

AGM 2026
Treasurer Report – Jennifer Middleton
2025-26

What a busy year we have had. Our membership, exhibitions and classes were all up on the previous year. We were finally successful in obtaining Gift Aid and we now have income from the flat. Donations were received from Philatelic Society together with grants from Energy Saving Trust, Tay Charitable Trust, Alexander Moncur Trust and Cookie Matheson Trust. These donations together with the bequest received in our last financial year from Mavis Fleming has allowed us to carry out so much work to our premises that will hopefully future proof the gallery for many years to come.

In this financial year we finished off the work on the flat which included decoration inside and out. Solar Panels, Battery Storage and Air Source Heat Pumps were installed. We were unable to sign up for energy buy back scheme till September so didn't make any money this year but our energy costs were down £1,287.37 (40.34%) on the previous year, so I would count this as a result. Over the summer members volunteered to work in the back garden. This included laying gravel under the solar panels and outside the flat. Laying a path around the solar panels and up the side of the building in preparation of our disabled access. Planting/weeds that had been allowed to become overgrown were removed, beds dug over and over 2000 tulip bulbs were planted together with some plants and a tree trunk was removed. A huge thankyou to all who volunteered, with special thanks to John Stoa who designed the garden and planted all the bulbs himself. Efforts very much appreciated.

A condition of our grant funding was that we removed the gas boiler and radiators. When this work was carried out it became clear that we would have to decorate the gallery and skim the walls. We took this opportunity to sand and varnish the floor. Again to keep costs to a minimum volunteers helped out with a lot of this work. Special thanks to Stewart Pole. Stewart is not a member of DAS, but his wife is. His help in our projects has been invaluable.

We had hoped to refurbish our windows but after waiting over a year for the company to start we contacted another company to be informed that the windows could not be saved (this was the second company to provide this information). The decision was taken to replace all of the gallery windows. We received a contribution of £2,000.00 towards this work. The windows that were fitted are heritage windows which follow the same pattern as our sash and case windows but have double glazed units fitted.

Our next project was to fit a back door to the gallery to allow for a disabled access. Due to the incline from Roseangle and the steps inside the gallery this was our only option. The gents toilets, boiler room/art collection were removed and 2No new toilets and 1No accessible toilet was installed. New LED lighting was installed throughout the extension. During these works problems were encountered which required all electrics in this area to be replaced and problems with drainage sorted. Again to keep costs to a minimum Fraser and Stewart have laid all the flooring and decorated the new toilets, hall, and 2No stores. A sink and worktop, with shelving

was installed. This will allow users access to water for painting and washing brushes which will keep our toilets and kitchen free from paint.

Our back store had been in a sorry state since before I became a member. Last year we had re-roofed this area and were allowing things to dry out but a few days of torrential rain brought to our attention that a downpipe running down the inside of the building was blocked and water was backing up and pouring into the store. Drain Blitz were called to clear the pipe and the area allowed to dry. The store was strapped, lined, insulated and the walls skimmed, decorated and new flooring laid. The storage unit was moved into this area and skelvers were installed. The old shelving unit was given a fresh lick of paint. Again all this work was carried out by Fraser and Stewart.

We also received grant funding for a new projector and screen. Our old projector had given up the ghost and we were using one of our member's projectors for our Friday night talks.

As part of Winter West Fest we were asked to host an art competition comprising of work from P5, 6 and 7 of the 5 primary schools in the area. Their work was on display during our own Winter exhibition and we received grant funding to buy boards to display the children's work.

Storage was also installed in the corridor from the kitchen to the McIntosh Patrick gallery and the door from the electrical cabinet was moved to provide a broom store.

We have hopefully provided so much storage that there is no excuse for things to be left to clutter up the gallery. We have a store for chairs and tables, another for easels and our art collection. The sink area for pallets and water pots. Cupboard for hoover, brush, shovel and mop. Storage for art supplies and the back store for supplies.

Inside the gallery the area leading to the basement is still to be floored and the worktop at the sink varnished. The secondary glazing also requires to be reinstalled after its removal for our new windows. We are also looking to replace our hanging system. Outside our next project will be to lay mono block. This will be required for us to provide disabled access. Fraser is currently obtaining quotations for this work. Tayside Contracts have confirmed that we have been successful in our application for the installation of a dropped kerb. This is work that they are to carry out and we are awaiting a start date from them. We also require to install acoustic baffles around the air source heat pumps. So work not quite finished yet.

There has been a tremendous amount of work carried out over the last twelve months and although we have spent quite a lot of money it would have been a lot more without our loyal band of volunteers.

Hopefully over the summer we will have the chance just to sit back and admire our lovely gallery and garden.

We also purchased garden tools, spade, fork etc which has been stored in the bothy so if anyone is at a loose end and would like to do some gardening the tools are there.