

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES, THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
AND  
THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> March 2025  
FOR  
THE TEXTILE SOCIETY

## The Textile Society Annual Report - April 2024 to March 2025

### Membership

In 2024-25 the Textile Society membership increased across all categories.

### Awards and Bursaries

#### Introduction

Proceeds from the Textile Society fairs and events are vital sources of income to fund the Student Bursaries, Professional Development, and Museum, Archive and Conservation awards. These awards reflect the Society's commitment to supporting education and promoting knowledge within the breadth of textile disciplines.

In 2024-25 the Textile Society awarded over £18,000 in grants. £3,000 of that was external funding (£2,000 student bursaries; and £1,000 for the Brenda King award), with £15,000 raised by the Textile Society. The funding went to 15 individuals and four institutions. The Awards and Bursaries Representative noted the Society's wide reach and a positive year for all awards.

#### Student Bursaries

In 2024 the Lead Judge took the initiative to contact HE tutors directly to promote the bursary scheme and encourage the opportunity to be scheduled within the academic timetable. This proved to be very effective and resulted in a significant increase in submissions.

Of the 71 applications received the Society awarded 8 bursaries.

3 Postgraduate Bursaries were awarded to:

Eleanor Hadfield Historical: *Costume*  
Louise Muir-Little: *Texture Perception*  
Shannon Swinburn: *Give Me Guidance*

5 Undergraduate Bursaries were awarded to:

Kennard Bahar: *Semiotics of Sound*  
Jessica Fraser: *Platonic Harmony*  
Jette Muus: *The Idyll*  
Megan Pettey: *From the Highlands to the Lowlands*  
Lucy Vincent: *My Fair Ladies*.

All recipients were awarded £500. The Student Bursaries were supported by the generous contribution of £1,000 from Joy of Print.

#### Museum, Archive and Conservation Award

In June 2024, 16 applications were received for the Museum, Archive and Conservation Award. This was a significantly high number compared with previous years. All of the applications were of a high quality which proved a challenge for the judges, who decided to award the bulk of the money to a joint project between the William Morris Gallery and the British Library. This was for an oral history interview with the eminent textile designer Sarah Campbell, which will be made available online via the British Library. There will also be an accompanying exhibition on women designers of the 20th Century. This project was awarded £4,868.

There were two other strong applications:

Jane Austen's House Museum proposed to conserve a handkerchief embroidered by Jane Austen at a cost of £1,200. This was awarded to mark the 250-year anniversary of Jane Austen's birth.

The Harris in Preston requested funding for the conservation of items to showcase in different galleries following their refurbishment. The Lead Judge recommended the society fund two items: a textile by Althea McNish and a cotton woven dress.

These additional projects pushed the funding budget up from £5,000 to £7,368. As there were additional monies available for the year, the Chair recommended increasing the 2024 budget to a maximum of £8,000 which was approved by the committee.

The Lead Judge noted that there were some organisations that we would not be funding but whom she would like to invite to write articles for *Text*, which was agreed. The Quaker Tapestry Museum was also highlighted for potential support.

### **Special Award**

Following notification of the winners of the Museums Archive and Conservation Award the committee approved a further Special Award of £2,000 to the Quaker Museum for the conservation of important samplers reflecting the cultural history of women and girls.

### **Professional Development Award**

In 2024 the Professional Development Award received 17 applications of which 6 were shortlisted and 3 were successful.

While the Society would have welcomed more applications, submissions this year more than doubled from the previous year, and the range and quality of applicants was improved.

The top award of £1,500 went to Sven Steinmetz for Form Weben, the development of his ingenious warping mechanism, designed to create off-loom multiple layer garments.

Wafa Ghnaim, based in the U.S. was awarded £750 for a collaborative study: *The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Palestine Dress Collection and Presence of Arsenic in the Green Fabrics of Bethlehem*

Sally Anne Gaukrodger-Cowan was awarded £500 for *Endangered Imperfect Renegade and Reimagined Tassels and Passmenterie*

### **Brenda M King Prize for Critical Writing in Textiles**

In 2024 the Society received 17 applications for the BMK Prize for Critical Writing in Textiles of which 4 were successful. The following essays were published in the Textile Society's *Text* and *News*:

Pragya Sharma: *The Sari-Body: Material Engagements with the Body, Landscape and Beyond* £1,000

Jane Rae: *Lasting Impressions: The Sensory Language of Gloves in Early Modern Elite Society* £500

Beatrice Uprichard: *An Exploration of the Creative Communities at Furlongs and Gospels in Sussex, with a Focus on Informal Education and Women-Led Community*: £250

Valentina Lava: *Roberto Capucci and the early stages of his creativity. The Parisian period (1962-1968)*: £250

## Publications

The Editor reported that, while three newsletters were scheduled per year, production of the Autumn 2024 newsletter clashed with the copy deadline for the *Text* journal, which made these two publications difficult to collate at the same time. It was proposed that the three newsletters be reduced to two issues per year to be published in the Spring and Summer, plus the annual journal *Text*. This was approved by the Committee.

The Chair recommended informing members that the two newsletters would be expanded editions with increased content. Members were informed in the subsequent newsletter, and the revised schedule will be subject to review.

The 2024 issue of *Text* was published and distributed on 20 January 2025 with a rich body of high quality of articles and visual content extending to 150 pages. Importantly, this was the first issue in the Society's new design and format. This has proved to be a significant and highly successful development in 2024-25 receiving a very positive response from members.

The Spring newsletter was sent to members in February/March 2025 and included extended content including a selection of essays from winners of the Brenda M King Critical Writing Award in Textiles.

## Events

### **The Textile Society Manchester Antique and Vintage Textile Fair, 28 April 2024**

In its 31st year, this was key event in the Textile Fairs calendar. A hub for all passionate collectors of textiles, it was the first antique fair to specialise entirely in textiles.

It brought together antique and vintage textile dealers from around the globe with an array of items from Asia and Europe brought by leading specialists. Many dealers are world renowned experts who offer advice to Museums, Archives and Collectors. Costume, textiles, accessories span from 17th and 18th century to mid-century to precious remnants of court dress and world textiles. The fair is a source for objects and ideas, wall art and wearables, against a backdrop of interest in sustainability, upcycling and repurposing of the old into the unique and personal for fashion or interiors.

In 2024 the Armitage Centre advised that, in future, it could only offer dates outside of the academic year due to University of Manchester sporting commitments and final year examination. Following extensive research into alternative venues, no progress was made in determining a space of comparable size and facilities. Consequently, the Armitage Centre was secured for another year within their limited calendar, and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025 was confirmed.

### **Shifu: An endangered textile heritage with Kazuko Sato, Garden Museum, London, 8 June 2024**

This half-day event was a unique opportunity for delegates to engage first-hand with the history and material of *shifu* - the endangered art of weaving with kozo mulberry paper. The Textile Society welcomed Mrs Kazuko Sato and her interpreter to the UK. At 91 years of age, and with personal memories of Soetsu Yanagi and key figures in the Mingei Movement, Kazuko Sato is the embodiment of the Japanese art of *shifu*. This event included an illustrated talk and detailed demonstrations of this endangered heritage craft from Mrs Sato.

The event was recorded in the form of an article by Eleanor Burkett with a report by Pat Frost.

### **Voices Gloucester 'Threads' Project, 21 September 2024**

Committee Member Rose Sinclair agreed to give a lecture for the Voices Gloucester Threads Project on Saturday 21st September 2024 at the Folk of Gloucester venue. The Committee approved the payment of Rose's travel expenses together with a lecture fee of £200 in line with Voices Gloucester scale of fees.

### **Japanese Madder: Exploring Natural Dyes at Kew Gardens, 4 October 2024**

As a result of the *Shifu* event at the Garden Museum, London, in June 2024, this full-day event marked a visit for the first time to the UK by Ichiro Sugimoto – Japanese researcher, ecologist and 'revivalist' of the ancient plant dye *akane* (Japanese native madder). Working in collaboration with Siân Bowen (Artist in Residence) and Mark Nesbitt (Curator of the Economic Botany Collection, Kew), the event offered a unique opportunity for textile practitioners and enthusiasts to engage with a wide range of aspects related to Japanese plant dyeing. The event was recorded in the form of an article by Sian Bowen subsequently published in *Text* and a report by Pat Frost.

### **The Textile Society London Antique and Vintage Textile Fair, 13 October 2024**

The fair offered an outstanding range of vintage fashion, antique textiles and costume sourced from around the world. Textiles from the 18th century up to the 1960s and 70s, furnishings including pre-1950s rugs, and unique fashion accessories could be found here. Visitors explored the fair for second hand books, ephemera and advice on textile conservation.

### **Conclusion**

The Textile Society's programme of events will be kept under review. As a result of rising costs for venue hire and limited time for planning and organisation by its volunteer committee, the Society will need to balance costs and time constraints with the desire to promote the study of textiles through its events. Currently the majority of smaller events are subsidised by the Society.

While the membership has significantly increased in recent years, attendance at events has declined. The Society needs to explore the interests and expectations of its members to inform future event planning.

In parallel, the Society's publications and Awards and Bursaries scheme have grown and developed, demonstrating our commitment to textile education, while enhancing the Textile Society's quality and distinction.

Dr Linda Brassington  
Chair, the Textile Society  
June 2025

## 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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Alton  
Hampshire  
GU34 2EW

### Trustees

Dr. Linda Brassington	Chair
Dr. Joanne Horton	Vice Chair and Student Bursary Lead
Dr. Frances Casey	Secretary (Appointed November 2024)
Dr. Leanne Tonkin	Co-Vice Chair and Museum Award (Resigned March 2025)
Sally Laker	Treasurer and Membership Secretary
Suzanne Smith	Awards and Bursaries Representative Museum, Archive and Conservation Award
Jennifer Shellard	Professional Development Award
Pat Frost	TEXT and News Editor
Clare Bungey	TEXT and News Production Editor
Desiree Jeans	Website Editor
Holly Walker	Publicity Officer
Professor Emerita Lesley Millar. MBE	Conferences and Symposia team member
Roselind Sinclair. MBE	Publications team member (Appointed September 2023)

## Treasurer's Report

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

### Membership fees

The accounts show an income from this source of £20,075. However, £1,387.50 relates to the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. (Direct debits February £897.50 and March £490.00) were held by Go Cardless at 31<sup>st</sup> 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 funds into consideration, the total receipts from our members amounted to £18,687.50, an increase of 16% for the year (£16,048, 2024)

Years ended 31st March	Receipts		Difference (YE 24/25)	% change
	YE 24	YE 25		
	£	£	£	
Students	2,385	2,847	462	19%
Concessions	3,288	4,600	1,312	40%
Individual	8,124	8,465	341	4%
Family	250	280	30	12%
Small Institutions	543	768	225	41%
Large Institutions	1,458	1,728	270	19%
	<u>16,048</u>	<u>18,688</u>	<u>2,640</u>	<u>16%</u>

The number of members increased by 16%

Years ended 31st March	No. Members		Difference (YE 24/25)	% change
	YE 24	YE 25		
Students	170	201	31	18%
Concessions	209	267	58	28%
Individual	346	368	22	6%
Family	9	10	1	11%
Small Institutions	21	32	11	52%
Large Institutions	29	34	5	17%
	<u>784</u>	<u>912</u>	<u>128</u>	<u>16%</u>

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.

## Day Events

There were two 'Day Events' during the year. These are benefits for members and not expected to generate funds for the Society:

	£
Gross Income	2,490
Less Third-party fees	<u>258</u>
Income after fees	2,232
Costs	<u>3,618</u>
Net cost	<u>(1,386)</u>

## Conference

A conference was held last year to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Textile Society

## Newsletters and TEXT

The increase in costs of the newsletters and *TEXT*, the Society's annual publication, reflect the investment in the development of these publications. (£15,340 in 2025, £8,709 in 2024) as well as additional copies required for the increase in the number of members:

	YE 2024	YE 2025
	£	£
Art Work and Design	2,835	4,657
Newsletter Printing	539	694
TEXT Printing and distribution	5,334	9,817
Miscellaneous Costs	<u>0</u>	<u>173</u>
	<u>8,709</u>	<u>15,340</u>

## Awards and Bursaries

	YE 2024	YE 2025
	£	£
Student Bursaries	4,000	4,000
Museum, Archive and Conservation Awards	4,430	9,368
Professional Development Awards	1,700	2,750
Brenda M King - Critical Writing Award	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
	<u>12,130</u>	<u>18,118</u>

## Summary

The Society's cash reserves reduced during this year (Cash balances £66,229 in 2024, £57,947 in 2025). Income was slightly lower this year while cost of the publications and the bursaries and awards were higher. In 2024 the Manchester Fair was held in April while in 2025 it was delayed until June the result being that advanced income was £2,870 compared with £10,340 the previous year.



	YE 31st March 2025			2024/25	2023/24
	Restricted Funds	General Fund	Bursaries Fund	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
Membership Fees		20,075		20,075	14,661
Videos		130		130	20
Day Events		2,490		2,490	365
Conference/AGM		0		0	3,320
TEXT		0		0	10
London Fair			16,881	16,881	14,941
Manchester Fair			11,826	11,826	18,834
Donations	0	1,457		1,457	4,003
Bank interest recived	51	208		259	283
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>24,360</b>	<b>28,707</b>	<b>53,118</b>	<b>56,437</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Administration & Committee travel expenses		2,286		2,286	1,472
Sponsorship		980		980	0
Third party charges		348	935	1,284	1,414
Day events		3,618		3,618	1,532
Conference/AGM		0		0	8,100
Newsletter/TEXT		15,340		15,340	8,709
IT		930		930	1,495
London Fair			9,104	9,104	7,848
Manchester Fair			9,740	9,740	3,472
Awards & Bursaries			18,118	18,118	12,130
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23,502</b>	<b>37,897</b>	<b>61,399</b>	<b>46,172</b>
<b>Net movement in Cash Funds</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>-9,190</b>	<b>-8,282</b>	<b>10,265</b>
<b>Opening Cash Funds</b>	<b>5,073</b>	<b>27,732</b>	<b>33,424</b>	<b>66,229</b>	<b>55,964</b>
Transfer	-2,000	-16,023	18,023	0	0
<b>Closing Cash Funds</b>	<b>3,124</b>	<b>12,567</b>	<b>42,257</b>	<b>57,947</b>	<b>66,229</b>

#### STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT MARCH

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>Cash Funds</b>		
Bank Current Accounts	32,140	38,680
Bank Deposit Account	3,124	5,073
Virgin Deposit Account	22,683	22,475
	<b>57,947</b>	<b>66,228</b>
<b>OTHER MONETARY ASSETS</b>		
Prepaid Expenses	<b>994</b>	<b>1,944</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Income received in advance	<b>2,870</b>	<b>10,340</b>

## NOTES

1. The trustees aim to maintain Funds equal to at least one year's normal expenditure.
2. All income 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 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and signed on their behalf by the Treasurer:



Sally Laker    Date 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025

## **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 2025.

### **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

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

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Date: 10/12/2025