

THE ARTS SOCIETY RICKMANSWORTH

Report and Accounts for the year
ended 31 May 2026



Member Society of

Registered Charity No.1102829

THE ARTS
SOCIETY

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Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 May 2026

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Society Address. Our Secretary and Charity Commission Correspondent is Mrs. Laura Hart, 78 Shepherds Way, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 7NR. 01923 770209.

Governing Document. The constitution and operational procedures of the Society are set out in our Constitution and Rules which were last amended and adopted on 12th July 1994. Minor amendments were made at the Annual General Meetings of 13th July 2004, 8th September 2016 and 11th September 2018.

Charitable Status. The Society was registered as a charity on 24 March 2004, registration no. 1102829.

Trustees/Committee Members. The following served as elected Committee Members during 2025/26 and subsequently to the date of this report, except for the Vice-Chairman who has recently been appointed. Current roles are as shown, and all Members are Trustees.

President	Gill Gowing	
Chairman	Rodney Salter	
Vice-Chairman	Vacant	Secretary and Charity Commission Correspondent Laura Hart

Programmes Secretaries Sue Howse Helen Halliday

Membership Secretary Irene Dubuis

Arts Volunteering Laura Hart

Website Manager Martin Hart

Treasurer Jeff Baker

Visits' Secretary Janet Tublin

Publicity Vacant

Bankers CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ. Scottish Widows, 67 Morrison Street, Edinburgh EH3 8YJ.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2026

This Report details the activities and accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 May 2026. The accounts comply with the Society's Governing Document and the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011. 2025/26 was a good year for our Society. Our membership was 203 including several new Members. We offered some terrific lectures from great speakers and our monthly large gatherings in Sarratt Village Hall are significant events. We also delivered an impressive Special Interest day in November about Florence and the Medicis. Thanks to the hard work of Janet Tublin we arranged some excellent, sold out visits.

Our Society was founded in 1975 so was operational for 50 years in 2025. We held a successful celebration lunch at Chenies Manor House, with over 60 Members present. Fittingly for our Golden Anniversary our

guest speaker was Joanna Hardy, a Liveryman and Court Assistant at the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths.

Our Christmas 'bucket' collection in December raised an excellent £500 for the Rennie Grove Peace Hospice. Thank you to our generous Members.

We were very sorry during the year to hear of the death of long standing Member and former Chairman Deidre Ruggles who supported our Society for several decades. Our Chairman attended her funeral.

GOVERNANCE

COMMITTEE WORK

Our Society, founded in 1975, is managed by a Committee of Trustees whose voluntary members are usually elected but occasionally co-opted, in accordance with our Governing Document.

Individual Committee Members have prime responsibility for each of the Society's key activities, and report to the full Committee which meets several times each year. Our key activities are arranging lectures, visits and other events, publicity, Arts Volunteering, membership and finance.

OBJECTIVES AND PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Society's charitable objectives are 'the promotion and advancement of the education of the public in the cultivation, appreciation and study of the decorative and fine arts; the conservation and preservation of the artistic heritage of the United Kingdom for the benefit of the public; and the advancement of the arts, culture and heritage, in particular but without limitation, decorative and fine arts'. The Society is open to any member of the public without discrimination of political, religious or other opinions.

The Trustees confirm that the Society's activities throughout the year and planned for the future comply with public benefit guidance relating to Member Societies of The Arts Society.

TRUSTEES/COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Your Committee Members, who are Trustees of the Charity, work hard to arrange lectures, visits and other activities, and to ensure the continuation of the Society. We are always seeking new Committee members, and we cordially urge any Member who may be interested in joining the Committee, or just helping in a small way, to discuss this with any Committee Member. With more help we can offer a wider range of services. We urgently need new people to come forward to ensure the continuing success of our Society. We were very pleased after the end of the financial year that long-standing Member Greg Hider has agreed to adopt the position of Vice-Chairman, an important position which has been empty for some time.

ACTIVITIES 2025/26

LECTURES

For our Members and visitors we offer a programme of 10 monthly fascinating and diverse lectures each season. These are delivered by accredited Arts Society speakers who have undergone a rigorous selection process before being admitted to the approved list of lecturers. They are always real experts – sometimes world experts – in their fields and the standard of lectures is usually very high. Sue Howse and Helen Halliday, our Programme Secretaries, do excellent work in assembling our annual programme of illustrated presentations and negotiating affordable fees.

In the last year lectures were assessed by the Committee and the membership as being good (2), excellent (5), or outstanding (3).

The programme in 2025/26 and ratings given to the speakers were as follows;

- Lucrezia Walker. 'John Peter Russell: The Lost Impressionist'. Excellent.
- Alice White. 'Ways to Look at Painting'. Outstanding.
- Tessa Boase. 'London's Lost Department Stores'. Excellent.

- Ian Swankie. 'Thomas Heatherwick – A Modern Leonardo?' Outstanding.
- Bertie Pearce. 'A Dickens of a Christmas'. Excellent.
- Timothy Walker. 'Subtle Science of Colour in English Garden Design'. Excellent.
- Jacky Klein. 'Re-Radicalising the Chocolate Box'. Good.
- Barry Venning. 'Giles – His Life, Times and Cartoons'. Excellent.
- Stephen Duffy. 'Miniatures in the Wallace Collection'. Good.
- Antonia Gatward Cervizli. 'The Brilliance of Bernini's Sculptures'. Outstanding.

PROJECTOR AND TECHNICAL MATTERS.

Our lectures are accompanied by illustrations in a digital format.

We are grateful to our projectionists and in particular to John Charnley, Jim Douglas and to Martyn Gowing for keeping the show on the road. Without them there would be no lectures. Our visual display service is critical to our ongoing success and we need people to come forward to join our projectionist team. Please help if you can. Proper training will be given. The team must be strengthened to allow for holidays and sickness. No previous experience is required.

Also we have recently purchased a new state of the art projector which gives a clearer definition to our presentations and enhances Members' experience of our lectures.

VISITS

Our regular visits to places of artistic and historical interest are important parts of our annual programme and are enjoyable social events.

Visits are popular with Members. We try to keep the cost of tours as low as possible but coach costs are very high and we are grateful for the support shown by Members. This enables us to continue with this important aspect of our work.

Janet Tublin has taken over the role of coordinating our visits programme and she is expertly arranging some superb visits.

There was also a popular, successful 6 day trip to art and culture venues in Andalucia superbly coordinated by Gill Gowing via the 'Tailored Travel' company. Venues visited included Granada, Cordoba, Seville and Ronda. The number of guests meant we were offered a free place for our coordinator and Gill very generously used some of this money to enhance the trip and cover tips to guides and drivers, and donated the remaining £600 to the Society.

'ARTS VOLUNTEERING'

As a charity we are committed to fulfilling 'public benefit' obligations. We do this in part by our commitment to Arts Volunteering. In the past we have sponsored projects with the Koestler Trust for prison art and also sponsored local schools.

We were grateful for the hard work put in to developing this charitable work on behalf of the Society by Laura Hart who has continued to advance our work by engaging with local schools. This year we were happy to support an arts project at the local Malvern Way school.

SPECIAL INTEREST DAY

In November we presented one of our excellent annual Special Interest Days, held in Sarratt Village Hall. The theme was 'Florence and the Medici Family' with three informative and insightful lectures from the very knowledgeable Jo Walton, a guide and lecturer at major London galleries and an expert in Renaissance art. Jo was so impressive that we have engaged her again to deliver our 2026 Special Interest Day about Venice.

For these type of presentations, the main London galleries charge considerable amounts. Our Special Interest Days have the same quality of speaker and content for a fraction of the price and are always excellent value.

PUBLICITY

We try to publicise our Society as much as possible, both to attract new Members and also to welcome visitors to individual lectures. Members with email receive a monthly reminder of the next lecture and slides publicise forthcoming events before each lecture. It is important that we continue to raise awareness of our Society and our valuable services. We urgently need someone to assist with this work.

Martin Hart continues to do an excellent job of maintaining our impressive website and we are grateful for the hard work he puts into this 'window to our world', showing the breadth of our activities.

Our excellent glossy publication, '50 Treasures', produced with other Arts Societies in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, has continued to sell. This showcases some well known and many lesser known architectural and historic gems in our areas. Copies are still available.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership - 203 by the year end - held up well and the Committee is deeply grateful for the ongoing support shown by so many people. This support from our existing and new Members is essential to maintain the viability of the Society, and we hope that all Members will encourage family, friends and neighbours to join our Society or to come as visitors. Our brilliant Membership Secretary Irene Dubuis does a complex job of registering and keeping a database of Members and of their eligibility for inclusion in the Gift Aid scheme.

FINANCE

ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS

Our Society is active but in financial terms is small. For our accounts we operate a 'Receipts and Payments' arrangement, which we feel suits the size and activities of our Society. We present accounts which display our income and expenditure during each financial year, which runs from 1st June – 31st May, and show the start and finish positions. Significant payments received which relate to events to be held after our financial year end (31st May) are reflected in the 'Statements of Assets and Liabilities' at page 7.

As a small charity with low turnover there is no requirement on us to have our accounts audited, but we have in some years had a finance expert examine the accounts to give an independent assessment. We have now dispensed with this annually having taken advice from our former independent examiner. Our turnover is small; little cash is handled; and all financial transactions go through our bank, the Charities Aid Foundation, and are witnessed in bank statements. We also have a reserve fund held with the Scottish Widows bank. We have submitted this current set of accounts to an accountant for an independent assessment.

RESULTS 2025/26

We had a reasonable financial year. Our income exceeded expenditure by £1,797. However there are some advance payments for a visit to be held in 2026/27, early payments for the visit to Loseley Park, in June 2026. We also pay the large Arts Society affiliation fee, which has again increased. Our full financial performance can be seen in the following pages.

RESERVES POLICY

Reserves must be sufficient for Trustees to be confident that they are acting for a financially sound charity. The main risks and commitments are; (i) a decline in membership; (ii) visits fail to win sufficient support, and make a loss; and (iii) our commitments to The Arts Society, booked lecturers and Sarratt Village Hall; (iv) escalating costs.

The Committee has resolved that a cash reserve target of at least £8000 at year end is reasonable and prudent. We exceed this at the moment, but this reserve figure will be threatened if there is a significant fall off in membership in 2026/27.

2026/27 BUDGET AND SUBSCRIPTION RATE

With our present membership numbers the Society remains on a sound financial footing. This is helped by the willingness of eligible Members to support the Gift Aid scheme. Gift Aid tax recovery forms an important part of our income. We make a claim every two or three years. A new claim is now in preparation. Assuming visits and events do not make a loss and that membership numbers remain robust, we anticipate a break even budget. Except for visits and our Special Interest Day in November 2026 we anticipate spending in the region of £10,000 to be met by Members' subscriptions, visitors' donations and Gift Aid. Your Committee hopes that our membership will remain at a healthy level. Membership of the Society represents outstanding value, given the fantastic quality of the lecturers we arrange under The Arts Society umbrella, together with the social facilities we enjoy at Sarratt and on visits.

For 2026/27 we have kept our Membership subscription rate and suggested visitors' donation at the same level, although costs, especially of speakers, are set to increase further.

We welcome our Members' continuing membership and support and the assurance this gives that your Society has a sustainable future.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITY IN RELATION TO THE ACCOUNTS

For each financial year the Trustees prepare financial statements covering the activities of the Society, and which give a true and fair view of our financial resources and results. In preparing the financial statements the Trustees have;

Simplified our accounting policies following the potential for such simplification in line with the Charities Act 2011.

Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

Carefully recorded all income and expenditure and reconciled these with bank records.

Only expended Society resources on Society matters.

Ensured that the Society has sound finances and goes forward on a going concern basis.

Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the Society and to ensure that the financial statements comply with Charity Commission requirements. Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and for taking reasonable steps to safeguard against fraud and other irregularities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our grateful thanks go to

- All Committee Members for their time, commitment and enthusiasm.
- Staff and volunteers at Sarratt Village Hall who have ensured the smooth running of our lectures, including the provision of refreshments by Elaine Daly.
- Our team of projectionists.
- Especially to you, our Members, for your continued enthusiasm and support.

Approved by the Trustees on 2nd September 2026 and signed on their behalf by

Rodney Salter, Chairman

THE ARTS SOCIETY RICKMANSWORTH

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – YEAR TO 31ST MAY 2026

	Notes	2025/6 £	2024/5 £
INCOMING RESOURCES	2		
Members' subscriptions		10,350	9,000
Society activities	3	7,527	9,949
Gift Aid tax recovery		0	0
Visitors' donations		864	639
Bank interest		408	415
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		19,149	20,003
OUTGOING RESOURCES	2		
Charitable Activities			
TAS Affiliation fee (£16.20 per Member) plus insurance)		(3,423)	(3,323)
Society activities	3	(13,093)	(13,528)
Arts Volunteering	5	(600)	(980)
Total charitable activities		(17,116)	(17,831)
Publicity		0	0
Governance costs	4	(236)	(577)
TOTAL OUTGOING RESOURCES		(17,352)	(18,408)
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		1,797	1,595
BANK BALANCES – beginning of year		17,728	16,133
BANK BALANCES – end of year		19,525	17,728

The statement of accounting policies on page 7 and the notes on pages 7 and 8 form an integral part of these accounts. There were no recognised gains or losses other than those disclosed above.

THE ARTS SOCIETY RICKMANSWORTH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31ST MAY 2026

		£
Cash funds	Banks	19,525
Assets	Deposits for coach trips in 2026/27	255
Liabilities	Pre-payments for Loseley visit in June 2026	1156

The financial statements on pages 6-8 were approved by Trustees on 2nd September 2026 and signed on their behalf by

RODNEY SALTER Chairman

JEFF BAKER Treasurer

THE ARTS SOCIETY RICKMANSWORTH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS – 31 MAY 2026

1. Basis of preparation of the accounts

The accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments accounting basis.

2. Accounting Policies

The accounting policies, consistently applied, are as follows;

Incoming resources

All income is accounted for when receipts are banked. This may be in advance of an event, at the time of the event or shortly after the event. The Receipts and Payments basis for maintaining the Society's accounts means that some payments and receipts may be recorded in one financial year even though they relate to an event in the subsequent or previous year. This is kept to a minimum.

No monetary value is placed on the 'donated' services of Committee Members and others who contribute so much of their time to the Society, other than that the organisers of some visits and events either do not contribute to the basic cost of the visit or have their cost abated. This recognises the significant effort put into the organisation and smooth running of events.

Outgoing Resources

Expenses are recorded in the cashbook when they are paid by cheque or bank transfer and are reconciled with bank statements monthly. All bills are paid promptly.

3. Society Activities

	2025/6 £	2024/5 £
Incoming resources		
Visits	1,369	6,022
Special Interest Day	2,945	1,537
Miscellaneous income.	600	510
50 th Anniversary	2,050	1,300
Refreshments	563	580
Total Incoming Resources – Society activities	7,527	9,949
 Outgoing resources		
Visits	1,834	5,320
Speakers' fees and expenses	4,425	4,251
Sarratt Village Hall	1,010	859
Special Interest Day	1,909	1,629
Refreshments	396	413
50 th Anniversary	2,084	900
Technical expenses	1,435	156
Total Outgoing Resources – Society activities	13,093	13,528
 Society Activities – net outgoing resources	5,566	3,579

4. Governance Costs

Printing, postage, stationery	95	487
General expenses	0	15
Bank Charges	141	76
Total governance costs	236	578

5. Arts Volunteering

	600	980
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6. Trustee Benefits

Trustees receive no remuneration for their services to the Society. In 2025/26 some minor expenses were reimbursed to Trustees for lunch with lecturers in some cases.

7. Commitments

At May 2026 our commitments amounted to approximately £13,000. These include continuing the Arts Society membership for one year, committed lecturer costs and hall hire.