

**THE ARTS SOCIETY KINGSTON
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 16 JULY 2018**

The Chairman, Anne Beaumont, welcomed 125 members to the meeting and noted that a quorate was present.

Committee present: Anne Beaumont (Chair), Jennifer Traill (Vice Chair), Will Allsop (Treasurer), Barbara Turner (Secretary), Maureen Beard (Membership Secretary), Marguerite Brenchley (Visit Co-ordinator & Fine Arts Tours), Louise Ley (Programme Secretary), Linda Haywood (Heritage Volunteers), Paul Jarman (Young Arts Co-ordinator), Ruth Cane and Pat Gladding (Committee Members)

1. **Apologies from members of the committee**

Jane Seeley, Young Arts Co-ordinator gave her apologies. All other committee members were present.

2. **Minutes of the meeting of 17 July 2017**

Minutes of the meeting of 17 July 2017 were available for members to view on the Kingston Arts Society website more than 21 days prior to the AGM and notice was given of this at the June lecture. A number of hard copies of the minutes were also made available to members 1 hour prior to the start of the AGM. The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

3. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

4. **To receive and approve a report from the Chairman**

Anne Beaumont, Chair, reported as follows:

So here we are at the end of another year. We have been through the big freeze and an astonishing heatwave and emerged as a thriving and lively Society. I hope that our programme of 10 lectures, 9 visits, our annual supper party and fine arts tour has met, or hopefully exceeded your expectations.

Seated in front of you are existing and new committee members. I will introduce each of them as I read through this report.

Our membership numbers have remained healthy. We currently have 285 members, with a waiting list of 7 ready to join as new members in September. We are extremely grateful to Maureen Beard, for her continued hard work as membership secretary and for maintaining our website.

As you know this year The Arts Society has been celebrating its Golden Anniversary. In March we hosted an open lecture in this theatre. To our relief the snow thawed just in time and our audience enjoyed Alexander Epps' lecture 'As Good as Gold'. We were thrilled that the Mayor of Kingston, Councillor Julie Pickering and the consort Mr James Pickering accepted our invitation, and were happy to pose for photos in front of our new banner. You may have seen the picture on our website. In May, also as part of the celebrations, we hosted a Blue Badge guided Historic Bermondsey Walk. Special thanks to Ruth Cane, Marguerite Brenchley and Jennifer Traill for the hard work involved in making these events a success.

It is still possible to book tickets for 2 Jubilee London events. Our True Gold, (leaflet available) on 22nd September, designed to attract new members but open to all and a

Golden Jubilee concert The Music of London to be held on November 24th at King's Place, near Kings Cross. All details on our website.

During this year, our commitment to Young Arts has been taken forward by co-ordinators Paul Jarman and Jane Seeley (not able to be here this evening). Working together they have developed an impressive programme supporting the provision of arts related activities for children and young people with Downs Syndrome. In February an art workshop was held at the Langdon Centre in Teddington. The board created by the children was on display for our members to see on a trip in April to the Centre, Museum and Normansfield Theatre. The sharp eyed amongst you may have seen this mentioned as one of local society highlights in the summer edition of The Arts Society Magazine. The final part of the programme will be an evening event on 6th October at All Saints Church Kingston. A four choir concert will raise funds for further arts projects. Tickets are available online for this exciting event. Additional funding has also been awarded via The Arts Society GLA.

Our Heritage Volunteers have been extremely busy. Last year 14 members clocked up 1262 hours of volunteering time. The projects range from gardening at the National Trust's The Homewood, to book conservation at the Royal Society of Medicine, to stewarding at the John Soane Museum. If this piques your interest look out for the list of opportunities we send you. Our thanks go to Linda Haywood, who took over the role of co-ordinator this year.

Our thanks to Louise Ley who took over as Programme Secretary this year. Louise has put together a varied and dynamic programme lecture for 2018/19. I'm not going to spoil the surprise before the programme is printed, but topics will range from contemporary architecture to ballet to the mysterious world of Salvador Dali!

Thanks to Will Allsop who is continuing to do a sterling job as Treasurer and will present his report shortly.

Three members of our present Committee are standing down this year. Our secretary Barbara Turner has for 3 years done a great job of keeping all our work on record. Her communication skills will be sorely missed.

Marguerite Brenchley has been a committee member for 5 years, taking on the role of Visits Co-ordinator. Our fine arts tour this year was centred on the historic houses and heritage of Yorkshire. A big thank you to Marguerite for her superb organisation, and to her husband, Hugh, who was there to add his support. Fortunately for the Society Marguerite has agreed to organise our Fine Arts Tour for 2019, which we are delighted to tell you will be to Vienna. Full details in next month's mailing.

Finally Pat Gladding will sadly be leaving us. Many of you know Pat. Since 2005 her wealth of knowledge and sound advice has bolstered us all for the years she has sat on the Committee, 7 as Programme Secretary. When I took over in that role Pat was my guiding hand for what is a complex job. She has supported 5 different Chairmen over the years, no mean feat I can assure you! So heartfelt thanks to Pat and indeed to Bob her husband, who we know has supported you – and for so generously making your home available for committee meetings.

As a mark of our appreciation for your hard work Pat, Marguerite and Barbara, we are delighted to present you with a small gift on behalf of the Society.

As you know, we are encouraged by HQ to refresh the committee on a regular basis so we are pleased to welcome two new committee members this year. Robin

Linnecar and Christine Hogh. If voted in, they will fill the roles of Secretary and Visits Co-ordinator.

I would like to say a personal thank you to everyone on the committee for all your support and good humour. Our programme runs smoothly and seemingly without effort but as you can imagine a great deal of work goes on behind the scenes. A special thank you to Jennifer and Ruth whose reins I took over, but who have made my job possible this year.

And finally, thanks go to all of you for your support. For being here today and attending our lectures this year, and for joining our visits, our social events and the arts tour. Please continue this support and spread the word to your family and friends. We are a friendly successful society and that is due to all of you.

That is the end of the Chairmen's Report.

5. **To receive and approve the Annual Accounts**

The Annual Accounts were also made available 21 days prior to the AGM via The Kingston Arts Society Website and some hard copies were made available 1 hour before the commencement of the AGM.

The following is the Treasurer, Will Allsop's report:

This is the first AGM at which I am presenting the accounts of The Arts Society Kingston. As usual the accounts being presented for your approval are nearly a year out of date as the AGM is held before the end of the society year and thus the whole year refers to the society's year August 2016 – July 2017 when we were still operating as Kingston DFAS.

I would like to express my grateful thanks to my predecessor as treasurer, Tony Kerslake, who prepared these accounts and who gave of his time so generously when he handed over the reins to me.

In 2016-2017 in general the figures in the income and expenditure account are broadly consistent with the previous year. Our membership was 283, two down on the previous year. Our special interest days made a profit of £803 and functions made a loss of £3. For the first time we were able to claim Gift Aid as we were registered as a charity. However we were only able to claim Gift Aid on those members who paid their subscriptions after the date of our registration on 19 September. This year our income from Gift Aid should increase substantially as all members who completed Gift Aid forms did so from August 2017 ie after the date of our registration as a charity.

I would like to express my grateful thanks to David Lainchbury for examining the accounts and giving his report which you can see on the sheet.

As regards next year I have recommended an increase in subscriptions to £38 single (an increase of £1) and £68 per couple (an increase of £3). I believe these new subscriptions still offer tremendous value for money. If you completed a Gift Aid form at the beginning of this year, there is no need to fill in a new form. If however you did not fill in a Gift Aid form this year and you are a UK taxpayer, I would urge you to consider filling in the form, as it provides a 25% boost to your subscription at no cost to yourself.

Members were asked to vote in favour of the accounts being accepted and there was a majority vote in favour. The accounts were duly accepted.

6. **To elect Officers and Committee**
Anne Beaumont, Chair - Proposed by Vivienne Tregenza and Seconded by Beverly Knott. There was a majority vote in favour with no abstentions.
Jennifer Traill, Vice Chair – Proposed by Pat Tilley and Seconded by Dilys Cordingley. There was a majority vote in favour with no abstentions.
Robin Linnecar, Secretary – Proposed by Barbara Wood and Seconded by Mary Ferrand. There was a majority vote in favour with no abstentions.
Will Allsop, Treasurer – Proposed by Lesley Steel and Seconded by Eva Garland. There was a majority vote in favour with no abstentions.
Remaining Committee en bloc: Proposed Dierdre Banks Seconded Kate Tebbs. There was a majority vote in favour with no abstentions.
7. **To elect a Financial Examiner of the accounts for the ensuing year.**
David Lainchbury has agreed to continue in this role.
There was a majority vote in favour with no abstentions for David Lainchbury to continue in this role.4.
8. **Any Other Business**
A member enquired why the Society had a waiting list as the lecture theatre did not appear to be full. It was explained by the Chair that the list comprised of people who had expressed an interest in joining towards the end of the Society year and therefore would sign up to join in August/September for 2018/19. There is in effect no waiting list.
There being no other business the meeting concluded at 7.55pm.