SCS Vice Chair Report 2024-2025

It has been another eventful year for the Society. When we lost our exhibition space in Aldeburgh it was not certain how the Society would cope without it, but the management team turned this loss into an opportunity and we have again this year had multiple exhibitions within the county and beyond. Since our last AGM the Society has exhibited at Ickworth, the Guildhall Bury St Edmunds and MADE London in 2024. The early part of 2025 also saw the Society at the Minories, Colchester and thanks to the hard work of our Chair and the support of our Patron, Trevor Pickett, the Society was able to present its work as part of London Craft Week 2025.

As a Society we are operating in a much more competitive market for fine crafts as well as struggling with the current economic climate. At times we seem to be working ever harder just to stand still. This was the reason last year for our increase in subscriptions and the introduction of the exhibition fee. The Society is carefully monitoring our financial position at all times and we will continue to adapt as necessary.

I would like to welcome all of our new members whose work has helped to keep our exhibitions fresh with new and vital work. A few people have moved on and left the Society and we wish them well with their lives and practice.

Our Society is a craft artist collective. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed their time and effort to the Society this last year. Members have had to balance their own practice time with providing practical and professional support to the running of the Society. This can range from book-keeping, running the Social Media presence, managing the website, organising the new member applications, operating the Friends, making sure our policies and processes meet modern requirements, programming exhibition items into the sales system, taking meeting minutes, managing membership, filling out the exhibition rota, organising exhibitions, helping with handing-in and taking down, visiting potential venues, organising the equipment storage space, right through to taking sales and stewarding.

In addition, like any organisation, the Committee deal with day to day issues which arise out of the blue, but need resolution. We appreciate everyone's patience and support and I would like to thank everyone in the Committee and the wider Society who have made everything possible this year. This year Ruth Holt and Alison Dane will be stepping down from the Committee. They have each put in huge amounts of their time and expertise to the Society and we owe them our gratitude. It is important that we are able to have a steadily changing Committee membership to keep new perspectives coming in and avoiding burnout. If you feel able to contribute, please contact the Chair to find out what committee membership entails.

Liz Chester
Vice Chair.
September 2025