

Treasurer's Report 2024-5

Good news – after several years of making a loss the Society made a profit of £2,663 for the year ending 30 April 2025.

On the income side, the subscription had been increased by £2 but the membership also increased by 19 which resulted in an increase of £2,428 to £18,056 in total subscriptions. There was also a 135% increase in visitors' income to £678. It is hoped that most of these visitors will become members in the coming year. Due to higher interest rates, the income from the savings account and the National Savings Bond also increased. The surpluses made by the visits to Chipping Campden and London were nearly 3 times more than those of the previous year. Similarly, the Study Days raised £270 more, an increase of 28%. Many thanks to those of you who contributed £337 towards the cost of the coffee for lectures and also for the Study Days which is included in their income. Due to the increased number of members signing Gift Aid forms, we received £22 more for the Gift Aid Administration Fee. As a result of the Church Recording being completed we were awarded a grant of £50.

With regard to expenditure, another factor which contributed to the profit was a £425 decrease in the cost of the lecturers although the figure of £6,180 includes £50 each lecture for a projectionist. The hire of the Town Hall for lectures was also slightly less than the previous year. As the committee opted for filter coffee, the catering costs for the coffee and the lecturers' lunches were slightly higher at £3,298 but this was offset by the coffee donations. Administrative costs were two thirds lower at £313 due to a stock of stationery and stamps being bought in 2023-4. The £5,478 paid to The Arts Society, which covers TAS House expenses and the quarterly magazine sent to members, was actually £500 less than the previous year. The cost of the New Members' Lunch was kept down too but members of the Committee do provide some of the food. The Newsletter cost slightly more than last year and Lloyds Bank has started making charges to all Clubs and Societies bringing an end to free banking. The Church Recorders' project of St. James's Church, West Littleton, was concluded and the costs of printing and binding of the finished book, fuel and expenses totalled £790. Many thanks to Barbara Mitchard for her diligent work on this project. One copy of the book was given to St. James's, West Littleton, one to the Bristol Archives and we retained the third. Finally, in connection with Community Arts, donations during the year amounted to £400 to The Koestler Trust who run art projects for prisoners and £1,000 to Mangotsfield School for a graffiti/art project for disadvantaged students in years 7 and 8.

At the end of the year the Balance Sheet assets totalled £18,433 as opposed to £15,680 at 30 April 2024. Our thanks are due to Neil Davies for auditing the accounts and for very kindly agreeing to examine them again next year.