

Oxford Asian Textile Group AGM held on

Saturday 17th February 2024 in the Learning Studio at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

1. The minutes of the 2023 AGM were tabled and accepted. Apologies for absence had been received from Felicitas von Droste and five members.

The constitution was reviewed, accepted unamended and signed by the Chair and the Treasurer.

2. Chair

Helen welcomed everyone and reviewed the past year's activities as follows:

- Eight lectures on zoom – these allow participation by overseas speakers and members
- Three Oxford-based events
- Two museum visits (one jointly with ORTS)
- Three editions of the journal and comprehensive blogs and social media.

She thanked the committee for all its hard work in making all the above possible. She also expressed special thanks to David and Sue Richardson, both retiring, for their unstinting work on running the membership, the blog and social media. Everyone present endorsed Helen's appreciation.

A presentation was made to David and Sue.

3. Membership

From David:
"1 Memberships

As of today, we officially have 210 memberships, 15 of which are joint, making 225 members in total. However, this includes 8 single members who have still not responded to the four emails that I sent them regarding membership renewal. As it is extremely unlikely that they are likely to pay before the AGM we can safely assume that we have 217 committed members:

•	Honorary	3
•	Temporary honorary	2
•	Joint	30
•	Single	182

2. New Members

During the past year we have gained 39 new members but have had 11 resignations. In addition, 8 members have still not paid and will be removed from the membership list on 17 February.

Of the 39 new members: 15 are from the USA, 3 from Australia, 2 from India and 16 from the UK (only 2 of whom are from Oxford/Oxfordshire).

3. 2023/24 Subscriptions

On 24 September 2023 I emailed all members to remind them that subscriptions for 2023/24 were due on 1 October. Sheila sent PayPal invoices to all of our overseas members on 30 September.

On 4 November 2023 I sent out my first reminder to 50 members who had still not paid their subscriptions.

On 9 December 2023 I sent out my second reminder to 31 members who had still not paid their subscriptions.

On 12 January 2024 I sent out my third reminder to 16 members who had still not paid their subscriptions. Of these only 8 have responded with a payment.”

Helen thanked David for his report.

4. Treasurer From Sheila

OATG Accounts for year ended 30.9.23

(Figures in brackets are from last year, for comparison)

Income: £4423.00 subscriptions (£3556.17)
£127.20 donations (£128.23)

Total income: £4550.40 (£3684.40)

Expenses:

£3943.14 journal printing and postage (£3403.73)
£866 speakers' fees (£380) plus £21 bank charge for processing 2 payments to foreign bank accounts
£93.60 Website costs (£133.99)
£153.51 Zoom licence (£149.37)
£20.55 Refreshments
£96.00 PayPal fee on subscriptions

Total: £5193.80 (£4066.89)

Balance at Lloyds bank on 20.9.23: £1127.99 (16.9.22 £3011.68)

Balance in PayPal account on 30.9.23: £3674.18 (£2882.42)

Helen thanked Sheila for her report.

5. Programme Co-ordinators

The following had been received from Felicitas:

OATG EVENTS REPORT 2023

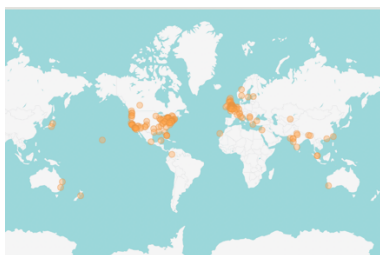
In 2023 we had a total of 11 events which could be booked via Eventbrite. Two of these events were in person events and took place at the Pauling Centre. In addition there were two museum exhibition visits organised.

The events with the most tickets booked were *The Fabric of Life - Textiles from the Himalayas* and *Connecting Threads: Japanese Textiles in the British Royal collection*.

DEC 7		Pull of the Thread: Textile Travels of a Generation a talk by S. Fruman Online event Thursday, 7 December 2023 at 18:30 GMT	73 / 100	£0.00	● Event ended	⋮
NOV 11		Unravelling Tai Textiles from Laos a talk by Patricia Cheesman Online event Saturday, 11 November 2023 at 11:15 GMT	70 / 100	£0.00	● Event ended	⋮
OCT 12		Some observations on historic Javanese batik - A talk by Jonathan Hope. The Pauling Centre Thursday, 12 October 2023 at 18:30 BST	15 / 25	£0.00	● Event ended	⋮
SEP 7		Inventing the Asian Carpet - Talk by Dr Armstrong Online event Thursday, 7 September 2023 at 18:30 BST	77 / 130	£0.00	● Sales Ended	⋮
JUL 13		A Fashionable Century: Textile Artistry and Commerce in the Late Qing The Pauling Centre Thursday, 13 July 2023 at 18:30 BST	29 / 65	£0.00	● Event ended	⋮
JUN 1		Historical and Contemporary Naga Textiles on Show at the Humboldt Forum Online event Thursday, 1 June 2023 at 18:30 BST	78 / 130	£0.00	● Event ended	⋮
APR 27		Frontiersmen of the Crossroad: The Fusion Style of Chinese Shan Dressing Online event Thursday, 27 April 2023 at 16:30 BST	73 / 130	£0.00	● Event ended	⋮
MAR 23		The Fabric of Life - Textiles from the Ladakh Himalayas Online event Thursday, 23 March 2023 at 16:30 GMT	102 / 130	£0.00	● Sales Ended	⋮
FEB 23		Honouring the Buddha: Trade textiles and Burmese wall paintings Online event Thursday, 23 February 2023 at 18:30 UTC	66 / 130	£0.00	● Sales Ended	⋮
JAN 26		Connecting Threads: Japanese Textiles in the British Royal Collection Online event Thursday, 26 January 2023 at 18:30 GMT	104 / 130	£0.00	● Sales Ended	⋮
JAN 14		OATG's 2023 Annual General Meeting followed by a Show & Tell Ashmolean Museum Saturday, 14 January 2023 at 14:00 GMT	3 / 130	£0.00	● Event ended	⋮

In total we had 610 tickets sold. The actual attendance varies from this, however we have not recorded how much exactly. On average the talks had about 45-50 people joining.

The geographical distribution of where people are based who book events tickets follows the distribution of membership as shown in the image below.



In numbers Oxford (46 orders) and its surroundings are clearly the place where most of our event orders come from. However, it is interesting to see that we have New York, Los Angeles and Houston (each 10) ranging before London (9) in terms of booked tickets.

> Orders 610

Town/City	# Attendees	Orders
Oxford	51	46
Reading	25	25
Kidlington	17	14
Nottingham	16	15
Toronto	12	12
New York	10	10
Los Angeles	10	10
Houston	10	10
London	9	9
Brooklyn	9	9
Arlington	9	9
Abingdon	9	9
Birmingham	8	8
Graville	7	6
Washington	6	6
Rugby	6	6
Palo Alto	6	6
Liverpool	6	6
Eugene	6	6
Croydon	6	6
City of Westminster	6	4
Chinnor	6	6
Andover	6	6
Wallingford	5	5
Roosford	5	5
Portland	5	5

Helen thanked Felicitas for her report.

6. Editor

Gavin thanked all those who had contributed articles to the journal. He encouraged those who might be considering sending in an article not to be bashful about the level of content. Feedback was always welcome. He announced that the Show and Tell session following the AGM would not be featured in the current issue as it was full but would be in an edition later in the year.

Referring to the Show and Tell session, Gavin asked anyone showing items to announce their names as Fiona Kerlogue would be taking notes and David Richardson would be taking photographs.

Helen thanked Gavin for the huge amount of work that he devoted to OATG and the Journal.

7. Social Media and Blog

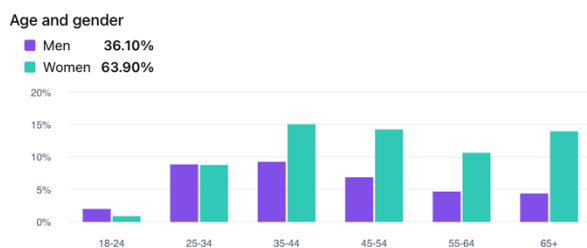
From Sue, “This is my final report as I’m now standing down after running the Social Media for 6 years.

Facebook

When I took over in early 2018 we had 179 followers. I’m delighted to say that number has now risen to 1873 followers, from across the world – which is pretty amazing!

Roughly 36% of our followers are men and 64% women, but actually spread across quite a wide age range.

Audience
1,873 Facebook followers



Blog

Looking back to when I took over the blog I was surprised to read how often I posted. However, that’s because I was just posting about a single event. I decided to change the style so that there are now fewer posts, but each one is much longer. Having started with fewer than 100 subscribers we now have 373, mainly from the USA and UK, but also quite a few from Canada

and India. The blog has been a good way of introducing people to the OATG, however it's sad that more members don't subscribe to it.

The total number of visits to the blog site since the last AGM is 9610, which is an average of 800 per month."



Helen thanked Sue for her report.

8. Website Manager

Marwa opened by asking more members to submit profiles and then gave the following report: With much thanks to Felicitas von Droste for her continued support with managing the website – updating the Events Programme page and adding past online events to the Members' Resources page.

A 'Show and Tell' gallery has been added to the Members' Resources page to showcase the various textiles presented at the 2023 AGM Show and Tell, for those who were unable to attend in person.

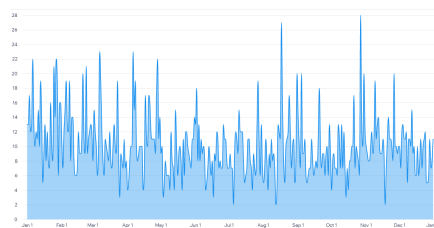
Members Profiles section (on the Members' Resources page): Profiles are still invited from the committee and wider membership and would be greatly welcomed. Those who would like to be included should email a short 'bio' and a photo to marwa.hashim@yahoo.co.uk.

Website statistics for 2023

(data for period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023)

WEBSITE VISITS

There were 3,696 site sessions (an increase of 10% when compared with the same period in the previous year, i.e. 1 Jan-31 Dec 2022) by 1,219 unique visitors (down by 9% compared with 2022). Over the last couple of years, we've been seeing an increasingly smaller group of more regular users (who are making more frequent use of the website) compared with previous years (where we had more unique users, but they weren't returning to visit the website again or as often).



There were particularly notable spikes in site sessions on 17 Aug and 27 October. While the first date doesn't appear to correlate with anything directly (the spike may be related to events or other OATG activity that may have occurred at this time, e.g. Facebook/Instagram and blog postings that month, or talks in July/Sept), the second of the two dates appears to correlate with the date of a posting to the blog.

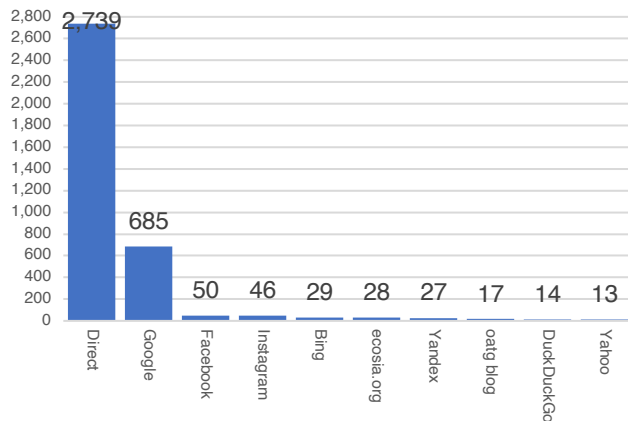


The other notable increases to site sessions (over 20/day), which we can see in the graph, occurred on 7 dates in Jan-April around which there was an occurrence of various OATG activities (blog postings, Facebook/Instagram posts, events and the Spring edition of the OATG Journal).

The average session duration was 8 minutes and 15 seconds. This is up by 4.2% from the previous year – itself an increase on the year before, so users appear to be increasingly spending a little more time on the website each time they visit.

TRAFFIC SOURCES

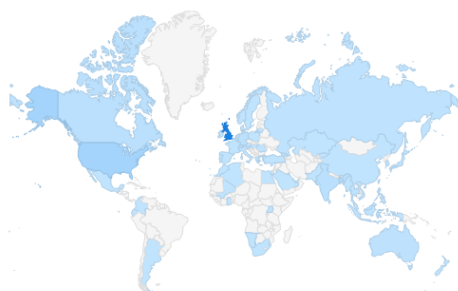
There were 33 different sources for traffic to the website in 2023. Most visitors arrived to the website directly via the URL.



Visitors who arrive at the website directly via the URL tend to spend more time on the website than users who arrive via another source (e.g., they spend on avg. around 2.3 minutes more a session than visitors who arrive via Google search).

SESSIONS BY LOCATION

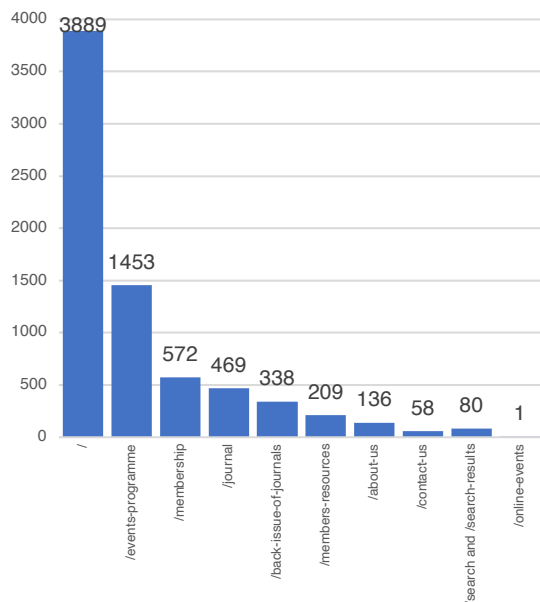
Visits to the website during 2023 were from 66 different countries across the world (as the previous year). 69% of visits to the website were from the UK.



PAGE VIEWS

94% of visitors were new to the website, while 6% were returning visitors (compared with 95% new and 5% returning in 2022 – a small increase which is consistent with the picture forming from the visit data, e.g. decreasing no of unique visitors, and from the traffic data).

The most commonly visited pages of the website remain the same as for the previous year, and at fairly similar proportions. The *home*, *events*, *membership*, *journal*, *journal back issues*, and *members resources* pages have seen an increase in the number of visits from the previous year.



Helen thanked Marwa for her work and her report

9. Election of Committee

Helen, once again, thanked David and Sue Richardson for all they had done for OATG and wished them well. She nominated Judith Kennard to the committee as membership secretary. This nomination was seconded by Gavin.

All committee members were supported by the AGM.

It was noted that Cecilia Lloyd wanted to stand down as secretary as soon as a replacement could be found.

Helen thanked the members of the Committee for all they did.

11. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Helen thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions. She asked Gavin to open the Show and Tell session.