

3. Officer Reports for the February 2022 Meeting

1. Chair's Report

The focus of this meeting is the decision around what approach the Society should take to the proportion of its finances that enable us to give out a grants and awards. Over the last twenty years that has been an increasingly important part of the Charity's work and we have moved from being a society which depended on subscriptions and ticket sales to be able to deliver a programme of events, a conference, 'Costume' and a newsletter to its members. We are now, thanks to a number of generous bequests, to deliver an ambitious programme of grants and awards which 'make a difference' in the field of historic and contemporary dress. The recent bequest from Anne Thomas (see Treasurer's report below) means that we have an opportunity to do even more. The things which we begin to talk about in this meeting will set the agenda for the society's grant giving for the next five to ten years.

Yet again I'm delighted to say that we have managed to maintain much of our normal delivery to our members: another excellent edition of 'Costume' has been published and the first edition of 'The Thread' was a particular highlight of the year for me. I know that many of our members really like the new magazine and its news of our members' activities alongside our own work is a refreshing shift of focus. We maintained an online events programme and our new communications team are making the best of the variety of platforms that we 'speak from' and hopefully the focus that this now brings back to the Society and its work will benefit all of what we do.

Hopefully the new structure of the Exec is beginning to make sense and that everybody feels represented in the decision making.

I'm working on the role description for the Secretary vacancy and thanks to those who commented on the draft document. Hopefully we will be able to recruit to this important role very soon.

Work continues on developing the programme for our year of focus on menswear – it's still dogged with uncertainties around covid but we hope to 'get there' very soon. Thank you to the Comms team for launching the year on social media.

I'm delighted that Shaun Cole has agreed to continue to work on the Conference for this year – a final call for papers will go out soon.

Finally thanks you all for another year of tremendous hard work under what seem to be endless pressures. I know it's been a tough year for many of you personally and I want to let you know how grateful I am for everything that you continue to do.

Philip Warren - Chair

2. Treasurer's Report (to be read in conjunction with the management accounts)

I've attached to this report the latest management accounts for the Society, these are up to date as of 31.12.21. Much of our income and expenditure is broadly in line with the previous year; there are just a couple of figures with wider variations which I would draw to your attention (other than those for which explanations were provided at previous meetings):

1. Legacies – the legacy which I mentioned at our last meeting was from Anne Thomas. For those of you who didn't know Anne, she was a founder member, former secretary and Vice Chair and long-term member of the Programme sub-committee.

2. We have now received an interim payment from her estate of £200,000. I expect this to be the majority of her bequest.
3. Costume Conservation Grant – you will note that there was not a grant awarded in 2021. The funds that were available for this will be carried over and can be awarded in 2022.

Since I will be going through our accounts and funds etc in some detail at the meeting I am not making any further detailed comments in this report.

I am speaking to investment advisors in relation to investing a substantial portion of Anne Thomas's bequest and again will report on this at the meeting.

I have agreed with our accountants that they will complete their independent examination of our final 2021 accounts in May this year.

If anyone has any specific queries in relation to the draft accounts please do send them through to me in advance of the meeting.

Chris Wright – Treasurer

3. Communications Report

The Team

Natascha Radclyffe-Thomas VC Comms

Babette Radclyffe-Thomas News Editor & acting Blog Editor

Social Media & Ambassador Editor Vacant

2022 Ambassadors Gemma Esvelt, Wendy Fraser and Annika Gralke.

2021 successes and updates

Following the Comms Review, we agreed the following areas of focus for all CS communications:

- engaging with current members;
- highlighting the work of our members;
- support attendance at our events;
- promoting our Grants and Awards and encouraging new members to join the Society.

To this end we launched a new [website](#). We have tidied up some of the pages and added new features – please can everyone check their pages and let us know any edits required. We are in the process of tracking missing content e.g. from previous G&A winners and recipients.

The Thread, the new members' magazine successfully launched in December. Many thanks to Babette for her vision and tireless work and to those behind the scenes who supported this. We have received extremely positive feedback on the look and feel of the magazine as well as the focused content. The Thread is published bi-annually in June and December. We commission features exploring the diverse world of costume and publish articles that cover The Society's events and our members' news. Members of The Costume Society receive copies of the Members' Magazine as part of their membership and can also access e-versions on the members' site.

The CS content calendar is now planned through 2022 Year of Menswear – we have had a great response via social media with several people getting in touch to offer their expertise and/or signing up for membership.

2022 plans

We plan to keep the Blog Editor role in-house whilst we roll out the new comms strategy and editorial calendar. *Babette has taken on this role in addition to her News Editor role. Blog topics are assigned by the News Editor under the following categories:

- Behind the scenes: exhibition reviews and/or interviews with curators.
- Costume drama: highlighting historical costume in film and TV.
- My favourite things: object-based interviews with bloggers, curators, collectors etc.
- Passion projects: ambassadors' and/or members' personal research and activities.
- The World of the Costume Society: highlighting events and activities of the Society.

Please share ideas that fall under these categories.

We aim to recruit a new Ambassadors' Manager & Social Media Editor. *Update: we are delighted to report that following our Comms Committee meeting Annika has agreed to take up this position. She will be holding Ambassadors' meetings and arranging social outings. You can contact Annika via Babette or at the Ambassador email

We are now implementing the renewed Ambassador role and will be looking to support the Social Media Editor and Ambassador Manager role to provide more consistent mentoring and development opportunities for the Ambassadors. This will integrate the Ambassadors more closely with the activities and expertise of the Society committee members and wider membership. We agreed a more active role for the Ambassadors' to give them opportunities to work more closely with the wider committee and invited members. This will give them experience in a variety of areas and allow them to enhance their professional networks. Ambassadors to meet with the teams for Events, Costume and Grants & Awards and subsequently each ambassador to rotate through each of these areas supporting their activities over a 4-month period and generating relevant content for the blog, website and/or social media. All the ambassadors are excited about the 2022 Programme and will continue to attend CS events to review them.

We will aim to recruit 3 Ambassadors to join the team later in 2022.

The next stage of the comms focus will be to work on the Pinterest platform, Insta stories and YouTube channel.

We aim to establish more links with appropriate galleries and museums to access press previews.

Our social media following continues to grow. The [Blog](#) continues to be central to our public engagement receiving high levels of engagement and its new look has been complimented by contributors and readers thanks to our Blog Editor.

To broaden our content and to highlight the interests and activities of our members we are particularly interested to hear how our own members are promoting the study of clothing and textiles in dress and we have put out calls for any Costume-related news to be shared with our News Editor [Babette Radclyffe-Thomas](#).



Website

Active users 3.8K (up)

Social Media

Facebook 11K followers (up)

Instagram 50.1K followers (up)

LinkedIn 315 followers (up)

Twitter 11.4K followers (up)

FYI:

Costume Society Website <https://costumesociety.org.uk/>

Costume Society News and Social <https://costumesociety.org.uk/news>

Costume Society Blog <https://costumesociety.org.uk/blog>

News Editor email newsletter@costumesociety.org.uk

For information, the CS social media schedule:

Sunday	The Blog	Promote the new blog post
Monday	#MembersMonday	Members news highlight the news and successes of our members
Tuesday	Events	Highlights from past events e.g. Reading Group, visits, conference. Promoting upcoming events including a drive to contribute and for ticket sales.
Wednesday	ICYMI Blog	Promote the current blog post
Thursday	Grants & Awards #ThrowbackThursday (as appropriate)	Highlights from past G&A recipients/winners. e.g. where are they now? Promoting open G&A.
Friday	Friends of the Costume Society and occasional #CSFashionHour (as scheduled) #CosSocFriends	Highlights news and events from other organisations of interest to our members. This can include the activities of our institutional members and ideally this should be a reciprocal activity.
Saturday	Costume Journal	Highlights an article from Costume (see online archive). Promoting upcoming issues including call for contributions.

Natascha Radclyffe-Thomas - Vice-Chair Communications

4. Publication Committee Report 05 February 2022

Costume 55:2 was printed and distributed on schedule in early September, still in the midst of the pandemic.

Costume 56:1 is currently progressing through the proof stage, first proofs have been corrected, and by the meeting final proofs should be with us; publication is on schedule for early March. It will contain three object-based articles and two more 'marketing of fashion' based articles. Myriam Couturier explores the changing role of the linen duster coat based on two garments in a New England museum collection. Dries Debackere's article looks at a group of lace panels, never realized as a worn garment, and considers possible methods of display in Momu, Antwerp. Kevin Almond and Elaine Evans have used Leeds Museum and Archive collections together with oral collecting of evidence to investigate women's attitudes to wearing and acquiring clothing in Yorkshire in the mid-20th century. Cally Blackman's article looks at the *Salon du Goût Français*, a 1920s government-backed travelling exhibition of French luxury commodities, using Autochrome colour photography, which helped to revive the perception of French fashion across the world after WWI. Finally Jade Halbert's article reveals the boutique scene in 1960s Glasgow, using newspaper and television sources, and oral history, as well one Scottish designer's archive.

We are now also busy preparing Issue 56:2 which will include, among others, the second part of David Wilcox's article on Lord Byron's clothing, a collection of 18th century dress and its collector at Historic Deerfield, as well as an obituary being prepared by Valerie Cumming for the late Anne Thomas, founder member and long-time, hard-working supporter of our Society.

We also have a number of articles which we are peer reviewing for 2023 and beyond. However, it would be good to have a few more articles in progress. So, if any of the committee know of people working on things, or they're working on something themselves then we're interested to hear from them! We are always happy to look at work in progress and offer advice.

Alexandra Kim and Christine Stevens – Journal Joint Editors

5. Grants and Awards Report

The reports from the Grants and Awards coordinators show some exciting applications from the range of colleges applying for the Patterns of Fashion awards to the increased number of MWEG applications. With such wonderful opportunities for students and organisations across fashion design, conservation and display we are excited to be working with Babette and the ambassadors on promoting these grants and awards. We are working to find ways to ensure that awards, including the MWEG and Elizabeth Hammond have more take up as the numbers of people and institutions applying are still low. Ben has highlighted some proposals at the end of this document to change the MWEG grant amount and deadlines for both awards and he would be grateful for feedback. Janet has also outlined some proposals for the Elizabeth Hammond and Daphne Bullard awards including archiving of reports and applications.

Lucy Johnston – Vice Chair Grants and Awards

5.1 Patterns of Fashion and Patterns for Performance awards (Louise Chapman and Joanna Jarvis)

This year we have had 14 applications for the Patterns of Fashion with good representation from a spread of colleges and courses including Wimbledon, Coleg Y Cymoedd, Huddersfield University, Arts University Bournemouth, and Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. We have had 7 applications for Patterns for Performance with the majority of the applications from Wimbledon College.

The applications for both awards arrived with us on 10th December, and we will be reviewing them imminently. It's pleasing to see that the Year of Menswear hasn't impacted on the submissions for the Patterns of Fashion, but we have seen a reduction in applications for the Patterns for Performance, however this is inclined to fluctuate over the years.

It will be interesting to see the impact that introducing Norah Waugh has on the submissions. As you will recall Michele expressed concern about judging menswear and she has very kindly approached a menswear costume specialist for us to judge the awards, Alex Fordham. Alex works frequently assisting Michele on the productions so he will be an asset to the judging.

Have we managed to decide on a date and location for the awards, and are we wanting a film this year after its success last year? If we do want a film what is the budget? There was some discussion of a trophy- if so how might we begin this process?

5.2 Elizabeth Hammond, Daphne Bullard and Kathy Callow conservation grants (Janet Wood)

The only new application for the Elizabeth Hammond award has been from the Wilson (Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum) to conserve and make a replica of Edward Wilson's fur suit worn on the Antarctic Polar expedition. The conservation grant is agreed but there are on-going negotiations re-planning, ethics and methodology for the replica suit. No other applications have been received.

5.3 Museum Work Experience Grant (MWEG) and Yarwood Grant (YG) (Ben Whyman)

MWEG - Despite ongoing COVID restrictions delaying the start of the 2021 MWEG projects, both awardees commenced their projects during 2021. Emily Yates (Leeds Museum) commenced her work experience in August 2021. Mihaela-Adelina Diaconescu (Harris Museum) commenced her work experience in October 2021. Both students will supply at least one blog for the CS website.

In 2021, we received four MWEG applications, which is 2 more than the 2020 application numbers. The application numbers remain low for what is a good opportunity for students to gain access to fashion collections. I am in discussion with Lucy and other CS committee members to consider wider advertising potential for both this grant and the Yarwood Grant.

2020 - Due to ongoing COVID lockdowns and accessibility issues, one of the MWEG 2020 awardees, Greer Parker (MA Fashion Curation, London College of Fashion), whose work experience was due to commence at the North Hertfordshire Museum last year, was about to commence her position. (The delay in funding this grant was agreed by the Costume Society Executive Committee [15 May 2021].) Greer completed her MWEG and we have a blog post from her.

YG - The two judges agreed on awarding YG awards to the following students:

- Megan Eames, MA Fashion Cultures and Histories, London College of Fashion - research into the history of Welsh Plains fabric, used to make clothing for enslaved people between 1650-1850
- Imogen Mann, MA Fashion Cultures and Histories, London College of Fashion - 1970s Northern Soul music subculture and fashion.

I am awaiting blog posts from both students.

Finances - No financial support is required for me to undertake administration of the MWEG and YG.

6. Programme Sub-committee And Conference Report

This is my first written report to the Executive Committee. I am still finding my feet and learning the Society's procedures so thank you to all who have been so kind with their help and apologies to all of you who have had to remind me of things I have already been told.

Our last meeting was held virtually on January 19th and we welcomed three Ambassadors who joined us as part of their introduction to the way the Society works.

Recent Events

December saw a very interesting online meeting with the curators of the Manolo Blahnik Archive. Organised by Lottie Moss, who acted as a curator and representative of the CS, the event was part of the Archive's celebration of the 50th anniversary. Thank you to Lottie for allowing our members the opportunity to have a personal view of the interactive exhibition.

Future Events

Work has continued on the 2022 programme but there have been a number of changes.

Sadly, the trip to Leeds planned for May had to be cancelled as a number of venues could not confirm that they would be able to host our members until too close the event but the hotel required a non-refundable deposit immediately. The decision was taken that this was too much of a risk for the CS as there is still so much uncertainty regarding Covid. Thank you to all who worked on the plans. This trip has now been replaced with a trip to the Wolsey Archive, Leicester.

The trip to the Menswear Archive of the University of Westminster will be the first physical visit since lockdown. It was planned for February but will now take place in March to allow for better weather and a further reduction of omicron cases. The details/tickets will be released shortly.

June's event is planned to be an online conversation with a reenactor. This will be a mix of video of him in his costume and a conversation on what it feels like to wear the costume.

The online conference dates are confirmed as 22nd, 26th, 29th October and 2nd November. This follows the successful Wednesday /Saturday combination of last year.

The other events, the AGM, Meet the Curator of V&A Fashioning Masculinities Exhibition, the visit to the Dandy Style Exhibition at Manchester City Gallery and the Christmas Quiz, are still awaiting final dates.

Policies and forms

The committee is continuing to update its events checklists and proformas. There was a discussion as to whether we needed a Covid Cancellation Policy for our future physical events but it was agreed that the normal cancellation policy is sufficient for these new circumstances. If we cancel any event we will offer a refund and we will continue to assess any request for a refund from a participant on its individual merits.

Clare Bowyer – Chair Programme Sub-Committee

5 (a) London Study Day

To include the AGM, 2 speakers and the final of the Patterns of Fashion and Patterns for Performance Awards

Suggested date Sat 9th July at The London College of Fashion.

The Costume Society Conference 2022: Clothes Maketh the Man

Following the success of last year's conference, we will be following a similar pattern in the arrangements for our conference in 2022.

The conference will be an online event split across 4 sessions and Shaun Cole will provide academic oversight.

Dates will be:

Saturday 22nd Oct - afternoon

Wednesday 26th Oct – evening

Saturday 29th Oct – afternoon

Wednesday 2nd Nov – evening

A final call for papers will be put out soon, the conference will be themed around clothing and masculinity identities.

Tickets will be available for sale from July 2022

Comms and Social Media Marketing will be organised in conjunction with the Comms Team.

The committee, the programme sub-committee and the Ambassadors will be approached for volunteers to support this event. (Help will be needed with set up and planning eg. gathering and formatting contents for the goodie-bag, and event delivery eg. presenting. We will be recruiting for the conference team in spring 2022)

Amy Wilson - Conference Organiser

7. Membership Secretary Report (AGENDA ITEM 4)

Membership Numbers

We have 475 verified members as at the 22 January 2022, this is a small increase on January 2021 when we had 446 verified members.

19 Honorary members*

3 Ambassadors

These numbers do not include the Institutional members, for whom Edinburgh University Press is responsible – I have contacted EUP regarding this and I am awaiting a response, I am hoping to be able to confirm the figure at the meeting on the 5th of February 2022.

I would like to thank Natascha and Babette for supporting me by posting membership renewal reminders across our social media platforms and Chris for supporting me with the bank statements

and queries regarding a handful of members whose standing orders come through at a different date to early January.

If you are a committee member who usually pays for membership by PayPal or cheque, please make your renewal payment as soon as possible. I will be sending one more renewal reminder to 2021 members who I have not received payment for on Monday the 24th of January 2022, prior to marking the 2021 accounts as 'Unpaid' on the 31st of January 2022.

We currently have three Ambassadors – all of whom have kindly agreed to carry on in role from 2021. To date, there has not been an opportunity to recruit new Ambassadors for 2022 but Babette is currently working on this.

Arrivals and departures

There have been **79** new members since the last committee meeting in September 2021. We have received **10** formal resignations of membership; these members accounts were deleted on 01 January 2022 in line with GDPR.

79 new members have joined the Society since the 13th of September 2021. Of this number, 20 members took up a six-month membership to cover the latter half of 2021 (highlighted in yellow) and 9 for Spring 2022 (highlighted in green); list attached for welcoming at the meeting. The half yearly membership figures are higher than previous years, but this is because I ran out of journal 55/1 overs and had suspended the full year membership option for new members by summer 2021. Members joining on, or after, 01 November 2021 have had their six-month membership applied to the first half of 2022. The membership type options are also now clearer for new members, following the successful launch of the new website.

74 New members comprise:

- 30 UK full members
- 18 UK students
- 22 Overseas full members
- 9 Overseas students

*This figure is inclusive of the Ambassadors. Please see pages 12/13 for Honorary listings for 2022.

New Members since 13th September 2021:

UK Members (30)		
H Karakashian	Hanbury, Worcestershire	UK
S Hulme	Wakefield	UK
C Trapnell	Teddington	UK
K Beard	Bromley	UK
J Morgan	Cambridge	UK
L Jenner-Brown	Newquay	UK



A Matthews	Stoke on Trent	UK
C Bradbury	Solihull	UK
N Hussein	London	UK
S Elliott	Weymouth	UK
V Duncan	Banchory	UK
K Bethune	Poole	UK
L Welch	Shipston-on-Stour	UK
A Cojanu-Davidoiu	Acocks Green	UK
A Atalla Filho	Kidlington	UK
A Walker	Badsey	UK
A Coker	Upton, St Leonards	UK
C Cox	Colchester	UK
A Boychuk	Horsham	UK
R Rampley	Cambridge	UK
M Bell	Keswick	UK
J Scott	Edinburgh	UK
J Dathan	Sittingbourne	UK
S Traore	London	UK
E Havenhand	Sheffield	UK
F Blackhall	Manchester	UK
E Evans	Trealaw	UK
C Eady	Oxford	UK
M Dunaway	Plymouth	UK
A Powell	Merthyr Tydfil	UK

UK Students (18)

I Engleheart	Rochford	UK
D Trew	London	UK
H Latimer	Wimbledon	UK
N Lehepuu	Biddulph, Staffordshire	UK



Z Barnes	London	UK
S Coulson	Totnes	UK
A Poetz	Mussleburgh	UK
C Jordan	Glasgow	UK
L Harrison	London	UK
A Danky	Amersham	UK
M Whitefield	Horton	UK
T Mercer	London	UK
S Hobart	Bishops Stortford	UK
H Leighton-Rose	Wooler	UK
R Harte	Bristol	UK
I Osborne	Newport	UK
L Morgan	Sandbach	UK
N Jenman	Radlett	UK

Overseas Members (22)		
P Favreau	Sherbrooke	Canada
C Mager	Saint Paul, MN	USA
J Carlson	San Leandro, CA	USA
D Preston	Frostberg, MD	USA
C McHargue	Portland, OR	USA
D Castagnola	Genova	Italy
C Martin	Seattle	USA
M Parparian	Asheville, NC	USA
W Lawton	Hilmar, CA	USA
N Harran	Ansauvillers	France
A York	Portland, OR	USA
L Stepp	Baltimore, ML	USA
G Fairhurst	Saint-Mathieu	France
L Ziamou	Brooklyn, NY	USA



A Paquin	Upton, Quebec	Canada
E Stock	Cumbalum, NSW	Australia
V Belt	Portland, OR	USA
J Steinberger	Fenton	USA
A O'Connell-Torgersen	Sunset, UT	USA
E Matamoros	Madrid	Spain
L Green	Amherst, MA	USA
C MacDonald	Ottawa	Canada

Overseas Students (9)

A Matusch	Sudbury, Ontario	Canada
B Darragh	North Shore	New Zealand
R Smith	Exeter, Rhode Island	USA
P Fimmano	Paris	France
C Crook	Seattle	USA
S Carroll	Sacramento, CA	USA
C Pene	Saylorsburg, PA	USA
O Lane	Coquitlam	Canada
V Granado	Washington DC	USA

2022 Honorary Members (19)

The Costume Society Archivist	Plymouth	Society Archive	UK
S Ayton	London	Past Chair	UK
P Byrde Ruddock	Bath	Past Journal Editor	UK
S Cole	London	Past Chair	UK
V Cumming	London	Past Chair	UK
G Esvelt	Welshpool	Ambassador	UK
W Fraser	Hove	Ambassador	UK
C Godfrey	Canterbury	Past Treasurer – long service	UK
A Gralke	Berlin	Ambassador	UK

C R McDowell	Lydart	Past Chair	UK
H Morgan	Dartington	Complimentary 2022 membership re website redevelopment	UK
R Robson	York	Honorary from 1996	UK
E Sharpley	Gullane	Scottish Archive	UK
R Strong	Much Birch	Patron	UK
J Swann	Northampton	Past Chair	UK
N Tarrant	Edinburgh	Past Chair	UK
T Ward	London	?	UK
V Wilson	Oxford	Past Journal Editor	UK
K M Zohn	Columbus GA	USA Archive	USA

Membership and GDPR

On the 31st of December 2021, 117 membership accounts that had not been renewed since 2019 were deleted from The Society's database.

On the 22nd of January 2022, 17 membership registration accounts were deleted as no payment for membership had been received despite me attempting to make contact.

There are currently two new members who have registered since 01 January 2022 but no payment has yet been made.

Membership data base as of 22 January 2022:

- Member list = 888 members comprising:
 - 477 2022 members – includes 2 accounts from institutional members who wish to receive a copy of Thread
 - 293 accounts to be marked as unpaid from 2021 on 31 January 2021
 - 115 unpaid accounts from 2020
 - 1 Test account
 - 2 New members who have registered since 01 January 2022 but have yet to make payment