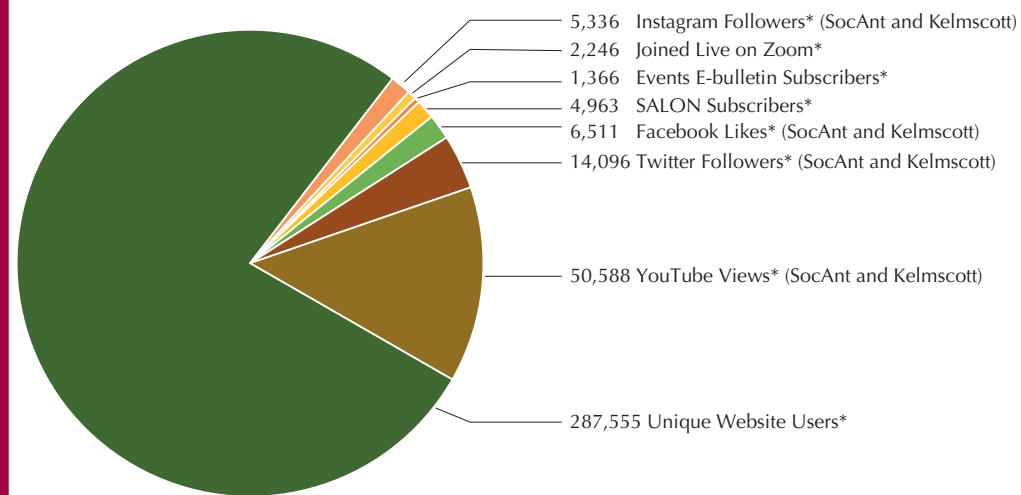


2021/22 IMPACT REPORT

An asterisk (*) is used to indicate an approximate figure; this document does not reflect audited data.

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

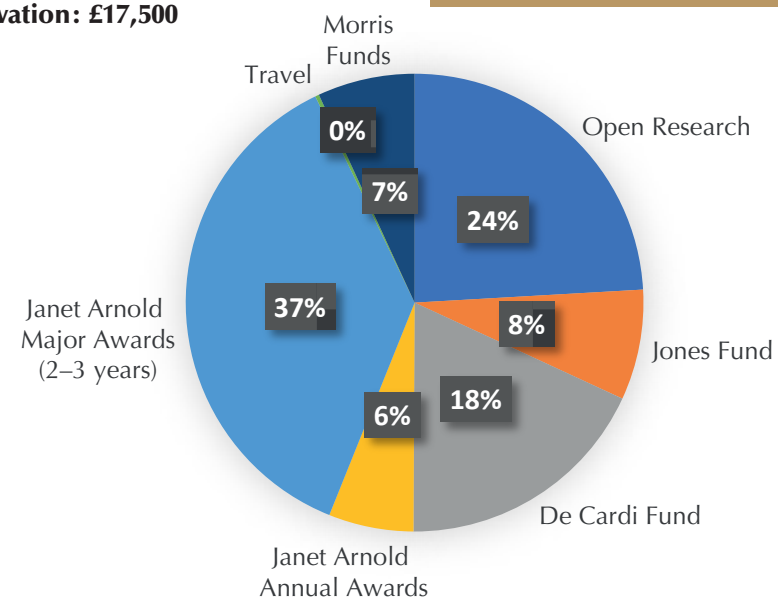
372,661*



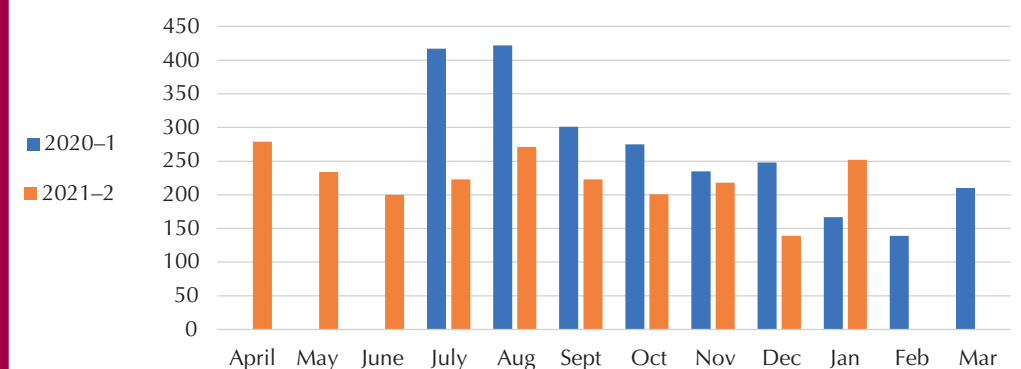
GRANT PROGRAMMES

£254,675

Research/Travel total: £237,175
Conservation: £17,500



LIBRARY CATALOGUE SEARCHES



WITH OUR THANKS

KELMSCOTT & MORRIS: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Kelmscott Manor reopened to the public on 1 April 2022 after a £6 million conservation and refurbishment project supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Fellows, Funders and Supporters. We have carried out vital structural repairs to the seventeenth-century manor house and its historic farm outbuildings, a new learning and activity studio has been built on the footprint of a pre-existing byre; visitor facilities have been upgraded and improved including new exhibition and research spaces created from rooms previously not open to the public; and significant furniture and artworks conserved. Our revitalised Kelmscott will explore and share the history of the estate and house through the core disciplines of the Society and through the eyes of William Morris as an Antiquary and Fellow of our Society. We are enormously grateful to everyone who has helped us secure William Morris's 'heaven on earth' for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.



New activities are being planned by our dedicated Learning and Outreach Officer: Dr Hannah Britton

ADOPT A MANUSCRIPT

Our gratitude and thanks to the following adoptees who have helped us conserve and digitise some of our Manuscripts collection: Tim Madge, Jonathan Parkhouse, FSA, Tim Powys-Lybbe, Richard Rastall, FSA, Judith Ridley, Freya Rojo, Curtis Runnels, FSA, Dominic Selwood, FSA, Bill Shannon, FSA, Peter Varlow and David Wickham, FSA



Digitised physician's commonplace book from the 17th century



Digitised Book of Hours from 15th century



Digitisation of the Society's 15th-century Roll Chronicle is underway

DIGITISING THE ROLL CHRONICLE

We are extremely grateful to the following Fellows for helping us to digitise the Roll Chronicle and make it accessible: Richard Andrews, FSA, Martin Biddle, CBE FBA FSA, Mavis Bimson, FSA, John Bowman, FSA, Mark Brisbane, FSA, Revd Roger Brown, FSA, Helen Carron, FSA, John Cherry, FSA, John Considine, FSA, Anne Crawford, FSA, Andrea Tanner Duncan, FSA, Margaret Ford, FSA, Jill Franklin, FSA, Elaine Morris, FSA, Susan La Niece, FSA, Ashley Null, FSA, Peter Purton, FSA, Sir Paul Ruddock, KB FSA, Nicholas Sandon, FSA, Pamela-Jane Shaw, FSA, David Sherlock, FSA, John Titterton, FSA, Charles Trollope, FSA, Alison Walker, FSA, David Whickham, FSA, Rowan Whimster, MBE FSA, Philip Whitbourn, OBE FSA and William Zajac, FSA.

The Society of Antiquaries of London is a registered charity (207237)
Tel: 020 7479 7080 | Email: admin@sal.org.uk | Web: www.sal.org.uk
Follow us on Twitter (@SocAntiquaries), or like us on Facebook



ANNUAL REVIEW

2021/22

THE YEAR IN FOCUS

The Society of Antiquaries of London (founded in 1707) is an independent learned society whose main purpose is the 'encouragement, advancement and furtherance of the study and knowledge of the antiquities and history of this and other countries' (Royal Charter, 1751). With the support of more than 3,000 Fellows distinguished in various heritage disciplines, we pursue conservation, research and dissemination of knowledge of the material past through our Library and Museum collections at Burlington House (London) and Kelmscott Manor (Oxfordshire) as well as our grants, lectures and seminars and publications.

FROM THE PRESIDENT, MARTIN MILLETT:

Much has happened since my predecessor wrote his column in last year's report. The Society has weathered the vicissitudes of the COVID-19 pandemic, and having invested in the technology for successfully holding hybrid lectures and committee meetings, we have become used to having a small group in the meeting room or around the committee table with others join on-line. Whilst by no means ideal, this has enabled us to continue our work and to hear some excellent lectures. At the same time, there has been a bonus in that some—both speakers and audience—have been able to join in from far afield. As we gradually move, we hope, to a post-pandemic world, it will be important for us to learn from this experience and use it to reach much wider audiences. It should be noted how our staff have worked tirelessly and creatively to facilitate the changes brought about by the necessity of the pandemic.

Whilst coping with the pressures of the day-to-day running of the Society, the staff have also made great progress with key long-term projects. Most notable is the completion of the first stage of the NHLF-funded project *Kelmscott and Morris: Past, Present and Future* which saw the reopening of Kelmscott Manor at the beginning of April following a Private View with HRH the Duke of Gloucester on 24 March. Alongside this, there has been much more. In public-facing activity we have hosted an innovative on-line exhibition *Henry VIII: Defender of the Faith?* which has attracted a large audience. Behind the scenes, the library and collections team launched 'Collections Online' which provides integrated access to our library, archives and collections catalogues. As work progresses on the enhancement of these resources they will be much more easily searched and accessed. This is a major step forward in the Society's support for research. Equally fundamental has been progress on the digitization of our archives—including our early Minute Books—as well as the progressive barcoding of the library books.

Meanwhile, the long and tedious process of trying to resolve our dispute with our landlord—now known as the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities—has continued. Council hope that we can arrive at a satisfactory settlement that will allow us to remain at Burlington House, and our General Secretary has been working jointly with the other Courtyard Societies in the 'Save Burlington House Campaign' to achieve this. There are now some signs that a solution may be found thanks to the enormous support we have had from across the political spectrum.

As we struggle to resolve this long-running problem, it is important that we also continue to think about other aspects of our future as a Society. In pursuit of this, we have established a new Fellowship Committee that has started to discuss key issues about our future. This will feed into a strategic review that will be undertaken later this year.

Finally, we note with sadness that this year John Lewis our General Secretary has decided to retire, and will be leaving the Society just after the Anniversary Meeting. I will have much more to say in tribute to him then. His decision led to a search for a new General Secretary, we have been pleased to appoint Andrew MacDonald who takes up the post on John's retirement.





LIBRARY & COLLECTIONS

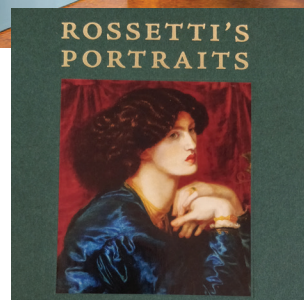
Despite the challenging circumstances this has been another rewarding year full of new initiatives aimed at delivering services and opening up our collections to users. In April we launched our new online collections portal which makes a growing number of manuscripts, archives, and museum objects visible and searchable for the first time. Digitization of the Society's minutes of Ordinary Meetings began in July. The first five volumes (1718–49) are now available online, with entries and images for individual meetings by date. We launched 'Adopt a Manuscript' in September. This new scheme is already supporting conservation and digitisation of some of our unique treasures. We also began barcoding more than 60,000 library books: a project that will greatly improve the visibility and discoverability of our books.

We have also delivered several projects aimed at showcasing some of the rare and unique treasures in the Society's collections. Earlier this year we launched our online 'Stories' platform allowing us to open our doors digitally to the wider public. In June we launched our first online exhibition. **Henry VIII: Defender of the Faith?** was co-curated by Professor Maurice Howard, FSA and Dr John Cooper, FSA. The Collections team have recorded five videos (available on our YouTube channel) promoting the Society and the riches of its fantastic collections.



This first 100 years of the Society's Minute Books are being digitised

More than 60,000 barcodes for our monographs were printed with the books' authors, titles, and shelfmarks and are painstakingly being applied inside each volume



Loans from the Society were centrepieces of the exhibition *Rossetti's Portraits* Holburne Museum, Bath

CONSERVATION

As part of our programme of clock conservation the start of the year saw the Library's nineteenth-century Allam & Caithness table clock head off to the conservation studios for a full service. The spring-driven timepiece returned in July, ready to greet our readers as Burlington House re-opened.

Remedial conservation work to four of the Society's eighteenth-century portraits was completed in December, with the artworks receiving a full surface clean and consolidation, rebate refit, and the introduction of a conservation-grade backing to buffer against environmental fluctuations. This work was kindly funded by the Institute of Conservation.

Work on our eight historic wax-relief portraits got underway at the start of 2022. The newly conserved portraits of prominent antiquarians—including Sir John Evans, president of the Society from 1885–92—will be re-displayed for all to see on their return. Thanks to AIM, Art Scholars, the Essay Club, and to our Fellows for making this work possible.

ENABLING ACTIVITIES

We have also actively enabled research. October saw the official start of **Beyond Notability**, led by Professor Katherine Harloe, with Dr Amara Thornton, FSA as one of its co-investigators. This project is using SAL and RAI archives to build a more complete picture of women's contributions to archaeology, history, and heritage in Britain between the 1870s and the 1950s.

We collaborated again with Kingston University by contributing to the MA in Museum and Gallery Studies, students of which are using SAL as a case study. In November we hosted a group of twelve international students from the Sotheby's Institute of Art as part of their London Semester Programme. The programme aims to develop students' visual and critical abilities, while *in-situ* art interactions provide hands-on experience with how art is collected, curated, and displayed. The half day programme was such a success that we will be hosting another group of students in spring 2022.

Happily, 2021 saw the Society's loans programme recommence with **MSS136/2 Jousting cheque** travelling to Hampton Court Palace for their *Gold and Glory: Henry VIII and the French King* exhibition (20/05–05/09); **LDSAL 110 Chasse reliquary** displayed at the British Museum for *Thomas Becket: Murder and the Making of a Saint* (20/05–22/08); and **KM091 Blue Silk Dress** by Dante Gabriel Rossetti and **KM203 Water Willow** by Charles Fairfax Murray, hung at the Holburne Museum, Bath for the exhibition *Rossetti's Portraits* (24/09/21–09/01/22).

Our temporary loans programme enabled 199,818 visitors to view objects from the Burlington House and Kelmscott Manor collections.

GRANTS

In 2021–2, the Society's grants programme was, again, disrupted by COVID-19 regulations and restrictions. Some projects funded in 2020–1 and which were unable to be completed were rolled forward, but we also maintained the disbursement of new grants.

During the last year, we awarded £254,675 in total across all our grant programmes. About £90,000 of this went to Janet Arnold Major Awards for projects over three years, with a special interest in research on postcolonial and decolonisation projects.

Once again, we supported research across a range of disciplines, periods and geographical areas from 'Archival Evidence of Barbudan Experimental Agriculture' (Dr Edith Gonzales), and 'Shoes and the Georgian Man' (Prof Matthew McCormack), to 'Aerial Architecture in Oman' (Dr Bob Bewley) and the conservation of stained glass windows, wall monuments and brasses (William and Jane Morris Church Conservation Grants).



A view of Ras Gadani, from the project 'The shell middens of Las Bela coast' by Paolo Biagi



Janet Arnold Major Award 'A History of Colonialism, Dress and Luxury, 1850–2020' by Mina Rocas



Janet Arnold Award 'Ellen Terry: Dressing the Part' by Veronica Isaac

DISSEMINATION

PUBLIC OUTREACH & EVENTS

The Society's events programme over the last year has been busy as usual. In March we held our first online conference **Seals and the People of Britain** which was a huge success having over 500 people joining us across two days. We also held the first two events in our **Intertwined Histories** series: 'The Legacies of Colonialism and Empire' in June, and the 'Intertwined Histories Panel Session: UK and Ireland' in October. Both events included very engaging speakers and attendees, and the online videos have been viewed over 700 times since. We look forward to the third instalment in the series taking place later this year.

Our first online exhibition **Henry VIII: Defender of the Faith?** was accompanied by public lectures by Director Dr John Cooper, FSA, Prof Maurice Howard, VPSA, and Prof Susan Doran. An additional talk on the BBC series *The Boleyns* was enjoyed by an audience of 100+ attendees. Feedback has been extremely positive, and the exhibition has received over 3,000 visitors, with audience members joining us from Australia, New Zealand, China, and the USA.

In October we opened our doors to the public again, hosting the first in our series of hybrid events. It was wonderful to see people back in Burlington House, but also to have them continue to engage online with our great speakers. Among the first in-person events of our new programme was the conference **Experiencing Politics and Political Culture in Britain and Ireland, c. 1300–1815** which enabled delegates to meet face-to-face for the first time since March 2020. The conference

was filled with excellent talks from speakers in their early careers and we had a display relating to the online exhibition in the Library.

We participated in the annual 'Open House week' with the other societies in Burlington House by showing lesser-seen parts of our wonderful buildings on social media. The posts of our beautiful building showcased to the public just what makes our home so special.

PUBLICATIONS

The COVID-19 pandemic, along with new policies brought in by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), have underlined the need to make academic work available online and open access. This year we have been advancing our open publishing agenda. Nearly all our back catalogue of Research Reports is now available free of charge via OAPEN and the Archaeology Data Service. In 2022 we will be re-launching *Archaeologia, or, Miscellaneous Tracts Relating to Antiquity*. *Archaeologia* was published between 1770 and 1991 and is now being revived as an occasional, wholly digital open access imprint. In addition, two of the research articles published in vol 101 of *The Antiquaries Journal* are open access.

As well as online dissemination we continue to publish traditional media, and are even planning to diversify our print publications. Besides *The Antiquaries Journal*, several new Research Reports are in preparation, and our monograph *The Staffordshire Hoard*—now in its third print run—recently won the Best Book 2021 award of The International Society for the Study of Early Medieval England (ISSEME, formerly ISAS).

KELMSCOTT MANOR



It has been a challenging year. The continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated Government restrictions, coupled with delays from suppliers as well as the construction work, meant that it was not possible to open to the public during 2021. However, the contractors have been excellent in progressing the works, and the additional time afforded by ongoing issues has allowed us to carefully consider all our decisions about the collection and the layout of the rooms. When visitors do return, they will be able to better appreciate the objects and rooms in context. Many of the decorative changes of the 1960s have been reversed and the rooms will now look more homely, just as they were when the Morris family lived at the Manor.



Repair work underway in the Marigold Room

John Maddison and General Secretary John Lewis on site

Martin Levy, FSA and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber inspect the White Room



Block printing Blue Fruit wallpaper

The collections return

The new display of Old Hall

Amongst the greatest changes has been to reinstate the green colour to the Green Room and other spaces on the ground floor. We have also reinstalled the wallpaper of Jane's and William's bedrooms as they were shown in photographs taken by Fredrick Evans in 1896. The new wallpaper was hand block printed by Sanderson from the original blocks. Annabel Westman, FSA, has led the reupholstery project of the bed in Jane Morris's room; it is now reupholstered in 'Small Stem' fabric, designed in 1829.

Staff are now busily preparing the Manor for its reopening to the public on 1 April 2022. We are all looking forward to welcoming visitors back to the Manor.