on 8 February.

In May 2022, three new projects were begun, continuing the collaboration between Eleanor Brooke-Peake at Castle Howard and Julie Biddlecombe-Brown at Raby Castle and adding the Rex Whistler drawing room at Mottisfont Abbey, led by George Roberts. We thank them all for their continuing support. Small discussion sessions were offered on (research) tools and methodologies.

Six University of Edinburgh students are working in pairs to map Edinburgh furniture makers, 1750-1850, under the guidance of Aaron Allen, supported by Professor Richard Rodgers. These projects are funded by a Foyle Foundation grant.

In November 2021, an on-line *BIFMO* course was hosted under the direction of the Deputy Chair. At five weekly sessions, scholars world-wide discussed the history of British furniture making, 1660-1914, with a broad audience of members and a number of new participants.

This course was followed by a second in June 2022 entitled 'Furniture Makers and the Country House', expertly introduced by Dr Megan Aldrich and incorporating two case studies. To

reinforce the research element, there was also a tutorial session outlining research tools and methodologies.

These are the first on-line courses of this kind that the Society has presented. All those involved were thrilled by the enthusiastic response and the surplus generated will enable *BIFMO* to continue its editorial activities in 2021-22 and make an exciting new addition to the Society's outreach programmes.

Grants

The members of the Grants Committee during the year were Adriana Turpin (Chair), Helen Jacobsen, Lucy Wood, Guy Apter, Peter Holmes, Joanna Norman, Olivia Fryman, Katherine Hardwick (ECD Event Co-chair) and Elliot Sterling (ECD Event Co-chair) supported by the indefatigable Jill Bace (Grants Officer).

The number of grants rose for the first time for three years following the easing of pandemic restrictions, and the following grants were authorised during the period (the table includes grants authorised at the June 2022 meeting which for operational reasons was deferred until early July).

Name:	Amount:	Purpose:
Tom Ingram Fund		
Philip Ross-Burrows	£203.33 & £376.00	FHS Study trip to Middle Temple, and travel to and from Guernsey related to continuing research project at Middle Temple
Alienor Cross	£100.00	FHS visit to the Royal Pavilion, Brighton
Rachel Hunt	£380.00	FHS North Wales tour
Jessica Insley	£270.00	FHS Cardiff Study weekend
Camille Mestdagh	£670.00	Travel costs related to research at Waddesdon Manor and Raby Castle
Bruce Peter	£774.00	Travel costs to Denmark in connection with his forthcoming book "Denmark in Britain"
Stephen Jackson	£1,660.00	Photography costs connected with projected publication on Scottish furniture
Hannah Cusworth	£767.00	Research and photography in connection with study of the mahogany trade between Jamaica and Britain
Oliver Ford Fund		
	£1000.00	Creating and editing podcasts for on-line ECD Symposium
Della Howard Fund		
	£87.95	Expenses incurred in connection with ECD event with Holkham Hall

The Society facilitated grants from Brock Jobe to Amy Lim and Philip Burrows in connection with their attendance at a conference in Winterthur. An award of £1,500 was made by Council from the Anniversary Fund to Clive Edwards to support the publication of his comprehensive study of 19th century makers, Collinson & Lock. Members were offered a discount of 20% on its purchase.

Early Career Development ('ECD')

The Society's ECD programme is organised under the auspices of the Grants Committee and led by the two Co-chairs, Katherine Hardwick and Elliot Sterling, who set about creating an exciting programme of on-line and in-person events. In the US, Catherine Doucette has taken over the planning of events for the US branch of the ECD from Kelly Konrad. We thank Kelly for her enthusiastic creation of an innovative programme of events for the New York membership.

The sixth ECD Research Symposium for emerging scholars, which took place on 27 November 2021, dedicated to the late Sir Nicholas Goodison and generously supported by the Oliver Ford Trust, explored the materiality of furniture and the use of materials, experimentation and new recipes or techniques. Seven speakers from the UK, Europe and North America, and all at the early stages of their careers, presented a selection of short papers on their current research to an enthusiastic audience drawn from across the globe. The speakers were also invited to contribute a podcast interview and these, together with recordings of the talks, have been made available to members through the Society's website.

2021 featured a visit to the innovative exhibition at the New Craftsman of contemporary designers; a lecture by Dr Juliet Carey, Senior Curator at Waddesdon Manor; and a festive visit to the sumptuous late eighteenth century house of furniture and interior designer, Tim Gosling. 2022 began with a visit to the exceptional private collection of 'Au Bord du Lac' at Christie's with curator Casey Rogers; an on-line Conservation Workshop with Peter Holmes, Yannick Chastang and Alex Hammond; and a talk by Christopher Wilk (Curator, Victoria & Albert Museum) on plywood and its use in furniture making. The year concluded with two well-attended visits to the Masterpiece Fair in the company of Adriana Turpin and Yannick Chastang.

Two members of the ECD Group were awarded scholarships to attend 'The Wonder of Wood: Decorative Inlay and Marquetry in Europe 1600-1900'—an international conference held at the Winterthur Museum and the Philadelphia Art Museum.

Events & Visits

The members of the Events Committee are: Kate Hay and David Oakey (Joint Chairs), Anne-Marie Bannister, Melanie Doderer-Winkler, Kate Dyson, Jessica Eddie, Sara Heaton, Lucy Howgego, William Lorimer (from April 2021), Dr Tessa Murdoch, and Michael Shrive who are expertly marshalled by the Events Secretary, Beatrice Goddard.

Events and lectures

Martin Levy delivered the Society's Annual Lecture on 19 October 2019 at The Art Workers' Guild and by live-stream. Entitled *From John Coleman Isaac to H. Blairman & Sons: Two Centuries of Commerce and Friendship*, it gave a fascinating insight into the foundation and development of one of the country's pre-eminent dealers in furniture and *objets d'art*.

The Annual General Meeting was held at The Museum of the Home on 20 November 2021: a fuller report may be found elsewhere in this document.

The 45th Annual Symposium, *Design 1900 – Now* took place on 30 October 2021 on-line. Inspired by the content of the eponymous new gallery in the Victoria & Albert Museum which investigates how designed objects reflect society. It was expertly fronted by the exhibition's lead curators, Corinna Gardner and Johanna Agerman Ross.

Tours and Visits – United Kingdom

In the UK, the postponed Study weekend to North Wales finally took place in May 2022 led by Sara Heaton and Dr Tessa Murdoch. Other previously deferred visits included Preston Manor and the Royal Pavilion in Brighton; Middle Temple; Wrest Park and the English Heritage Store; Ampthill Park House (enthusiastically shown to the party by Sir Timothy & Lady Clifford) and Goodwood House.

There were also visits to Southside House in Wimbledon, a Study Day in Rochester and a visit to 'Inspiring Walt Disney: The Animation of French Decorative Arts' at The Wallace Collection with its co-curator, Dr Helen Jacobsen. Yannick Chastang led a visit focusing on the Boulle furniture at Boughton House, and there was a tour of the intriguing Jencks/Keswick Cosmic House in Holland Park, London W8.

On-line events

The Committee organised five on-line lectures on a wide range of topics: 'British Cabinetmakers in the Early American South' by Daniel Ackermann; 'A Tercentenary Lecture on Grinling Gibbons' by Ada de Wit; 'Goldsmiths' Hall' by Michael Shrive; 'André-Charles Boulle as a Maker, Designer and Publisher of Prints' by Mia Jackson; and 'Furniture in malachite: a century of Russian taste at the European market' by Ludmila Budrina. We also held two seminars on regional collections: 'The Antique Dealer Archive' with the Brotherton Library, Leeds with Mark Westgarth, Jerome Phillips, Martin Levy, Joanne Fitton and Karen Sayers and 'New Perspectives: Furniture on Display at the Burrell Collection' in Glasgow with Laura Bauld and Ed Johnson.

Thanks

Such a rich programme as that detailed above is only possible because of the generosity of the speakers and collaborators to whom the Society is extremely grateful. All devoted considerable time and effort in preparing for these events to ensure that the programme continued to fulfil one of the Society's principal charitable aims—the study of the history of furniture.

Website and IT

The website attracted 14,543 users in the year 2021-2022, a significant increase on the previous year (11,030 users). The average duration of sessions remained about the same, and once again the Events, Membership and Journal pages were the most popular. The lectures facility for members, which features a playlist of some 48 lectures and talks, continued to increase in popularity. Thanks to the efforts of the Social Media Manager the number of referrals to the website from social media platforms has also increased.

Functionality was improved with a link to a list of FAQs and the number of future events visible to members has been increased. By the year-end, plans to create a discrete membership area on the website were well advanced. In addition, Council is exploring the introduction of a digital newsletter, and increased use of Cloud storage by the Society's trustees and officers will improve security and facilitate information sharing.

If members have any suggestions as to the content of the website, please contact Megan Wheeler at website@furniturehistorysociety.org.

Social Media & Digital Strategy

The Social Media Manager, Natalie Voorheis, has continued to strengthen the Society's digital presence with regular activity on Facebook and Instagram with her selection of striking images proving particularly attractive. The Society's area of interest is naturally photogenic and lends itself to social media's visually-led content.

The aim is to raise the profile of the Society by posting furniture news and images of appropriate events. Instagram is a key means of widening knowledge about our activities, building an on-line community of people interested in furniture history and encouraging new members to join the Society.

The Manager posts most weeks with photographs, 'stories' or 'reels', with video content becoming increasingly popular. Recognising the value of social media, a Digital Strategy Group was set up in April 2021 to support the manager and to keep the Society's on-line activities under review. The Group's aims and proposals were approved by Council in July 2021 and has become a useful forum for sharing ideas for content, and trouble-shooting new issues such as privacy or the use of software to help schedule posts. The Manager reports to the Group's quarterly meetings and to Council.

The Instagram account now has over 4,500 followers (so reaching much more widely than the membership (around 1,100)), with the number increasing steadily. On-line or live-streamed events open to non-members such as the Annual Symposium and BIFMO study courses particularly benefit from social media coverage.

Finance and legacies

Of necessity, the two most recent reports on the Society's finances have been rather downbeat, and it is good to be able to report more optimistically on the out-turn for the 12 months ended 30 June 2022, although the bleak political and economic outlook for the UK with its threat of a return to high rates of inflation is worrying. The relaxing of the Covid-19 restrictions which enabled the Society to re-start its popular programme of visits and events had a beneficial effect on the finances in 2021-22. The increase in subscription rates with effect from 1 July 2022 will strengthen our income account in 2022-23 and subsequent years.

In summary, a surplus on the General fund of just over £3,000 was offset by a budgeted deficit of approximately £15,000 on the activities of British & Irish Furniture Makers On-line ("BIFMO"), and a surplus of £3,000 on the Restricted funds resulting in a net deficit of just under £9,000.

The decrease in the value of the Society's investments since 1 July 2021 was more than offset by the increase in the value of the property asset underlying the Gadd fund—resulting in a net surplus on changes in the value of the Society's investments of £65,000.

The overall out-turn was a net increase in the Society's funds of £56,168 (2021: £56,700 increase).

Statement of Financial Activities

In the year to 30 June 2022, the Society's income from all sources totalled £138,329—almost the same as the 2021 figure of £138,597. Total expenditure amounted to £147,180 (2021: £131,322).

The outcome was an overall deficit on the Society's activities of £8,851 compared with a surplus of £7,275 in the preceding year. The deficit was less than budgeted due to lower than planned expenditure within BIFMO, and savings in administration costs in the General fund.

Accounting regulations require that the assets of charities be revalued on a regular basis, and for the resulting values to be incorporated into the financial statements. At 30 June 2022, there was a net unrealised loss in the value of the Society's investment portfolio amounting to £19,481 (2021: £53,109 gain) thanks to the stagnation of the UK stock market coupled with a fall in the overall value of the FTSE 250 companies of about 20%. This loss was offset by an unrealised gain of £84,500 on the value of the Twickenham investment property: the outcome of the approximately quinquennial revaluation. There was a net gain overall of £65,019 (30 June 2021: £49,425 net gain).

General fund

There was a surplus on the ordinary activities of the Society of £3,080 (2021: £19,125). Total income of the General fund increased by £13,787 to £108,787 due to the increase in activities referred to above where income totalled £26,217 (2021: £7,506). Membership income fell by about 2½% to £71,794 as members who joined during lock-down for the on-line lecture programme fell away.

Expenditure in the General fund increased by £30,535 to £108,539 largely due to the costs associated with the visits and events programme and a small increase in publication costs.

BIFMO

BIFMO income totalled £18,722 (2021: £32,124). No grants were received but a significant amount of income was generated through two on-line study programmes. Expenditure amounted to £ 33,604 (2021: £29,371) as a result of increased editorial expenditure and the costs associated with the events—all offset by savings resulting from deferring until 2022-23 the move of the database from the University of London.

Following the ending of the partnership with the Institute of Historical Research, no project costs were incurred (2021: £23,371), but this expenditure (primarily Dr Lindey's remuneration) is now accounted for elsewhere in the *BIFMO* accounts.

The bulk of future *BIFMO* expenditure will have to be funded by grants, donations and the surplus arising on the study programme, but it has been suggested that a limited amount of funding should continue to be drawn from the Anniversary fund. The Society has an agreement with the University of London that it will host (but not enhance or update) the database without charge until 2025.

Balance Sheet

At 30 June 2022, the Fixed assets, which include the listed investments, totalled £747,878 (2021: £682,837), and net Current assets amounted to £122,376 (2021: £128,865). The decrease in net assets resulted from the loss incurred on the Society's operations for the year. At the year end, the charity's funds totalled £867,890 (2021: £811,722) of which £731,340 (2021: £672,831) was attributable to the restricted funds.

Legacies

No legacies were received or pledged during the year (2021: £1,250 received).

Future plans

The Chairman writes “The reports in this year’s AGM papers reveal the ever-increasing variety and range of the Society’s activities. Scholarship is at its heart. The annual volume of *Furniture History* continues to be the foremost publication of its kind on the history of furniture and its historic context. The quarterly *Newsletter* also publishes new research, in complementary, usually shorter, articles with an equally international flavour. It also informs members of visits, records the highlights of past itineraries and seeks to involve the membership both in the Society’s work and in the wider furniture world through book reviews and notices.

“Our outgoing *Newsletter* Editor, Sharon Goodman, late of Christie’s, has been the perfect holder of that demanding office. Single-handedly she has sought writers and obtained copy, as well as steering the *Newsletter* and its regular contributors through the complexities of going to print four times a year. She has been exceptionally efficient, imaginative and hard-working. The Society owes her a great debt of gratitude. Hers is a difficult act to follow but we are fortunate that the baton is being taken up by Kate Hay, Co-Chair of the Events Committee (a not undemanding post in itself) with the assistance of Dr Iain Stephens. We wish them well.

“The future of the Society depends upon the recruitment of new members, especially those who are youthful in body as well as mind. Happily, the Society has weathered the ending of lockdown and the inevitable falling-away of interest in on-line activities and I hope it will resume its upward trend in the current year.

“The ECD Group is flourishing and the encouragement of younger students of furniture is a mainstay of the Society’s continuing purpose. This year’s ECD symposium, dedicated to our late President, Sir Nicholas Goodison, exemplified the vigour of this international enterprise which is partly funded by external grants such as those so generously offered for many years by the Oliver Ford Trust.

“BIFMO is primarily a developing database which is already the largest in its field, but it is also closely involved in learning initiatives. Online courses have not only been commended by their participants but have made a healthy profit which has been ploughed back into BIFMO, enabling its fundamental work to continue. However, BIFMO requires further fundraising to secure its future. This will depend upon finding a new host before the expiry in 2025 of the Society’s partnership with the University of London. This should happen sooner rather than later because the University has had to reduce its expenditure on the project, thus limiting the functionality of the database. It is vital that we secure the future of BIFMO.”

Volunteers

Many members give their time freely to help the Society fulfil its objectives by attending meetings of Council and the committees, sitting on working groups or undertaking many other tasks or functions on behalf of the charity. Council is greatly indebted to these individuals for their generosity to the Society.

Responsibilities of Council

The Charities Act 2011 requires the Officers and Council of the Society (i.e., the charity trustees) to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the surplus or deficit of the Society for that period. In preparing these

accounts the Council and Officers are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to do so; and
- Follow applicable accounting standards.

The Officers are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society, and the Officers and Council are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities, by establishing and maintaining a satisfactory system of control over the Society's accounting records, cash holdings and all its receipts and remittances.

Risk Review

Council has conducted a review of the major risks to which the Society is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures of authorisation of all transactions and projects and to ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the Society and these procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet its needs.

Statement of Disclosure to the Independent Examiner

So far as Council is aware, there is no relevant information concerning the independent examination of the Accounts of which the Society's independent examiner is unaware. In addition, the members of Council have taken all the steps they ought to have taken as members of Council in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the Society's independent examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

At the Annual General Meeting, it will be proposed that Christopher Pexton FCA of Messrs Begbies, Chartered Accountants be re-appointed the independent examiner of the Society's accounts for the ensuing year.

Approved by Council and signed on their behalf on 6 October 2022.

Christopher Rowell
Chairman of Trustees

Martin Williams
Trustee and Hon. Treasurer

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LEGACIES

The Society depends for its core income entirely on its members and supporters. Please consider leaving a legacy to it. The Society is a registered charity and in the United Kingdom, legacies to registered charities are exempt from Inheritance Tax without limit. In addition, a legacy to a UK charity may, in certain circumstances, reduce the overall rate of Inheritance Tax suffered by your estate.

Legacies can take the form of a lump sum or the residue or a fraction of your estate. They will not be spent on administrative costs but go towards developing the publication programme, helping to promote research projects and enabling the Society to campaign more vigorously to protect the furniture heritage.

The following is a suitable form of wording for your solicitor or financial adviser to include in your will or when adding a codicil to an existing one: 'I bequeath to the Furniture History Society, c/o Department of Furniture, Textiles & Fashion, Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7 2RL, a legacy of [*insert amount*] free of all taxes.' The Hon. Treasurer and the Finance Officer are always happy to advise potential benefactors.

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income From:-						
Membership Subscriptions	2	71,794	—	—	71,794	73,667
Donations, Grants and Legacies	3	2,631	—	610	3,241	35,885
Charitable Activities	4	26,217	—	18,282	44,499	7,506
Trading Activities	5	3,987	—	—	3,987	6,708
Investment Income	6	4,158	—	10,650	14,808	14,831
Total		108,787	—	29,542	138,329	138,597
Expenditure On:-						
Charitable Activities	7	108,539	—	38,641	147,180	131,322
Total		108,539	—	38,641	147,180	131,322
Transfers between funds		2,832	(832)	(2,000)	—	—
Net (Deficit)/Income		3,080	(832)	(11,099)	(8,851)	7,275
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)						
Gains on Investment Assets		(4,589)	—	69,608	65,019	49,425
Net Movement in Funds		(1,509)	(832)	58,509	56,168	56,700
Reconciliation of Funds						
Total Funds Brought Forward		127,524	11,367	672,831	811,722	755,022
Total Funds Carried Forward		126,015	10,535	731,340	867,890	811,722

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Notes	2022	2021
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Investments			
- Listed Investments	11(a)	371,878	391,357
- Property	11(b)	376,000	291,500
Total Fixed Assets		<u>747,878</u>	<u>682,857</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	12	1,203	1,746
Interest-Earning Deposits		34,339	48,594
Balances at Bank		<u>129,027</u>	<u>135,920</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>164,569</u>	<u>186,260</u>
Current Liabilities			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(43,193)	(57,395)
Net Current Assets		<u>121,376</u>	<u>128,865</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		869,254	811,722
Creditors:			
Amounts falling due after more than one year			
Deferred Income - Membership		(1,364)	—
Total Net Assets		<u>£867,890</u>	<u>£811,722</u>
The Funds of the Charity:			
Unrestricted General Fund	14	126,015	127,524
Designated Fund			
Howard Fund	14	10,535	11,367
Restricted Funds			
Ingram Fund	14	218,556	223,275
Anniversary Fund	14	134,216	153,488
Hilda Gadd Fund	14	376,000	291,500
Alison Kelly Fund	14	1,855	3,855
Card Makers Donation	14	<u>713</u>	<u>713</u>
		731,340	672,831
Total Charity Funds		<u>£867,890</u>	<u>£811,722</u>

Approved on behalf of the Council on 6 October 2022

CHRISTOPHER ROWELL: *Chairman*

MARTIN WILLIAMS: *Hon Treasurer*

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

1. **Accounting Policies**

(a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

(b) Public benefit entity

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

(c) Cash Flow

The Society has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it qualifies as a smaller charity.

(d) Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and subscriptions are accounted for as received by the Society. No permanent endowments have been received in this period.

(e) Life Membership Subscriptions

An annual transfer is made to the credit of subscriptions equal to the amount which each life member would have paid on an annual basis. The balance is carried forward as deferred income.

(f) Investments

Investments are stated at market value. Realised and unrealised gains and losses are dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment income and interest are accounted for as received by the Society.

(g) Allocation of Costs

Costs are allocated to General Fund unless specific to other funds.

(h) Resources Expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred.

(i) *Governance Costs*

Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. The costs include those relating to external audit.

(j) *Foreign Currencies*

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange ruling at the end of the financial year. All exchange differences are dealt with in the profit and loss account.

(k) *Restricted Funds*

Restricted Funds are funds which are used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed. There are five restricted funds. (1) The Tom Ingram Fund (the "Ingram Fund") is an endowment fund which is used to assist members of the Society and others to pursue studies into furniture and its history giving, where appropriate, preference to young members. (2) The Fiftieth Anniversary Appeal Fund (the "Anniversary Fund") is an expendable fund which has been set up to assist with education, research and publication on furniture and its history. (3) The Hilda Colquhoun Gadd Fund (the "Hilda Gadd Fund") is an endowment fund, the asset of which was gifted to advance the study of the history of furniture or bibliographies of the same. (4) The Alison Kelly Journal Fund (the "Alison Kelly Fund") is an expendable fund established using a legacy intended to defray part of the cost of producing the Society's Journal. (5) The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards Donation (the "Card Makers Donation") is an expendable fund established using a grant from the aforesaid Company to subsidise the subscriptions to the Society of young people over a period of three years.

2. Subscriptions - General Fund	2022	2021
	£	£
Subscriptions under Gift Aid	29,461	29,680
Income Tax Recovered	7,358	7,413
Subscriptions not under Gift Aid	34,975	36,574
	<u>71,794</u>	<u>73,667</u>
3. Donations, Grants and Legacies	2022	2022
	£	£
Gifts	3,241	2,898
Grants	—	31,737
Legacies	—	1,250
	<u>3,241</u>	<u>35,885</u>

4. Income From Charitable Activities			2022 £	2021 £
Visits and Tours			17,996	—
Lectures and Symposia			26,503	7,506
			44,499	7,506
5. Income From Trading Activities			2022 £	2021 £
Publications and Royalties			3,987	6,708
6. Investment Income			2022 £	2021 £
Income from Listed Investments			14,768	14,824
Interest Receivable on Cash Deposits			40	7
			14,808	14,831
7. Expenditure	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Charitable Activities				
Visits and Tours	13,133	—	13,133	—
Lectures and Symposia	11,507	7,976	19,483	1,154
Donations and Grants	—	3,139	3,139	4,825
BIFMO	—	—	—	23,371
Journals	10,493	—	10,493	11,850
Newsletters	10,927	—	10,927	6,952
	46,060	11,115	57,175	48,152
Support Costs				
Secretarial and Administration	35,170	26,922	62,092	54,926
Travel	775	—	775	(639)
Mailing, Postage and Telephones	13,767	—	13,767	17,111
Printing and Stationery	1,379	—	1,379	1,644
Warehousing	1,582	—	1,582	1,160
Sundry expenses	3,188	229	3,417	3,098
Website costs	2,236	—	2,236	2,023
	58,097	27,151	85,248	79,323

7. Expenditure continued

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Governance Costs				
Examiner's remuneration	2,000	—	2,000	1,500
Insurance	1,540	—	1,540	1,476
Trustees' costs	842	375	1,217	871
	4,382	375	4,757	3,847
Total	108,539	38,641	147,180	131,322

8. Visits and Tours

	2022 £	2021 £
Income	17,996	—
Less: Expenditure	(13,133)	—
Surplus for Year	4,863	—

9. Lectures and Symposia

	2022 £	2021 £
Income	26,503	7,506
Less: Expenditure	(19,483)	(1,154)
Surplus for Year	7,020	6,352

10. Net Incoming Resources

	2022 £	2021 £
This is stated after charging:		
Accountants' remuneration	2,000	1,500

11. Investments

	2022 £	2021 £
a) Stock Market Investments:		
Market Value at 1 July 2021	391,357	379,405
Disposals/Proceeds During the year	—	(37,473)
Realised (loss) on Disposals	—	(3,684)
Net (Loss) / Gain on Revaluation	(19,479)	53,109
Market Value at 30 June 2022	371,878	391,357
Historical Cost at 30 June 2022	264,698	264,698

11. Investments *continued*

	General Fund £	Ingram Fund £	Anniversary Fund £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Listed Investments - UK					
M&G 'Charifund' Income Shares	48,268	62,441	—	110,709	114,183
COIF Income Shares	55,686	13,922	—	69,608	73,452
Schroders Charity Multi Asset Fund	—	54,041	105,990	160,031	170,998
CAF Equity Fund B Shares	—	31,530	—	31,530	32,724
	103,954	161,934	105,990	371,878	391,357

The investments are held primarily to provide an investment return for the Society.

b) Property	2022 £	2021 £
At Valuation - 1 July 2021	291,500	291,500
Revaluation in year	84,500	—
At Valuation	376,000	291,500

In 2015, a residential property in Twickenham was donated to the Society subject to a tenancy for life at no rent in favour of the donors. It is Council's intention that, when vacant possession is obtained, the freehold interest will be sold and the monies realised used to provide an income for the purposes of the fund. (see Note 1 (l)). The property was revalued during the year on a desk-top basis by Dexters, Chartered Surveyors. The resulting figure of £470,000 has been discounted by 20% to reflect current market conditions.

12. Debtors	2022 £	2021 £
Prepayments	691	1,604
Value Added Tax	512	142
	1,203	1,746

13. Current Liabilities	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts Falling Due Within One Year		
Deferred Income	23,315	24,144
Accruals	19,878	33,251
	43,193	57,395

Deferred Income comprises income from subscriptions, tours, lectures and visits, received in advance, which will form part of incoming resources during the following financial year.

14(a) Movements in Funds

	Unrestricted Designated Fund Fund		Restricted Funds					
Current year	General Fund £	Howard Fund £	Ingram Fund £	Anniversary Fund £	Hilda Gadd Fund £	Alison Kelly Fund £	Card Makers Donation £	Total 2022 £
Income From:-								
Membership Subscriptions	71,794	—	—	—	—	—	—	71,794
Donations, Grants and Legacies	2,631	—	—	610	—	—	—	3,241
Charitable Activities	26,217	—	—	18,282	—	—	—	44,499
Other Trading Activities	3,987	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,987
Investment Income and Interest	4,158	—	6,444	4,206	—	—	—	14,808
Total	108,787	—	6,444	23,098	—	—	—	138,329
Expenditure On:-								
Charitable Expenditure	108,539	—	3,537	35,104	—	—	—	147,180
Total	108,539	—	3,537	35,104	—	—	—	147,180
Transfers between funds	2,832	(832)	—	—	—	(2,000)	—	—
Net (Deficit)/Income	3,080	(832)	2,907	(12,006)	—	(2,000)	—	(8,851)
Other Recognised Gains and (Losses)								
Gains on Investment Assets	(4,589)	—	(7,626)	(7,266)	84,500	—	—	65,019
Net Movements in Funds	(1,509)	(832)	(4,719)	(19,272)	84,500	(2,000)	—	56,168
Balance Brought Forward at 1 July 2021	127,524	11,367	223,275	153,488	291,500	3,855	713	811,722
Balance Carried Forward at 30 June 2022	126,015	10,535	218,556	134,216	376,000	1,855	713	867,890

14(b). Movements in Funds

	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Funds					
Previous year	General Fund £	Howard Fund £	Ingram Fund £	Anniversary Fund £	Hilda Gadd Fund £	Alison Kelly Fund £	Card Makers Donation £	Total 2021 £
Income From:-								
Membership Subscriptions	73,667	—	—	—	—	—	—	73,667
Donations, Grants and Legacies	6,528	—	—	29,357	—	—	—	35,885
Charitable Activities	4,319	—	—	3,187	—	—	—	7,506
Other Trading Activities	6,708	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,708
Investment Income and Interest	3,778	—	5,855	5,198	—	—	—	14,831
Total	95,000	—	5,855	37,742	—	—	—	138,597
Expenditure On:-								
Charitable Expenditure	78,004	—	6,738	46,580	—	—	—	131,322
Total	78,004	—	6,738	46,580	—	—	—	131,322
Transfers between funds	2,129	(129)	—	—		(2,000)	—	—
Net (Deficit)/Income	19,125	(129)	(883)	(8,838)	—	(2,000)	—	7,275
Other Recognised Gains and (Losses)								
Gains on Investment Assets	15,712	—	25,403	8,310	—	—	—	49,425
Net Movements in Funds	34,837	(129)	24,520	(528)	—	(2,000)	—	56,700
Balance Brought Forward at 1 July 2020	92,687	11,496	198,755	154,016	291,500	5,855	713	755,022
Balance Carried Forward at 30 June 2021	127,524	11,367	223,275	153,488	291,500	3,855	713	811,722

15(a). Movements in Funds

Current year	Balance 1 July 2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfer £	Gains and Losses £	Balance 30 June 2022 £
Restricted Funds						
Ingram Fund	223,275	6,444	(3,537)	—	(7,626)	218,556
Anniversary Fund	153,488	23,098	(35,104)	—	(7,266)	134,216
Hilda Gadd Fund	291,500	—	—	—	84,500	376,000
Alison Kelly Fund	3,855	—	—	(2,000)	—	1,855
Card Makers Donation	713	—	—	—	—	713
Designated Funds						
Howard Fund	11,367	—	—	(832)	—	10,535
Unrestricted Funds						
General Fund	127,524	108,787	(108,539)	2,832	(4,589)	126,015
	811,722	138,329	(147,180)	—	65,019	867,890

15(b). Movements in Funds

Previous year	Balance 1 July 2020 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfer £	Gains and Losses £	Balance 30 June 2021 £
Restricted Funds						
Ingram Fund	198,755	5,855	(6,738)	—	25,403	223,275
Anniversary Fund	154,016	37,742	(46,580)	—	8,310	153,488
Hilda Gadd Fund	291,500	—	—	—	—	291,500
Alison Kelly Fund	5,855	—	—	(2,000)	—	3,855
Card Makers Donation	713	—	—	—	—	713
Designated Funds						
Howard Fund	11,496	—	—	(129)	—	11,367
Unrestricted Funds						
General Fund	92,687	95,000	(78,004)	2,129	15,712	127,524
	755,022	138,597	(131,322)	—	49,425	811,722

16(a). Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

Current year	Investments £	Other Assets £	Total £
Unrestricted General Fund	103,954	22,061	126,015
Designated Fund			
Howard Fund	—	10,535	10,535
Restricted Funds			
Ingram Fund	161,934	56,622	218,556
Anniversary Fund	105,990	28,226	134,216
Hilda Gadd Fund	—	376,000	376,000
Alison Kelly Fund	—	1,855	1,855
Card Makers Donation	—	713	713
	371,878	496,012	867,890

16(b). Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

Previous year	Investments £	Other Assets £	Total £
Unrestricted General Fund	108,544	18,980	127,524
Designated Fund			
Howard Fund	—	11,367	11,367
Restricted Funds			
Ingram Fund	169,561	53,714	223,275
Anniversary Fund	113,252	40,236	153,488
Hilda Gadd Fund	—	291,500	291,500
Alison Kelly Fund	—	3,855	3,855
Card Makers Donation	—	713	713
	391,357	420,365	811,722

17. Taxation

As a registered charity the society is exempt from Corporation Tax since all income is applied for charitable purposes.

18. Trustees' Expenses and Remuneration

The Honorary Secretary, Megan Wheeler, was paid a total of £1,968 (2021: £2,569) comprising £1,875 (2021: £2,569) for website administration services and other sundry costs £92 (2021: £nil).

Dr Megan Aldrich was paid a total of £5,375 (2021: £5,286) comprising £5,000 (2021: £5,000) for editing the annual journal and other sundry costs £375 (2021: £100).

Expenses paid to one trustee in the year totalled £750 (2021: £771), comprising reimbursed travel £500 (2021: £624) and sundry other costs £250 (2021: £147).

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Furniture History Society (the 'Charity') for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Christopher Pexton FCA
Begbies, Chartered Accountants
9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4DJ

Date: 20th October 2022

Accounts



THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

*Annual Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements
for the Year ended 30 June 2021,
together with Notice of the Fifty-seventh Annual General Meeting,
to be held at The Museum of the Home (formerly The Geffrye Museum),
136 Kingsland Road, Hoxton, London E2 8EA
on Saturday, 20 November 2021 commencing at 11.00 am.*



c/o The Department of Furniture, Textiles and Fashion,
Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7 2RL

www.furniturehistorysociety.org

Registered Charity No. 251683

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

AGENDA

for the 57th Annual General Meeting to be held at 136 Kingsland Road,
London E2 8EA on Saturday, 20 November 2021 at 11.00 am.

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Fifty-sixth Annual General Meeting
3. Adoption of the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2021
4. Adoption of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021
5. Re-election of The President
Council proposes Simon Swynfen Jervis
6. Proposal regarding a change in subscription rates
Council proposes the increases set out on pp. 22-23 of the Annual Report
7. Re-election of the Honorary Officers
 - The Chairman
Council proposes Christopher Neville Rowell
 - The Honorary Secretary
Council proposes Dr Megan Laura Wheeler
 - The Honorary Treasurer
Council proposes Martin Blue Macintosh Williams
 - The Honorary Editorial Secretary
Council proposes Dr Megan Brewster Aldrich
8. Re-election of four members of Council
*Council proposes Dr Esmé Whittaker, Dr Mark Westgarth,
Dr Alexandra Gerstein and Stephen Jackson*
9. Election of two new members of Council
Council proposes Dr Caroline McCaffrey-Howarth and Jürgen Huber
10. Re-appointment of the Independent Examiner
Council proposes Christopher Pexton of Messrs Begbies
10. Any Other Business
11. Votes of Thanks

PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

We plan to hold the Society's Annual General Meeting corporeally. In addition, we hope to live-stream the proceedings for those members who cannot attend in person. The meeting will also be recorded and the recording placed on the Society's website after the meeting. The login details for the streaming will be communicated by e-mail to all the members for whom we have e-mail addresses.

Admission to the Annual General Meeting ("AGM") is free and open to all members, but those wishing to attend in person are asked to notify the Events Secretary, Beatrice Goddard, at events@furniturehistorysociety.org, at least seven days in advance so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

The meeting will take place in the Studio at the Museum of the Home. Coffee will be served from 10.30 am and the meeting will commence at 11.00 am. The room seats 80 people but if the social distancing regulations then in force require us to restrict numbers further, we shall endeavour to let members know by e-mail in a timely way.

As is customary, the formal business will be followed by talks on areas of current interest from:

- Helen Dorey (Deputy Director, Sir John Soane's Museum) will describe the project to restore the architect's drawing office, thought to be the earliest architect's office to survive intact.
- William Palin (Chief Executive Officer, Barts Heritage Trust) will discuss the planned restoration of the North Wing of St Bartholomew's Hospital in anticipation of the 900th anniversary of the hospital in 2023.
- Hannah Phillip (Programme Director for the Grinling Gibbons National Centenary 2021) will speak about the programme of events to celebrate Gibbons and the exhibition *Centuries in the Making* at Bonhams, London in August 2021 and at the Compton Verney Art Gallery, Warwickshire from 24 September 2021 until 4 January 2022.

As is customary, presentations will be made to officers of the Society who have demitted office during the period as well as to others who have made a major contribution to the Society's work.

At the conclusion of the presentations, a buffet lunch will be served. Tickets for the lunch, to include a glass of wine and costing £22 per head, should be booked at least seven days in advance through Beatrice Goddard, Events Secretary, at events@furniturehistorysociety.org

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

MINUTES

of the Fifty-sixth Annual General Meeting held on 28 November 2020

Notice

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Mrs Della Howard

Members observed a short silence in memory of Della Howard, a long-standing member, an enthusiastic supporter and a generous benefactress of the Society, who had died on 13 November 2020. The Chairman noted that she had been made an honorary Life Member in 2019 in thanks for her support of the Society since its inception and, in recent years, its young members' activities.

Meeting Choreography

The Chairman explained that, as there was nothing in the Society's constitution to prevent either proxy or postal voting, and having sought advice from the Charity Commission, three on-line polls would be conducted during the meeting to deal with specific items of business.

Members noted that the Agenda and the Annual Report and Financial Statements (which made specific reference to the matter) had been sent out by post as well as being published on the Society's website.

The first poll was on Council's decision to hold a virtual meeting, and read: 'In the opinion of the Society's legal adviser, it is lawful for the Society to hold its fifty-sixth AGM via Zoom and Council has approved the plan. Members present are invited to endorse the holding of the meeting in this way.' Agreed *nem. con.*

Apologies

The Chairman noted that apologies had been received from a number of members including the President, Sir Nicholas Goodison; Christopher Hartley and Stephen Jackson. He added that Christopher Hartley, Chairman, National Trust Scotland, had added: 'How very delighted I am that Simon Swynfen Jervis has been proposed for the post of President. His scholarship, urbanity and sense of humour will be a terrific boon. Nicholas Goodison has been a tower of strength over many years and we all owe him a sincere thank you. He will be a very hard act to follow but I know that Simon will more than meet the challenge. We are lucky to have such outstanding leaders.'

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in 2019

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23 November 2019 were taken as read and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2020

The Chairman summarised Council's report. He began by saying that 2020 had been a year

like no other, with the pandemic and its attendant lock-downs and restrictions, curtailing the Society's usual activities. However, some events, such as the Autumn Study Weekend to Devon, expertly led by Lisa White and Christopher Overton, and a tour of the Netherlands, under the aegis of the Dutch Royal Collection, had gone forward in 2019 before the pandemic had broken out. In addition, some members had visited the exhibition, *Treasures from Osterley: Rise of a Banking Family*, at Osterley Park—ably guided by one of its curators, Megan Wheeler, the Society's Hon. Secretary.

The Chairman added that the fewer than usual number of events had reduced the Society's income, however the series of Zoom lectures inaugurated by the Events committee had been a great success—an initiative that was greatly to the credit of all concerned and which had significantly raised the Society's international profile. He drew particular attention to the Annual Symposium on George IV and the Annual Lecture entitled *Pelagio Palagi, Decorateur des Palais Royaux de Turin et du Piemont* which had been delivered from Rome by Dr Bertrand de Royère. Both these high-profile events had been complemented by the series of on-line lectures given as part of the BIFMO programme.

The Chairman recorded the Society's appreciation of all those who had given so generously of their time to make the lectures and the associated events such a success. He thanked the Society's sister organisations, such as the French Porcelain Society, for their mutual help in marketing the societies' programmes.

Turning to publications, the Chairman commended the Hon. Editorial Secretary and the Newsletter Editor for producing both *Furniture History* and the Newsletter in a timely way despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic.

He announced with regret that Simon Swynfen Jervis would be relinquishing the role of editing the book reviews for the Newsletter, a post he had filled with distinction since 2013. He was delighted to announce that Dr Wolf Burchard had been persuaded to succeed him, commencing with the May 2021 issue.

The Chairman described Dr Burchard as 'an energetic and productive multi-lingual scholar' who brought to the task a wide-ranging knowledge of the decorative arts reinforced by spells working for the Royal Collection Trust and the National Trust. He was now the Associate Curator of European Sculpture & Decorative Arts at the Metropolitan Museum where he was leading on the re-modelling of the museum's British galleries. He had recently completed a very active term of office as a member of Council, and was thus ideally qualified for the new rôle. Suggestions for reviews should be sent to wolf.burchard@metmuseum.org

He congratulated the Hon. Editorial Secretary, Dr Megan Aldrich, on the 2020 volume (LXVI) of *Furniture History* which had been produced with the advice and help of the Editorial Committee and Dr Judith Goodison. A *festschrift* for the Society's outgoing President, Sir Nicholas Goodison, it was an exceptional volume in every way. Earlier that week, Sir Nicholas had been presented with a copy in a specially commissioned solander of burr elm and graphite-coloured resin by Jonathan Vaiksaar.

The Chairman then read the following message from Sir Nicholas:

"I am sorry that, at the last fence, I have let the Society down and will not be present at the AGM. I have received Volume LXVI in its beautifully crafted box of burr elm, and am

grateful to all the writers who have contributed. The tribute implied by the dedication of this Volume to me is something special and I shall always treasure it. Meanwhile I give my warm thanks to Megan [Aldrich] and to those of you who helped her organise and produce this volume, and more broadly to the Society, with which Judith and I have been deeply associated for most of our lives, and where we have found some of our greatest enjoyment and closest friends. Long may it flourish in stimulating scholarship, friendship and fun."

The Chairman said he had contributed an appreciation of the President, which he would not repeat, except to say that the Society was indebted to both him and Judith in so very many ways. He praised Sir Nicholas as a remarkable and reliable figurehead, who had worked tirelessly in the Society's interest and who had been totally imbued with its traditions and values. The Society would miss him greatly.

The Chairman drew members' attention to the Annual Report, where the impressive credentials of the incoming President, Simon Swynfen Jervis, were laid out. He added that Simon was the natural choice for President after a serving a distinguished term as both Hon. Editorial Secretary and subsequently Chairman, as well as serving as the chairman of the very successful Anniversary Appeal. He had also been a prolific contributor to *Furniture History* over the years and, like Nicholas, saw it as the foundation of the Society's activities.

He then said that Simon had asked him to say that he was 'extremely flattered and not a little daunted to have been asked to succeed Sir Nicholas, and is fully aware that, if the Society makes any progress during his tenancy of this office, it will be a quintessential example of a pygmy on the shoulders of a giant - a giant who has made an incomparable contribution to the Society's financial security and forward momentum over its entire existence.'

The Chairman encouraged members to read the informative and interesting accounts of the Society's activities in the Annual Report, and particularly those on *British and Irish Furniture Makers On-line* ("BIFMO") and grants, which outlined the pressing need to fundraise for the former to ensure that it maintained its position as perhaps the most comprehensive interactive resource for research into the history of furniture and its makers. He expressed his gratitude to all concerned with the expansion of the database, the collaboration with the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London (the "IHR"), and the progress that had been made during the year.

He commended the Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2020 to the meeting. It was adopted *nem. con.*

Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

The Hon. Treasurer then presented the Financial Statements of the charity for the year. Prompted by the news of the death that day of Diego Maradona, he began by saying that the year was, like the beautiful game, one of two halves: pre- and post-pandemic. The lockdowns and social-distancing restrictions had swiftly eroded the Society's planned programme of events which had had a very significant impact on the financial out-turn. It would continue to have an impact on the current year's results. He thanked the Events committee for so swiftly and successfully putting in place a highly successful programme of on-line lectures.

Mr Williams drew attention to the 'Statement of Financial Activities' where he was pleased to

be able to report that the outcome on the Society's general fund was a surplus of £5,476. There had been a net realised loss on the Society's investment assets of £8,603, leaving a net outflow of funds of £3,127. Taking into account BIFMO, where there was a budgeted deficit of just under £50,000, the surplus on the General fund had turned into a planned deficit of £45,496.

Looking at the figures in more detail, he said that the income from subscriptions had increased to £70,002, from £56,950 in 2018-2019, reflecting the increase in membership fees agreed at the AGM of 2018. In addition, he drew members' attention to the income from Donations, Grants and Legacies, which had grown from £11,832 to £36,425, mostly as a result of the grants made for *BIFMO*.

There was a fall in the income from Charitable Activities – largely in the Events & Visits programme – resulting from the pandemic. Investment income, however, had remained much the same, with a total income for the year of £152,744 and total expenditure of £198,240.

He explained that the expenditure encompassed a reduction in the cost of the Events programme of £13,000, and a fall of £9,000 in expenditure on *BIFMO*, together with a saving in the cost of *Furniture History* as it had been a slightly smaller issue and, thus, cheaper to post.

Savings had also been achieved in other areas, including one of around £2,000 following the Society's decision to switch from a full audit of its accounts to a simpler independent examination. He thanked Christopher Pexton of Begbies for his assistance and co-operation in this connection.

The Hon. Treasurer said that, as requested at last year's meeting, the figures for BIFMO had been separately set out in the Accounts. He asked members to note that there would be no further draw-down from the general fund for *BIFMO* from 1 January 2021, and that fundraising would be necessary if *BIFMO*'s development was to continue. He explained that the Society's agreement with the IHR would come to an end on 31 December 2020. Fortunately, the Society's relationship with the IHR continued to be a good one and, if it was the Society's wish, the IHR would host the *BIFMO* website and the associated database until the end of 2025 at no charge.

Total funds at the end of the year totalled £755,022, a fall of £84,970 on the previous year, due largely to the BIFMO drawdown and the fall in the value of the investments as a result of the pandemic.

All in all, the Hon. Treasurer said the Society had weathered 2019-20 in reasonable shape. In part, he said, this was thanks to the regular meetings of the Operations Group. If the Society were able to reinstate the Visits & Events programme in 2021, he hoped for a significantly better financial outcome in 2021-22. He praised Kate Hay, David Oakey and Adriana Turpin for devising a successful programme of online Lectures and explained that the Society would be moving to charge non-members for them from 1 January 2021, enabling the Society to offset the costs of hosting on-line lectures.

He explained that Council hoped to undertake a simple skills audit in 2021 and hoped to develop a formal Risk Register to comply with good governance practice.

The Membership Officer reported that membership stood at 1050 members at 30 June, having risen by 50 since the end of the previous year – some compensation for the loss of the Events & Visits programme. He believed that the online lecture programme had encouraged the increase

in membership, which had been moderated only by the fact that 90 members had still to pay their annual subscriptions for 2020-21. He concluded by saying that the Society had reached its target for new members for the year, and he looked forward to welcoming more members in 2021.

The Hon. Treasurer closed by thanking Keith Nicholls, Beatrice Goddard, Jill Bace and Megan Wheeler and proposed the financial statements for adoption by the meeting.

The second poll was then taken. It read:

- I approve the Minutes of the Fifth-fifth Annual General Meeting (Agenda Item 2)
- I approve the adoption of the Annual Report (Agenda Item 3)
- I approve the adoption of the Financial Statements for the year (Agenda Item 4)'

It was approved *nem. con.*

Elections

Noted that the elections to Council followed and that they were the subject of the third poll which read:

- a) For the election of the President, Council proposes the appointment of Simon Swynfen Jervis
- b) For the election of Officers. Council proposes the re-appointment of the following:

CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL	Christopher Rowell
HONORARY SECRETARY	Dr Megan Laura Wheeler
HONORARY TREASURER	Martin Blue Macintosh Williams
HONORARY EDITORIAL SECRETARY	Dr Megan Brewster Aldrich
- c) For the re-appointment of four existing members. Council proposes the following members: Dr Christophe de Quénetaïn, Adrian Hume-Sayer, Dr Esmé Whittaker and Dr Mark Westgarth.
- d) For the appointment of two new members. Council proposes the appointment of Dr Alexandra (Sacha) Gerstein and Stephen Jackson.'

The motions were put to the meeting and each agreed *nem. con.*

The President recorded his thanks to the retiring members of Council, *viz.*, Dr Wolf Burchard and Dr Barbara Lasic, for all that they had done to promote the aims of the Society and for their wise advice.

Re-appointment of independent examiner

The President thanked Christopher Pexton of Messrs Begbies and proposed that he be reappointed for a further year. Agreed.

Any other business

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by the President, who thanked the Events Secretary, Beatrice Goddard, for making the arrangements and electronically hosting the meeting, as well as the three speakers whose talks would follow the formal business.

Vote of Thanks

Sarah Medlam, who had retired in 2019 as chairman of the Events committee, thanked members for the gifts she had received to mark her service, *viz.*, a drawing of a carving from the Norfolk House Music Room by the carver Wilfe Gorlin, a student at the City & Guilds of London Art School, and a copy of Annabel Westman's magisterial *Fringe, Frog & Tassel*.

She went on to say that she had been receiving the gift of knowledge from the Society for many years and had found it deeply rewarding to head up the committee dedicated to creating a lively programme of Events for members, at which knowledge was passed on and shared.

She added that she was particularly proud that the Events Committee was so well led and thanked David Oakey, Kate Hay & Beatrice Goddard for adapting the Society's cancelled Events & Visits programme so brilliantly in such a difficult year.

Talks

Helen Jacobsen (Senior Curator, The Wallace Collection) spoke about the outcomes of the Riesener project, a collaboration between the Wallace Collection and colleagues at Waddesdon Manor and the Royal Collection Trust, to study and survey pieces by Jean-Henri Riesener (1734-1806) in all three collections.

The project had culminated in the publication of a book, *Jean-Henri Riesener: Cabinet-Maker to Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette*, and in innovative and interactive assemblage of digital modelling, reconstructions and displays, including the digital trail hosted on the Royal Collection website and the Wallace Collection's Jean-Henri Riesener microsite. Unfortunately, the proposed Riesener loan exhibition had had to be cancelled as a result of the pandemic, but the Wallace Collection had taken the opportunity to re-display its holdings of Riesener furniture.

Philip Hewat-Jaboor (Chairman, Masterpiece Fairs) discussed the art market's response to the pandemic and the way in which the London Masterpiece fair had remodelled itself following the cancellation of the physical fair. He described the creation of a virtual event in partnership with micro-site Artsy, which had featured over 1,000 uploaded images by 135 exhibitors. The platform had been accompanied by educational talks and lectures by both curators and dealers, panel discussions, tours and private and press previews. He said that the success of the online programme, its 'viewing rooms' and selling forum had been so successful in engaging a new audience that it would be continued in subsequent years, although he very much hoped that the physical fair would take place as usual in June 2021.

Claire Davies (Deputy Director, Handel & Hendrix) described the display, interpretation and collections management considerations of the *Hallelujah* project, which aimed to restore and re-present George Frideric Handel's house at 25 Brook Street, London W1. The project would open the ground floor and the basement for the first time, redress the entire house to present an authentic historical experience, and provide a research and performance space for musicians following its re-opening in 2022.

SIR NICHOLAS GOODISON FBA FSA (1936-2021)



Dame Fiona Woolf, The Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor of London, with Sir Nicholas Goodison (far right), Simon Swynfen Jervis (far left) and Christopher Rowell at the society's 50th Anniversary Reception at the Mansion House in 2014

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

At last year's AGM, I paid tribute to Nicholas Goodison, so ably supported by his wife, Judith, on his retirement as President of the Society after an exceptional term of thirty years. This year it is my sad duty to report his death on 6 July 2021. The Society owes him a very considerable debt of gratitude. For further information about his life, career, and his distinguished contribution as President, I refer readers to the introductory 'Appreciation and Dedication' in Nicholas's *festschrift*, *Furniture History*, vol. LVI, 2020, pp. 1-4 and the obituary in the current Newsletter, which is enclosed with this Annual Report. Nicholas was delighted to receive his *festschrift* volume, as minuted earlier in this Report.

Christopher Rowell
20 October 2021

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCIL 2020-21

The Council of the Furniture History Society has pleasure in presenting its fifty-seventh Annual Report together with Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Principal address: c/o Department of Furniture, Textiles & Fashion,
Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7 2RL

Website: (Society) <https://furniturehistorysociety.org>
(BIFMO) <https://bifmo.history.ac.uk/>

President and Honorary Officers

President: Simon Swynfen Jarvis FSA

Chairman Christopher Neville Rowell FSA
chairman@furniturehistorysociety.org

Hon. Secretary: Dr Megan Laura Wheeler
secretary@furniturehistorysociety.org

Hon. Treasurer: Martin Blue Macintosh Williams FSA
treasurer@furniturehistorysociety.org

Hon. Editorial Secretary: Dr Megan Brewster Aldrich
meganbrewsteraldrich@gmail.com

Other officers and committee chairpersons

Finance & Membership Officer: Keith Nicholls
finance@furniturehistorysociety.org
membership@furniturehistorysociety.org

Publications Officer & Grants Secretary: Jill Bace
publications@furniturehistorysociety.org
grants@furniturehistorysociety.org

Events Secretary: Beatrice Goddard
events@furniturehistorysociety.org

Joint Chairpersons, Events Committee: Kate Hay
katehay86@gmail.com
David Oakey
david.oakey@gmail.com

Chair, Grants committee: Adriana Turpin
grantschair@furniturehistorysociety.org

Newsletter Editor: Sharon Goodman
sctgoodman@yahoo.co.uk

BIFMO: Adriana Turpin (Deputy Chair, Management Committee)
grantschair@furniturehistorysociety.org
Dr Laurie Lindey (Managerial Editor)
research.bifmo@furniturehistorysociety.org
Ann Davies (Outreach Programmes Co-ordinator)
bifmo@furniturehistorysociety.org

Social Media: Natalie Voorheis
natalievoorheis@gmail.com

Professional Advisers

Independent Examiner: Christopher Pexton FCA
c/o Begbies, London EC2A 4DJ

Accountants: Begbies, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors,
www.begbiesaccountants.co.uk

Bankers: CAF Bank Limited, ME19 4JQ
Barclays Bank Plc, Leicester LE87 2BB
HSBC Bank Plc, East Grinstead RH16 4LU
COIF Charity Funds, London EC4V 4ET

Constitution

The Furniture History Society is an unincorporated membership body constituted by rules, and a registered charity numbered 251683. It was founded in 1964 to advance the study of furniture of all periods, places and kinds and to further public knowledge and appreciation of it.

Charitable Purposes and Public Benefit

The charitable purpose of the Society is the advancement of the arts, culture and heritage, and education in relation thereto. It does this by promoting the study of furniture and interior design of all periods, places and kinds and by furthering public knowledge and appreciation. The Society also assists with the preservation of furniture and associated records.

To these ends, it:

- Publishes original research in its annual journal *Furniture History* — much of which might otherwise remain unpublished.
- Finances its seminal reference work, the *Dictionary of British Furniture Makers* (as *British and Irish Furniture Makers On-line*), with a view to covering the whole of the British Isles and making the work available to all without charge to all in the form of an on-line searchable database.
- Makes grants towards the preparation and publication of books and articles of a noncommercial nature.
- Helps fund the collection of oral history on the furniture trades.
- Arranges an annual international symposium, open to the public, on a topic of current interest and often related to an exhibition at a national institution.
- Encourages study by young people by providing reduced subscription rates for membership and making funds available for overseas study tours as well as study visits and weekends in the United Kingdom.

- Lobbies to save important collections of furniture and archives relating to furniture, which are under threat.
- Disseminates information and advice to the general public on matters relating to the history of furniture and interior design.
- Maintains a comprehensive website.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Society is managed by the Council, i.e., the trustee body of the charity. The trustees who served during the year 2020-21 were:

Simon Swynfen Jarvis (President)
 Christopher Rowell (Chairman)
 Dr Megan Wheeler (Hon. Secretary)
 Martin Williams (Hon. Treasurer)
 Dr Megan Aldrich (Hon. Editorial Secretary)
 Dr Wolf Burchard *retired 28 November 2020*
 Dr Barbara Lasic *retired 28 November 2020*
 Adrian Hume-Sayer
 Dr Christophe de Quénétain
 Dr Esmé Whittaker
 Dr Mark Westgarth
 Dr Alexandra Gerstein *elected 28 November 2020*
 Stephen Jackson *elected 28 November 2020*

The Council is made up of: The President; the four Honorary Officers and eight elected members – all of whom are appointed annually by the members of the Society at the Annual General Meeting. Elected members of Council serve a three-year term of office.

Council ordinarily meets four times each year and is responsible for the management of the Society. Currently there are five committees: Events; Grants; Editorial; BIFMO Management and the Digital Strategy group. The members of the committees are appointed by Council and the Honorary Officers are ex-officio members of all committees. Any actions, including the decisions of any committee, are reported to and confirmed by Council as soon as is practicable.

As trustees, Council members take decisions in the best interests of the Society as a whole, and they operate in accordance with a code of conduct that makes explicit reference to the need for objectivity.

Officers

The Society's day-to-day business is managed by the Honorary Officers together with a small group of remunerated staff namely Keith Nicholls (Finance & Membership Officer) and his colleagues: Jill Bace (Publications Officer and Grants Secretary); Beatrice Goddard (Events Secretary); Sharon Goodman (Newsletter Editor), Dr Megan Aldrich (Editor, Journal), Dr Megan Wheeler (Website Officer) and Ann Davies (*BIFMO* Outreach Programmes Co-ordinator). Council is deeply appreciative of the commitment and hard work of these individuals as well as by the honorary officers and all those who serve on the Society's committees.

An Operations group consisting of the Hon. Treasurer (Chairman), the Hon. Secretary, the Finance Officer, the Events Secretary, the Publications Officer and the BIFMO Programmes Co-ordinator meets every 4-6 weeks to manage the Society's routine business.

Council – Elected Members

In accordance with the Society's constitution, two members of Council (Dr Christophe de Quénetaïn and Dr Esmé Whittaker) retire. Council is very grateful for their work for the Society during their terms of office and proposes the election of Dr Caroline McCaffrey-Howarth and Jürgen Huber to succeed them.

Dr Caroline McCaffrey-Howarth

Dr McCaffrey-Howarth is an art historian specialising in European decorative arts, material culture and the histories of collecting. She was recently appointed the Curator of 17th and 18th Century Ceramics and Glass at the Victoria & Albert Museum. Since September 2018, she has been a lecturer on the History of Design Masters course at the V&A and the Royal College of Art, where she continues to teach courses on country houses and material culture.

She gained her PhD at the University of Leeds, where she is now a Visiting Research Fellow in the School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies. She is a trustee of both the French Porcelain Society and the English Ceramics Circle, and was a founding member and is currently a trustee of the Society for the History of Collecting. She is an External Examiner for the University of Sunderland.

Jürgen Huber

Since 2004, Jürgen Huber has been Senior Furniture Conservator at the Wallace Collection, where he is responsible for preventive and interventive conservation of furniture and related works. Having completed a three-year apprenticeship in cabinet-making in 1987, he gained a 'Meister im Tischlerhandwerk' in 1992 and then gained a postgraduate diploma in conservation studies from City and Guilds of London Art School in 1998. He is an accredited member and assessor for ICON, and a member of both the Sculpture & Furnishings advisory committee for the Church of England Buildings Council and Exeter Cathedral Fabric Advisory Committee.

Most recently, Jürgen initiated the Riesener Research Project, in conjunction with Waddesdon Manor and the Royal Collection, to explore the craftsmanship of the eminent French royal cabinet-maker Jean-Henri Riesener. To show how his exceptional pieces appeared originally, and to digitally recreate Riesener's construction techniques, the project used cutting-edge 3D modelling technology which is available on-line via the websites of the Wallace Collection, Waddesdon Manor and the Royal Collection. The project culminated in the publication of *Jean-Henri Riesener: Cabinetmaker to Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette* in 2020.

Membership

During the year, the membership increased by a net 86 members to 1,089. 141 (2020: 86) individuals and institutions joined the Society and 42 resigned or died. 13 members were struck off for non-payment, the lowest figure for at least five years. The catalyst for the increase in membership has been the excellent programme of on-line lectures, which is a free benefit to members. It has been particularly popular in North America.

Deaths

During the year the Society was informed of the death of the following members: Charles Aldred, Walter Brown, Susan Bourne, Robin Douglass, Stuart Evans, Della Howard, Geoffrey Jenkinson, Michael Lees, Stephen Levinson, Christopher Monkhouse, Richard (Dick) Reid and Joseph Spang III.

Publications

Furniture History

The 2021 edition of the Journal (Volume LXVII) will contain eleven articles with subject matter ranging from seventeenth-century patronage to nineteenth-century antiquarianism and collecting as well as museum installation policy in the twenty-first century.

The past year has been an eventful one in terms of the development of *Furniture History* and its sister publication, the Newsletter. Ongoing negotiations with Lavenham Press, which commenced in 2020, have resulted in a decision to move the production of the Society's printed material to this well-respected firm. The intention in doing so was to streamline the production and mailing-out of publications, and to give the editor more support as regards the finer points of copy editing and production.

The Hon. Editorial Secretary (the editor) has found this new arrangement to be very satisfactory as regards support with the more arcane editorial matters arising from the production of a scholarly publication with content that sometimes includes reproductions of archaic documents and scholarly references in many languages often in outdated formats.

For the first time in the Society's history, the Journal carries images printed in colour on its cover and, in this connection, the technical experience of the team at Lavenham Press has been most helpful.

The editor has much enjoyed working with the Editorial committee, the officers, and Council in bringing forward this exciting development which should be considered as more of an overall 'refresh', rather than an entirely new look where the team at Lavenham Press have taken pains to ensure continuity with the Journal's heritage.

Other matters involving the Hon. Editorial Secretary has been her occasional attendance at the new Digital Strategy group, where it was felt that the new cover would be helpful in spreading the word about the publication in image-focused social media such as Instagram. In addition, she has been pleased to attend meetings of the BIFMO Management committee and welcomes the further co-ordinated development of editorial policy between the Society's printed and on-line publications to be explored via the Editorial Committee.

Newsletter

The year seems to have flown by. For the Newsletter, three of the four lead articles were by members of the Early Career Development ("ECD") group. In November 2020, Ellinor Gray wrote on the Holland & Sons furnishings for the lodgings of HRH The Prince of Wales (later HM King Edward VII) whilst an undergraduate at Cambridge; followed in February 2021, by an article on the eclectic decorative art collection of the Baron de Besenval by Paul Gallois. In August, Marc-Henri Jordan discussed frames by François-Charles Buteux for a pair of Gobelins portraits given to Prince Henry of Prussia; and in May 2021, Dr Amy Frost, Senior Curator, Bath

Preservation Trust, wrote on the recent acquisition of a drawing in William Beckford's hand of a cabinet that throws new light on how Beckford went about commissioning furniture.

The Discoveries & Research section continues to be well-populated with a variety of interesting articles on little-known furniture-makers, commissions, and notably, on the discovery of 'new' drawings by Thomas Chippendale--the latter written up by Dr Adam Bowett. The FHS News section now includes a regular *BIFMO* slot, and despite still being constrained by the global pandemic, the Events pages are full of on-line events accessible to a world-wide audience. In addition, at least three book reviews are published each quarter. The Editor would once again like to thank all the contributors to the Newsletter, and encourage anyone considering writing a paper to contact her directly.

Publication sales

There have been few sales of FHS publications in 2020-21 with most requests being for recent volumes of *Furniture History*. During 2019-2020, the prices of books and back numbers of *Furniture History* were revised to include new postage & packing charges particularly to Europe and North America.

Back numbers of *Furniture History* are now priced at £30 (UK), £35 (Continental Europe) and £48 for the rest of the world--all prices including postage and packing. Anyone interested in purchasing books should consult the website for the complete list of publications on offer along with an up-to-date price list.

British and Irish Furniture Makers Online

In 2020-21, the goal of British & Irish Furniture Makers On-line ("*BIFMO*") has been to develop content from the 19th century by gathering data from printed or digital sources: primarily the London Post Office Directories for 1845 and 1871; and The Furniture Gazette (1873-1892). As a result, nearly 20,000 additional makers, most previously unknown, are now online in the associated Dictionary of British and Irish Furniture Makers ("*DBIFM*") which at the time of writing contains more than 70,000 records: of these 1243 are over 200 words, and 109 more than 1,000 words. All the entries have been semantically tagged, thus enabling concise searches for types of furniture, styles, designs, ornamentation, and materials using more than 4,000 taxonomical keywords. Hyperlinks across entries are gradually being embedded, facilitating cross-referencing within entries as well as to external websites that provide contextual information about furniture collections and to individuals referenced in the dictionary.

At the end of 2019, *BIFMO*'s four-year partnership with the Institute of Historical Research ("*IHR*") drew to a close and it is now managed solely by the Society, although the University of London ("*UoL*") will continue to host the website under the terms of a five-year agreement with the Society.

During the year, and mindful of the importance of *BIFMO*, Council agreed to set up a dedicated committee to manage the project. Chaired by Christopher Rowell, the Management committee consists of the four honorary officers of the Society, together with *BIFMO*'s Project Manager, Adriana Turpin (also the committee's Deputy Chair). The Society's Finance Officer, the Managerial Editor (Laurie Lindey), and the Digital Editor (Jonathan Blaney) also attend its meetings.

Dr Adam Bowett resigned as editor of the DBIFM in February 2021. We record our thanks to him for all that he did to help with the management of this database which underpins *BIFMO*.

Dr Laurie Lindey was appointed Managerial Editor in June, responsible for the editing and management of content, including the writing, updating and adding of new entries. The team was strengthened in July when Jonathan Blaney, previously Head of Digital Projects and Editor of British History Online at the IHR, was appointed the Digital Editor, bringing to the project his wide expertise of digital editing and academic digital resources. Clarissa Ward continues in her role as 19th century editor, researching and writing biographies. She and Dr Lindey are working on the furniture makers in the north Soho (Fitzrovia) area of London where many important London firms were—and still are—located.

Long-term funding of *BIFMO* continues to be a concern now that the grant-funding from the Marc Fitch Fund has ceased, although finance to enable the consolidation and maintenance of the website in 2021-22 is in place.

The year to April 2021 saw the numbers of users rise by 57% to 16,606 and the dwell time continues to increase. This is encouraging evidence of *BIFMO*'s success in reaching the broader public as well as specialists. The Instagram account has attracted over 1000 followers with its regular postings of news and images, while the site's blog posts, many contributed by members of the Society's Early Career Development ("ECD") group, have continued to entertain and inform.

The ECD members have been supported by a grant from the Foyle Foundation which has also financed Adriana Turpin to develop a digital research project to encourage interest in furniture studies by MA students, in partnership with four universities, two in the UK (Leeds and York) and two in the USA (Winterthur and the Bard Center). Working with curators from Temple Newsam, Raby Castle in County Durham and Castle Howard, six students have written three online posts, which can be used by the houses and are linked to the *BIFMO* website.

In addition, ECD members, thanks to a grant from the Ingram Fund, have extended the georeferencing project begun the previous year to include makers before 1840. The project now forms part of a dataset on the UoL's "Layers of London" website, *Furniture Makers 1660 to 1871*.

We would like to thank all the speakers at our lectures and on our study courses, who contributed so generously of their knowledge and expertise as well as to the members of our advisory committee, the interns and others.

Grants

The members of the Grants Committee during the year were Adriana Turpin (Chair), Helen Jacobsen, Lucy Wood, Guy Apter, Peter Holmes, Joanna Norman, Charlotte Johnson, Olivia Fryman entertainingly shepherded by Jill Bace (Grants Officer/Secretary)¹.

Early Career Development ("ECD") group

The year opened with the continuation of the successful programme of on-line research forums, offering members of the ECD group the opportunity to present and share their

¹ The Honorary Officers, viz., the Chairman, the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer and the Hon. Editorial Secretary are *ex officio* members of all committees.

research interests. The well-attended study sessions covered the study of furniture from across the globe, including the Caribbean, Colonial America and France.

With social-distancing restrictions still in place, the ECD events programme for Spring 2021 continued on-line with an innovative series of round-table discussions. Titled 'Industry Insights', the focus of four sessions examined the opportunities and challenges faced today by those working in different sectors of the art world, from auction houses and dealers to museums, historic houses and cultural institutions. A distinguished panel of experts offered the international audience a unique perspective on their individual careers, as well as discussion of recent developments in their respective professions.

The Grants committee is especially grateful to the Oliver Ford Trust, which has continued to support the Society and generously donated £1,000 towards the costs of the ECD's on-line workshops, lectures, research seminars and other events.

With the curtailed programme in mind, Council agreed that unspent funds in the Tom Ingram fund could be carried forward and included in the 2020-21 budget. Some of these monies were used to pay interns from the ECD group, to work on BIFMO. Over several months, they researched the addresses of approximately 16,700 makers which were then added to the "Layers of London" website.

Few grant applications were received, but an award was made to a trio of ECD members (Petra Seitz, Gregor Wittrick and Nia Thandapani) to study the design and production of Pierre Jeanneret's mid-20th century furniture especially designed and made for the city of Chandigarh, India.

A 'Call for Papers' for the sixth ECD Research Symposium was posted on Instagram and sent to the ECD group along with contacts in museums, universities and cultural institutions.

Events & Visits

Membership of the Events Committee comprises: Kate Hay and David Oakey (Joint Chairs), Anne-Marie Bannister, Melanie Doderer-Winkler, Kate Dyson, Jessica Eddie, Simon Green (retired April 2021), Sara Heaton, Lucy Howgogo, Tessa Murdoch, Michael Shrive and David Wurtzel (retired October 2020). We welcomed a new member, William Lorimer, formerly a senior director with Christie, Manson & Woods. The group is indefatigably marshalled by the Events Secretary, Beatrice Goddard.

Annual Lecture

On 22 October 2020, Bertrand de Royère delivered the Annual Lecture on-line from Rome. Entitled *Pelagio Palagi, Decorator of the royal palaces of Turin and Piedmont*, it included a conversation with Pierre Arizzoli-Clémentel, Honorary Director General of Versailles.

Annual General Meeting

This was held on-line and included talks from Helen Jacobsen (Senior Curator, The Wallace Collection) on the Riesener project; Philip Hewat-Jaboor (Chairman, Masterpiece Fairs) on the art market's response to the Covid pandemic; Claire Davies (Deputy Director, Handel & Hendrix in London) on the display, interpretation and collection management considerations of the museum's "Hallelujah" project.

Annual Symposium

The Annual Symposium, *Design 1900 – Now* was deferred until October 2021.

On-line Events

In response to the pandemic, the Events committee continued its very successful programme of on-line lectures for both members and non-members. Free to members, a small charge was made to non-members from January 2021. There were 18 lectures in the year 2020-21 on a wide range of topics. Speakers included curators and academics from the UK and abroad including the Netherlands, France and America. We collaborated with The Attingham Trust, French Porcelain Society and Wallace Collection and co-ordinated a clash diary with the Decorative Arts Society and Regional Furniture Society. All the on-line events are listed in the reports section of the Society's Newsletter and many are available to watch again on the website.

A number of on-line seminar-style events were organised including *Into the Workshop: Furniture restoration / conservation*, chaired by Dr Tessa Murdoch and Yannick Chastang; and *Pattern books, early trade catalogues and many other rarities: John Evan Bedford Library of Furniture History*, with the Brotherton Library, Leeds. Other events included *Arts and Crafts in the Digital Age* featuring Luke Hughes in conversation with Aidan Walker, author of *Furniture in Architecture- The Work of Luke Hughes*; and a film of a lecture delivered to the Royal Dublin Society by the author Claudia Kinmonth on her book *Irish Country Furniture and Furnishings 1700 – 2000: Revising and revisiting*.

Thanks

A rich and varied programme, such as that detailed above, is only possible because of the generosity of the speakers to whom we are extremely grateful. They devoted considerable time and thought in preparing for these events to ensure that we continued to fulfil the Society's charitable aims—the promotion of the study of the history of furniture and historic interiors.

Website

The pandemic and the social-distancing restrictions attendant upon it underlined the importance of the website and the associated digital media as a channel for keeping the Society in touch with its membership. Throughout the year, the Website Officer has worked closely with the Events committee and its secretary, and the BIFMO administrator, to publicise the Society's highly successful programme of online events in e-mails to the membership.

The website was further enhanced in January 2021 to incorporate videos of the on-line events programme. The videos are hosted on the Society's new YouTube channel and embedded in the FHS website at <https://www.furniturehistorysociety.org/events/onlinelectures/>. Access is currently password-protected and available to members only. In due course, and with the speakers' permission, they will be made available to the public. There are plans to use the YouTube channel to publicise events and visits with clips on the Society's social media accounts.

In the year, traffic to the website increased by 37% over the preceding period, although the dwell time remains relatively static. The website's most popular areas are the Events, Membership and Journal pages. If members have any suggestions as to the content they would like to see on the website, please contact Megan Wheeler at website@furniturehistorysociety.org.

Social Media

Members worldwide have appreciated the Society's increasing digital presence and our presence in these areas has been strengthened by the activity of member, Natalie Voorheis.

Finance and legacies

The cancellation of the physical visits events & visits programme continued to have a significant impact on the Society's finances. The year under review saw a surplus on the ordinary activities of just over £19,000 which was partially offset by a deficit on *BIFMO* activities of £14,000. This outflow of funds was lower than budgeted due primarily to lower expenditure on the outreach programme because of the social-distancing restrictions. The latter meant that the outflow of funds continued after December 2020.

Statement of Financial Activities

In the year to 30 June 2021, the Society's income from all sources fell by £14,147 to £138,597 and expenditure totalled £131,322 (2020 £198,240) resulting in an overall surplus of £7,275. The surplus was better than budgeted thanks to lower than anticipated expenditure on *BIFMO* and savings on administration costs.

There was a net gain of £53,109 on the revaluation of the Society's investment portfolio at the year-end (2020: £39,474, loss). This was offset by a net realised loss of £3,684 on the sale of investments to finance *BIFMO* expenditure. The increase in the value of the portfolio was thanks to the general recovery in the stock markets during the year.

General Fund

There was surplus on the ordinary activities of the Society of £19,125 (2020: £5,476). Total income of the General fund fell by £9,620 to £95,000 thanks to the decrease in Events income. Membership income increased by £3,086 to £73,667. This was offset by a fall of £20,074 in the income from charitable activities to £7,506. There was no income from visits in 2021-22 (2020: £26,598), but this was offset by an increase in the income from lectures and similar events of £6,574 to £7,506. Grants towards the costs of the on-line lecture programme were received from the Paul Mellon Centre (£1,500) and the Oliver Ford Trust (£1,000). Expenditure in the General fund totalled £78,004 (2020: £102,728) with the decrease primarily due to the fall in income, namely from no events and visits in 2020-21.

BIFMO

BIFMO's income totalled £32,424 (2020: £34,312). A further grant of £29,237 was received from the Mark Fitch Fund as a contribution towards salary costs. Expenditure amounted to £46,579 (2020: £90,130) broken down as follows: Project management £23,371; Editorial and Intern costs £10,806, Research £3,068, Education & Outreach £6,964; Administration costs £1,800; and Sundries £571. Most expenditure has been covered by grants, received either in the current year or in preceding years. Any additional expenditure has been met from the Anniversary fund but the total amount available from this source was capped in 2018. Any future activities will have to be funded by third parties through via grants and donations.

Balance Sheet

At the year end the charity's funds totalled £811,722 (2020: £755,022) of which £672,831 (2020:

£650,839) was attributable to restricted funds. Fixed assets, which include investments, totalled £682,857 (2020: £670,905) and net Current Assets £128,865 (2020: £85,157). The increase in the net assets figure reflects the surplus on the Society's operations for the year.

Legacies

A legacy of £1,250 was received from the estate of the late Stuart Evans for which we are very grateful.

Subscriptions

The Honorary Treasurer writes: 'There is never a right time to propose an increase in subscription rates. When rates were last increased, members endorsed the plan to review subscription rates on a regular basis, ideally every three years. The Society's financial year runs from 1 July and the next opportunity for a change is 1 July 2022. Any variation in the rates for sole and joint members must be agreed by the membership. The rates for other classes of members are set by Council.

Put simply, we believe that in the current year, 2021-22, the Society's income from subscriptions, the sales of publications, and the surplus on its visits & events programme will exceed the costs of servicing its members, managing the visits & events as well as publishing and distributing its publications (when our usual programme of activities resumes) by approximately £5,000. However, this figure is predicated on a resumption of something like 50% of the events & visits programme which may not happen, and it leaves little margin for inflationary cost increases in future years.

The Retail Prices Index ("RPI") has risen by approximately 5.5% in the period from July 2019-July 2021, and a further increase of some 4% is forecast in the next 12 months. Thus, an increase of 8% or so will simply maintain the value of an individual's subscription.

It is very likely that the UK is in for an unpleasant bout of inflation and, if possible, we should endeavour not to deplete the Society's reserves further. In addition, Council wants to have the freedom to enlarge the scale and range of the Society's activities.

With this in mind, Council is proposing an increase of just over 8.3% in the standard subscription for individual UK members and a similar figure for joint membership. Unfortunately rates for overseas members will have to rise by more than this figure as postage rates to continental Europe and the US have risen by far more than other costs over the last three years. In 2020-21, the real costs of servicing a member were approximately £59 in the UK and £80 overseas.

An analysis of the subscription rates of other learned societies, such as the French Porcelain Society; the Silver Society; The Georgian Group; and the Regional Furniture Society showed that while the Society's rates were higher than some other organisations, but the conclusion was that, given our "offer", our subscription will still be good value for money.

The ordinary subscription for an individual in the UK is £60 per annum. An increase of £5 per annum is proposed with commensurate increases in the amounts paid by joint and institutional members (see below). The increases for UK members under the age of 35 have been shaded and will rise by only £2 to £37 (or 5.7%). NB All subscriptions are discounted by £5 if paid by a direct debit instruction on a UK bank.

The Society will no longer quote membership rates in foreign currencies.'

Membership category	Current rate	Proposed rate from 1 July 2022
UK Sole (Individual) members	£60 (£55 if paid by direct debit)	£65 (£60 if paid by direct debit)
UK Joint members (i.e., two people receiving one mailing)	£70 (£65 if by direct debit)	£76 (£71 if by direct debit)
UK Young Sole members (aged under 35)	£35 (£30 if by direct debit)	£37 (£32 if by direct debit)
UK Institutional members	£80	£87
Oversea Sole members	£75	£85
Oversea Joint members	£85	£95
Oversea Young Sole members (aged under 35)	£45	£48
Oversea Institutional members	£100	£108

Future plans

The Society's resilience during the pandemic was particularly evident in the swift embrace of technology so that via Zoom the Society's activities could continue, albeit without the usual visits to houses, museums and collections. Things are now ameliorating, and study visits have already begun. Despite a gradual return to normal, a poll of our members reveals that 95% wish virtual events to continue. The great advantage of Zoom is its international reach. Some members abroad have said that they have never felt more connected to the Society. We intend to build on the advantages of technology as well as returning to a full programme of traditional events. Kate Hay, David Oakey and their Committee, supported by Beatrice Goddard, are to be congratulated on their pragmatism and adaptability under very difficult circumstances.

The BIFMO website is receiving substantial usage which has risen to 96,000 hits per annum. Its popularity – and breaking the 100,000 hits barrier – will help to safeguard its future. As already recorded here, the database has been considerably expanded, and this work will continue, subject to successful fundraising.

Due to our increased online and social media presence the membership of the Society has stabilised and has begun to rise. The new membership target was reached this year and this upward trend needs to continue. The income from new members is vital to the Society's future.

During the discussion of subscription rates, it was suggested that the Society should offer a discounted on-line or “paperless” subscription with associated savings on mailing costs. This would have a significant impact on the Society’s current financial model and present a number of technical challenges, but we shall be looking carefully at the idea in the next six months. The membership will be consulted before any change is made.

The success of the Early Career Development Programme depended this year upon the transfer of its activities to an online platform. Congratulations are due to Adriana Turpin and her colleagues for surmounting the various difficulties and for encouraging increasingly various international links between the Society, museums, historic houses and academic institutions. Nicholas Goodison rightly felt that we should be ‘very much a next generation Society’ and we shall continue our encouragement of younger scholars and curators.

Volunteers

Many members give their time freely to help the Society fulfil its objectives by attending meetings of Council and the committees, sitting on working groups or undertaking many other tasks or functions on behalf of the charity. Council is greatly indebted to these individuals for their generosity to the Society.

Responsibilities of Council

The Charities Act 2011 requires the Officers and Council of the Society (i.e., the charity trustees) to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the surplus or deficit of the Society for that period. In preparing these accounts the Council and Officers are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate.
- Follow applicable accounting standards

The Officers are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society, and the Officers and Council are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities, by establishing and maintaining a satisfactory system of control over the Society’s accounting records, cash holdings and all its receipts and remittances.

Risk Review

Council has conducted its own review of the major risks to which the Society is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures of authorisation of all transactions and projects and to ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the Society and these procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet its needs.

Statement of Disclosure to the Independent Examiner

So far as Council is aware, there is no relevant information concerning the independent examination of the Accounts of which the Society's independent examiner is unaware. In addition, the members of Council have taken all the steps they ought to have taken as members of Council in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the Society's independent examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

At the Annual General Meeting, it will be proposed that Christopher Pexton FCA of Messrs Begbies, Chartered Accountants be re-appointed the independent examiner of the Society's accounts for the ensuing year.

Approved by Council and signed on their behalf on 7 October 2021.

Christopher Rowell Chairman of Trustees

Martin Williams Trustee and Hon. Treasurer

LEGACIES

The Society depends for its core income entirely on its members and supporters. Please consider leaving it a legacy in your will. The Society is a registered charity and in the United Kingdom, legacies to registered charities are exempt from Inheritance Tax without limit. In addition, a legacy to a UK charity may, in certain circumstances, reduce the overall rate of Inheritance Tax suffered by your estate.

Legacies can take the form of a lump sum or the residue or a fraction of your estate. They will not be spent on administrative costs but go towards developing the publication programme, helping to promote research projects and enabling the Society to campaign more vigorously to protect the furniture heritage.

The following is a suitable form of wording for your solicitor or financial adviser to include in your will or when adding a codicil to an existing one: 'I bequeath to the Furniture History Society, c/o Department of Furniture, Textiles & Fashion, Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7 2RL, a legacy of [insert amount] free of all taxes.' The Hon. Treasurer and the Finance Officer are always happy to advise potential benefactors.

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income From:-						
Membership Subscriptions	2	73,667	—	—	73,667	70,002
Donations, Grants and Legacies	3	6,528		29,357	35,885	36,425
Charitable Activities	4	4,319	—	3,187	7,506	27,580
Trading Activities	5	6,708	—	—	6,708	747
Investment Income	6	3,778	—	11,053	14,831	17,990
Total		95,000	—	43,597	138,597	152,744
Expenditure On:-						
Charitable Activities	7	78,004	—	53,318	131,322	198,240
Total		78,004	—	53,318	131,322	198,240
Transfers between funds		2,129	(129)	(2,000)	—	—
Net (Deficit)/Income		19,125	(129)	(11,721)	7,275	(45,496)
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)						
Gains on Investment Assets		15,712	—	33,713	49,425	(39,474)
Net Movement in Funds		34,837	(129)	21,992	56,700	(84,970)
Reconciliation of Funds						
Total Funds Brought Forward		92,687	11,496	650,839	755,022	839,992
Total Funds Carried Forward		127,524	11,367	672,831	811,722	755,022

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	Notes	2021	2020
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Investments			
- Listed Investments	11(a)	391,357	379,405
- Property	11(b)	291,500	291,500
Total Fixed Assets		<u>682,857</u>	<u>670,905</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	12	1,746	18,566
Interest-Earning Deposits		48,594	71,996
Balances at Bank		<u>135,920</u>	<u>96,541</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>186,260</u>	<u>187,103</u>
Current Liabilities			
Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	13	<u>(57,395)</u>	<u>(101,946)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>128,865</u>	<u>85,157</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities"		<u>811,722</u>	<u>756,062</u>
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year			
Deferred Income - Membership		—	(1,040)
Total Net Assets		<u>£811,722</u>	<u>£755,022</u>
The Funds of the Charity:			
Unrestricted General Fund	14	127,524	92,687
Designated Fund			
Howard Fund	14	11,367	11,496
Restricted Funds			
Ingram Fund	14	223,275	198,755
Anniversary Fund	14	153,488	154,016
Hilda Gadd Fund	14	291,500	291,500
Alison Kelly Fund	14	3,855	5,855
Card Makers Donation	14	<u>713</u>	<u>713</u>
		<u>672,831</u>	<u>650,839</u>
Total Charity Funds		<u>£811,722</u>	<u>£755,022</u>

Approved on behalf of the Council on 7 October 2021
CHRISTOPHER ROWELL, *Chairman*

MARTIN WILLIAMS, *Hon. Treasurer*

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

1. Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified to include investment valuation. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

(b) Public benefit entity

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

(c) Cash Flow

The Society has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it qualifies as a smaller charity.

(d) Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and subscriptions are accounted for as received by the Society. No permanent endowments have been received in this period.

(e) Investments

Investments are stated at market value. Realised and unrealised gains and losses are dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment income and interest are accounted for as received by the Society.

(f) Allocation of Costs

Costs are allocated to General Fund unless specific to other funds.

(g) Resources Expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred.

(h) Governance Costs

Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. The costs include those relating to external audit.

(i) *Foreign Currencies*

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange ruling at the end of the financial year. All exchange differences are dealt with in the profit and loss account.

(j) *Restricted Funds*

Restricted Funds are funds which are used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed. There are five restricted funds. (1) The Tom Ingram Fund (the "Ingram Fund") is an endowment fund which is used to assist young members of the Society to pursue studies and research into furniture and its history. (2) The Fiftieth Anniversary Appeal Fund (the "Anniversary Fund") is an expendable fund which has been set up to assist with education, research and publication on furniture and its history. (3) The Hilda Colquhoun Gadd Fund (the "Hilda Gadd Fund") is an endowment fund, the asset of which was gifted to advance the study of the history of furniture or bibliographies of the same. (4) The Alison Kelly Journal Fund (the "Alison Kelly Fund") is an expendable fund established using a legacy intended to defray part of the cost of producing the Society's Journal. (5) The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards Donation (the "Card Makers Donation") is an expendable fund established during the year using a grant from the aforesaid Company to subsidise the subscriptions to the Society of young people over a period of three years.

2. Subscriptions - General Fund	2021	2020
	£	£
	Subscriptions under Gift Aid	29,680 27,980
	Income Tax Recovered	7,413 6,995
	Subscriptions not under Gift Aid	36,574 35,027
	73,667 70,002	
3. Donations, Grants and Legacies	2021	2020
	£	£
	Gifts	2,898 13,825
	Grants	31,737 22,600
	Legacies	1,250 —
	35,885 36,425	

4. Income From Charitable Activities	2021	2020
	£	£
Visits and Tours	—	26,598
Lectures and Symposium	7,506	982
	7,506	27,580

5. Income From Trading Activities	2021	2020
	£	£
Publications and Royalties	6,708	747

6. Investment Income	2021	2020
	£	£
Income from Listed Investments	14,824	17,893
Interest Receivable on Cash Deposits	7	97
	14,831	17,990

7. Expenditure	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Charitable Activities				
Visits and Tours	—	—	—	24,116
Lectures and Symposium	1,154	—	1,154	3,819
Donations and Grants	—	4,825	4,825	3,522
BIFMO	—	23,371	23,371	66,055
Journals	11,850	—	11,850	8,186
Newsletters	6,952	—	6,952	6,999
	19,956	28,196	48,152	112,697

7. *Expenditure continued*

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Support Costs				
Secretarial Administration	30,069	24,857	54,926	57,158
Travel	(639)	—	(639)	2,122
Mailing, Postage and Telephone	17,111	—	17,111	11,830
Printing and Stationery	1,644	—	1,644	2,325
Warehousing	1,160	—	1,160	1,291
Sundry Expenses	2,933	165	3,098	3,979
Website Costs	2,023	—	2,023	1,235
	54,301	25,022	79,323	79,940
Governance Costs				
Examiner's Remuneration	1,500	—	1,500	2,600
Insurance	1,476	—	1,476	1,351
Trustees' Costs	771	100	871	1,652
	3,747	100	3,847	5,603
Total	78,004	53,318	131,322	198,240

8. *Visits and Tours*

	2021 £	2020 £
Income	—	26,598
Less: Expenditure	—	(24,116)
Surplus for Year	—	2,482

9. *Lectures and Symposium*

	2021 £	2020 £
Income	7,506	982
Less: Expenditure	(1,154)	(3,819)
Surplus for Year	6,352	(2,837)

10. Net Incoming Resources	2021 £	2020 £
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This is stated after charging:

Examiner's Remuneration	1,500	2,600
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11. Investments	2021 £	2020 £
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(a) Stock Market Investments:

Market Value at 1 July 2020	379,405	418,879
Disposals/Proceeds During the year	(37,473)	—
Realised (loss) on Disposals	(3,684)	—
Net Gain /(Loss) on Revaluation	53,109	(39,474)
Market Value at 30 June 2021	391,357	379,405
Historical Cost at 30 June 2021	264,698	311,583

Listed Investments - UK

	General Fund £	Ingram Fund £	Anniversary Fund £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
M & G Charifund Income Shares	49,782	64,401	—	114,183	94,968
COIF Income Shares	58,762	14,690	—	73,452	64,045
Schroders Charity Multi Asset Fund	—	57,746	113,252	170,998	152,888
CAF Equity Fund B Shares	—	32,724	—	32,724	67,504
	108,544	169,561	113,252	391,357	379,405

The investments are held primarily to provide an investment return for the Society.

11. Investments *continued*

(b) Property	2021 £	2020 £
At Valuation	291,500	291,500

In 2015, a residential property was donated to the Society subject to a tenancy for life at no rent in favour of the donors. It is Council's intention that, when vacant possession is obtained, the freehold interest will be sold and the monies realised used to provide an income for the purposes of the fund. (see Note (j)).

12. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Prepayments	1,604	1,603
Grant	—	1,744
Donation	—	8,032
Gift Aid	—	6,995
Value Added Tax	142	192
	1,746	18,566

13. Current Liabilities

	2021 £	2020 £
Amounts Falling Due Within One Year		
Deferred Income	24,144	21,936
Accruals	33,251	80,010
	57,395	101,946

Deferred Income comprises income from subscriptions, tours, lectures and visits, received in advance and which will form part of incoming resources during the following financial year.

14(a). Movements in Funds

Current Year 2021	Unrestricted Fund		Designated Fund		Restricted Funds			Total 2021
	General Fund	General Fund	Ingram Fund	Anniversary Fund	Hilda Gadd Fund	Alison Kelly Fund	Card Makers Donation	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income From:-								
Membership Subscriptions	73,667	—	—	—	—	—	—	73,667
Donations, Grants and Legacies	6,528	—	—	29,357	—	—	—	35,885
Charitable Activities	4,319	—	—	3,187	—	—	—	7,506
Other Trading Activities	6,708	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,708
Investment Income and Interest	3,778	—	5,855	5,198	—	—	—	14,831
Total	95,000	—	5,855	37,742	—	—	—	138,597
Expenditure On:-								
Charitable Expenditure	78,004	—	6,738	46,580	—	—	—	131,322
Total	78,004	—	6,738	46,580	—	—	—	131,322
Transfers between funds	2,129	(129)	—	—	—	(2,000)	—	—
Net (Deficit)/Income	19,125	(129)	(883)	(8,838)	—	(2,000)	—	7,275
Other Recognised Gains and(Losses)								
Gains on Investment Assets	15,712	—	25,403	8,310	—	—	—	49,425
Net Movements in wFunds	34,837	(129)	24,520	(528)	—	(2,000)	—	56,700
Balance Brought Forward at 1 July 2020	92,687	11,496	198,755	154,016	291,500	5,855	713	755,022
Balance Carried Forward at 30 June 2021	127,524	11,367	223,275	153,488	291,500	3,855	713	811,722

14(b). Movements in Funds

Previous Year 2020	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Funds					
	General Fund	General Fund	Ingram Fund	Anniversary Fund	Hilda Gadd Fund	Alison Kelly Fund	Card Makers Donation	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income From:-								
Membership Subscriptions	70,002	—	—	—	—	—	—	70,002
Donations, Grants and Legacies	2,398	—	—	34,027	—	—	—	36,425
Charitable Activities	27,175	—	—	405	—	—	—	27,580
Other Trading Activities	747	—	—	-	—	—	—	747
Investment Income and Interest	4,298	—	6,882	6,810	—	—	—	17,990
Total	104,620	—	6,882	41,242	—	—	—	152,744
Expenditure On:-								
Charitable Expenditure	102,728	—	4,245	91,267	—	—	—	198,240
Total	102,728	—	4,245	91,267	—	—	—	198,240
Transfers between funds	3,584	(1,004)	—	—	—	(2,000)	(580)	—
Net (Deficit)/Income	5,476	(1,004)	2,637	(50,025)	—	(2,000)	(580)	(45,496)
Other Recognised Gains and(Losses)								
(Deficits) on Investment Assets	(8,603)	—	(18,331)	(12,540)	—	—	—	(39,474)
Net Movements in wFunds	(3,127)	(1,004)	(15,694)	(62,565)	—	(2,000)	(580)	(84,970)
Balance Brought Forward at 1 July 2019	95,814	12,500	214,449	216,581	291,500	7,855	1,293	839,992
Balance Carried Forward at 30 June 2020	92,687	11,496	198,755	154,016	291,500	5,855	713	755,022

15(a). Movements in Funds

Current Year 2021	Balance 1 July 2020 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfer £	Gains and Losses £	Balance 30 June 2021 £
Restricted Funds						
Ingram Fund	198,755	5,855	(6,738)	—	25,403	223,275
Anniversary Fund	154,016	37,742	(46,580)	—	8,310	153,488
Hilda Gadd Fund	291,500	—	—	—	—	291,500
Alison Kelly Fund	5,855	—	—	(2,000)	—	3,855
Card Makers Donation	713	—	—	-	—	713
Designated Funds						
Howard Fund	11,496	—	—	(129)	—	11,367
Unrestricted Funds						
General Fund	92,687	95,000	(78,004)	2,129	15,712	127,524
	755,022	138,597	(131,322)	—	49,425	811,722

15(b). Movements in Funds

Previous Year 2020	Balance 1 July 2019 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfer £	Gains and Losses £	Balance 30 June 2020 £
Restricted Funds						
Ingram Fund	214,449	6,882	(4,245)	—	(18,331)	198,755
Anniversary Fund	216,581	41,242	(91,267)	—	(12,540)	154,016
Hilda Gadd Fund	291,500	—	—	—	—	291,500
Alison Kelly Fund	7,855	—	—	(2,000)	—	5,855
Card Makers Donation	1,293	—	—	(580)	—	713
Designated Funds						
Howard Fund	12,500	—	—	(1,004)	—	11,496
Unrestricted Funds				-		
General Fund	95,814	104,620	(102,728)	3,584	(8,603)	92,687
	839,992	152,744	(198,240)	—	(39,474)	755,022

16(a). Analysis of net Assets between Funds

Current Year 2021

	Investments £	Other Assets £	Total £
Unrestricted General Fund	108,544	18,980	127,524
Designated Fund			
Howard Fund	—	11,367	11,367
Restricted Funds			
Ingram Fund	169,561	53,714	223,275
Anniversary Fund	113,252	40,236	153,488
Hilda Gadd Fund	—	291,500	291,500
Alison Kelly Fund	—	3,855	3,855
Card Makers Donation	—	713	713
	391,357	420,365	811,722

16(b). Analysis of net Assets between Funds

Previous Year 2020

	Investments £	Other Assets £	Total £
Unrestricted General Fund	92,833	(146)	92,687
Designated Fund			
Howard Fund	—	11,496	11,496
Restricted Funds			
Ingram Fund	144,157	54,598	198,755
Anniversary Fund	142,415	11,601	154,016
Hilda Gadd Fund	—	291,500	291,500
Alison Kelly Fund	—	5,855	5,855
Card Makers Donation	—	713	713
	379,405	375,617	755,022

17. Taxation

As a registered charity the society is exempt from Corporation Tax since all income is applied for charitable purposes.

18. Trustees' Expenses and Remuneration

The Honorary Secretary, Megan Wheeler, was paid a total of £2,569 (2020: £1,800) for website administration services.

The Hon. Editorial Secretary, Dr Megan Aldrich was paid a total of £5,286 (2020-£5,000) comprising £5,000 (2020 £5,000) for editorial services and other sundry costs £286 (2020 -Nil)

Expenses paid to one trustee in the year totalled £771 (2020: £1,652), comprising reimbursed travel £624 (2020: £1,591) and sundry other costs £147 (2020: £61).

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Furniture History Society (the "Charity") for the year ended 30 June 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of Report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. The accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts & Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Christopher Pexton FCA
Begbies Chartered Accountants
9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4DJ

Date: November, 2021

