

# THE ARTS SOCIETY, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

## TRUSTEES REPORT FOR 2026



### Chairman's Report for 2025

This has been a roller-coaster of a year for your committee. We started on a high, with a lively and engaged membership and on an extremely sound financial footing. However, in March, we became a committee of only five; by the autumn, we were down to just four. Since we knew that two more of the committee planned to step down this March, for a while it looked as if TASDAG wouldn't legally be able to carry on. That was a very low point.

Fortunately, with five new committee members joining us, and a vibrant community of member-volunteers, the future is looking very rosy indeed. Here's a summary of the good things that happened last year.

### 2025 Lectures

What I like about our lectures and lecturers is the variety of styles we encounter. **John Drew** (*Great Expectations*) and **Sandy Burnett** (*The Rite of Spring*) brought a crisp academic approach; **Matt Williams** (*Ghastly Good Taste*) and **Mary Rose Rivett-Carnac** (*Turner's Architecture*) had the relaxed authority of long-term professionals, whereas **Scott Schiavone** (*1950s Fashion*), just starting out on his Arts Society career, balanced a beginner's nerves with a thoroughly delightful passion for his subject. The common thread, of course, is the depth of knowledge they all possess, allied to a desire to share with us how fascinating their subject is.

I remain indebted to **Janice Byers** and **Helen Clapperton** who volunteered their impeccable taste once again. I am so pleased that, although they have left the committee, they are still working with **Diana Roberts** on the 2027 programme, with thoughts on 2028 too.

Because committee resources have been somewhat strained over the year, we held just two special events in the year, both of which were well attended and appreciated.

- After the talk on ***Great Expectations***, members enjoyed lunch at the Easterbrook Bistro, followed by the Robert Burns Centre Film Theatre putting on David Lean's classic 1946 film version for us.
- Over a sherry reception at Mabie House Hotel, **Charlotte Rostek**, former Curator of Dumfries House, talked to us about the extraordinary process of rescuing the house and opening it to the public. That was followed the next week by a special visit and guided tour of the house itself, on a suitably sunny day in August.

We've been particularly pleased to welcome several new members during the year. At the end of 2025, around 10 members resigned, due to relocation, or other commitments. Fortunately, most have expressed their intention of joining some lectures by Zoom where possible, so I hope we won't lose touch with them completely.

### Our Finances

We ended the year with over £37,000 in our bank account; our Treasurer, **David Howdle**, explains in the Treasurer's Report at how we have managed to do this. In part it's because we have had more paying guests this last year: you have brought along your friends (thank you, and please carry on!) and **Mai Hearne**'s hard work on publicity has encouraged new visitors too.

We keep in reserve a contingency fund of around £15-18,000 to cover this year's expenses, and the inevitable rise in expenses that will probably see next year's costs exceed £1,000 a lecture.

### Things to develop in 2026

As you can see from the Treasurer's Report, excluding the Contingency Fund, we have built up # nearly £20,000 which we can (and should) distribute to charitable causes.

We dipped our toe in the water of **making charitable grants** during 2025, with projects supported in Sanquhar, Nithsdale and Moffat. We learned a lot in the process, and with considerably more money at our disposal, we realise that we need to formalise some guidelines about the sort of arts-related projects we want to support. That's work we'll do over the spring, with the aim of then putting together a small group of member volunteers to help us find suitable candidates for support.

I have mentioned before the painstaking work **Hazel Douglas, Pat Withall** and other **Heritage Volunteers** are carrying out with the Duke of Buccleuch's library at Drumlanrig Castle. We'll be looking for ways to draw more attention to their achievements, and whether there are other similar projects TASDAG can help with.

### Behind every successful society...

...there is a hard-working supportive committee. I've had the pleasure of working with **Mai Hearne** who is stepping down at the AGM to take on a significant professional contract—we wish her well. I've also depended greatly on the quiet voice of reason and sub-clauses that is **David Howdle**, who is also retiring from the committee this March. David's careful work ensured firstly that we knew how to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, and then that we could benefit from the government's Gift Aid scheme. He has argued tirelessly with arcane banking systems, and looked after not just the pennies, but the pounds too. We are very grateful for his years of help. Happily, **Diana Roberts** remains to keep me on the straight and narrow, and to continue her work as Programme Secretary.

Over 2025, many of you have helped us by volunteering to run the raffle / sit on the Welcome desk / manage Coffees / host lecturers / distribute posters. Thank you to **Alice Howdle; Alison Robertson; Barbara Williams; Charlie Grieve; Deborah Thurlow; Deirdre Cusack; Glennys Ardin; Gwen Shaw; Jane Maitland; June Marchbank; Margaret Smith; Melanie Landale; Penny Bryson; Rosie Hancock, Sheila Crosthwaite** and **Tom Marchbank**—I am very appreciative of your time.

We are absolutely delighted that **Steven Bonn, Mary Kate Brown, June Marchbank, Elspeth Shaw** and **Diane Stygal** are standing for election to the committee at the AGM. They have been shadowing us for the past few months, and contributing their experience to our plans. If they are elected, I am confident that we shall be able to expand TASDAG's activities and reach in 2026. I'm looking forward to the ride.

**Sarah McConnel**, Chairman

## Treasurer's Report for 2025

1. This is the Treasurer's Report to the members of The Arts Society Dumfries and Galloway (TASDAG) for the period from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025. May I draw to your attention the following points to note in relation to the TASDAG accounts.
2. As you know, in 2023 TASDAG became a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). As a consequence, in the financial year to 31 December 2025 we were able, through the generosity of members, to claim gift aid on subscriptions amounting to £3,455, an increase of £2,271 on the year 2024.
3. In addition to Gift Aid we received membership subs amounting to £11,950.00 and guest donations of £2,430 – a total of £14,380 – which is a slight increase on 2024.
4. We are also required, by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), to maintain a contingency fund to cover unforeseen expenses. We have therefore maintained a ring-fenced fund of £10,000 in the United Trust Bank. This means that along with sundry other income, our bank balance stood, at the year end, at £38,000.
5. However, whilst a healthy, positive bank balance is a good thing, it is at its largest at the financial year end, when most subs have been paid and when the treasurer's report is written. Each year we must set against it our ongoing expenditure.
6. Our main recurring expenses are:
  - Lecturers' fees and expenses. The costs of paying a lecturer their fee and expenses are, on average, £464.00 per lecture – a total of £4,641.00 per annum. The rate lecturers are paid is set by lecturers in conjunction with The Arts Society (TAS), the national body and is thus a matter over which we have no control.
  - Room Hire at the Easterbrook Hall. In 2025 our room hire expense was £2,071.
  - Head Office recharge fee. This is the "franchise cost" of being affiliated to the national body, The Arts Society (TAS) and in 2025 amounted to £3,002 including a public liability insurance element. The sum due each year is calculated on the basis of the number of members we have and is something over which we have no control if we wish to remain affiliated to TAS. We have considered whether we should remain affiliated and have concluded that the advantages of doing so outweigh the disadvantages.
7. Charitable Grants
  - In Clause 4 of the Constitution (which can be found on the website) the organisation's aims are stated as: **The promotion and development of arts and heritage education. The conservation and preservation of our artistic heritage both at home and abroad and The advancement of the arts, culture and heritage.**
  - And in Clause 5 various powers are given to Tasdag to enable these aims to be achieved. In pursuance of the Clause 4 aims the committee has, therefore, arranged various activities throughout 2025. It has also taken the decision to use some of Tasdag's surplus funds to support other kindred arts organisations, A' The Airts in Sanquhar, amateur dramatic societies, Gracefield, etc.
8. The Summary Accounts for 2025, signed by Mr Martin, are attached to this report.

David Howdle, Treasurer

# APPENDIX 3



Report to the trustees/members of

Registered charity number  
On the accounts of the charity for the period

Set out on pages

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

v2

Charity name

The Arts Society Dumfries and Galloway SCIO

SC 052817

Period start date

Day Month Year  
01 01 2025 to

Period end date

Day Month Year  
31 12 2025

1,2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page\*]

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed\*\*:

Name: Stuart Martin

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Retired Company Director

Address:

Lochbank, Kirkmahoe, Dumfries DG1 1SX

\*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

\*\*OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures.

| Period from 01 Jan 2025 to 31 Dec 2025                           | Income           | Costs             | Net Income        | 2024 (full year) | Net Income        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Membership                                                       | 11,950.00        |                   |                   | 11,777.00        |                   |
| Guest Tickets                                                    | 2,430.00         |                   |                   | 2,380.00         |                   |
| Head Office Recharge Fee                                         |                  | -2,407.00         |                   |                  | -2,948.90         |
| <b>Net subscription income</b>                                   | <b>14,380.00</b> | <b>-2,407.00</b>  | <b>11,973.00</b>  | <b>14,157.00</b> | <b>-2,948.90</b>  |
| Lecturer's Fees                                                  |                  | -3,515.00         |                   |                  | -3,226.00         |
| Lecturer's Expenses                                              |                  | -1,126.05         |                   |                  | -906.51           |
| Room Hire                                                        |                  | -2,071.00         |                   |                  | -1,816.00         |
| Zoom facilities                                                  |                  | -373.94           |                   |                  | -580.00           |
|                                                                  |                  | -7,085.99         | -7,085.99         |                  | -6,528.51         |
| <b>Net income from lectures</b>                                  |                  |                   | <b>4,887.01</b>   |                  | <b>4,679.59</b>   |
| <u>Other activities</u>                                          |                  |                   |                   |                  |                   |
| Book Raffle                                                      | 645.20           | -135.24           | 509.96            | 702.19           | -145.93           |
| Catering                                                         | 745.38           | -422.35           | 323.03            | 784.83           | -884.20           |
| Great Expectations (2024 - 39 Steps)                             | 802.50           | -508.00           | 294.50            | 198.00           | -715.00           |
| (2024 - Garden Visits)                                           | 0.00             | 0.00              | 0.00              | 688.00           | -404.50           |
| Visit - Dumfries House (2024 - National Galleries)               | 2,922.00         | -2,730.50         | 191.50            | 1,725.00         | -1,270.00         |
| <b>Net income from other activities</b>                          | <b>5,115.08</b>  | <b>-3,796.09</b>  | <b>1,318.99</b>   | <b>4,098.02</b>  | <b>-3,419.63</b>  |
| <u>Other income</u>                                              |                  |                   |                   |                  |                   |
| Gift cards                                                       | 0.00             |                   |                   | 0.00             |                   |
| Gift Aid                                                         | 3,455.01         |                   |                   | 1,183.57         |                   |
| Miscellaneous                                                    | 0.00             |                   |                   | 0.00             |                   |
| Interest Received (Bank of Scotland)                             | 0.00             |                   |                   | 0.00             |                   |
| <b>Net other income</b>                                          | <b>3,455.01</b>  |                   | <b>3,455.01</b>   | <b>1,183.57</b>  | <b>1,183.57</b>   |
| <b>Total net income</b>                                          |                  |                   | <b>9,661.01</b>   |                  | <b>6,541.55</b>   |
| <u>Donations</u>                                                 |                  |                   |                   |                  |                   |
| Community Fund grant & donations                                 | 250.00           | -250.00           |                   | 250.00           | -250.00           |
| Donations received                                               | 280.50           |                   |                   | 351.50           |                   |
| Donations made                                                   |                  | -1,273.00         |                   |                  |                   |
| <b>Net Donations</b>                                             | <b>530.50</b>    | <b>-1,523.00</b>  | <b>-992.50</b>    | <b>601.50</b>    | <b>-250.00</b>    |
| <u>Sundry expenses</u>                                           |                  |                   |                   |                  |                   |
| Web, Publicity, Printing, Stationery                             |                  | -679.20           |                   |                  | -406.75           |
| Miscellaneous                                                    |                  | -48.50            |                   |                  | -44.18            |
| Committee Expenses                                               |                  | -342.78           |                   |                  | -166.45           |
| Head Office Insurance                                            |                  | -191.36           |                   |                  | -184.00           |
| <b>Total sundry expenses</b>                                     |                  | <b>-1,261.84</b>  | <b>-1,261.84</b>  |                  | <b>-801.38</b>    |
| <b>Surplus for the period to date (Bank of Sc)</b>               |                  |                   | <b>7,406.67 A</b> |                  | <b>6,091.67</b>   |
| <u>Add</u> United Trust Bank Interest                            |                  |                   | <b>885.00 B</b>   | <b>347.24</b>    | <b>347.24</b>     |
| <b>Total Surplus for the period to date</b>                      |                  |                   | <b>8,291.67</b>   |                  | <b>6,438.91</b>   |
| Total Income / Expenditure                                       | <b>23,480.59</b> | <b>-16,073.92</b> |                   | <b>26,153.75</b> | <b>-13,698.42</b> |
| <i>Difference from Ledger Totals</i>                             | 0.00             | 0.00              |                   |                  |                   |
| <b>Bank of Scotland Opening Balance</b>                          |                  |                   | <b>£13,460.78</b> |                  |                   |
| Transfers to / from United Trust Bank                            |                  |                   | -14,000.00 C      |                  |                   |
| <u>Add:</u> Surplus / (Deficit) for period                       |                  |                   | <b>7,406.67 A</b> |                  |                   |
| Closing balance excluding income received in advance             |                  |                   | <b>6,867.45</b>   |                  |                   |
| <u>Add:</u> Income received for 2026 (not part of 2025 accounts) |                  |                   |                   |                  |                   |
| 2026 Membership                                                  | £8,540.00        |                   |                   |                  |                   |
| 2026 Hitchcock Day                                               | 732.00           |                   | <b>9,272.00</b>   |                  |                   |
| <b>Bank of Scotland Closing Balance</b>                          |                  |                   | <b>£16,139.45</b> |                  |                   |
| <b>United Trust Bank Opening Balance</b>                         |                  |                   | <b>£6,282.74</b>  |                  |                   |
| Transfers to / from Bank of Scotland a/c                         |                  |                   | 14,000.00 C       |                  |                   |
| Interest Received                                                |                  |                   | <b>885.00 B</b>   |                  |                   |
| <b>United Trust Bank Closing Balance</b>                         |                  |                   | <b>£21,167.74</b> |                  |                   |
| <b>Total of Bank Balances</b>                                    |                  |                   | <b>£37,307.19</b> |                  |                   |

*Difference from ledger*  
0.00

*SCW*

22nd January 2026