Jewellery and Silver Society of Oxford (JASSO)

A CIO registered with the Charity Commission with Charity Number 1184544

Trustee's Annual Report

Period covered: from 2 January 2025 to 1 January 2026

Registered Address:

JASSO
Old Stable block
Twelve Acre Drive
Radley
Abingdon
OX14 2HP

Trustees:

Ros Riddell	(Chair)
Ben Pyper	(Workshop Manager)
Howard Steer	
Fred Wickens	(Treasurer)
Judi Rowlands	(Membership Secretary)

Structure and Governance:

JASSO runs according to the Constitution agreed in 2019.

JASSO has some 160 members. Note it is necessary to be a member to use the workshop, however, anyone over the age of 18 can apply to become a member.

The Trustees are elected from the membership by the members.

Running of JASSO is delegated to a Committee, comprising several of the Trustees listed above, plus others elected from the membership by the members. Typically, the Committee meets once a month – minutes of the meetings are posted in the workshop. Election of Trustees and to the Committee normally takes place at the AGM.

JASSO does not have any employees. Reasonable out-of-pocket expenses are payable for costs associated with running the Society. Tutors are paid: in the case of regular sessions directly by the members attending; and for Masterclasses by JASSO, covered by the fee charged to the members signed up for that Masterclass.

Object

The object of the Society is to advance the education of the public in their knowledge and appreciation of the fine arts and, in particular, those arts

connected with the design and the manufacture of jewellery and other articles made from silver, gold and other precious metals and stones and related materials.

Outline of Activities

The main activity of the Society is to run a workshop providing access to: specialist tools for jewellery making and silversmithing; a library of specialist books. A full programme of regular sessions and short courses (aka Masterclasses) is held in the workshop. For most of the sessions a tutor is present, other “open” sessions for more experienced members do not have a tutor. Masterclasses covering more specialist topics, are taught by experts, typically over one or two days. The programme is open to members of the Society.

The Society encourages outreach: a biennial JASSO exhibition open to the public; a significant number of members participate in the annual Oxfordshire Artweeks; and the JASSO web-site (jasso.org.uk) advertising the Society and its activities.

From time-to-time JASSO receives various tools, generally from members. These are usually received as donations, but occasionally we are asked to sell them with JASSO keeping a commission. Some tools are retained for the workshop, most are offered for sale to members.

Various items of scrap metal are collected, including filings, small off-cuts and unprocessed stock. Some of known purity will be sold to members, but most is sold to a precious-metal recuperation company. To reduce processing charges scrap from members is often also included, with the proceeds being divided pro-rata according to weight.

Funding

Most of the funding to run the Society comes from the members: the purchase of workshop tickets (1 ticket is required for each half-day session a member uses the workshop); the annual membership subscription; sale of donated tools to members; the small average surplus from running Masterclasses. There is also some income from the sale of scrap metal and interest from our financial reserves.

Uncertainties

The JASSO workshop is located in a unit that we rent. We do not have a long-term lease and our tenancy could be ended at fairly short notice. A move to a new location would incur substantial expense.

The rent for the workshop was fixed several years ago and is due for review. Since this is already 50% of our gross expenditure a significant increase would have a serious effect on our finances.

The level of use of the workshop varies significantly from year-to-year – leading to a corresponding variation in the sale of ticket-books, our major source of income.

Summary of Activities and Achievements within the Year

The workshop was open throughout the year although there was an ~25% decrease in the usage, compared to 2024. We ran a full set of classes throughout the year, covering jewellery, silversmithing and enamelling. Unfortunately, the open sessions on Wednesday evenings stopped due to other commitments of the people involved. The silversmithing sessions on alternate Wednesdays continue to be very popular. We are still looking for a second silversmithing tutor to take over the free alternate Wednesday slots. The enamelling sessions on Thursday morning have also been popular, but in the latter part of the year the tutor ceased to be available. The experienced enamellers continued to come for open enamelling sessions in the same slot. All of the other sessions continue.

Seven Masterclasses were run during the year, two of 1 day and five of 2 days. Most were attended by 8 people, plus the tutor. Topics covered were: Mould making for casting; Nature in design; Claw setting; Baguette setting (twice); Enamelling a copper Bowl; and making a silver locket. This important aspect of our programme, which widens the knowledge of members to higher levels in some of the more specialist skills, remains popular thanks to the continued variety of courses.

In May we held the AGM. Two of the Trustees stood down, as required by the constitution. However, they both were proposed and voted back, so the number of Trustees remains unchanged. For most of the reporting period there were four Trustees and four extra members on the Committee, however, one of the extra members stood down in mid-December.

In November we sold a lot of scrap metal, raising a larger sum than expected, thanks to the recent increases in precious metal prices.

In December we ran a tool sale for members, raising a significant sum for JASSO and providing members with tools at a low price.

Membership decreased a little throughout the year – with 165 members at the end of 2025 (cf 170 at the end of 2024). Overall turnover remains reasonably low and we are getting a small but steady stream of new members, with 16 new members in 2025.

Benefits Delivered

The members derived substantial immediate benefits (particularly the facilities of the workshop, the teaching and the mutual support). The fact that quite a few members travel substantial distances to use the workshop is witness to this. By applying for membership, it has also enabled interested people to become active jewellers or silversmiths.

In a wider context the facilities at JASSO provides a valuable resource helping to support and preserve the skills used in making jewellery and silverware.

JASSO did not participate in any exhibitions during this year, but several members did exhibit as part of the Oxfordshire Artweeks.

Finance

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and we confirm that they have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (second edition – October 2019).

The decrease in our income from the lower activity in the workshop was more than offset by the unexpectedly large income from the sale of scrap metal and tools. Our rent effectively increased by 20% as it is now liable to VAT – although the underlying rent remained unchanged. Electricity costs are similar to the previous year (we have a fixed price contract) although there was a small drop thanks to warmer weather – the workshop uses electric heaters.

We believe that it is prudent to hold £20K-£25K in reserve for a possible move, plus £10k-£12K as a working reserve to cover other uncertainties.

Overall, the finances remain sound and we have adequate reserves to cover the uncertainties.

The funds are held with Barclays Bank UK plc

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustee's report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Name: Fred Wickens

Position: Treasurer

Date: 28 March 2026

Jewellery and Silver Society of Oxford

Registered Charity No. 1184544

Receipts and Payments Account 12 months to 1st Jan 2026

	12 months to 01/01/26 £	Restated 12 months to 01/01/25 £
Income		
Subscriptions and Donations	3,110	3,044
Gift Aid Received	565	486
Workshop Fees	10,031	13,319
Sale of surplus metals, tools and other Income	4,734	1,454
Course income	5,324	4,969
Exhibition income	-	2,952
Bank Interest	410	453
Total income	24,173	26,677
Less Expenses		
Workshop Rent	11,685	9,875
Electricity	1,565	1,835
Insurance	1,023	1,070
Plant and Equipment	2,118	706
Workshop Expenses	846	1,545
Course costs	3,884	3,706
Exhibition costs	0	2,692
Misc. sales costs	1,549	1,247
Admin Expenses	607	1,089
	(23,277)	(23,765)
Surplus for the Year	**896**	**2,912**
Funds brought forward	33,696	30,785
Funds carried forward	34,592	33,696

Jewellery and Silver Society of Oxford

Balance Sheet as at 1st Jan 2026

	01/01/26	01/01/25
Assets		
Balance at Bank - Current a/c	3,186	1,420
- Deposit a/c	31,964	33,054
Total assets	35,150	34,474
Less total liabilities	558	778
	34,592	33,696
Represented by:		
General Fund	34,592	33,696

Signed:

Fred Wickens, Treasurer, Jewellery and Silver Society of Oxford

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Jewellery and Silver Society of Oxford

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Jewellery and Silver Society of Oxford (the Society) for the year ended 1 January 2026.

I report in respect of my examination of the Society's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity Trustees of the Society you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Society as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Date:

Name: Susan Read, BSc, FMAAT

Address: 30 St Amand Drive, Abingdon