

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

1.0 CHAIR'S REPORT – Rebecca Quinton

Many thanks to the Committee for all their work during another difficult and unusual year. While we've not been able to host in person events for our membership the Committee has been progressing several projects. Two large projects have seen Stephanie Wood and Connie Karol Burks, SSN Officers, led on the Art Fund assisted project with Plastics SSN to create a training resources and workshops on the identification of synthetic textiles (please see full update below) and Beatrice Behlen, Web Officer, develop the new DATS website (please see full update below).

As the Committee have continued to meet online we have invested in a professional Zoom account, which has been used for project as well as committee meetings and today's AGM. We would also like to extend an invitation to the membership to use this for helping to keep in touch with each other for online collection and exhibition tours, DATS surgeries, working groups and regional meetings.

This year we were approached to help with external projects. Unfortunately, Dr Benjamin Wild's proposal to the AHRC for a project on Fancy Dress with Norfolk Museums, National Museums Scotland and DATS was unsuccessful, but we are hoping that some aspects of this project will be continued between the project partners and new funding sources are being looked into. In more positive news Understanding British Portraits were successful in their bid to Arts Council England for a project that will include a collaborative event with Gawthorpe Hall and DATS in Spring 2024 looking at seventeenth-century dress and portraits in Gawthorpe Hall's collections.

Meanwhile, because DATS has a very healthy balance at present (please see full report below) it should be possible for us to self-fund the development of the next new Identification guide. Please look out for the call for interest in the new year. Potential topics already suggested include; Norfolk, Edinburgh and Paisley shawls, and white work embroideries. If there are any other potential resources you would like to see or would be interested in helping us produce please do get in contact with us.

As this is my last AGM as Chair I would like to finish my report by extending my thanks to the Committee and the membership for their continued support of DATS.

2.0 TREASURER'S REPORT – Paula Martin

Figures as of 1st December 2021

2020/21

Opening balance 1st April 2020: £20,595.85

Opening balance 1st April 2021: £21,663.04

Current balance:

£24,318.56

Income from membership subscriptions:

To 31st March 2021: £1,291.55

1st April to 1st December 2021: £3,035.06

Note that the membership year was changed from 1st September-31st August to 1st April-31st March in 2020 hence the larger amount of income from 1st April onwards.

Expenditure 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

Conference costs: N/A

Committee/newsletter expenses: £33.26

Website hosting: £179.10

Website upgrade: £30.00

Expenditure 1st April 2020 to date.

Committee expenses: £143.88 (zoom account)

Website hosting: £172.66

Website upgrade: £45.00

Committed spend

Website upgrade (design and development): £4,920.00

3.0 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT – Lisa Mason

We currently have 324 active members on JISCmail, 122 individual members and 66 institutional members.

The annual membership was extended by six months last year with the new renewal date changing from 1 September to 1 April. Many thanks to those who have updated their standing orders - and a reminder to those who have not to please do so. Updated membership forms together with online payment facilities will be available on the new website.

From now on, the annual membership run for one year from the time members pay, i.e. we will not have a designated membership year anymore. Members will now be able to login to the DATS website and update their own details and membership.

4.0 EDITOR'S REPORT – Uthra Rajgopal

A Spring and Autumn newsletter were successfully pulled together and circulated this year. Please continue to sending through content for these, in particular for the Spring 2022 newsletter.

5.0 WEB OFFICER'S REPORT – Beatrice Behlen

Updating the DATS website had become difficult as it was using outdated programmes that could not be updated. Therefore the Committee decided to upgrade the site this year. We started to work on the website in February 2021 and appointed a designer – Considered Creative – in early May 2021. There have been setbacks, due to the pandemic and the workload of committee members having to provide information, but the new website went live on 3 December.

The new site will have a members only area, which will allow members to renew their membership online. It also includes a members forum. All DATS resources and links have been transferred. The newsletter is now only available to members.

To reflect the increase in use of digital platforms by members the Committee would like to amend the DATS Constitution with the creation of a Social Media Officer to help advocate DATS and our members events and activities.

6.0 SSN OFFICER'S REPORT – Connie Karol Burks, Stephanie Wood

The joint DATS / Plastics SSN synthetics project is progressing well and the toolkit development is well underway. So far we've held workshops at the V&A focusing on high fashion, the Museum of Design in Plastics on tech fabrics and more affordable fashion, Leeds Museums on tailoring, and Westminster Menswear Archive on menswear, including tech fabrics, sportswear and military uniforms, as well as an online workshop at University of Glasgow Archives & Special Collections with Dr Anita Quye looking at their paper-based House of Fraser archive of store catalogues, company documents and advertisements of synthetic materials in clothing to show how archives offer another route towards identifying materials in textile collection objects.

We are now planning an online workshop for January or February with Leanne Tonkin looking at the Secret Life of Textiles: Synthetic Materials following her research using the American Fashion Fabrics (1920s-1980s) periodicals, as well as others, combined with instrumental analysis of the artefacts. She will present the second part based on her doctoral work which follows more ontological approaches to archiving modern materials in dress archives. Our final workshop looking at Glasgow Museums objects will take place in Spring 2022. FTIR fibre analysis of the majority of objects is due to be done in January 2022 by Catherine Curran of the Plastics SSN.

Trial training workshops will follow in Spring and Summer 2022 to test the toolkit out, before the resources are published on the Plastics SSN and DATS websites, with further training workshops following on in late 2022 and 2023. Do let us know if your institutions would be interested in hosting one of these.

7.0 CONFERENCE – Vanessa Jones

Due to the uncertainty over Covid-19 restrictions in different parts of the country and reduction in institutions permitting travel, it was not been possible to host an in-person conference this year. We did try organizing a digital alternative, but did not receive sufficient abstracts to fill the programme. We hope to be offer a hybrid conference next year - possibly slightly earlier than our usual late autumn date. Please look out for the Call for Papers.

8.0 COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

8.1 Officers

Chair

Rebecca Quinton has come to the end of her term. Lisa Mason was nominated by Rebecca Quinton and seconded by Beatrice Behlen.

Secretary

Ciara Phipps has come to the end of her term. Ruth Battersby-Tooke was nominated by Rebecca Quinton and seconded by Lisa Mason.

Treasurer

Paula Martin has come to the end of her term. Ciara Phipps was nominated by Paula Martin and seconded by Georgina Ripley.

Membership Secretary

Lisa Mason has come to the end of her term. Iona Farrell was nominated by Ciara Phipps and seconded by Rebecca Quinton.

Conference Organiser

Vanessa Jones has come to the end of her term. Emily Taylor was nominated by Lisa Mason and seconded by Paula Martin.

Newsletter Editor

This role was vacant. Uthra Rajgopal was co-opted by the Committee during 2021. Formally nominated by Ciara Phipps and seconded by Sue Weber.

Web Editor

Beatrice Behlen is due to come to the end of her term in 2022. Danielle Sprecher was nominated by Beatrice Behlen to shadow for a few months before taking on the Web Officer role next year and seconded by Ruth Battersby.

Social Media Officer

A new role to run the social media platforms, separate from the Web Officer role. Susanna Cordner was nominated by Beatrice Behlen and seconded by Rebecca Quinton.

8.2 Regional Representatives

- Northern** – Vanessa Jones was nominated by Ciara Phipps and seconded by Lisa Mason
- Scotland** – Kirsty Hassard was nominated by Katy Smith and seconded by Georgina Ripley.
- East** – **VACANT**
- Wales and West** – **VACANT**
- Central** – **VACANT**
- Conservation** – Katy Smith was nominated by Ciara Phipps and seconded by Lisa Mason.

9.0 AOB