

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES, THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
AND
THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST March 2023
FOR
THE TEXTILE SOCIETY

The Textile Society Annual Report - April 2023 to March 2024

The Textile Society was established in 1982 and in the 2023-24 financial year it has advanced many areas of its charitable work and activities. The society remains an unincorporated registered UK charity administered by its volunteer trustees and co-opted committee members.

Membership

On the 26 June 2024 the Textile Society increased its membership to 807 active members. Since 2023 there has been an increase in individual and concessionary members, and a small increase in larger institutions. In 2023-24 the Society has actively sought to increase its student and small institutions membership by promoting the Student Bursaries and Museum, Archive and Conservation Award.

Publications

The Textile Society's publications are a key membership benefit and a vehicle for the dissemination of new research and members' exhibitions and activities. Following the 2023 AGM the publications team has been expanded to develop this work. A regular *Museum News* column has been developed with the Editors and the Museum Award lead judge to engage the membership with museum artefacts and their histories. A Reviews Editor has been re-appointed to focus on the importance of bringing new publications and exhibitions to the membership.

In 2023-24 the Textile Society invited three graphic designers to tender for the revised presentation of the society's publications – the annual journal *Text* and its digital newsletter *News*. Three design submissions were reported to the Committee. Independent reviews of the submissions had been undertaken by the two Editors and the Chair. The review panel recommended that Imaginista would be invited to work with the Publications Team in developing a revised design. The first revision took place in the Spring of 2024 and has established a model for future publications.

Awards and Bursaries

The Textile Society's awards and bursaries remain central to its charitable purpose – to support the study of the history, art and design of textiles through its undergraduate and postgraduate student bursaries, professional development awards to makers and researchers in the field, museum projects to develop new audiences and enable the conservation of collections and archives, and to writers in promoting critical writing in the subject.

Museum, Archive and Conservation Award – 1 June 2023

A 2023 Museum award of £3,900 was given to Southend Museums' project *A Businesswoman's Wardrobe; Preserving and Archiving the Gloria Levin Collection of Hardy Amies Couture*.

Museum, Archive and Conservation Award – 1 June 2023 (Cont.)

This fascinating collection of over 200 'lived' garments and accessories at Southend Museums tells the story of the evolution of fashion and trends, and the social and professional advancement of women in the second half of the 20th century. The collection comprises over 200 pieces of couture, bespoke day and eveningwear, accessories and related ephemera. Textile Society funding will provide conservation suitable for long term storage and preservation. In turn, these will facilitate safe access for digitisation and research. Crucially it will allow the collection to be stored together, in a dedicated space. The whole collection will be physically accessible to researchers and student groups, and digitised records will be accessible to all via the museum database.

Professional Development Award – 1 September 2023

£1000 was awarded to Dr Hannah White for the development of woven pleated sculptures to progress her practice alongside the specialist skills support provided by her QEST scholarship award. £700 was awarded to Dr Ruth Clifford to contribute to a curriculum-focused initiative, connecting students and graduates with textile artisan makers in Kutch, India with a view to collaborative projects.

Submissions represented a broad and interesting range of research practice. However, in response to a decline in the overall standard of application in 2023, the criteria and webpage has since been revised to better reflect the expectations of the Professional Development Award in 2024.

Brenda M King Prize for Critical Writing in Textiles – 1 September 2023

2023 was the inaugural year of this award supported by a donation by David King in honour of his late wife and former Chair. Submissions received were of a good standard. An independent panel of judges was established and reached a unanimous decision. James Fox was awarded £1000 for *A Stitch in Time: a textile work unpicking our prison system*, and Lydia Donohue and Izzy Dabiri were awarded £500 each for their essays on the sewing boxes of the South Manchester quilting community, and textile labour and consumption, respectively. Essays are published in *Text*, and the judging panel reconvened in November 2023 to discuss publicity and strategies for raising the profile of the award in 2024.

Student Bursaries – 1 March 2024

New trustees were elected at the AGM 2023 to support publicity of the Society's awards and bursaries. The Awards Representative and all lead judges have liaised with the new officer to develop new initiatives and these have resulted in increased submissions in 2024 most notably in Student Bursaries.

March 2024 has seen the highest number of applications to the Student Bursaries in its history. £4,000 was allocated to the award, and submissions were assessed by a larger panel of four judges to manage the increase. 8 finalists were invited to the Manchester Antique and Vintage Textile Fair on 28 April 2024 and a further 17 students were recognised with commendations.

Donations

In support of the Textile Society Awards and Bursaries 2023-24 donations were received from David King for the BMK Award, from Joy of Print towards the Student Bursaries, and from Anne Morrell for a one-off award to follow in 2025.

Events

The Textile Society 40th Anniversary

To celebrate the founding of the Textile Society in 1982, a weekend series of events was held in Manchester in April 2023.

The Whitworth - 21 April 2023

A curator's tour of the 'Althea McNish: Colour is Mine' exhibition followed by a closer look at textiles in the wider Whitworth collection.

The Whitworth hosted the first inaugural meeting of the Textile Society in 1982. In 2023 the Society came full circle in offering this special opportunity as part of the Society's 40th Anniversary celebrations.

The bespoke event began with an exhibition tour of *Althea McNish: Colour is Mine* with co-curator Rose Sinclair (Lecturer in Design Education at Goldsmiths, University of London).

Also, attendees examined, close up, a specially curated selection of highlights from the Whitworth's outstanding textiles collection.

Annual Conference – 22 April 2023

To mark the Textile Society's 40th Anniversary, a conference was held at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester. The conference considered the power and influence of textiles, celebrating its ability to inspire while exploring its capacity for change. The event discussed ways in which Textiles crosses cultural boundaries and disciplines, and how its material qualities hold an enduring universal relevance.

The Textile Society welcomed professional speakers at the forefront of their practice.

The conference looked to the future from different perspectives; reflecting a bigger picture for textiles through art, architecture, fashion and industry:

Adam Mansell Chief Executive Officer of the UK Fashion and Textiles Association (UKFT).

Carry Somers Designer, entrepreneur, fashion activist and founder of Fashion Revolution.

Dr Christine Checinska Designer, writer and the V&A's inaugural Curator of African and African Diaspora Fashion.

Jonathan Watkins Independent curator of contemporary art and former Director of Ikon Gallery, Birmingham.

Asif Khan MBE International award-winning architect and Deputy Chair of the Design Museum trustees, London.

Short presentations were given by:

Amelia Lawrence Crafts Council and Craft UK relationship manager

Daniel Harris London Cloth Company, recipient of the Textile Society Special Award 2023.

The conference showcased the work of recipients of the Textile Society Student Bursaries from previous years:

Lissy Hatfield Postgraduate Student Award 2022.

Katerina Knight Postgraduate Student Award 2022.

Annual Conference – 22 April 2023 (Cont.)

Delegates viewed showreels of student work and the Museum project for 2022:

Terry Donaldson Postgraduate Student Award 2022.

Marie Fillon (Monique Fei) Undergraduate Student Award 2022.

Helen Westthrop Postgraduate Student Award 2021.

Natsuki Hanyu Postgraduate Student Award 2021.

Paxton House *Parallel Worlds: Worlds Apart*, Museum Award 2022.

Textile Society Antique and Vintage Textile Fairs

Manchester AVTF - 23 April 2023

London AVTF – 8 October 2023

The Manchester and London Antique and Vintage Textile Fairs remain the principal source of funding to support the Textile Society's Awards and Bursaries.

The London fair at Chelsea Old Town Hall, presenting high quality textiles for sale, has gained in popularity in recent years. There was a significant increase in the number of stands in 2023 and the Organiser has recommended that the layout be revised to accommodate more stands in 2024 to meet demand.

2023 Student Bursary winners were invited to exhibit at the London AVTF to promote their work while demonstrating to visitors the primary purpose of the fair as a fund-raising event to support the society's awards and bursaries.

The two antique and vintage textile fairs serve regions in the north and south of England and, together, they raise funds to support the society's Awards and Bursaries scheme.

The Warner Archive - 17 November 2023

Behind the Scenes of Nineteenth Century Silk Weaving with the Textile Society at Braintree Museum and the Warner Textile Archive.

This event provided a special opportunity for members to hear more about the collaboration between the Textile Society and the Warner Textile Archive, and to see the work being done to improve accessibility to textile heritage in the UK supported by the Textile Society Museum Award in 2022.

The Warner & Sons Gallery highlights the breadth of design and manufacture of a textile company supplying royalty, prime ministers and cathedrals, as well as public transport and hospitals. Visitors experienced behind the scenes views of work in the store - one of the largest textile collections in the UK - to hear about the ongoing project to conserve, catalogue, digitise and research the incredible artworks produced c.1870-1910 by artists for silks woven by Warner & Sons, and other businesses purchased in that era.

Charity Commission

From September 2023 the Society experienced recurring problems in accessing the Textile Society Charity Commission register following a change to its system. Despite conversations, email exchanges and assurances, unique links and technical issues were not resolved until April 2024. As a result, GoCardless withheld subscription payments until such

Charity Commission (Cont)

time as the list of trustees could be updated to ensure compliance with the Financial Services Authority. This was a challenging episode for the society, but was eventually resolved in April 2024.

The Textile Society's Annual Return for 2022-23 has been uploaded and is published as delivered 'on time' on the Charity Commission website.

Dr Linda Brassington, Chair

GOVERNANCE AND MANGEMENT

Governance

The activities of the Society and the conduct of the committee are governed by the Constitution which was approved at the AGM held in September 2009.

The objectives of The Textile Society are:

- To advance the education of the public in the knowledge of history, art and design of textiles
- To encourage education and research in all aspects of the subject

The first is achieved through membership of the Society. Regular newsletters, monthly bulletins, social media posts, our annual publication *TEXT* and notification of future events including our own Annual Conference.

The second is through awards and bursaries which are funded thorough antique and vintage textile fairs and donations. These grants provide support for students, professionals and museums. All applicants must be members of the Society.

Registered Charity number

288531

Principal contact

Dr. Linda Brassington
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Hampshire
GU34 2EW

Trustees

Dr. Linda Brassington	Chair
Debra Roberts	(Resigned June 2023)
Daniel Styran-Furness	(Resigned August 2023)
Dr. Joanne Horton	Co-Vice Chair and Student Bursary Lead
Dr. Leanne Tonkin	Co-Vice Chair and Museum Award (Appointed September 2023)
Sally Laker	Treasurer and Membership Secretary
Suzanne Smith	Awards and Bursaries Representative Museum, Archive and Conservation Award
Jennifer Shellard	Professional Development Award (Appointed September 2023)
Pat Frost	<i>TEXT</i> and <i>News</i> Editor
Clare Bungey	<i>TEXT</i> and <i>News</i> Production Editor
Desiree Jeans	Website Editor
Holly Walker	Publicity Officer
Jane Rylands	Events team member
Lara Pain	Student Representative (Appointed September 2023)
Professor Emerita Lesley Millar. MBE	Conferences and Symposia team member
Roselind Sinclair. MBE	Publications team member (Appointed September 2023)
Jessica Ng Mei Chi	Publicity team member (Appointed September 2023)

Treasurer's Report

The main sources of income for the Society come from Membership fees and Antique and Textile Fairs.

Membership fees

The accounts show an income from this source of £14,660.50. However, an additional £1,387.50 (Direct debits February £897.50 and March £490.00) was held by Go Cardless at 31st March 2024. These funds were released to the Society's bank in May 2024 once the issues with the Charity Commission were resolved.

Taking these additional funds into consideration, the total receipts from our members amounted to £16,048, an increase of 15% for the year (£13,941, 2023)

Year ended 31st
March

	Receipts		Difference (YE 23/24)	% change
	YE 23	YE 24		
	£	£	£	
Students	1,647	2,385	738	45%
Concessions	3,343	3,288	-55	-2%
Individual	6,904	8,124	1,220	18%
Family	283	250	-33	-12%
Small Institutions	751	543	-208	-28%
Large Institutions	1,013	1,458	445	44%
	<u>13,941</u>	<u>16,048</u>	<u>2,107</u>	15%

Each category pays a different rate which is greater for overseas members to cover their higher postage costs.

The number of members increased by 17%

Year ended 31st
March

	No. Members		Difference (YE 23/24)	% change
	YE 23	YE 24		
Students	115	170	55	48%
Concessions	204	209	5	2%
Individual	293	346	53	18%
Family	10	9	-1	-10%
Small Institutions	29	21	-8	-28%
Large Institutions	20	29	9	45%
	<u>671</u>	<u>784</u>	<u>113</u>	17%

These are net figures as a number of members each year do not renew their membership. Some join the Society to become eligible to apply for bursaries or awards.

Publications

The increase in costs of the newsletters and *TEXT*, the Society's annual publication, reflect the investment in the development of these publications. (£8,709 in 2024, £7,360 in 2023), as well as additional copies required for the increase in the number of members.

Awards and Bursaries

Payment date	Award/Bursary	£
May 2023	Student Bursaries - Undergraduate	2,000
	Student Bursaries - Postgraduate	2,000
		<u>4,000</u>
May 2023	Museum, Archive and Conservation Awards	4,430
Sep 2023	Professional Development Awards	1,700
Oct 2023	Brenda M King - Critical Writing Award	2,000
Total paid in current year		<u>12,130</u>

The Student Bursaries judged during March 2024 were paid in May 2024

Annual Conference and Antique and Textile Fairs.

The Annual Conference celebrating 40 years of the Textile Society was held in Manchester in April 2023 in tandem with the Manchester Antique and Textile Fair. Trustees and volunteers were involved in not only hosting the Fair on Sunday 23rd April but also supporting the Society the day before at the Conference. The Fair raised nearly £13,000 towards funding awards and bursaries. The annual Fair held in London in October 2023 raised a further £7,000. Preparation for the Manchester Fair in April 2024 was well underway by the end of the financial year. £10,340 had been received in advance from traders booking stalls.

The success of these events reflects the commitment of the trustees and the Society's supporters.

Summary

The Society has added to its' cash reserves during this year (Cash balance £66,229 in 2024, £55,964 in 2023) and is expected to do so during the following year. The Society is in a strong position to add new awards and bursaries to its' portfolio as well as identifying investment opportunities.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	Restricted Funds	General Fund	Bursaries Fund	2023/24 Total	2022/23 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Subscriptions (gross)		14,661		14,661	13,941
Videos		20		20	50
Day Events		365		365	180
Conference/AGM		3,320		3,320	350
TEXT		10		10	70
London Fair			14,941	14,941	11,429
Manchester Fair			18,834	18,834	15,966
Donations	1,000	3,003		4,003	1,450
Bank interest received	62	221		283	70
Total Receipts	1,062	21,600	33,775	56,437	43,506
Payments					
Administration & Committee travel expenses		1,472		1,472	1,831
Third party charges		1,414		1,414	964
Day events		1,532		1,532	0
Conference		8,100		8,100	979
Newsletter/TEXT		8,709		8,709	7,360
IT		1,495		1,495	1,111
London Fair			7,848	7,848	6,549
Manchester Fair			3,472	3,472	6,171
Bursaries			12,130	12,130	14,956
Total Payments	0	22,722	23,450	46,172	39,921
Net movement in Cash Funds	1,062	-1,122	10,325	10,265	3,585
Opening Cash Funds	6,011	28,854	21,099	55,964	52,379
Transfer	-2,000		2,000	0	
Closing Cash Funds	5,073	27,732	33,424	66,229	55,964
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT MARCH				2024	2023
				£	£
Cash Funds					
Bank Current Accounts				38,680	27,699
Bank Deposit Account				5,073	6,011
Virgin Deposit Account				22,475	22,254
				66,229	55,964
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS					
Prepaid Expenses				1,944	3,660
LIABILITIES					
Income received in advance				10,340	9,219

NOTES

1. The trustees aim to maintain Funds equal to at least one year's normal expenditure.
2. All income with the exception of £1,000 was unrestricted and expended on charitable activities on which the Society is exempt from tax
3. Net income from Trade Fairs is primary purpose trading which is designated to the Bursaries Fund to finance bursaries and other awards

The Society's Bankers are Lloyds Bank Plc, Market Square Stafford

Approved by the Trustees on 11th July 2024 and signed on their behalf by the Treasurer:



Sally Laker Date 11th July 2024

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Textile Society

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Textile Society (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity 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 carried out under s. 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under s. 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination 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.

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.



Jordan Abbott BSc ACA

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Date: 18/11/2024