



**The Arts Society Oxford**  
The Arts Society Member No. 349  
Registered Charity No. 1175875

## **DRAFT**

### **Minutes of the Fifteenth Annual General Meeting of**

#### **The Arts Society Oxford**

**held on Wednesday 18 September 2024, at 10.30 am**

**at the Mathematical Faculty, Oxford**

#### **The Trustees:**

Ann McIlhinney, Chair  
Raymond Wright, Vice-chair and Membership Secretary  
David Barron, Treasurer  
Ruth Burdett, Secretary  
David Stern, Lecture Programme  
Susan Hine, Study Days  
Elizabeth West, Community Arts Projects  
Carol Brownson, Communications

#### **142 Members**

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all members. She confirmed that due notice of the AGM had been given and that the meeting was quorate.

#### **1. Apologies:**

Apologies were received from 15 members.

#### **2. Minutes of the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting held on 13 September 2023**

The minutes had been previously circulated to all members of the Society. No questions/queries were received, and they were approved unanimously as an accurate record.

Proposed by Stephanie North; seconded by Liz West

#### **3. To receive and accept the Report of the Trustees**

The Report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting, and was presented by the Chair for approval.

The Chair highlighted certain aspects of the Report. She welcomed new members to the Society, and thanked existing members for their continuing support, particularly the Trustees and their teams of volunteers who have contributed to the running of the Society over the past year:

- The Programme Organisers, David Stern and Erica Kendall, for another excellent lecture series, and the Study Day team, led by Sue Hine, for three very engaging and well-attended Study Days



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- The Visits team, led by Steve Rogers, for their varied programme of local walks, gallery visits and guided tours, including a residential trip to Newcastle
- The Community Arts Projects team, led by Liz West, for their hard work in assessing applications for funding
- The registration and refreshment teams, together with the lecture volunteer organisers, Topsy Murray, Rumi Ringshall and Jenny Wooldridge
- Stuart Newstead for his technical support throughout the year.

She also thanked those who are stepping down as Trustees:

- David Barron, who as Treasurer has worked to ensure that our finances are healthy
- Ruth Burdett, who is standing down as Society Secretary, and Ray Wright, who is standing down as Membership Secretary, both of whom are standing for re-election in different roles
- David Stern, who with Erica Kendall has produced an excellent lecture programme over the past 2 years, and planned an exciting and eclectic mix of topics for the coming year
- Carol Brownson, who has supported all the Trustees in her role as Communications Secretary.

Finally, Ann made her farewell as Chair and thanked the members for their support.

The Report was approved and agreed unanimously.

**4. To receive and accept the Annual Accounts as per 30 June 2024**

A copy of the Financial Statements, including the annual accounts, had been circulated prior to the meeting. These had been signed off by the independent financial examiner.

The Treasurer confirmed that the annual accounts had been signed and submitted to the Charity Commission. The Society had broken even in the current financial year, with a total income of £42,298, and expenditure of £42,706. (In the previous year, there had been a loss of approximately £12k, planned to reduce the surplus created by the Covid period.) The reserves stand at approximately £27k.

The adoption of the annual accounts was approved and agreed unanimously.

Proposed by: Raymond Wright, seconded by Ian Battersby

**5. To elect Trustees (including officers)**

The Chair asked Hilary Reid Evans (Chair of the Wyvern area) to chair the elections.

Hilary asked the members to vote for the election of the Officers individually and the remaining Trustees as a block. The following were elected unanimously.



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**Officers:**

|            |                   |                                                    |
|------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Chair      | Ruth Burdett      | Proposer: Ann McIlhinney<br>Second: Carol Brownson |
| Vice-chair | Raymond Wright    | Proposer: David Barron<br>Second: Gilla Harris     |
| Treasurer  | Catherine Knowles | Proposer: David Barron<br>Second: Ruth Burdett     |
| Secretary  | Jean Hindmarch    | Proposer: Ruth Burdett<br>Second: Ann McIlhinney   |

**Others:**

|                         |                |                                                       |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Community Arts Projects | Elizabeth West | Proposer: Sue Butterworth<br>Second: Judith Argles    |
| Study Days              | Susan Hine     | Proposer: Bridget Watkins<br>Second: Rosemary Wharton |
| Membership Secretary    | Kim de Keijzer | Proposer: Raymond Wright<br>Second: David Barron      |
| Lectures                | Topsy Murray   | Proposer: Susan Pfunder<br>Second: Erica Kendall      |
| Visits                  | Stephen Rogers | Proposer: Joelle Mann<br>Second: Diana Martin         |
| Communication           | Rumi Ringshall | Proposer: Carol Brownson<br>Second: Sarah Whiteley    |

The Chair welcomed the new Board of Trustees and thanked Hilary Reid Evans for conducting the elections.

**6. To appoint a Financial Examiner of the Accounts for the ensuing year**

Sheila Parry of SPX undertook the independent examination for 2023/24, and it was proposed that she should do this again for the coming year. This was agreed unanimously.

**7 Any Other Business**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.50.

Following the official business of the meeting, there was a vote of thanks to Ann McIlhinney for everything she had done over her 3 years as Chair.