

THE ARTS SOCIETY RICKMANSWORTH

Report and Accounts for the year
ended 31 May 2025



Member Society of
THE ARTS
SOCIETY

Registered Charity No.1102829

THE ARTS SOCIETY RICKMANSWORTH

Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 May 2025

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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 or co-opted Committee Members during 2024/25 and subsequently to the date of this report. Their current roles are as shown, and all full Members are Trustees.

President Gill Gowing

Chairman Rodney Salter

Vice-Chairman Vacant

Secretary and Charity Commission

Correspondent Laura Hart

Membership Secretary Irene Dubuis

Arts Volunteering Laura Hart

Website Manager Martin Hart

Programme Secretaries Sue Howse

Helen Halliday

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 2025

This Report details the activities and accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 May 2025. The accounts comply with the Society's Governing Document and the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011. 2024/25 was a good year for our Society. Our membership was 216 including several new Members. We have held 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 study day in November. Thanks to the hard work of Janet Tublin we were able to arrange some excellent, sold out visits.

Our Society was founded in 1975 so will be operational for 50 years in 2025. We have been planning a celebration lunch and presentation for October, at Chenies Manor House. This was the venue where a number of people first came up with the idea of inviting experts in their fields to give lectures to groups in their locality. From these discussions the scores of local societies across the country grew.

Our Christmas 'bucket' collection in December raised an excellent £304, in memory of two long standing former Members. This was split between the RNLI on behalf of Tessa Hollingsworth and Rennie Grove Hospice Care on behalf of Patricia Twydale.

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 that during the year our hard working former Chairman, Gill Gowing, who has been a Trustee for many years, was elected as President of our Society – this was especially appropriate as we entered our 50th year of existence in 2025. Gill was succeeded as Chairman by our long-time Member and Vice-Chairman, Rodney Salter.

ACTIVITIES 2024/25

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 acceptable (1), good (1), excellent (6), or outstanding (2).

The programme in 2024/25 and ratings given to the speakers were as follows;

- Monica Bohn – Duchen. The Art of Refugees. Good.
- Andrew Prince. Jewellery and the Glamour Years. Excellent.
- Sophie Matthews. Music in Art. Outstanding.
- Anna Warrilow. Stained Glass. Very good.
- Sarah Ciaci. Food in Art. Excellent.
- Chris Alexander. How to get down from a Yak. Excellent.
- Simon Whitehouse. 200 Years of the National Gallery. Outstanding
- Matthew Denny. The Festival of Britain 1951. Excellent.
- Clive Stewart-Lockhart. The Art Market. Acceptable.
- Amy Lim. Stanley Spencer and his life in Cookham. Excellent.

PROJECTOR AND TECHNICAL MATTERS.

Our lectures are accompanied by illustrations in a digital format.

We are grateful to our projectionists and in particular to Society Members John Charnley and 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.

VISITS

Our regular visits to places of artistic and historical interest are important parts of our annual programme and are enjoyable social events. We have also promoted visits to Tate Britain to see current important exhibitions preceded by a talk from an expert or curator and a tour of the exhibition.

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.

Following Marian Trim's retirement we are very grateful that Janet Tublin has taken over the role of arranging visits and she has arranged some superb visits during the year.

As well as an early visit to Tate Britain for a talk and tour of the impressive John Singer Sargent exhibition, there were also visits to Compton Verney and to Chiswick House and garden. There was also a popular, successful 6 day trip to Nancy and Lorraine in France, superbly coordinated by Gill Gowing via the 'Tailored Travel' company. Because of the number of guests, 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 £500 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 Diane Hynd. Laura Hart has continued to advance our work by engaging with local schools. This year we almost doubled our contribution to schools, giving grants of £980 to help further the artistic work of the pupils. This year the schools supported were Arnett Hills Junior and Infant and Maple Cross JMI schools.

SPECIAL INTEREST/ STUDY DAY

In November we presented one of our excellent annual Special Interest / Study days, held in Sarratt Village Hall. The theme was 'Food for Thought – Spanish, Dutch and Modern Still Life Painting' with three informative and insightful lectures from the very knowledgeable Daniel Evans.

For these type of presentations, the main London galleries charge considerable amounts. Our Study 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 - 214 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.

RESULTS 2024/25

We had a neutral financial year. Our income exceeded expenditure by £1595. However there are some advance payments for events to be held in 2025/26. There are early payments for the 50th Anniversary lunch in October 2025 and also payments for a visit to Dorneywood planned for June 2025, the costs of which are to be borne in the 2025/26 financial year. We also pay the large Arts Society affiliation fee, although our parent body, has been doing work to cut its own costs. 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 2025/26.

2025/26 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.

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 2025 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 2025/26 we have increased our Membership subscription rate by a modest amount because costs, especially of speakers, are set to increase further. This is the first increase in several years and still represents outstanding value for money. We have also increased the donation we seek from visitors to our lectures.

We welcome your 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 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Rodney Salter, Chairman

THE ARTS SOCIETY RICKMANSWORTH

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – YEAR TO 31ST MAY 2025

	Notes	2024/25	2023/24
		£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES	2		
Members' subscriptions		9,000	9,626
Society activities	3	9,949	6,424
Gift Aid tax recovery		0	3,917
Visitors' donations		639	542
Bank interest		415	285
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		20,003	20,794
OUTGOING RESOURCES	2		
Charitable activities			
TAS Affiliation fee (£14.50 per Member) plus insurance)		(3,323)	(3,452)
Society activities	3	(13,528)	(9,466)
Arts Volunteering		(980)	(500)
Total charitable activities	5	(17,831)	(13,418)
Publicity		0	0
Governance costs	4	(577)	(458)
TOTAL OUTGOING RESOURCES		(18,408)	(13,876)
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		1,595	6,918
BANK BALANCES – beginning of year		16,133	9,215
BANK BALANCES – end of year		17,728	16,133

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 2025

		£
Cash Funds	Bank	17,728
Assets	Deposit for 50 th Anniversary Lunch, Chenies Manor House in October 2025	900
Liabilities	Pre-payments Dorneywood visit in June 2025	1085
	Pre-payments for 50 th Anniversary Lunch in October 2025	1300

The financial statements on pages 6-8 were approved by Trustees on 2nd September 2025 and signed on their behalf by

RODNEY SALTER Chairman

JEFF BAKER Treasurer

THE ARTS SOCIETY RICKMANSWORTH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS – 31 MAY 2025

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

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Visits	6,022	3,478
Special Interest Day	1,537	2,087
Miscellaneous income.	510	275
50 th Anniversary pre-payments	1,300	0
Refreshments	580	584
Total Incoming Resources – Society activities	9,949	6,424
 Outgoing resources		
Visits	5,320	2,255
Speakers' fees and expenses	4,251	4,226
Sarratt Village Hall	859	825
Special Interest Day	1,629	1,564
Refreshments	413	421
50 th Anniversary deposit, Chenies Manor House	900	0
Technical expenses	156	175
Total Outgoing Resources – Society activities	13,528	9,466
 Society Activities – net outgoing resources	3,579	3,042

4. Governance Costs

Printing, postage, stationery	487	156
General expenses	15	240
Bank Charges	76	62
Total governance costs	578	458

5. Arts Volunteering

980	500
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6. Trustee Benefits

Trustees receive no remuneration for their services to the Society. In 2024/25 some minor expenses were reimbursed to Trustees for lunch with lecturers in some cases.

7. Commitments

At May 2025 our commitments amounted to approximately £10,000. These include continuing the Arts Society membership for one year, committed lecturer costs and hall hire.