

# THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

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*The Annual Report of the Trustees and the Financial Statements  
for the Year ended 30 June 2020, together with  
Notice of the Fifty-sixth Annual General Meeting  
to be held on Saturday, 28 November 2020.*

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

[www.furniturehistorysociety.org](http://www.furniturehistorysociety.org)

Registered Charity No. 251683

## THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

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### AGENDA

for the 56th Annual General Meeting to be held at 11.00 a.m.  
on Saturday, 28 November 2020 by Zoom

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Fifty-fifth Annual General Meeting
3. Adoption of the Annual Report 2019-20
4. Adoption of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020
5. Election of the President  
*Council notes with regret that Sir Nicholas Goodison does not wish to offer himself for re-appointment and proposes the appointment of Simon Swynfen Jervis in his place.*
6. Re-election of Honorary Officers:
  - The Chairman  
*Council proposes Christopher 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*
7. Re-election of four members of Council  
*Council proposes Dr Christopher de Quénetaïn, Adrian Hume-Sayer, Dr Esmé Whittaker and Dr Mark Westgarth*
8. Election of two new members of Council  
*Council proposes Dr Alexandra Gerstein and Stephen Jackson*
9. Re-appointment of the Independent Examiner  
*Council proposes Christopher Pexton of Messrs Begbies*
10. Any Other Business
11. Votes of Thanks

## PROGRAMME AND ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS for the Annual General Meeting

In order to protect the health of members, and to comply with the current regulations governing public meetings in this time of pandemic, this year's Annual General Meeting ("AGM") will be held virtually by Zoom. Admission to the AGM is free and open to all members but those wishing to attend are asked to notify the Events Secretary, Beatrice Goddard at [events@furniturehistorysociety.org](mailto:events@furniturehistorysociety.org), at least seven days in advance so that they may be sent the necessary link and joining instructions.

These instructions will also contain details of the arrangements we are making to allow members to vote on-line. We shall send hard copies of the voting papers to all members for whom we do not have e-mail addresses as well as to any member who asks for them. If you would like a hard copy of any of the AGM papers, please let us know by 20 November by writing to Beatrice Goddard at FHS-AGM, Westfield Cottage, 150 Bloomfield Road, Bath BA2 2AT or by e-mailing her at [events@furniturehistorysociety.org](mailto:events@furniturehistorysociety.org) with FHS-AGM in the subject line.

As is customary, the formal business will be followed by talks on areas of current interest from:

- Helen Jacobsen (Senior Curator, The Wallace Collection) who will speak about the Riesener project—a collaborative project between the Wallace Collection and colleagues at Waddesdon Manor and the Royal Collection Trust, and share some of the research findings.
- Philip Hewat-Jaboor (Chairman, Masterpiece Fairs) who will describe the art market's response to the pandemic, the creation of this year's on-line Masterpiece fair and future plans.
- Claire Davies (Deputy Director, Handel & Hendrix) will talk about the display, interpretation and collection management considerations of the Hallelujah project—the completion of the restoration of Handel's house at 25 Brook Street, London W1.

SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES  
of the Fifty-fifth Annual General Meeting  
held at the East India Club, London SW1Y 4LH on 23 November 2019

Notice

1. The notice convening the meeting was read. Noted that apologies had been received from Mark Westgarth, Esmé Whittaker and David Würtzel. The President apologised that the re-election of the Honorary Editorial Secretary had been omitted from the Agenda.

Minutes of the General Meetings held in 2018 and 2019

2. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17 November 2018, the adjourned part of that meeting held on 24 January 2019, and the Special Meeting held on the same date were adopted as a correct record.

Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

3. At the invitation of the President, the Chairman summarised Council's Annual Report. He thanked the Hon. Editorial Secretary, for her work on *Furniture History 2019*, during a personally very difficult period, and he extended the condolences of the Society on the death of her husband. He thanked the Editorial Committee and Lisa White, Dr Aldrich's predecessor, for their assistance throughout the year.

The Chairman also noted the death of Gillian Darby, a long-standing member. He extended the Society's condolences to her husband, the Hon. Treasurer, and thanked Mr Williams for his commitment to the Society during the year.

The Chairman expressed the Society's appreciation of the work that had been done by Sharon Goodman in producing four informative Newsletters. He thanked Sarah Medlam on her service as chair of the Events committee over the last seven years and said that Council would miss her wise advice.

He thanked the members of the committee, ably assisted by Beatrice Goddard, for organising a varied and profitable series of events and visits in 2019. He drew attention to the very successful Annual Symposium – on the subject of *pietre dure* – held in conjunction with the Gilbert Collection and the Victoria & Albert Museum. He mentioned the 2020 Annual Symposium on the subject of George IV and his collecting and encouraged members to visit *George IV: Art & Spectacle* at The Queen's Gallery by way of preparation. He also thanked Christiane Ernek-van der Goes for delivering the Annual Lecture—a wonderful exposition of current work on the furniture of Jean-Pierre Latz (c.1691-1754) in the Kunstgewerbemuseum, Dresden.

He praised Adriana Turpin and Jill Bace for their indefatigable work for BIFMO project and expressed gratitude to those who had made grants and gifts to it during the year. The conference held in October 2019 had been a great success, having showcased the increased functionality of the database and facilitated discussions with a variety of experts in the field. He congratulated Adam Bowett and Laurie Lindey on their impressive progress with the editing and originating of new biographies, and thanked Clarissa Ward and Michael Thompson-Glover, the BIFMO sub-editors, for their hard work.

The Chairman closed by asking members to encourage as many friends and colleagues as possible to join the Society. Lastly, he thanked the members and officers, and particularly the trustees, for their work for the Society in 2019. He commended the Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2019 to the meeting. It was adopted without dissent.

#### Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2019

4. At the invitation of the President, the Hon. Treasurer presented the Financial Statements of the charity for the year. He apologised to members for the typographical errors in the trustees' Report, and thanked the Hon. Secretary and the other contributors for their assistance with its compilation. He expressed his appreciation and thanks to the officers, Jill Bace, Beatrice Goddard and Keith Nicholls, for their assistance throughout the year.

He went on to report that, at 30 June 2019, the Society's funds totalled £839,992, a decrease of £82,458 on the 2018 figure, partly reflecting the investment in *BIFMO*, as well as a small loss on the revaluation of the Society's portfolio of investments.

The key to the health of the Society, he said, was an increasing membership and so he was very pleased to report that, as at 30 September 2019, the Society's membership stood at 999. He thanked Keith Nicholls for having reduced the number of non-paying members by 60% during the course of the year. The Society's new leaflet, he said, would be sent to every member with the February 2020 *Newsletter*.

He explained that the fall in income from £278,842 in 2018 to £146,310 in 2019 was the result of fewer donations to *BIFMO* in 2019, whilst expenditure on *BIFMO* had gone up. Nevertheless, he was delighted to report that in 2019 there was a surplus on the ordinary activities of the Society amounting to £7,541. Furthermore, he commended Sarah Medlam, Beatrice Goddard and the Events Committee for running a successful programme of events which had yielded a surplus of £14,129. He added that the increased subscription rates, adopted by the Society in January 2019 and implemented in June, would begin to show through in the Society's accounts in 2020. Expenditure in the General Fund was down £14,000 on 2018, he said, largely because there had been no major expenditure on development of the Society's website.

Looking forward to 2020, he reported that the Society's auditors were considering whether or not the Society's accounts could henceforth be independently examined, rather than fully audited (a change which would save the Society a modest amount). In addition, he and the finance officer were considering whether the Society's investments might be pooled in 2020.

Finally, he commended the annual accounts to the members and invited questions.

Clarissa Ward asked the Hon. Treasurer to account for the increase of £16,382 in the Secretarial Administration costs (see *Annual Report 2019*, p. 30). Mr Williams explained that in the consolidated accounts, this expenditure head included the cost of the *BIFMO* editors and sub-editors where more people and more time had been spent in 2019 than in 2018. He said that, for clarity's sake, he would itemise expenditure on *BIFMO* separately in the 2020 Financial Statements.

There being no further questions, the Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2019 were received without dissent.

## Elections

5. The following officers were re-elected:

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Sir Nicholas Goodison
<b>CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL</b>	Christopher Rowell
<b>HONORARY SECRETARY</b>	Dr Megan Wheeler
<b>HONORARY TREASURER</b>	Martin Williams
<b>HONORARY EDITORIAL SECRETARY</b>	Dr Megan Aldrich

Having been proposed by Council, the following members were re-elected: Dr Wolf Burchard, Dr Barbara Lasic, Adrian Hume-Sayer and Dr Christophe de Quénétain.

Having been proposed by Council, the following new members were elected: Dr Mark Westgarth and Dr Esmé Whittaker.

The President recorded his thanks to the retiring members of Council, Jonathan Coulborn and Marcus Rådecke, for the thought, skill and experience that they had contributed during their terms of office.

## Re-appointment of auditors

6. The President thanked Messrs Begbies and proposed that they be re-appointed for a further year. Agreed.

## Any other business

7. Adriana Turpin reported on an Early Career Development Symposium, held the day before, at which a number of young scholars and curators had made presentations on their work and current research. She said the event had been a great success and that ten of the speakers had subsequently become members of the Society.

The President closed the meeting by thanking the staff of the East India Club; the Events Secretary, Beatrice Goddard, and Anne-Marie Bannister for the arrangements for the meeting; David Oakey for his technical help; and the four speakers whose talks would follow the formal business.

There being no other business, the meeting was concluded.

## Presentations

The President presented Mrs Della Howard, a loyal member of the Society for more than 40 years, with a certificate recording the award of Lifetime Membership of the Society. He said that it came with love and thanks for her generosity to the Society over many years which had culminated in a gift of £10,000 enabling young members to attend the Society's events at reduced rates or free of charge.

The President then presented Lisa White with a miniature Gaze Burvill "May Throne" – a prototype of that firm's garden armchair – together with a certificate recording the award to her of Lifetime Membership of the Society in recognition of her long and loyal service to the Society. He congratulated her on having edited the Journal with conspicuous success for seven years, and particularly for staying in post to edit the magisterial Chippendale volume.

Lisa White thanked the President and the Society. She could not be happier to have handed over the editorial reins to Megan Aldrich. She added her gratitude to Simon Swynfen Jervis for encouraging her to take on the role and recorded her appreciation of the role played by the late Graham Maney, whose firm had produced the Society's printed material until his death in 2018. She had learned an enormous amount from working with him so closely for many years, and she also owed much to his colleague, Linda Fisher. She thanked the members of the Editorial committee, which had come into existence during her period in office, for their support and advice, as well as the Hon. Treasurer and his colleague, Keith Nicholls. She recorded her appreciation of all the contributors to the Journal for their wonderful, high-quality articles. They were a testament to *Furniture History's* high reputation.

Dr Aldrich announced that the 2020 volume would be dedicated to the President, Sir Nicholas Goodison, in appreciation of his dedication, scholarship and service to the Society. It would encompass his many wide-ranging interests and include articles on a broader variety of subjects than usual. Sir Nicholas expressed his gratitude at being so honoured.

The President concluded by saying that he much regretted that, because of ill-health, Sarah Medlam was unable to attend the meeting. The planned presentation to mark her loyal service to the Society would be made at a later date.

#### Gillian Brendon Wilson (1941-2019)

The death of Gillian Wilson on 15 November 2019, curator emerita of French Decorative Arts at the J. Paul Getty Museum, and a long-standing and loyal member of the Society was recorded. Members are reminded that her life and work will be marked by a lecture to be given by Anna Somers Cocks on 6 December 2020 (please see the Society's website for further details).

#### Talks

Lucy Littlewood, Director of Development at the Museum of the Home (formerly the Geffrye Museum), spoke about the £18.2 million redevelopment underway in the Bethnal Green Road. She said that the period rooms would remain largely as they were at present, but thanks to ingenious remodelling of the attic and basement spaces, the redeveloped building would have more space, improved storage, a collections study room and a space for functions.

Wendy Monkhouse, Senior Curator (South) for English Heritage, spoke about the major project to conserve and re-present the 18th-century Palladian villa, Marble Hill House. She focussed on the conservation of a marble-topped pier table with peacock carving and placing it in the context of the plans for the re-display of the house. The table, which was rediscovered in Australia in 1987, was one of four side tables made for Marble Hill's Great Room, circa 1730, and a replica had been commissioned by English Heritage for the space.

Leela Meinertas, Curator, Victoria & Albert Museum, revealed plans for the museum's facility at Olympia Park, an ambitious project involving works on two sites: one - on the 'East Bank' - would be an exhibition space and café; the other would provide storage and workspace, some of which would be open to the public.

Lastly, Yannick Chastang, an independent furniture restorer and conservator, and Dr Mia Jackson, Curator of Decorative Arts, Waddesdon Manor, talked about the conservation over seven years of the large lacquer cabinet by R. Dubois and J. Goyer, circa 1770, at Waddesdon Manor, and the detailed study of the object that this work had facilitated.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This has been a year like no other in recent history. The lockdown and its aftermath precluded the Society's usual visits to houses and collections, which has restricted our activities and reduced our income. However, thanks to the Events committee, its Chairs and the Events secretary a series of public lectures on-line has not only attracted international audiences of up to 350 but has also encouraged listeners to join the Society, which remains a priority for us when numbers are still around the 1,000 mark.

There have also been successful lectures under the BIFMO umbrella and the postponed annual symposium on George IV took place virtually in October, as did the annual lecture. Your Council, used to meeting in the Board Room at the Victoria & Albert Museum, has become familiar with Zoom and this year's AGM will have to take place remotely. The Society is nothing if not adaptable.

This year marks the end of an era with the retirement, after thirty years in office, of our President, Sir Nicholas Goodison, who has been a member of Council since 1966, two years after the Society's foundation. This year's volume of *Furniture History* is fittingly dedicated to him. In my introduction to that well-deserved *estschrift*, which amply reflects his myriad enthusiasms, I pay tribute to his scholarship, his acumen, his wisdom, and his good humour.

His publishing record and his championing of furniture and related art historical study, not to mention his distinguished chairmanships in the art world and his authorship of the Goodison Report are impressive for having been undertaken in tandem with an extremely demanding and exceptional career in high finance. He and Judith have been good and faithful servants of the Society and have enhanced its reputation. Nicholas will be much missed by all his friends and fellow members of his beloved Society.

Christopher Rowell  
25 September 2020



## THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

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### ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCIL 2019-20

The Council of the Furniture History Society has pleasure in presenting its fifty-sixth Annual Report together with Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020.

#### 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: Sir Nicholas Goodison FBA FSA

Chairman Christopher Rowell  
c/o National Trust, 20 Grosvenor Gardens,  
London SW1W 0DH

Hon. Secretary: Dr Megan Wheeler  
[secretary@furniturehistorysociety.org](mailto:secretary@furniturehistorysociety.org)

Hon. Treasurer: Martin Williams  
[treasurer@furniturehistorysociety.org](mailto:treasurer@furniturehistorysociety.org)

Hon. Editorial Secretary: Dr Megan Aldrich  
[meganbrewsteraldrich@gmail.com](mailto:meganbrewsteraldrich@gmail.com)

#### Other officers

Publications Officer & Grants Secretary: Jill Bace  
[publications@furniturehistorysociety.org](mailto:publications@furniturehistorysociety.org)  
[grants@furniturehistorysociety.org](mailto:grants@furniturehistorysociety.org)

Events Secretary: Beatrice Goddard  
[events@furniturehistorysociety.org](mailto:events@furniturehistorysociety.org)

Newsletter Editor: Sharon Goodman  
[sctgoodman@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sctgoodman@yahoo.co.uk)

Finance & Membership Officer: Keith Nicholls  
[finance@furniturehistorysociety.org](mailto:finance@furniturehistorysociety.org)  
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BIFMO: Dr Laurie Lindey (Research Officer)  
[research.bifmo@furniturehistorysociety.org](mailto:research.bifmo@furniturehistorysociety.org)  
Adriana Turpin (Outreach & Development Officer)  
[grantschair@furniturehistorysociety.org](mailto:grantschair@furniturehistorysociety.org)  
Ann Davies (Outreach Programmes Co-ordinator)  
[bifmo@furniturehistorysociety.org](mailto:bifmo@furniturehistorysociety.org)

## 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 journal *Furniture History* — much of which might otherwise remain unpublished.
- In conjunction with the Institute of Historical Research, is financing the updating of its seminal work, the *Dictionary of British Furniture Makers* (as *British and Irish Furniture Makers On-line*) with a view to enlarging its scope to cover 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 2019-20 were:

Sir Nicholas Goodison FBA FSA (President)  
Christopher Rowell FSA (Chairman)  
Dr Megan Wheeler (Hon. Secretary)  
Martin Williams FSA (Hon. Treasurer)  
Dr Megan Aldrich FSA (Hon. Editorial Secretary)  
Jonathan Coulborn *retired 23 November 2019*  
Marcus Räddecke *retired 23 November 2019*  
Dr Wolf Burchard  
Dr Barbara Lasic  
Adrian Hume-Sayer  
Dr Christophe de Quénetaïn  
Dr Esmé Whittaker *elected 23 November 2019*  
Dr Mark Westgarth *elected 23 November 2019*

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 and is responsible for the affairs and business of the Society. Currently there are two committees, the Events committee and the Grants committee. 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.

## Officers

The Society's day-to-day business is managed by the Honorary Officers together with a small group of remunerated part-time 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) and Dr Megan Wheeler (Website Officer). 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.

There is an Operations group consisting of the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Secretary, the Finance Officer, the Events Secretary and the Publications Officer which meets every 4-6 weeks to manage routine business. It is chaired by the Hon. Treasurer.

## Annual Report of Council

The Council of the Furniture History Society (its trustee body) present their Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2020.

### The President

Sir Nicholas Goodison has indicated that he wishes to retire from office at the conclusion of this year's Annual General Meeting (28 November 2020). Council unanimously proposes that he is succeeded by Simon Swynfen Jervis—chair of Council from 1998 to 2013.

### Simon Swynfen Jervis FSA

After Cambridge, Simon Jervis worked at Leicester Museum and, from 1966, at the Victoria & Albert Museum (Department of Furniture), before being appointed Director and Marlay Curator of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge (1990). From 1995 he was Director of Historic Buildings, The National Trust, retiring in 2002. He was President of the Society of Antiquaries of London (1995-2001). He was Chairman of the Furniture History Society (1998-2013, Editor 1988-92) and of the Walpole Society (2003-2013), and was also until early 2013 Chairman of the Leche Trust and of the Trustees of Sir John Soane's Museum, and a Trustee of the Emery Walker Trust. He also served as a member of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art (2007-2014). He remains a Director and Trustee of the Burlington Magazine.

His books include *High Victorian Design* (1983), *The Penguin Dictionary of Design and Designers* (1984) and *Roman Splendour, English Arcadia* (2015, with Dudley Dodd), *A Rare Treatise on Interior Decoration and Architecture, Jooseph Friedrich Zu Racknitz's Presentation and History of the Taste of the leading Nations* (2019). He has also published a large number of articles, guide-books, book reviews, and exhibition catalogues.

### Council – Elected Members

In accordance with the Society's constitution, two members of Council (Dr Wolf Burchard and Dr Barbara Lasic) retire. Council is very grateful for their work for the Society during their terms of office and proposes the election of Dr Alexandra Gerstein and Stephen Jackson to succeed them.

#### *Dr Alexandra Gerstein*

Alexandra Gerstein is the McQueens Curator of Sculpture and Decorative Arts at The Courtauld Institute of Art. She studied at the École du Louvre, Paris, and subsequently at The Courtauld writing her PhD on aspects of sculptural integration in the public buildings of the Edwardian Baroque Revival. In her current post, she is responsible for a collection of about 500 objects, spanning a variety of media and dating from Antiquity to the early twentieth-century. She also leads on matters related to provenance research for the period 1933-45. She has co-curated two exhibitions in collaboration with the State Hermitage Museum, on porcelain from Revolutionary Russia ('Circling the Square: Avant-garde Porcelain from Revolutionary Russia', 2007) and on Empress Josephine and the arts ('France in Russia: Empress Josephine's Malmaison Collection', 2008).

### *Stephen Jackson*

Stephen Jackson is Senior Curator, Furniture and Woodwork, at National Museums Scotland ("NMS"). He has previously worked in a range of museums including the National Museum of Scotland and the Victoria & Albert Museum. After reading history at Cambridge, he completed his MPhil at St Andrews on Scottish furniture.

His published research ranges from Scottish cabinet makers in America to the patrons of Charles Rennie Mackintosh. For NMS he has acquired items by makers and designers ranging from Lucio de Lucci to Thomas Chippendale and William Trotter. In 2007, he curated *Green Design: Creativity with a Conscience*—one of the first exhibitions to address sustainability.

He is currently Vice Chair of the Recognition Scheme committee at Museums Galleries Scotland. Stephen is also a member of the Council of the Regional Furniture Society and, since 2019, editor of its journal, *Regional Furniture*.

### **Membership**

During the year, the net membership increased by 23 to 1003 at 30 June 2020. 86 people joined the Society and 36 had resigned or died. 27 members were struck off for non-payment compared to 76 in the preceding year (2018-19). Each year, more and more members are using the on-line facility to join the Society or to renew their membership, and it is thought that the ease with which the latter may be done is the main reason for the fall in the numbers struck-off.

### *Deaths*

During the year, the Society was informed of the deaths of the following members: Peter Boughton, Gillian Darby, Marian Groot, George Law, and Simon Mathews.

### **Publications**

#### *Furniture History*

Volume 55 (2019) appeared in November 2019, although there were issues with the timely mail-out of offprints and complementary volumes to authors—some not arriving until January 2020. There does not appear to be any discernible pattern to the delays which affect overseas and UK-based authors alike. As in former years, the current year's authors are supplied with both final .pdf files and paper offprints—the latter incurring a cost, and it may be worth considering a switch to e-mailing authors only the final .pdf files, as these can be sent out immediately and printed off by the recipient whenever required. Currently authors who are members of the Society, also receive the Journal, which after three years, becomes available to all via JSTOR.

It is planned to mail out Volume 56 (2020) by the beginning of November. Dedicated to the Society's President, Sir Nicholas Goodison, it contains seventeen articles by twenty authors covering an unusually wide range of subject matter—a reflection of Nicholas's own broad range of interests. Mechanical toys, clocks and barometers, classicism, textiles, restoration and contemporary crafts, metals and dealing, Soho House and the Burlington Magazine are some of the topics. At 320 pages, it will be marginally larger than the Chippendale blockbuster.

Volume 57 (2021): The Editor very much hopes for a smaller volume in 2021! There has been a steady stream of enquiries from potential authors over the past 12 months and thus far there are seven firm proposals for articles for consideration by the Editorial Committee. It will be a volume without a theme.

The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic are far-reaching. One potential 2021 author has already said that research may be made more difficult because of lack of archival access. This was already an issue for authors in 2020, about half of whom were affected by the difficulties of accessing high -quality illustrations, as well as the continued closure (or restricted hours) of sites, archives and libraries; and the situation does not appear likely to be resolved any time soon.

The fall-out looks likely to continue into 2021 and it, coupled with the difficulty in accessing objects and information referred to above, may have the effect in the medium-term of nudging some authors into different ways of writing about objects perhaps including a greater exploration of historical, biographical, architectural and other contexts. *Furniture History* has always featured articles addressing related disciplines such as metals, textiles and interiors, and perhaps this broadening of the focus of the publication may enhance its appeal to a wider audience.

The immediate effect is that the work of the authors has become more problematic and the Editor needs increasingly to assist authors while at the same time balancing the demands of producing the Journal.

#### *Newsletter*

Despite the global pandemic, the contributors to the Newsletter have been active during 2020. An overview of the themes of the lead articles shows that there is a distinct Royal bias – appropriate for the bicentenary year of George IV's accession. In February 2020, David Oakey submitted *Georges Jacob: Menuisier du Prince de Galles?* and we were fortunate to have an additional contribution from David Beevers, Keeper of the Royal Pavilion, on the reinstatement of some of the furniture acquired by George IV for Carlton House now on loan from Her Majesty The Queen. The August issue carried an article from Rufus Bird, Surveyor of The Queen's Works of Art, and Michelle Kirk, Furniture Conservator, Royal Collection Trust, on an early 19th century cabinet by William Hancock, made for George IV in 1825 and recently restored in the Royal conservation workshops. In November 2020, Ellinor Gray, a member of the Early-Career Development ("ECD") group, wrote on a Royal commission from the pre-eminent commercial cabinet-makers of the Regency, Holland & Sons.

In the midst of this monarchist celebration, Pascale Patris, Conservator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, contributed an article on a carved and parcel gilt side table after a design by Matthias Lock, and demonstrated through comparison with others that they were almost certainly produced by one workshop.

All the regular sections have been continued, *viz.*, news, tributes, events, notices, reviews, as well as reports on events, publications and grants, and a new section has been introduced on the activities of the ECD group. The editor would like to express her thanks to all the contributors, and encourages others to send her potential submissions for consideration.

## Publication sales

In 2019, the decision was made to relocate the publications stock from West Yorkshire to storage facilities in London. This change enables the Society to process book and journal orders in a more reliable and timeous way. The move enabled the disposal of some surplus stocks of the Journal that have accumulated in recent years.

Prices have been revised and now include postage and packing. For instance, back numbers of the Journal now cost £28 mailed to the UK, £32 to Europe and £35 to the rest of the World.

The publications section of the website has been updated with the complete list of the titles on offer. Sadly, sales of 2019-20 have been slow and, since the onset of the pandemic, almost non-existent.

## British and Irish Furniture Makers Online (“BIFMO”)

31 December 2020 sees the end of the Society’s four-year collaboration with the Institute of Historical Research, University of London (the “IHR”). The Society is indebted to Professor Catherine Clarke (Director, Centre for the History of People, Place and Community, IHR) and her colleagues—particularly Dr Philip Carter (Head of Digital and Senior Lecturer in History, IHR) who has carefully guided the construction and development of the database. The Society has been fortunate in its partnership with the IHR which has been supportive of the BIFMO project from the outset and has generously agreed to host the database until the end of 2025. Five years is not a long period in which to find a new home for a large and complex database and solving this puzzle as well as sourcing the necessary finance for the continuation of the project is a high priority for the Society.

The funding for the Research Officer’s post in 2019 and 2020 was provided by a generous grant from the Marc Fitch Trust, and the research and editorial budget in the years 2018-2020 was supported by the Society’s Anniversary Fund. These grants will be exhausted by the end of 2020 and BIFMO will be seeking funding from third parties in order to ensure that the database maintains its position as perhaps the most comprehensive interactive resource for research into the history of furniture and its makers.

## *Research & Editorial*

Dr Laurie Lindey (BIFMO Research Officer) and Dr Adam Bowett (DBIFM Editor)

The database currently comprises 62,852 biographical records from five sources across the British Isles. This includes two previously published dictionaries of Edinburgh furniture makers (1660-1840) and Norfolk furniture makers (1700-1840), and the apprenticeship and freedom records of two London guilds—the Joiners’ Company (1650-1783) and the Upholders’ Company (1704-1772). The fifth, the Society’s ‘Dictionary of British and Irish Furniture Makers’ (“DBIFM”). serves as the principal resource.

The DBIFM’s content has grown by approximately 20% since January 2020, and currently includes the details of furniture makers and associated tradespeople across the British Isles with the majority dating from 1500 to 1914, with a handful of makers and firms recorded from as early as 1200. In total, it amounts to 39,296 biographical records divided as to 13,400 (London); 24,152 (English provincial cities, towns, and villages); 989 (Ireland); 384 (Wales)



and 371 (Scotland). A further 2,000+ new entries and 800+ updated ones will be completed before the end of the calendar year.

From January 2021, content development will be scaled back in line with the available resources. Routine updating will continue as new material is published or submitted, but the large-scale collection of new material will cease. Instead, efforts will be redirected towards obtaining funding for specific projects.

An application for a research grant has been made to the Arts and Humanities Research Council to undertake a collaborative examination of continental European immigrants working in the London furniture trade, 1660-1780. If successful, research partners will include the National Trust, the Royal Collection, the V&A Museum, and Temple Newsam.

### *Outreach & Development*

Adriana Turpin (BIFMO Outreach & Development Officer) and Ann Davies (Outreach Programmes Co-ordinator)

The BIFMO Outreach & Education programme commenced in October 2019 with a conference at which the new biographies that had been created for the database as well as the new functionalities of the website were presented. In addition to short presentations from the editorial and IT teams, Robert Leath (Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, Winston-Salem) talked on 'Crossing the Atlantic in the Digital Age', while Catherine Grigg (Wycombe Museum) discussed the chairmaking industry in High Wycombe. A round-table discussion, chaired by Dr Mark Westgarth, explored the myriad ways in which the database could be used for by local historians, genealogists, archivists, researchers and economic historians. The Society is grateful to all the speakers for their contributions.

Much of this year's focus has been on engaging members and members of the public with the Institute of Historical Research's *Layers of London* database and its mapping facilities. Two interns, Bernie Ogden and Aisha Tahir, recorded c. 4000 entries of furniture makers listed in London in the Post Office directories for 1844 and 1871. Geographical references for addresses (both pre- and post-1840) will be added in 2020-21.

In October 2019, a collaborative project with the Universities of York and Leeds was initiated enabling four postgraduate students to research on-site the interiors and furnishings of Burton Constable, near Hull, by defraying their travel expenses. Discussions are now taking place as to how this project can be carried forward in 2021.

With lockdown preventing most of the planned activities, a BIFMO on-line lecture series has been created and Ann Davies (former civil servant and independent art historian), the Outreach programme's administrator, has created a dedicated Instagram account effectively promoting both BIFMO and the Society to a wider audience.

The outreach programme is supported by a generous grant from the Foyle Foundation unless it can be used more effectively for editorial and research.

### **Grants**

#### *Early Career Development ("ECD") group*

Autumn 2019 saw the start of the second series of ECD workshops entitled 'Beyond Wood' exploring furniture-making using a variety of materials both natural and man-made. The



evening tutorials included an introductory gathering at PAD—the leading twentieth century art and design fair; a visit to Sotheby's that highlighted *pietre dure*; a study programme with talks by Richard Ireland on plaster, bronzes with Mia Jackson and a session on lacquer with Jurgen Huber at the Wallace Collection. Sadly, the planned workshop series had to be cancelled as a consequence of the pandemic lockdown.

In November 2019, the fifth ECD Symposium, hosted by the Wallace Collection, brought to London seven speakers from the UK, Europe, Australia and the USA, who presented short papers on their current areas of research. Topics encompassed a broad chronological and geographical representation of furniture history, from the silver furniture of Louis IV to the changing nature of office furniture in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. An important forum where emerging scholars were able to present their research at a public gathering, it also offered them the opportunity to meet contemporaries engaged in the study of furniture, historic interiors and the decorative arts. More than forty young members attended the event. The Society is grateful to the trustees of the Oliver Ford Trust for their generous support—a practical demonstration of the trust's commitment to encouraging career development.

The onset of the pandemic resulted in the cancellation of the annual trip to Maastricht for TEFAF. It is hoped to re-schedule the visit in 2021.

Following the cancellation of the workshop series, the ECD group has found new ways to meet and learn. To promote and maintain connections, members on both sides of the Atlantic engaged in an exciting series of on-line Research Forums. The aim of the series was to offer ECD members the opportunity to present their research interests.

We look forward to resuming the workshop programme in 2020 as soon as it is possible to gather safely at the Art-Workers' Guild.

### *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 and Olivia Fryman—adroitly managed by the Grants Officer, Jill Bace<sup>1</sup>.

During the year, all the grants that had been awarded in the second half of 2019 for travel and research in spring 2020 were withdrawn and, from January 2020, no further applications have been received. Exceptionally, Council have agreed that the funds unspent from the 2019-20 budget may be rolled over for expenditure in 2020-21.

### *Events & Visits*

The members of the Events committee during the year were: Kate Hay and David Oakey (Joint Chairs), Anne-Marie Bannister, Melanie Doderer-Winkler, Kate Dyson, Simon Green, Sara Heaton, Lucy Howgego, Tessa Murdoch and David Wurtzel—all deftly herded by the Events Secretary, Beatrice Goddard. During 2019-20, two new members were welcomed, Jessica Eddie and Michael Shrive.

### *Annual Lecture*

On 29 October 2019, Christiane Ernek-van der Goes of the Kunstgewerbemuseum, Dresden gave the Annual Lecture entitled '*Fait à Paris' and Made for Dresden : The Furniture of the*

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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.

*Ébéniste Jean-Pierre Latz in the Saxon Court Collection* drawing on ongoing research and the current restoration project.

#### *Annual General Meeting*

Details of the four talks given at the conclusion of the 2019 AGM are set out at the beginning of this Report.

#### *Annual Symposium*

The Annual Symposium, *George IV - 1820 to 2020: Fresh Perspectives on the King's Furniture*, was postponed from March 2020 and was held on-line over two days in October 2020.

#### *Tours and Visits – United Kingdom*

This year's events were well supported by members and included an Autumn (2019) Study weekend led by Lisa White and Christopher Overton, which took members to South Devon. Based at Dartington, visits included a study day at Saltram House, Bowringsleigh House, Bradley Manor, Ashcombe Tower, All Saints, Holbeton and Torquay Museum.

Day visits included the Ronald Phillips gallery; Aston Hall and Oscott Manor led by Nick Humphrey; the Frederick Parker Collection; Syon Park, and the *Treasures of Osterley – The Rise of a Banking Family* at Osterley Park House; and Hatfields Restoration.

In April 2020, the events programme was suspended and visits were replaced by a free on-line lecture programme for both members and non-members which have drawn large audiences (the highest being 338) world-wide. The inaugural lecture was given by member, Dr Wolf Burchard (Curator, Metropolitan Museum of Art) on the museum's newly renovated British Galleries. The second was *Raiding the Past: Furniture for the Anglo-Gallic Interior, 1800-1865* given by Dr Diana Davis, specialist in the interface between collectors, dealers and the art market in the nineteenth century.

#### *Tours and Visits – Overseas*

The Autumn Study Visit to the Netherlands was led by Steven Coene (Royal Collection of the Netherlands) and Saskia Broekema (formerly of the Royal Collection of the Netherlands) commencing in the Atelier Building of the Rijksmuseum. It covered collections of traditional country house furniture with an international element in the provinces of Utrecht and Gelderland, including Huis Doorn, De Wiersse, the castles of de Haar, Amerongen, Rosendaal and Biljoen and the twentieth century interiors of Jachthuis St. Hubertus, the Rietveld Schröderhuis and the Raadhuis in Hilversum.

#### *Thanks*

Such a rich programme as that detailed above is only possible because of the hospitality of owners and local curators, to whom we are extremely grateful. Without their generosity and hard work, our activities could not be so varied. The Society also recognizes its indebtedness to English Heritage, the National Trust, the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Wallace Collection. Most of all, we would like to thank all those who organize and lead the trips, devoting considerable time and thought to ensure that the visits programme fulfils the Society's main charitable aim—the promotion of the study of the history of furniture.

## Website

The cancellation early in 2020 of the Society's physical programme of events and visits, rendered the Society's website, and its digital communication with its members, even more important. Thus, the main focus of work has been facilitating the new programme of on-line lectures, mainly through designing and building the information 'e-blasts' sent to all members. In order to host large numbers for lectures and meetings, an enhanced subscription to Zoom has been purchased.

To ensure that employees of the Society's corporate and institutional members who are home-working can continue to access the Newsletter, the decision was taken to post issues on the website as they were published. A new feature of the Events page is the archived reports (redacted where appropriate) on the Society's Events & Visits programme and work is underway to add recordings of on-line lectures.

Google Analytics data shows that the number of people who use the website is increasing and, 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](mailto:website@furniturehistorysociety.org). Suggestions, and information about other events that you think may interest Society members for the 'News' page, would also be most welcome.

## Finance

The impact of the pandemic and the consequent cancellation of the events programme has not had a particularly severe impact on the Society's finances but its impact on the first half of 2020-21 will be more severe. The year under review, 2019-20, saw a small surplus on the ordinary activities of just under £5,500 offset by a budgeted deficit on BIFMO's activities of £41,000. The outflow of funds on BIFMO will cease in December this year, and any resumption of the events programme should improve the out-turn.

### *Statement of Financial Activities*

In the year to 30 June 2020, the Society's Income from all sources rose by £6,434 to £152,744, and its Expenditure on Charitable Activities totalled £198,240 (2019: £224,541) resulting in a net overall deficit of £45,496 (2019: £78,231 deficit). This deficit (which was anticipated) was due in part to the net expenditure of £40,803 on the BIFMO project.

There was a net loss of £39,474 on the revaluation of the Society's investment portfolio at the year-end (2019: £4,227 loss) resulting in a net outflow of funds of £84,970. Members will not be surprised to learn that the fall in value of the investments was due to the adverse stock movement resulting from the ongoing pandemic.

### *General Fund*

For the second year there was a surplus on the ordinary activities of the Society (as set out in the General fund) of £5,476 (2019: £7,541 surplus).

The total income of the General fund fell by £19,597 to £104,620. Within that figure, membership subscription income increased by £13,052 to £70,002 thanks to a net rise of 23 in the number of members at the year-end coupled with the increase in the subscription rates approved in 2018. Sadly, this was more than offset by the lower income from the

programme of Events & Visits which totalled £27,580 (2019: £56,266). This decrease reflected the postponement or cancellation of the events and visits in the second half of the year because of the pandemic.

Expenditure in the General fund totalled £102,728 (2019: £119,576). The lower expenditure largely mirrored the fall in the income from events and visits referred to in the preceding paragraph.

#### *BIFMO*

Income for the year amounted to £34,312 (2019: £7,575) with the major source being a grant of £20,000 from the Mark Fitch Fund towards the costs of Dr Lindey's salary. Expenditure totalled £90,130 (2019: £96,439) broken down as follows: Project Management £53,555, IT Support £12,500, Editorial & Intern Costs £12,300, Research £3,640, Education & Outreach £5,418, Administration £1,800 and Sundry costs £917. The larger part of these costs was covered by grants received in preceding years and the balance was met from the Anniversary fund. During the year, Council resolved that from 1 January 2021, no further funds would be made available to BIFMO from the Society's General and Anniversary funds, and future BIFMO activities will have to be financed from fund-raising.

#### *Balance Sheet*

At the year-end, the Charity's funds totalled £755,022 (2019: £839,992) of which £650,839 (2019: £731,678) was attributable to the restricted funds (i.e., those which may be used only for specific purposes). Fixed assets, which included investments totalling £670,905 at the year-end (2019: £710,379), and net Current Assets of £85,157 (2019: £130,202). The fall in the latter reflects the overall deficit on the Society's operations.

#### **Independent examination of the Accounts**

In the past the Council's report and the Society's accounts have been audited by Messrs Begbies, Chartered Accountants. During the year, Council decided to take advantage of a recent relaxation of the regulations around the examination of small charities' financial statements and elected to have the Society's accounts independently examined rather than audited. The examination will be done by Christopher Pexton, senior partner of Begbies—the Society's auditors for many years. In making this decision, Council noted that, for a number of years, the management accounts prepared by the Society's finance officer have been accepted by the auditors almost unchanged, and this measure will save approximately £1,000 per annum in professional fees.

#### **Future plans**

It is clear that the pandemic has changed in an irrevocable way the framework within which we work and live, and membership organisations such as this Society will have to adapt or wither away. Its response to the cessation of its visits and events programme by setting up an exciting and imaginative on-line programme of lectures as well as the Annual Symposium is a tribute to the resourcefulness and imagination of our colleagues. Our plans for 2021 include the refinement of the Society's virtual offering as well as making plans for the resumption of the usual programme of physical events and tours.

Learned societies have to work to attract new members and the updating of the website and the introduction of direct debits have done much to make the business of joining the Society or renewing a subscription much simpler. We shall continue this work as well as growing the membership.

As noted earlier in the report, thought is being given to the shape of the BIFMO project post the withdrawal of the IHR as well as the funding of the project post the decision to cease funding it from the Society's reserves.

There are two governance matters that your Council will be looking at in 2021: the first is a simple audit of the skills and experience of individual trustees with a view to better filling any shallows in the pool represented among the trustees; the second is the creation of a simple risk assessment process.

Finally, the website is being enhanced with a link to the Just Giving website so making it easier to donate on-line; and we are investing in a simple accounting package.

### Legacies

No legacies were received during the year.

### Volunteers

Many members give their time freely to help the Society fulfil its objectives by attending committee meetings, sitting on working groups or undertaking some other task or function on behalf of the charity. Council is greatly indebted to these individuals for their generosity to the Society in terms of thought, time and effort.

### 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 9 October 2020.

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 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<b>Income From:-</b>						
Membership Subscriptions	2	70,002	—	—	70,002	56,950
Donations, Grants and Legacies	3	2,398	—	34,027	36,425	11,832
Charitable Activities	4	27,175	—	405	27,580	56,266
Trading Activities	5	747	—	—	747	3,647
Investment Income	6	4,298	—	13,692	17,990	17,615
<b>Total</b>		104,620	—	48,124	152,744	146,310
<b>Expenditure on:-</b>						
Charitable Activities	7	102,728	—	95,512	198,240	224,541
<b>Total</b>		102,728	—	95,512	198,240	224,541
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		3,584	(1,004)	(2,580)	—	—
<b>Net (Deficit)/Income</b>		5,476	(1,004)	(49,968)	(45,496)	(78,231)
<b>Other Recognised Gains</b>						
(Losses) on Investment Assets		(8,603)	—	(30,871)	(39,474)	(4,227)
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		(3,127)	(1,004)	(80,839)	(84,970)	(82,458)
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>						
Total Funds Brought Forward		95,814	12,500	731,678	839,992	922,450
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>		92,687	11,496	650,839	755,022	839,992

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY  
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

	Notes	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Investments					
- Investments	11(a)		379,405		418,879
- Property	11(b)		291,500		291,500
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>			670,905		710,379
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Debtors	12	18,566		7,795	
Interest-Earnings Deposits		71,996		127,348	
Balances at Bank		96,541		71,944	
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		187,103		207,087	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Amounts Falling Due within One Year	13	(101,946)		(76,885)	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>			85,157		130,202
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>			756,062		840,581
<b>Creditors: Amounts Falling Due after more than One Year</b>					
Deferred Income - Membership			(1,040)		(589)
<b>Total Net Assets</b>			£755,022		£839,992
<b>The Funds of the Charity:</b>					
<b>Unrestricted General Fund</b>	14		92,687		95,814
<b>Designated Fund</b>					
Howard Fund	14		11,496		12,500
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Ingram Fund	14	198,755		214,449	
Anniversary Fund	14	154,016		216,581	
Hilda Gadd Fund	14	291,500		291,500	
Alison Kelly Fund	14	5,855		7,855	
Card Makers Donation	14	713		1,293	
			650,839		731,678
<b>Total Charity Funds</b>			£755,022		£839,992

Approved on behalf of the Council on 15 October 2020

CHRISTOPHER ROWELL, *Chairman*

MARTIN WILLIAMS, *Hon. Treasurer*



THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

**1. Accounting Policies**

*(a) Basis of preparation*

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

*(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 examination.

*(j) Foreign Currencies*

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of 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 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.

*(l) Designated Fund*

There is one designated fund (the "Howard Fund") set up by Council using a donation of £10,000 from Mrs Della Howard (together with the associated Gift Tax recovery) to enable young people to attend Society lectures, events and visits.

**2. Subscriptions - General Fund**

	2020 £	2019 £
Subscriptions under Gift Aid	27,980	24,605
Income Tax Recovered	6,995	6,151
Subscriptions not under Gift Aid	35,027	26,194
	70,002	56,950

**3. Donations and Grants**

	2020 £	2019 £
Donations	13,825	3,257
Grants	22,600	8,575
	36,425	11,382

#### 4. Income From Charitable Activities

	2020 £	2019 £
Visits and Tours	26,598	47,583
Lectures and Symposium	982	8,683
	27,580	56,266

#### 5. Income From Trading Activities

	2020 £	2019 £
Publications and Royalties	747	3,647

#### 6. Investment Income

	2020 £	2019 £
Income from Listed Investments	17,893	17,494
Interest Receivable on Cash Deposits	97	121
	17,990	17,615

#### 7. Expenditure

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<b>Charitable Activities</b>				
Visits and Tours	24,116	—	24,116	33,454
Lectures and Symposium	3,819	—	3,819	7,774
Donations and Grants	—	3,522	3,522	6,002
BIFMO	—	66,055	66,055	73,562
Journals	8,186	—	8,186	11,450
Newsletters	6,999	—	6,999	6,790
	43,120	69,577	112,697	139,032

## 7. Expenditure *continued*

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<b>Support Costs</b>				
Secretarial Administration	32,200	24,958	57,158	52,452
Travel	1,241	881	2,122	1,101
Mailing, Postage and Telephones	11,830	—	11,830	12,088
Printing and Stationery	2,325	—	2,325	5,178
Warehousing	1,291	—	1,291	952
Sundry Expenses	3,883	96	3,979	4,159
Website Costs	1,235	—	1,235	4,507
	54,005	25,935	79,940	80,437
<b>Governance Costs</b>				
Examiner's/Auditor's Remuneration	2,600	—	2,600	3,500
Insurance	1,351	—	1,351	1,141
Trustees' Costs	1,652	—	1,652	431
	5,603	—	5,603	5,072
<b>Total</b>	102,728	95,512	198,240	224,541

## 8. Visits and Tours

	2020 £	2019 £
Income	26,598	47,583
Less: Expenditure	(24,116)	(33,454)
Surplus for Year	2,482	14,129

## 9. Lectures and Symposium

	2020 £	2019 £
Income	982	8,683
Less: Expenditure	(3,819)	(7,774)
Surplus/(Loss) for Year	(2,837)	909

## 10. Net Incoming Resources

	2020 £	2019 £
This is stated after charging:		
Accountants/Auditor's Remuneration	2,600	3,500

## 11. Investments

	2020 £	2019 £
(a) Stock Market Investments:		
Market Value at 1 July 2019	418,879	423,106
Disposals/Proceeds During the year	—	—
Realised Gain on Disposals	—	—
Net (Loss) on Revaluation	(39,474)	(4,227)
Market Value at 30 June 2020	379,405	418,879
Historical Cost at 30 June 2020	311,583	311,583

### Listed Investments - UK

	General Fund £	Ingram Fund £	Anniversary Fund £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
M & G Charifund Income Shares	—	53,811	41,157	94,968	169,494
COIF Income Shares	51,236	12,809	—	64,045	62,261
Schroders Charity Multi Asset Fund	—	51,630	101,258	152,888	30,286
CAF Equity Fund B Shares	41,597	25,907	—	67,504	156,838
	92,833	144,157	142,415	379,405	418,879

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

## 11. Investments *continued*

### (b) Property

	2020 £	2019 £
At Valuation	291,500	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(k)).

## 12. Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Prepayments	1,603	1,170
Grant	1,744	—
Donation	8,032	—
Gift Aid	6,995	6,152
Value Added Tax	192	473
	18,566	7,795

## 13. Current Liabilities

	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Amounts Falling Due within One Year</b>		
Deferred Income	21,936	14,410
Accruals	80,010	62,475
	101,946	76,885

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	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund					Total 2020 £
	General Fund £	Howard Fund £	Ingram Fund £	Anniversary Fund £	Hilda Gadd Fund £	Alison Kelly Fund £	Card Makers Donation £	
<b>Income From:-</b>								
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>104,620</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>6,882</b>	<b>41,242</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>152,744</b>
<b>Expenditure On:-</b>								
Charitable Expenditure	102,728	—	4,245	91,267	—	—	—	198,240
<b>Total</b>	<b>102,728</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4,245</b>	<b>91,267</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>198,240</b>
<b>Tranfers between funds</b>	<b>3,584</b>	<b>(1,004)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(2,000)</b>	<b>(580)</b>	<b>198,240</b>
<b>Net (Deficit)/Income</b>	<b>5,476</b>	<b>(1,004)</b>	<b>2,637</b>	<b>(50,025)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(2,000)</b>	<b>(580)</b>	<b>(45,496)</b>
<b>Other Recognised Gains and Losses</b>								
(Deficits) on Investment Assets	(8,603)	—	(18,331)	(12,540)	—	—	—	(39,474)
<b>Net Movements in Funds</b>	<b>(3,127)</b>	<b>(1,004)</b>	<b>(15,694)</b>	<b>(62,565)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(2,000)</b>	<b>(580)</b>	<b>(84,970)</b>
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

## 14(b). Movements in Funds

Previous Year	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund					Total 2019 £
	General Fund £	Howard Fund £	Ingram Fund £	Anniversary Fund £	Hilda Gadd Fund £	Alison Kelly Fund £	Card Makers Donation £	
<b>Income From:-</b>								
Membership Subscriptions	59,950	—	—	—	—	—	—	59,950
Donations, Grants and Legacies	3,137	—	—	7,695	—	—	1,000	11,832
Charitable Activities	56,266	—	—	—	—	—	—	56,266
Other Trading Activities	3,647	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,647
Investment Income and Interest	4,217	—	6,729	6,669	—	—	—	17,615
<b>Total</b>	<b>124,217</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>6,729</b>	<b>14,364</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>146,310</b>
<b>Expenditure On:-</b>								
Charitable Expenditure	119,576	—	4,729	99,579	—	—	657	224,541
<b>Total</b>	<b>119,576</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4,729</b>	<b>99,579</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>224,541</b>
<b>Tranfers between funds</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(2,000)</b>	<b>(900)</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Net (Deficit)/Income</b>	<b>7,541</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>(85,215)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(2,000)</b>	<b>(557)</b>	<b>(78,231)</b>
<b>Other Recognised Gains and Losses</b>								
(Deficits) on Investment Assets	2,754	—	(3,918)	(3,063)	—	—	—	(4,227)
<b>Net Movements in Funds</b>	<b>10,295</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(1,918)</b>	<b>(88,278)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(2,000)</b>	<b>(557)</b>	<b>(82,458)</b>
Balance Brought Forward at 1 July 2018	85,519	12,500	216,367	304,859	291,500	9,855	1,850	922,450
Balance Carried Forward at 30 June 2019	95,814	12,500	214,449	216,581	291,500	7,855	1,293	839,992



### 15(a). Movements in Funds

Current Year	Balance 1 July 2019 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfer £	Gains and Losses £	Balance 30 June 2020 £
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
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
<b>Designated Funds</b>						
Howard Fund	12,500	—	—	(1,004)	—	11,496
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
General Fund	95,814	104,620	(102,728)	3,584	(8,603)	92,687
	839,992	152,744	(198,240)	—	(39,474)	755,022

### 15(b). Movements in Funds

Previous Year	Balance 1 July 2018 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfer £	Gains and Losses £	Balance 30 June 2019 £
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Ingram Fund	216,367	6,729	(4,729)	—	(3,918)	214,449
Anniversary Fund	304,859	14,364	(99,579)	—	(3,063)	216,581
Hilda Gadd Fund	291,500	—	—	—	—	291,500
Alison Kelly Fund	9,855	—	—	(2,000)	—	7,855
Card Makers Donation	1,850	1,000	(657)	(900)	—	1,293
<b>Designated Funds</b>						
Howard Fund	12,500	—	—	—	—	12,500
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
General Fund	85,519	124,217	(119,576)	2,900	2,754	95,814
	922,450	146,310	(224,541)	—	(4,227)	839,992

## 16(a). Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

### Current Year

	Investments £	Other Assets £	Total £
<b>Unrestricted General Fund</b>	92,833	(146)	92,687
<b>Designated Fund</b>			
Howard Fund	—	11,496	11,496
<b>Restricted Funds</b>			
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
	670,905	84,117	755,022

## 16(b). Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

### Previous Year

	Investments £	Other Assets £	Total £
<b>Unrestricted General Fund</b>	101,436	(5,622)	95,814
<b>Designated Fund</b>			
Howard Fund	—	12,500	12,500
<b>Restricted Funds</b>			
Ingram Fund	162,488	51,961	214,449
Anniversary Fund	154,955	61,626	216,581
Hilda Gadd Fund	291,500	—	291,500
Alison Kelly Fund	—	7,855	7,855
Card Makers Donation	—	1,293	1,293
	710,379	129,613	839,992

## 17. Taxation

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

## 18. Trustees' Expenses and Remuneration

The Honorary Secretary, Dr Megan Wheeler, was paid a total of £1,800 (2019: £1,800) for website administration services.

## **18. Trustees' Expenses and Remuneration** *continued*

The Honorary Editorial Secretary, Dr Megan Aldrich, was paid a total of £5,000 (2019: nil) for journal editorial services.

Expenses paid to one trustee in the year totalled £1,692 (2019: £431), comprising reimbursed travel £1,591 (2019: £240) and sundry other costs £61 (2019: £191).

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

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 2020.

#### **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.

Signed:

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

Date: 15 October 2020

