



THE INSTITUTE OF CONSERVATION

**Ceramics and Glass Group
2025 AGM Committee's Report**

Friday 11th September 2025
Fenton House

Present

Ros Hodges, Miriam Orsini, Elizabeth Wells, Duncan McCall,

Apologies

Han (Rose) Zhou, Sian Pirnie

General Overview

Tour in the morning of Fenton House and their ceramics & glass collection.

Ros Hodges, Chair of ICON CGG, welcomes all attendees and expresses gratitude to the National Trust staff for opening exclusively for us and Rachel Conroy for coming in specifically to lead our tour.

Approval of last year's AGM minutes (available on the website):

Everyone approves.

CHAIRS REPORT

Events

Last year we held a very active and successful 40th Anniversary Meeting at the October Rooms in London. Our day of tours were well supported and finished off with a lecture on modern ceramic installations from Bouke De Vries. The conference day was a healthy mix of practical project-based lectures covering Ceramics and Glass. A fascinating ethical dilemma regarding the Olokun Pot which should serve as a guide on approaching difficult colonial era objects. A deep dive into scientific analysis techniques and how they can best support conservators. A study of sustainable storage solutions for vulnerable glass and an interesting analysis of identification methods of medieval and post-medieval west country pottery. This was followed by a lively and frank discussion on the future direction of our profession and how best we can support those entering it at the current time. We were able to broadcast the event live on line for those who could not attend in person. Our other meeting this year was a free and very interesting lunchtime webinar delivered by Alex Abbott from Dauphin Display which I hope many of our members found informative.

Committee changes

I was hopeful that following last year's AGM that we would have renewed support for an active and healthy Committee. As many of you know I was due to stand down last year but agreed to serve a 4th year as Chair. I appealed at the last AGM for a Vice Chair to shadow me and eventually take over during the year. Sadly, this has not happened.

We have also appealed this year for a replacement for our tenacious and always supportive Nigel Williams Prize Coordinator, Miriam Orsini who has steered the prize through many changes and has served in this role for 6 years. Miriam also appealed for a volunteer to shadow her in this round of the Prize, alas it was not to be. Despite publicly appealing we have not had any firm volunteers for this position either.

Han Zhou (Rose) has been our very dedicated and efficient Secretary throughout my time as Chair, and she is also needing to make time for other activities and will stand down today. We also urgently need an events co-ordinator. Andriani Maimaridou who has been helping in this role has

had to stand down to pursue other avenues. Nicky Sayre, our last Student Rep has returned to the USA, and we wish her great success in the next chapter of her career. We have received a nomination for a student representative - thank you Lotte.

As it stands at the moment your committee comprises: Treasurer, Duncan McCall, Publications Officer, Sian Pirnie, Social Media Rep Elizabeth Wells and Student Representative Lotte Mitchell. Our ability to deliver an active range of meetings is impaired without a full range of Committee roles being filled.

Prospects

The remaining Committee and ICON are very keen for us to continue to deliver on our core commitment of promoting and disseminating information about the conservation of ceramics, glass and related materials to conservation professionals. I feel very strongly that our part of the industry is in a state of uncertainty at the moment with budgets being hit hard and positions being cut across the board. It is more important now than ever to come together and provide networking support and guidance to the conservators who are joining our ranks.

We have a skeleton of a meeting in planning for next summer which will be based around Conservation in the Community, and we need volunteers to join the Committee in order to deliver this meeting. Tiago Oliveira and I are also planning to deliver a glass bonding and filling course in Scotland next April.

If we do not receive any offers to join the Committee today, next year's meeting will not go ahead, and the Ceramics and Glass Committee will go dormant until such time as somebody steps forward to take up the role of Chair. Those currently in role will remain until such time as they complete their terms and it will be down to ICON to decide the future of the Group. Please do not let that happen.

Thank you once again, to my Committee Team for all their hard work this year, and good luck with delivering next year's events in whatever form they come. Thank you to those members who support us through the year and especially thank you for being here today and celebrating another successful Nigel Williams Award.

Treasurer's Report:

This AGM takes place in the middle of the financial year, which runs from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

I can therefore report on the final figures for the previous financial year, 2024/25, and also on the budgeted figures for the current financial year as well as the up-to-date part-year figures.

In relation to the previous financial year, 2024/25, we ended the year with a surplus of £3,580. That figure was explained by a surplus of £3,579 made on a successful workshop held in 2024.

In relation to the current financial year, on the basis of assumptions made at the start of the year our budget for 2025/26 showed a small surplus of £1,120. The one event completed to date in the current financial year, our well-attended webinar on the display and mounting of ceramics and glass, was cost neutral. The actual figures for the year end in March 2026 are likely to differ slightly from those budgeted owing to changes to the details of some planned events, but nevertheless we are on target to break even or show a small surplus.

NWP Coordinator's Report:

The 2025 edition of the Nigel Williams Prize was another great success. We received a healthy number of submissions—four in the Main category and five in the Student category—from a wonderfully international group. The projects were complex, engaging, and impressively executed. As in recent years, the overall standard was exceptionally high.

This year's judging panel included Loretta Hogan, Beky Davies, and Pete David. As always, the judges provided valuable feedback on the process, which we'll use to continue refining both the judging methodology and selection criteria. Our aim remains to recognise a wide range of high-quality projects—regardless of their scale or budget—while ensuring the process is as fair and transparent as possible. We welcome feedback from past applicants or anyone with suggestions for improvement.

The financial outlook for the Prize is strong. We have sufficient funds to support several future editions, and there is scope to increase the value of the awards, particularly the Student Prize. We are also exploring the possibility of introducing a new category in the Main Prize and/or establishing a permanent Student Runner-Up category, in consultation with the Williams family.

We're pleased to report that the Nigel Williams Prize Trophy has now been officially linked to the Ceramics and Glass Group through the appropriate documentation. It is currently in the care of the V&A Wedgwood Collection (in storage).

However, despite our best efforts, we have not yet secured a permanent display location for the trophy. Together with Patrick and Emma, we've approached several institutions—including the British Museum, the Ashmolean, and West Dean—but the future remains uncertain. Ideally, we'd like the trophy to be housed in an accessible venue where it can be featured as part of future NWP celebrations.

If you know of a suitable institution or venue we could approach, please do get in touch.

We are currently seeking a new Coordinator for the Nigel Williams Prize. If you—or someone you know—might be interested, we'd love to hear from you. I'm more than happy to support the next person through the transition and assist with the organisation of the next edition.

Publication Officer's Report:

During this year's work, Sian has coordinated with ICON for the updating of our committee members page along with the uploading of new documents to our group members page;

Helped to draft event notices and coordinated with ICON regarding the advertising of our July webinar and our September AGM and Fenton House tour;

Helped with proofreading and editing documents in relation to both events;

Corresponded with ICON to ensure the advertising and reminders for our events reached our members in a timely manner.

Committee Elections:

Lotte Mitchell as Student Representative

Proposer:

Seconder:

Votes in favour:

Votes against:

Abstentions:

AOB