



The Glass Society
Charity Number 1185397
Chairman & Treasurer's Annual Report 2020

Welcome to our Annual General Meeting

The time period covered by this report is from 1st August 2019 through to 31st July 2020. This is the period of our financial year and is the reporting period required by the Charity Commission. In complying with the Charities Act 2006 and Charity Commission guidance this report contains a review of the main activities undertaken by the Society to further the charitable purposes for the public benefit during the year. Compliance with Charity Commission guidance is of paramount importance and in that vein the formal AGM this year has been delayed in order to progress two outstanding actions. Firstly, we are working to wind up the affairs of the old Glass Association charity, 326602. Secondly, and only after the previous step has been undertaken, to restructure our banking details. This latter step has proven to be very difficult partly due to the pandemic and a lack of clarity from our bankers. Both of these actions are in hand having taken guidance from the Commission.

This year, August 2019 through to July 2020, is the first full year of the Glass Society operating as a single entity following the formal and agreed merger of the Glass Circle and Glass Association.

The Committee

Committee meetings were held at The Art Workers Guild in Bloomsbury until the pandemic and ensuing lockdown effectively ended all forms of face-to-face meetings in early March 2020. Since then, we have held frequent committee meetings by Zoom, continuing with this AGM, also conducted by Zoom. All committee members are connected by email, so interchange of information can take place easily.

Our Accounts

Maurice Wimpory, our treasurer, has this year presented consolidated accounts and his AGM report is enclosed. Financial statements are discussed at every meeting when both Maurice Wimpory and his equivalent from the former Glass Circle, Lawrence Maxfield have attended, or been represented. The number of members of the Glass Society has fallen with the merger, due to several members subscribing to both organisations. In addition, some members have been unable to maintain their membership due to age and health, yet we do continue to attract new collectors, especially from overseas.

Our finances remain healthy, with contributions from meetings and literature sales.

Charitable Giving

The Glass Society completed the second half of its previous grant to the British Glass Foundation when the latter announced its own successful application for money from the Arts Council during the middle of 2020.

In addition, and again consistent with previous years, the Society awarded two prizes at the 2019 British Glass Biennale after a vote among our members.

Events

Clearly the global pandemic, Covid-19, caused a radical re-think of our activities during the period since March 2020. Activities were necessarily suspended at that point, partly because it was unknown how long the various restrictions would last. Against this background it is more appropriate to present our activities in two halves, pre- pandemic and post April 2020.

The year began with a Glass Society a four day visit to Italy in September 2019. The highlights of the trip were a visit to the glass collection at the Villa Monastero in Varenna, followed by a tutored view of the Cinzano glass collection at Alba in the Piedmont.

Our AGM in 2019 was at the Norwich Castle Museum. Highlights of the day included presentations by working glass artist David Reekie and by Dr Francesca Vanke, the Museum's Curator. A follow-up study day at the museum was scheduled for April 2020 but had to be postponed as the pandemic took hold. Further meetings to be held in the North and in Oxford were also shelved for the same reason. However, a contemporary glass day was held at Parndon Mill in Essex during September. Events at the Art Workers Guild were held between September 2019 and December 2019 with the major features being talks by Sally Scott and Colin Brain.

With the decision having been made to abandon events scheduled for the Art Workers Guild we have subsequently been offering illustrated talks on Zoom through the summer and continuing into the winter of 2020. The first two, by Katharine Coleman and Kit Maxwell were spectacularly successful and gave us the appetite to plan further events beyond our year end. At the time of writing four Zoom events have taken place and three more are planned to be held before the end of 2020. We have been very pleased by the attendance at Zoom meetings particularly as those members who live away from the major centres are able to attend. Up to 150 households registered for the talks, compared to a normal attendance at the Art Workers Guild of around twenty local people. We are also pleasantly surprised at the number of overseas attendees.

The success of the talks held on Zoom, given their greater reach, will become an ongoing feature.

In order to further increase our reach and ease of access we have embarked upon a process of scanning all our old magazines and journals. Older journals are a rich source of quality articles. Available stocks of certain older journals are falling. Confronted by these twin facts we have to date scanned all the older Glass Cones, as well as Journals of The Glass Circle and The Glass Association.

Another notable feature of the year was the bequest of a collection of books on glass given by the widow of our member Malcolm Bell. Initially our thoughts were to sell the books at a glass fair, however ceasing the opportunity of lockdown and the desire many people had increased time on their hands for reading, we duly offered them to our members at discounted rates. The sale raised in excess of £700 for our funds.

Publications

Glass Matters

The house magazine Glass Matters continues to be a pleasing fixture of our Society. We are committed to maintaining a hard copy version which, as many members remind us, is the main point of contact they have with the Society. Our sincere thanks are conveyed to our Editor, Brian Clarke, for bringing the magazine together three times a year.

Unbelievably, we have just issued Glass Matters¹⁰ and once again the response has been well received.

The Journal

2019 marked the first publication of our more academic offering, The Journal of the Glass Society. This replaced to earlier publications, one each produced by the Glass Circle and Glass Association. Once again the response was very pleasing and our thanks to Brian Clarke should be noted.

Both Glass Matters and The Journal are distributed, as part of the annual membership to all our members, including overseas and institutions. This totals approximately 500.

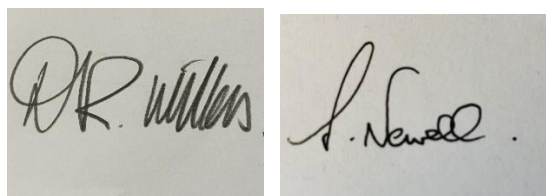
Newsletter

In response to the lock-down we developed the concept of an online, light-hearted Newsletter as a further way of keeping in contact with our members. The Newsletter has been well received and features a quiz to help stimulate the grey cells as well as educate on matters glass. Edition no.2 has just been posted online, and we will evaluate more fully the merits of this concept going forward. Our thanks to Anne Lutyens-Stobbs and Peter Cookson for guest editing the two issues to date. A new issue of the Newsletter is planned for the Spring of 2021.

The Future

The previous year has been very much one of consolidation although the key feature of the latter half has been how to respond to the pandemic. Over all we are happy that the Society is now running on an even keel and that the future is more secure than it looked as two distinct groups. Our objective now must be to harness the power of technology to extend our reach to those members who live in more isolated and remote areas or who have difficulties in travelling.

As ever we must make a continued plea for further involvement from our membership. Too much of our activity is vested in too few people. Technology has really helped to ease the burden, many hands however, make light work.



David Willars and Susan Newell

Joint Chairmen, The Glass Society

Treasurer's Report 2019/2020

The membership of The Glass Society continues to drift downwards but we have been able to partly offset this by the recruitment of new members from our Zoom Meetings. The simplified subscription structure is working well and I would like to thank the members who make donations in addition to their membership subscription.

Gift Aid has not yet been claimed this year. I will shortly be asking all UK members to complete a new 'Glass Society' Gift Aid declaration form.

As mentioned in The Chairman's report our main charitable donations were to The British Glass Foundation to help fund the fitting out of The White House Cone Museum of Glass in Stourbridge. We also supported The International Festival of Glass, in addition to the prizes we also made a payment towards to the catalogue and the educational aims of the festival.

M Wimpory. Hon Treasurer The Glass Society

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M Wimpory', on a light-colored background.

Issue Date 07 February 2021



Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01-Aug-19		31-Jul-20

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Members' subscriptions & Donations	15,618	-	-	15,618	-
Investment Income	505	-	-	505	-
Sales of publications.	177	-	-	177	-
Meeting Overseas Italy Sept 19	6,500	-	-	6,500	-
Meetings National & Regional	1,565	-	-	1,565	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	24,364	-	-	24,364	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	24,364	-	-	24,364	-
A3 Payments					
Committee expenses Post & Office Sup	1,212	-	-	1,212	-
Website, Domain & Insurance	520	-	-	520	-
Publishing & Distribution	7,613	-	-	7,613	-
GS Journal No 1 Publishing & Distributi	3,979	-	-	3,979	-
Literature Scanning	907	-	-	907	-
Meetings National & Regional	1,635	-	-	1,635	-
Meeting Italy Sept 19	6,127	-	-	6,127	-
Grants Sponsor Donation Education	2,490	-	-	2,490	-
Sub total	24,484	-	-	24,484	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	24,484	-	-	24,484	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 119	-	-	- 119	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	97,274	-	-	97,274	-
Cash funds this year end	97,155	-	-	97,155	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Accounts	47,537	-	-

NSI Investments	11,262		
Other Savings	38,176		
Petty Cash	180	-	-
	-	-	-
Total cash funds	97,155	-	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK

OK

OK

Unrestricted funds
to nearest £

Restricted funds
to nearest £

Endowment funds
to nearest £

B2 Other monetary assets

Details

	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details

Fund to which asset belongs

Cost (optional)

Current value (optional)

		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details

Fund to which asset belongs

Cost (optional)

Current value (optional)

		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details

Fund to which liability relates

Amount due (optional)

When due (optional)

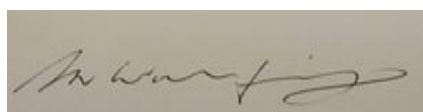
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval



Maurice Wimporoy
Hon Treasurer

23-Feb-21