

Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting of  
The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies  
(a company limited by guarantee)  
Operating as "The Arts Society"

held on 24th May 2023 at  
St George's Bristol, Great George Street, Bristol, BS1 5RR  
and online via Zoom

Company Registration No. 4307984  
Registered Charity No. 1089743  
OSCR: SC039240

## **1. Chair's welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed thanks to all of those Societies who had engaged with the meeting by way of proxy votes and questions.

## **2. Apologies for absence**

The attendance list and list of apologies is held at 90 High Holborn, Office 4.55, LABS, London, WC1V 6LJ and is available there for inspection.

## **3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 May 2022**

The minutes were approved unanimously.

## **4. Farewells and welcomes**

The Chair took the opportunity to personally thank the following:

Chairs of Area Support Teams – outgoing;

- Ali Green
- Andrea Gabb
- Bernadette Mackenzie-Ross
- Chris Symington
- Fiona Campbell
- Helen Turner
- Jo Ward
- Jo Wymer
- Rob Hubbleday

The Chair then welcomed the incoming Chairs of Area Support Teams:

- Felicity Sykes
- Jo Edna Corbyn
- Charles Harris
- Terrie Wheatley-Ward

- Helen Sijssling
- Charmian Findlay
- Pauline Stewart
- Glenys King
- Kay Roudaut

And gave special thanks to the following Chairs of Area Support Teams, and the National Support Team who were continuing in post for another year:

- Lis Goodwin
- Amanda Howard
- Hilary Reid-Evans
- Anthony Peck
- Angela Payne
- David Yates

The Chair then thanked:

- Hilary Olleson
- Pauline Stewart
- Cherry-Anne Russell

who were continuing as Heads of Volunteering for a further year.

## **5. Notice of the elected Trustees and appointment of co-opted Trustees**

The Chair welcomed the newly elected Trustees;

- Roly Trevor-Jones
- Jo Ward

and gave thanks to Sue Osborne who had reached the end of her term as a Trustee.

The Chair introduced the Trustee Board for 2023-2024.

## **6. Update from the Treasurer and Report of the Finance & Resources Director**

The report is included in full as Appendix 1.

## **7. To receive and adopt the report of the Trustees and Audited Financial Statements of The Arts Society for the year ended 31 December 2022**

The Chair informed the meeting that no questions had been received in advance and asked if there were any questions from the floor.

The question which was asked from the floor was answered by the Treasurer is included in Appendix 4.

The accounts were unanimously adopted.

## **8. Appointment of Moore Kingston Smith as Auditors for the ensuing year**

Moore Kingston Smith (Chartered Accountants) were appointed unanimously as auditors for the ensuing year.

## **9. Report of the Chair**

The report is included in full as Appendix 2.

## **10. Report of the CEO**

The report is included in full as Appendix 3.

## **11. General question session**

The questions which were asked from the floor were answered by the Officers and are included in Appendix 4.

## **12. Closing Remarks**

The Chair thanked the attendees for their participation and enthusiasm and looked ahead to the 2024 AGM.

## **13. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held in May 2024 via Zoom with full details to follow.

## **Appendix 1 – Update from the Treasurer and Report of the Finance & Resources Director**

Good afternoon,

As the Treasurer, let me make some general observations about the financial position, before passing over to our Finance Director, Tim Nicholls, to take you through the detail.

The Charity has emerged from the pandemic with reserves that many other charities would envy. However, Societies in aggregate report declines in membership and severe problems in recruiting committee members, which has led to the closure of some societies, with others still under threat. We are not out of the woods yet and so we have invited member Societies, through recent questionnaires, to be clear about what it is they want. In the interim, the Trustees have aimed to work to a balanced budget although some exceptional costs and covid effects have led to small operating deficits in the past two years. You have the details in the Financial Report.

The main financial event to note actually took place after the year end and this was the completion of the sale of the office at Guilford Street. The discussion about what sort of office was needed for the future began well before the pandemic but a combination of uncertainty about what staffing levels were required for the future, coupled with the possibility of some remote working trialled during COVID accelerated the need to take decisions. Also, quite frankly, the building was becoming more of a liability than an asset, with the prospect of extensive repairs and refurbishment on the horizon. The sale proceeds have been placed in a designated investment fund, pending final decisions about the need for office space in the future. At present, the Charity is working effectively and saving money by using flexible office accommodation close to Holborn Tube station and the staff seem to like this environment.

The savings made from the running costs of Guilford Street enabled the Trustees to freeze the Service Recharge for 2024 at £15.94, pending the outcome of the review of the services that Societies wanted from the Centre. Let me make it very clear that the Service recharge is, quite simply, the cost of services provided to societies divided by the total number of members – it does not include the costs of other activities undertaken by the Charity. It is, therefore, affected by the level of services provided and the membership level. More services and fewer members drive the recharge up, whilst the reverse can mitigate the recharge level.

I think it is appropriate, at this time, to remind member societies that the Charity and its Trustees have a wider role than simply providing services to member societies. The articles of the Charity require us to pursue our charitable objects of promoting, conserving and enhancing the arts and arts education and it is to this end that the assets and resources of the Charity must also be devoted. The reserves we hold centrally derive from a number of sources including income from our Enterprise and Tours subsidiaries and investment gains. These accrued assets are not those of the member societies but are owned and held by the Charity for its objects. I have found that, at Area meetings, there is little understanding of this fact.

Those of you present at the conference today will have heard more about the plans being developed under Track 1 and 2 for the future. Track 1 will be self-funding through the service recharge, whilst broadening the reach of arts education through Track 2 will fall to the Charity and will not be costed to member societies. I hope this is now clear.

I will hand over now to Tim, after which we will respond to questions.

Thank you, Tony. Good afternoon colleagues.

It gives me great pleasure to talk about the financial position of the end of what was a year when things returned to some sort of normality.

As Tony has mentioned the year ended with the charity in a solid financial position. General reserves of 5 months, so slightly below the target of 6 months, but if the three years 2020-2022 haven't been an advert for the importance of reserves, then I don't know what is. Of the 166K charities in the UK we are in a genuinely enviable financial position and that along with the way your Trustee Board are looking to build for the post COVID environment bodes well for the future of whole Arts Society family.

Sticking with the General fund as that is where the costs of delivering all of the services you as our members rely on, and of course where the service recharge income sits. The Trustee Board had initially planned for a breakeven position which included the discounting of the service recharge using the Designated Fund set aside at the end of 2021.

The position on core operating activities was indeed breakeven, but events in Ukraine, and somewhat closer to home had a negative impact on investments. This was only a bookkeeping entry to recognise the unrealised loss in the year, and the portfolio was still valued at 7% more than its underlying cost.

There was also expenditure incurred which was unplanned and so unbudgeted. Legal and professional advice was needed around the property sale, and contracts, agreements, relationships and policies were reviewed externally to ensure good practice and to mitigate any perceived risks. We also for the first time in several years, experienced staff turnover which of course comes with a cost around recruitment and training. We reforecast all income and expenditure lines on a monthly basis, so the Trustees were able to make the decision to utilise surplus reserves (essentially what they exist for) rather than looking for savings, which of course could only be found through getting out the red pen and cutting services. Budgets were already incredibly lean.

Moving to the Designated Funds. These are funds that have been set aside for specific things, separate from the core operational monies. The most obvious being the Patricia Fay Memorial Fund which I'm sure is familiar to you all. On that note thank you to every one of you who supports the fund through the National Gift Aid Scheme, Society Loans, and other donations. Your continued support saw Grant making increased by 30%. The fabulous Community Grants continued for a further year, and are again allowing Societies to reach out into their local areas. The local Area Support Teams, geared up after so much activity had been curtailed by lockdown, and hesitancy.

Investments were made into the future through the Track 1 and Track 2 strategic initiatives, funded by the Development Fund.

The net expenditure of £640K on Designated Funds can be best summarised as balancing:

- Supporting Societies, through the Affiliation Fee fund which offset the Service Recharge,
- Investing in the future to ensure sustainability, through the development fund,
- Directly delivering charitable benefit to communities through the grants.

So, although accountants have a bad press. Boring, negative, always miserable, I will end by saying I think things are pretty positive.

We've come through a period that has been a real existential threat across the charity, membership, and voluntary sectors.

Reserves are in a strong position and plans are being laid to take the family, the centre and local Societies forward.

With that, thank you very much. I will hand back to Liz to take the meeting forward and invite any questions from the floor.

**Tony Strachan**  
Treasurer

**Tim Nicholls**  
Finance and Resources Director

## **Appendix 2 – Report of the Chair**

It's been a busy year! I reported to you last year that we had, in late 2021 established two working parties to look at the future of The Arts Society. This was in response to the pandemic, the resulting fall in numbers and the fact that coincided with the end of a strategic planning period. The situation felt too fluid to tie ourselves to a new strategy straight away and instead the trustees made a plan to make a plan.

The Track One Group looked at our core business, Societies and what shape they were in, and Track Two was to look at how we might carry out our charitable purpose in new ways. The two groups met regularly during 2022.

Track One spent some time talking to a range of Societies about how they were doing and what they considered their major challenges. We were happy to hear loud and clear that the model that most of you use was still working well for you locally and that if it needs to be flexible to meet your needs then you have amended it accordingly. The challenges were around recruitment both of members and committees - more of which in a moment.

The Track Two working group looked at how we might find new audiences in the digital realm and ensure the future of the Arts Society as a central charity. It is often forgotten that the Arts Society as a central organisation is more than merely an administrative hub created to serve Societies' needs - and the trustees have an obligation to ensure that we continue to fulfil our charitable purpose, increase our reach, get our name out there, and find new audiences who may not yet be ready to join a local Society. The members here in Bristol have been hearing more about that new development

this afternoon and I'm sure that as the project (which we have called CULTUR.Art) comes to fruition, you will be able to follow its progress and join in if you wish.

One of the difficulties the centre has always had is that we know very little about your members. That makes data-led decisions difficult. As any marketing person will tell you, you can't act on hunches and anecdotal evidence. So, thank you for responding when we sent out several questionnaires earlier this year. Following a local project between The Arts Society Gade Valley and the marketing agency 'Catalyst', we have been able to establish a working relationship which has begun to collect real data. It is still being processed but it will certainly help us to help you more effectively in the future. We are continuing to monitor and help Societies recruit from and relate to, their local community. The Community Grants Scheme has continued and it's been really gratifying to see the wide range of projects that it has been used for. Proof that sometimes a little bit of money can make a lot of difference.

Like many organisations we have seen a decline in the numbers of volunteers since the pandemic. But our commitment to volunteering remains as strong as ever - as Patricia Fay said "We learn. We do." The Community Grant has given Societies new opportunities to open doors locally and look at new ways of connecting. It's worth remembering that volunteering projects do not have to be a long-term commitment.

A fun project with local young people at a skate park, or with those attending a local memory clinic, might only last an afternoon. And don't worry about not fitting into a designated category. It's more important to *do* something than to have it fit neatly into a tick box.

The Zoom Guest scheme got going this year and Societies who are in it have seen an increase in income from visitors paying to access their lectures via Zoom (I joined one myself a couple of weeks ago - thank you Worcester for a great lecture on fashion illustration.)

Tony has already mentioned the sale of Guilford Street - but I really ought to put on record here the considerable work that the staff put in to make the transition to the new offices seamless. Tim Nicholls and Claire Livesey both deserve the Arts Society Special Award for going above and beyond! It is a considerable relief to the Board to be rid of something that was fast becoming more of a liability than an asset. The change of office has already shown savings both in monetary terms and also in staff time.

My thanks must also go to my fellow trustees for their hard work and support this year. The Arts Society is a charity but we must operate it with the efficiency of a business. A lot has changed since some of us were in the workplace but now you'll be glad to know we can tell our KPIs from our MVPs. Proof positive that volunteering helps you learn valuable new skills!

The membership reports and Town Hall meetings that are now a regular feature of The Arts Society have proved an invaluable way of keeping connected both with the centre and hearing the successes and problems of other Societies. I know the rest of the Board value them as much as I do. It also means that member Societies are much more aware of what is going on and are not dependent on the twice-yearly Area Meeting to get up to speed. It also means no surprises at the AGM which is definitely a good thing!

There are lots of projects on the go and the next few months will see further development of the digital strategy, work on increasing public awareness via the use of ambassadors, (something we have been thinking about for some time), an examination of the composition of the Board to see if we need additional skills, further work on marketing for societies and an examination of the results of today's conference to build into the new strategic plan which we hope to be able to launch later this summer.

Please have a look at the Annual Report if you haven't done so already and I look forward to seeing you again at the next Town Hall Meeting in the autumn. Thank you for coming today. As ever the loyalty and enthusiasm of members is one of the delights of being part of the Arts Society. Thank you for all you do for your Societies and your communities. I know that together we can go on making art mean more to more people. That's why the Board is here, why I'm here, and why you are here.

Thank you very much.

**Liz Woods**

**Chair**

## Appendix 3 – Report of the CEO

I would like to talk to you about the challenges that charities like The Arts Society are facing. I want to address the need for improvements in various areas such as outreach, technology, diversity, sustainability, well-being, and purpose-driven thinking.

Having carried out a number of surveys earlier this year, I am aware that these are not necessarily priorities for local Societies. However, we do need to think about the bigger picture and long-term challenges in new ways to prepare for what lies ahead over the next 10 years.

There are important opportunities for us: but there is also a lot of work ahead of us to respond to the need for transformation.

As we all know, the charity sector is constantly evolving and adapting to the changing needs of society. In recent years, there has been a significant shift - accelerated by enhanced expectations of the charity commission - towards a more impact-driven approach to delivering charitable objects with greater public benefit. These changes are necessary to ensure that charities remain relevant and effective in a rapidly changing world. This is also true for The Arts Society.

Our Purpose - the reason **why** we exist - is a critical element that we must focus on. We need to make sure that our purpose is clear, and our members understand and support it. We can achieve this by engaging with our members and other stakeholders to determine what is important to them and how we can better align our activities with their needs.

Next, we need to address diversity.

The arts are not the prerogative of “people like us” and we must try and increase our reach. Charities need to ensure that they are representative of the communities they serve and that they are inclusive of all people, regardless of their background or identity. This requires a concerted effort to recruit a diverse range of staff, volunteers, and trustees, and to create an inclusive culture that values and celebrates difference.

We now realise that this is not necessarily achievable through local Societies. Or rather, that we cannot set the same diversity ambitions for local Societies - just as there are areas of great cultural diversity in the UK, there are also many local communities that are already well represented by their local Society.

But local Arts Societies can become more inclusive and diverse through the events and activities it offers. You can create programmes that are more accessible to everyone. For example, initiatives like the Zoom Guest Scheme have already opened up the programmes of some Societies to people unable to come to their local Societies lectures due to age or health concerns.

It may, however, fall on the central charity to deliver more against the requirement for diversity and inclusion. We are well placed to reach communities that local Societies can't, even if it is through grants programmes - but we would like to see more communities engage in our educational activities.

Sustainability is also a critical issue that charities need to address. It is no longer enough to focus solely on short-term gains; instead, charities must take a long-term view and consider the impact of their actions on the environment, society, and the economy. This means adopting sustainable practices across all areas of their operations. You may have noticed we switched to paper wrappers for the magazine.

Well-being is also an essential aspect that we need to consider. We must ensure that our programmes and events promote well-being and mental health. There is overwhelming evidence for the arts playing a critical part in all our lives. Our understanding of the arts, our insights into the diversity of our cultures, and the role we play in creating arts, allow us all to grow and flourish as people. The arts have a beneficial effect on an individual's health, well-being, and happiness. Let's not underestimate the value in what we deliver in this area. Local Societies have a significant role to play in this by offering crucial services in local communities.

We also need to talk about reaching out to new audiences. The Arts Society needs to improve on outreach and to have more impact in the wider community. Local Societies can achieve this through opening up to guests, volunteering and special programmes like our Community Grants.

Whilst some may not see this as being within the remit of the central charity, we can play a part by increasing our use of digital platforms. For example, we need to create engaging digital content that appeals to a younger audience and use social media to promote it. We need to get more data on our current members and potential new members to better understand their needs and interests, and use that information to tailor our outreach efforts. The recent communications and media survey will give us important insights for this.

The perennial issue of 'local' versus national activities is one that we must address. Our research

shows that many Societies think we ought to focus purely on the local. I believe we need to stop seeing these two things as opposed to each other. They can serve each other's purposes. There is a need for local Societies to engage with their communities and to build relationships with local stakeholders.

But digital technology, as developed by the centre, can offer a wealth of opportunities for us to reach new and wider audiences and to deliver services more efficiently. The key is to strike the right balance between the two.

Being a membership organisation remains vital. Our surveys clearly show which services you value from us, and which are less relevant to you in running your local Societies. We will take on board what you've told us, and will continue to provide the services that matter to you. This means that local Societies can expect fit-for-purpose, efficient, and cost-effective services from a dedicated professional team.

In moving forward, we can build on what we achieved in recent years, and be proud of how so many Societies have come through the challenges of the past 3 years.

The Arts Society was able to continue its educational mission despite the challenges of the pandemic. It has provided online lectures, webinars, and virtual events to members and the wider public, ensuring that the arts remained accessible to all, regardless of location or ability to attend events in person.

Additionally, The Arts Society adapted its activities to meet the changing needs of its members. It has offered online social events, book clubs, and other activities such as Artvent and Around the World in 80 Days to help members stay connected and engaged during the pandemic.

The local Societies responded brilliantly to the Covid 19 challenge, and I am pleased to say that for a number of months now, membership numbers have stabilised - we hope that they've bottomed out and the positive reports we are getting from an increasing number of Societies are an indication of healthy recovery.

The local Societies, together with the centre, played a crucial role in promoting the mental health and well-being of members during the pandemic.

One of the ways that The Arts Society has made an impact during the pandemic was by providing financial support to artists and cultural organisations that have been hit hard by the pandemic.

Through its Community Grant Fund, The Arts Society - through the local Societies - has been

able to offer much needed help for artists and organisations to stay afloat. This is an important aspect of fulfilling our charitable purpose, so thank you for playing your part in making a difference.

**I believe we have started the transformation already.**

So, we find ourselves at a crossroads.

As we emerge from the pandemic, it is clear that the world has changed. Our biggest challenge now is to re-build and grow our membership base. As Tony mentioned earlier, we are fully aware of the concerns around membership and committee recruitment - many Societies are deeply worried for their future and for them the struggle is very real.

Even before the pandemic we had started looking at the demographic changes that require the transformation of The Arts Society. The generation born during and immediately after the war has been the backbone of our membership for many years. It is currently **their** Society, and all aspects of the Societies are geared towards them.

It is a local model created in 1965 by the then 31-year-old Patricia Fay who would have been 90 years old next year. An organisation curated for her peers of - then almost exclusively - young women. Their values, ideas, and aspirations have fuelled the Society, and put their mark on it. This has made the local Society model so successful in the past.

However, it is deeply concerning that in 12 out of the last 20 years, we've seen a decline in membership numbers, and the highest growth we've seen was 1.2%. What made us successful in the past seems not to have worked so well since the millennium.

Therefore, as we move into a new era, we must focus our attention on those born, say, between 1955 and 1965, and curate an organisation for them, for the next generation.

To attract this demographic, we must first recognise their unique needs and interests - which are different from those born in - and shortly after - Patricia Fay's generation. They have grown up in a rapidly changing world and are looking for organisations that respond to their lifestyle and expectations.

However, we cannot rely on our current methods to attract this new generation. These are people who are used to - and adopted early - email, the internet, streaming services, contactless pay and digitisation. They expect and use it in all aspects of their lives. They may not be digital natives: but they spent most of their working lives with technologies Patricia Fay never got to see.

This is the challenge for all local Societies. We must explore new avenues and be bold as we prepare for the next generation of members. Local Societies need to really think about what that means for them locally: how they need to adjust to the needs of “younger” members with different expectations, different mind-sets, different experiences.

In a recent paper circulated in the Bulletin we talk about avoiding the Kodak moment, that is the moment when a company fails to connect with new customers and re-invent itself. In the paper we explain why it is important that local Societies cater to new audiences in order to stay relevant. Societies will need to modernise and develop their offering to attract the next generation; and to make meaningful connections we must take into account what matters to them: a clear purpose, sustainability, diversity, digital.

The Arts Society centrally cannot chart the course for each local Society in becoming attractive to the next generation of members, and your feedback suggests you don't want us to get too involved in what the local Societies do and look like. This is where your localism comes in.

What you want us to do is to raise awareness for The Arts Society in new and innovative ways and - and given the concerns over the costs of the Service Recharge you want us to do that at no or very low cost. You want us to reach these new audiences for you and whet their appetite for what you have to offer.

This means we have to harness the power of technology and social media to reach a wider audience, even though that does not immediately serve the needs of all current members and their Societies.

The challenge we are facing is the tension between providing services for Societies as they are at the moment - and their current members - and reaching out to potential members to attract them to what your Societies will become in the coming years - whatever that might be.

Our next strategy will seek to reconcile those tensions whilst also clarify what we can - and cannot - do, and where - as a charity - we need to build new relationships.

One thing is clear after the pandemic: we must transform to keep local Societies alive while at the same time delivering more charitable public benefit to a broader range of people. We must be brave, innovative, and forward-thinking, always with the aim of creating a better future for the next generation of members.

Now you might say that you have heard us say this before, and to some degree this is true: We've long talked about attracting younger people; about improving technology; about innovating locally.

But perhaps the pandemic has left us with three drivers that make this the right time for transformation.

There is a real and urgent NEED for change.

We have developed a more agile MINDSET for transformation as we've seen during the pandemic.

We've had time to take stock and think about our PURPOSE.

So, with that in mind I would like to propose we do three things in the coming year:

1. We review our purpose in the Statement of Mutual Obligations asap and decide what we will deliver for you, and what we will not deliver for you - which hopefully will result in further savings which we pass on to Societies
2. We continue to embrace technology and build it into the Arts Society not as an emergency measure but as the default for a modern organisation. Let's find the right technical solutions for your local needs, and the right solutions for us centrally too
3. We focus our energy on curating the local Society membership experience for people 55-65, which helps us target our efforts - and recruit new members.

Simultaneously, we - as a charity - will look to expand our role from only adding value to local Societies to also creating value beyond our Societies. This new value will be created to deliver our charitable objects in a modern sense and also to complement what Societies do locally.

Let's make the most of being local where local is our strength; let's make the most of the association where we can deliver broader and more far-reaching public benefit. And let's work together to lead on the transformation that we now must continue to hand over The Arts Society to the next generation.

**Florian Schweizer**  
**Chief Executive**

## **Appendix 4a – Finance questions**

One question was received from the floor:

“Is there any consideration to changing how the recharge amount is calculated as it feels it is a higher burden on smaller Societies?”

Tony Strachan responded:

“We recognise the net financial burden on small Societies is seemingly disproportionate, the charge per member is the most equitable way of distributing the costs provided to members. For example, items like the magazine are provided to all members and therefore it is right that that is distributed accordingly. We hope that there will be some areas which have been identified during the course of discussions today, and over the coming weeks, that mean that certain aspects of the central support can be trimmed in which case the numerator of the equation would go down. I do often hear at Area meetings, why don’t you do more about than why don’t you do less of, and the second thing is that the denominator of the equation is dependent on the number of members. We would love that everyone was able to recruit new members and reduce the charge that way but at the end of the day what we are providing is what we believe is what Societies want and we are costing that out to Societies on a per member pro rata basis, rather than trying to skew the result by large or small Society. For one thing, how would you define large or small Societies because there will always be Societies on the cusp. This is the rationale the Trustees have been working to.

## **Appendix 4b – General question session**

The following questions were answered by the Officers:

### ***Question 1:***

This was a two-part question:

- a) Whether there is any policy for charging less for those only attending Zoom online lectures?
- b) Is there a national policy for the charge to guests attending lectures?

### ***Answer 1:***

- a) This is up to Societies. There is no central policy – you can do what you feel is best. If you want to charge those only attending Zoom lectures less that is a Society decision.
- b) There is no central policy. It is part of Societies’ independence – Societies can charge guests what they feel the market will bear. It is not to do with the central organisation; it is an independent decision and you can do what is appropriate for your community.

**Question 2:**

The current membership is dependent on the high quality of lecturers and dependent on having a face-to-face Directory Day.

**Answer 2:**

There has been much discussion about Directory Day. It costs around £50000 to run but we can confirm that a date and venue has been booked for next year. It is scheduled to take place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at Central Hall Westminster.

**Question 3:**

Two-part question:

- a) Could consideration be given to changing the name of the organisation to The Arts Appreciation Society to make clearer what we do – not artists but arts appreciation?
- b) Looking to the future, is it possible The Arts Society has had its day and cannot continue?

**Answer 3:**

- a) I do not believe we can envisage changing our name again in the foreseeable future having gone through that process of changing the name once. We will be sticking with The Arts Society.
- b) With regards to whether we should pack up and go home, recently we had a presentation from our auditor when the Trustee Board were considering the future and one thing our auditor said to us was if we had been, for example, an AIDS charity formed in the 1980s our purpose would now have finished; there would be no more need for us. I do not believe there is no more need for us. I believe passionately that the arts are something we need in our lives, that our children and grandchildren need in their lives, and as long as we are living and breathing then I will want to carry on doing.

**Question 4:**

Is there any support for lecturers in terms of using technology and giving hybrid lectures? Some are good but some are very poor.

**Answer 4:**

We do give guidance and we do give support to lecturers. We don't spend a lot of money on it – some are more receptive than other. We do what we can and they are getting there slowly in the same way we adapted to PowerPoint when moving away from slides.

Tim Nicholls  
Company Secretary