



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

DRAFT

Minutes of the Sixteenth Annual General Meeting of

The Arts Society Oxford

held on Wednesday 17 September 2025, at 10.30 am

at the Mathematical Faculty, Oxford

The Trustees:

Ruth Burdett, Chair
Raymond Wright, Vice-chair
Cathy Knowles, Treasurer
Jean Hindmarch, Secretary
Topsy Murray, Lecture Programme
Susan Hine, Study Days
Rumi Ringshall, Communications

225 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 eight members.

2. Minutes of the Fifteenth Annual General Meeting held on 18 September 2024

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 Joelle Mann; seconded by Sue Pfunder

3. To receive and accept the Report of the Trustees

The Report had been circulated to members before 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. These included:

- The Programme Organisers, Topsy Murray and Sue Pfunder for an excellent lecture series, and the Study Day team, led by Sue Hine, for three very engaging and well-attended Study Days



- The Visits team, initially led by Steve Rogers and subsequently by Alison Madden, for their varied programme of local walks, gallery visits and guided tours, including a residential trip to Liverpool.

The Chair observed that TASO now has a full complement of Trustees but, with some of them completing their terms of office during the coming year, there will be opportunities to recruit new Trustees. Interested members were encouraged to contact Trustees via the TASO website, or in person at any of its events.

The Report was approved and agreed unanimously.

4. To receive and accept the Annual Accounts as per 30 June 2025

A copy of the Financial Statements, including the annual accounts, had been circulated before 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 made a small surplus in the current financial year, with a total income of £43,812, and expenditure of £43,219. The reserves stand at approximately £27,526, which is in line with TASO's policy to have reserves to the equivalent of six months' expenditure.

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

Proposed by: Alison Madden, seconded by Sue Pfunder

Gift Aid

The treasurer noted that TASO is conducting a review of its members use of Gift Aid, and encouraged all eligible members to complete a Declaration Form copies of which were available in the foyer.

She also noted the following.

- TASO is reimbursed by 25p in the pound of membership fees from people who are eligible for Gift Aid
- If everyone who is eligible completed a declaration, it would help TASO to maintain its membership fee at the current level
- UK taxpayers are eligible for Gift Aid and married couples can complete separate declarations.

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 Second: Kay Symons
Vice-chair	Raymond Wright	Proposer: Rumi Ringshall Second: Gilla Harris
Treasurer	Catherine Knowles	Proposer: Eve Robins Second: Bridget Watkins
Secretary	Jean Hindmarch	Proposer: Marilyn Relf Second: Sara Hawker

Others:

Community Arts Projects	Janice Giffen	Proposer: Ruth Burdett Second: Judith Argles
Study Days	Susan Hine	Proposer: Bridget Watkins Second: Ann Bevan
Membership Secretary	Kim de Keijzer	Proposer: Topsy Murray Second: Jean Hindmarch
Lectures	Topsy Murray	Proposer: Susan Pfunder Second: Jean Hindmarch
Visits	Alison Madden	Proposer: Maria Lock Second: Sarah Wood
Communication	Rumi Ringshall	Proposer: Carol Brownson Second: Caroline Best

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

6. To agree Resolutions previously circulated

The Resolutions had been circulated to members before the meeting, and were presented by the Chair for approval.

She explained the rationale for the proposed changes which included: ensuring consistency in the wording of the Constitution and Byelaws; making Trustees' terms of office less restrictive; introducing gender neutral language to reflect current usage; and saving money and wastage by discontinuing the printing of lecture programme cards.

The Resolutions were passed unanimously in a vote overseen by Hilary Reid Evan's, and the Chair was thanked for her work in drafting them.



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

Sheila Parry of SPX undertook the independent examination for 2024/25, and it was proposed that she should do this again for the coming year. This was agreed unanimously.

Proposed by: Topsy Murray; seconded by Sarah Whitely.

8. Any Other Business

Two questions were asked by members:

1. Whether it would be possible to review TASO's name to avoid confusion with Oxford Art Society, especially when making payments to TASO. The Chair acknowledged that this is occasionally an issue but pointed out that the naming of Arts Society branches was consistent across the country.
2. How the Community Arts Projects were funded. The Chair referred to the process outlined in the Annual Report, ie that, subject to the availability of funds, applications are invited from eligible groups, considered by a sub-group and recommendations made to, and agreed by, the Trustees.

The meeting closed at 11.00.