The Arts Society Wokingham

Annual Trustees Report 2025/26

We have had an excellent season, with great lectures, visits and study days throughout the year for members; guests were at a record level. This report sets out our activities and objectives over the year and our achievements and performance. Our detailed financial results for the year are set out in a separate report to the AGM.

We have had a very good year for recruitment and our membership has stabilised after several years of growth and now stands at 221 members. This year we tested the recruitment initiatives of The Arts Society through postal leaflet drop, online advertising and radio adverts as well as member get member invitations. We saw an increase in numbers attending our last lectures of the season with well over 100 in the hall and we wait to see how many become members.

The number of members watching the lectures in the hall at Kings Academy Binfield has been increasing, to usually over 100, and on line has maintained at around 50 each lecture, so we still have a loyal following who prefer watching lectures on line. It is gratifying to be able to meet both preferences with a good venue and quality broadcasting available, with the support of Quentin Clark of Silk Purse Videos. We have also had a very positive response to all our proposed visits and study days and members have said how much they value the social aspect of the Society and enjoy spending time together. Often these have been so popular we have had to have a waiting list. This year, in conjunction with The Arts Society Henley we held a very enjoyable lecture and wine tasting event in Henley Town Hall.



Wine tasting in Henley

Finance

After the pandemic our member numbers dropped significantly but thanks to our financial reserves, we were able to continue to operate as a Society. We adopted an ambitious strategy 5 years ago to strengthen our operation by recruiting more members, seeking sponsorship and becoming a charity.

We are now a registered charity and thank members for the gift aid forms you have completed which help our finances. Charitable status recognises the support we have always given to the arts in local Wokingham schools, colleges and charities.

Our member numbers have now reached a level where they are sufficient to cover our annual operating costs and, thanks to the generous sponsorship we received again this year from Clifton Ingram, we are able to provide even more funding to support the arts in the local community.

We have also benefited from some donations that have helped add to our reserves. These reserves are now sufficient to enable us to continue to operate, should something catastrophic happen again, like the pandemic.

Our Treasurer David Canning has done an excellent job and I would also like to thank our Vice Chair, Michael Shirley who has renewed our sponsorship agreement with Clifton Ingram and has also been very busy as a Trustee with The Arts Society nationally.

Lecture programme

Robin Cops has continued to provide us with an excellent programme of lectures in his fourth year as programme secretary, covering a wide range of topics: fine art, architecture, decorative arts, digital art and historical art, again in line with what you told us you wanted in our survey. He has entertained, educated and challenged us with a wide range of topics. Your favourites this season were - Now You See It, Now You Don't, Downton To Gatsby; A Celebration of Nature – Antoni Gaudi and The Elgin Marbles, A History Of Meaning. The coming year's programme looks equally fascinating and diverse and will be delivered by experienced and professional lecturers.



Downton to Gatsby lecture

Visits

We have been able to offer you many social opportunities alongside appreciation of art through our programme of visits. All the visits were very popular and covered a range of locations; Broughton Castle, Parham House, The Wallace Collection, a London Walk and the Abbey Gateway in Reading. Our thanks go to Margaret Campbell-White for arranging the programme. Margaret has some great ideas for the next season.



Broughton Castle visit

Study Days

We have enjoyed some outstanding study days this season which have been very well supported. You particularly enjoyed Islamic Pottery; Sunlight, Sunflowers And Cultivating Colour; Jane Austen - Beyond The Bonnets and Kyoto, The Sacred Heart of Japan. Thanks to Elaine Hayes for arranging all of these excellent events and also to the great team who help on the day. We are looking forward to more amazing study days next year but you will need to book quickly as these are extremely popular.



Islamic pottery study day

Recruitment

We're keen to recruit more members to the Society and have been spreading the news about what we do. The regular items in local press and lecture reviews in *Wokingham Today* have helped to do this. Our external communications, led by Sue Bryant, have been particularly successful this year with articles appearing in a number of local publications and online. We have also relaunched our Facebook page and currently have 155 followers. However, we know the recommendations of our current members are the best way to recruit. We are delighted that so many of you have brought guests along to lectures this season and many of these have gone on to become members. We held a "meet the committee" coffee morning, which was very well attended by recent joiners.

Unfortunately, our success at recruiting new members has not translated into the recruitment of new volunteers for our Committee. We have tried to recruit a Chair, Vice Chair and Membership Secretary for a year now with no success. These roles are vital to the successful continuation of the Society and when the current incumbents step down in September, the Society will have difficulty continuing effectively without people in these roles. The pressure on the existing Committee members can only increase. It would be very sad for the Society to fold when it is so successful. We do hope some members will come forward to join the Committee as soon as possible.

Community Arts

This year we have been delighted to continue our support for young people within our community through the provision of funding towards a variety of arts related activities.

We have been associated with two local secondary schools for some time. Over the past year, a £500 grant was awarded to St Crispin's which has enabled students to visit art exhibitions, museums and theatres linked with their GCSE and A level studies in art, drama and music. Some of the funding was also used to help towards the cost of small group tuition for music students.

Maiden Erlegh School was also given a £500 grant. This was used by the Art and Photography department to purchase additional equipment, including light boxes and mini projectors. The light boxes are particularly helpful for those students who struggle with drawing and the mini projectors are used to support GCSE and A level students with photography.

The Arts Society gave £500 grants each to four primary schools. They used this funding for specific projects to enhance the children's learning. At Floreat Montague School the children enjoyed an African dance and drumming workshop. At Earley St. Peter's an outdoor music area has been established. The provision of music tuition for a whole year group was provided at The Hawthorns and at Farley Hill, children worked with a local artist to produce a school mural.

In addition to supporting local schools, The Arts Society awarded a grant of £500 to Wokingham Youth Theatre. The funding will help towards the cost of providing weekly drama classes to children from a wide variety of family backgrounds. In addition to developing theatre skills and teamwork, they also aim to promote a sense of responsibility, respect for others and self-confidence.



Farley Hill Primary School mural

Anne Haycocks has done an excellent job of leading our work on Community Arts, covering Young Arts, and has diversified the grants we give to a wide range of projects, all greatly benefitting the arts in Wokingham.

And finally…I would like to thank all our amazing Committee members who volunteer and work so hard to provide you with great arts experiences each year. In addition to those already mentioned I would particularly like to thank our internal communications lead, Graham Smith, who sends you all your emails using the MailChimp system, and our Secretary, Pat Perridge, who is excellent at ensuring all is on track and that our Committee works properly and efficiently.

I would also like to thank our excellent and diligent membership secretary, Enid King, who supports all of you with your membership details and subscriptions. Enid is stepping down from this role now – we will miss her enormously; she has been a committee member for a number of years and supported the Society very well. Thanks to Sue Whitehead who has worked on the beautiful annual lecture brochure and bookmarks, as well as being our technical adviser. I also want to thank those very kind people who volunteer to support the registration desk at each meeting; Jane Cops, Ruth Cubitt, Hazel Matthews, Anne-Marie Hutson, Sue Norman, Sandra Hulme, Sue Leigh, Viv Canning, Daphne Perridge, Gail Millar and Anne Haycocks and those who help provide refreshments at our lectures; Lesley Hayman, Liz Davies and Viv Canning, and Gill Wright, ably coordinated by Barbara Stoker. Our External Examiner, Tony Sweet is also to be thanked for his excellent support again this year in checking our accounts.

This is my final Annual Report as I'm stepping down from the role of Chair due to my increasing caring responsibilities. I have been in post for 5 years and believe it is time for someone else to lead this fantastic society. It has been a great pleasure for me to have been Chair of an amazing organisation, with interesting and friendly members, and to work with such a supportive and professional committee. I'm hopeful that someone will step into the role of Chair soon to take my place.

Alison Sanders

Chair - August 2025 – 26

Charity Commission required information

Charity name	The Arts Society Wokingham
Charity Number	1207877
Charity Address	24 Aldbourne Avenue, Earley, Reading, RG6 7DB
Trustees	Mr David Canning Mrs Alison Sanders Mr Michael Shirley Mr Pat Perridge

1) Governance arrangements are in accordance with the TASW Constitution as approved at the EGM 17 April 2023 with minor amendments approved by the Committee at their meeting on 11 April 2024 and signed by the trustees on 15 April 2024. These include the recruitment and appointment of Trustees.

2) The charity trustees believe that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the 2006 Act to have due regard to guidance on public benefit published by the Commission.

3) Detailed financial Information for 2025/26 is available in a separate report.

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name The Arts Society Wokingham		
On accounts for the year ended	30 June 2026	**Charity no (if any)**	1207877
Set out on pages	2 to 4		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/06/2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

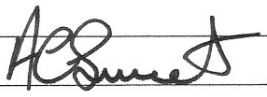
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:		**Date:**	1 September 2026
Name:	Antony Sweet		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Chartered Accountant No. 7116810		
Address:	Willow Bank Easthampstead Road Wokingham RG40 3BW		

The Arts Society Wokingham			Charity No (if any)	**1207877**	**CC17a**
Annual accounts for the period					
Period start date	**01.Jul.25**	**To**	Period end date	**30.Jun.26**	

Section A Statement of financial activities

Recommended categories by activity	Details of own analysis	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
Incoming resources (Note 3)			F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
Incoming resources from generated funds			-	-	-	-	-
Voluntary income		S01	18,510	-	-	18,510	16,651
Activities for generating funds		S02	-	-	-	-	-
Investment income		S03	255	-	-	255	639
Incoming resources from charitable activities		S04	7,356	-	-	7,356	13,539
Other incoming resources		S05	-	-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources		S06	26,122	-	-	26,122	30,829
Resources expended (Notes 4-8)							
Costs of Generating Funds			-	-	-	-	-
Costs of generating voluntary income		S07	1,741	-	-	1,741	700
Fundraising trading costs		S08	-	-	-	-	-
Investment management costs		S09	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities		S10	17,829	-	-	17,829	17,545
Governance costs		S11	4,368	-	-	4,368	4,004
Other resources expended		S12	-	-	-	-	-
Total resources expended		S13	23,938	-	-	23,938	22,249
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		S14	2,184	-	-	2,184	8,580
Gross transfers between funds		S15	-	-	-	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains/(losses)		S16	2,184	-	-	2,184	8,580
Other recognised gains/(losses)							
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use		S17	-	-	-	-	-
Gains and losses on investment assets		S18	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		S19	2,184	-	-	2,184	8,580
Total funds brought forward		S20	26,956	-	-	26,956	18,377
Total funds carried forward		S21	29,140	-	-	29,140	26,956

Section B Balance sheet

	Note	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03	Total this year £ F04	Total last year £ F05
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets (Note 9)	B01	-	-	-	-	
	B02	-	-	-	-	-
Investments (Note 10)	B03	10,000	-	-	10,000	10,000
Total fixed assets	B04	10,000	-	-	10,000	10,000
Current assets						
Stock and work in progress	B05	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors (Note 11)	B06	-	-	-	-	-
(Short term) investments	B07	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	B08	22,682	-	-	22,682	16,956
Total current assets	B09	22,682	-	-	22,682	16,956
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 12)	B10	3,542	-	-	3,542	-
Net current assets/(liabilities)	B11	19,140	-	-	19,140	16,956
Total assets less current liabilities	B12	29,140	-	-	29,140	26,956
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (Note 12)	B13	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities and charges	B14	-	-	-	-	-
Net assets	B15	29,140	-	-	29,140	26,956
Funds of the Charity						
Unrestricted funds	B16	-			-	-
	B17	-			-	-
Restricted income funds (Note 13)	B18		-		-	-
Endowment funds (Note 13)	B19			-	-	-
Total funds	B20	-	-	-	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
A Sanders	A Sanders	17/9/26
	DJ CANNING	17.09.26

Section C Notes to the accounts

Note 1 **Basis of preparation**

***This section should be completed by all charities*.**

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost (except that investments are shown at market value) in accordance with:

- Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005);
- and with* [✓] Accounting Standards;

  or [ ] Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Enterprises (FRSSE);
- and with the Charities Act.

[** except for the following].

Give details in this box if a different standard has been followed.

* -Tick as appropriate:

- if all relevant disclosures shown in the pack have been given then please tick “Accounting Standards”;
- if disclosures completed in these accounts have been restricted to those required by the FRSSE, then please tick “Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Enterprises (FRSSE)”.

** - If no departures from the chosen standards have been made then delete these words; otherwise give details of any changes in the boxes.

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) since last year (§ except for the following).

§ if no changes have been made to accounting policies then delete these words.

1.3 Changes to previous accounts

No changes have been made to accounts for previous years (§§ except for the following).

§§ if no changes have been made to accounts for previous periods then delete these words.