

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 14 March 2024 at 7.15pm

In person at JAGS
and online via Zoom

<https://theartsociety-org.zoom.us/j/93621356995>

Agenda

2023 Minutes

Chairman's Report

2022/2023 Accounts

Notice is hereby given that the 50th AGM
of The Arts Society Dulwich will be held at
7.15pm on Thursday 14 March 2024
in person at JAGS and online via Zoom

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 49th AGM held on Thursday 9 March 2023
(below)
3. Chairman's report on 2023-2024 activities
4. Presentation of the accounts for the financial year ended
30 September 2023
5. Election of officers and executive committee members for
2024-2025
6. Appointment of the independent examiner for the accounts
year ending August 2024
7. Members' resolutions, if any
8. Any other business
9. Date of the next Annual General Meeting

Notes

Nominations for officers and members of the committee may be forwarded to chairman Eugenie Turton (gturton16@gmail.com) up to 14 days before the AGM.

Any member wishing to put forward a resolution must notify the chairman Eugenie Turton (gturton16@gmail.com) in writing at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

Jane Collingridge, Secretary
32 Rouse Gardens
London SE21 8AF

By order of the committee
1 February 2024

Minutes of the 49th AGM of The Arts Society Dulwich held on Thursday 9 March 2023 at JAGS and via Zoom

In attendance

Genie Turton (chairman), Jane Collingridge (secretary), Barry Coker (treasurer), further committee and society members

Apologies for absence

Linda Eales, Ann Cianfarani, Andrew Fletcher, Judy Clark

Minutes of the 48th AGM held on Thursday 10 March 2022

These were accepted as a true record of proceedings, proposed by Barry Coker and seconded by Brian Foord.

Chairman's report on 2022-2023 activities

The report had been circulated to members. Genie said that she had really enjoyed the last year and was privileged to be part of such a lively and friendly society. The lectures had been varied and she hoped that members would continue to enjoy them and renew their membership next season. She thanked the committee for their support and hard work. Barry and Isobel Coker have joined as treasurer and assistant treasurer and Sophia Stutter is replacing Linda Eales as programme secretary. Genie also thanked Edward McCarthy for his invaluable technical support during lectures.

Presentation of the accounts for the financial year ended 30 September 2022

The accounts, prepared by the previous treasurer David Trace and checked by Leslie Allan, were presented by Barry Coker. He said that there was a small surplus for the year of £308, but that there was enough money in the reserve fund to postpone any increase in membership fees. The accounts were accepted and approved, proposed by Yvette Bavin and seconded by Pat Reynolds.

Election of officers and executive committee members for 2023-2024

No nominations had been received. The existing committee members have agreed to continue in their roles, but Genie said that she would be pleased to hear from any society members interested in joining the committee.

Appointment of independent examiner for the accounts year ending September 2023

Leslie Allan has expressed a wish to retire from the role. Society member Ruth Colvin said she would be interested in taking it on.

Members' resolutions if any

There were none.

Any other business

In response to members' questions, Christine Brandon said that there are now 109 members and the lectures have also been attended by quite a few guests. On average 12-15 members attend on Zoom. Several members present expressed appreciation of the Zoom option for those who are unable to attend in person. Gift Aid makes an important contribution to the society's finances. Brian Foord, President, thanked the committee for keeping the society going throughout the pandemic.

Date of the next Annual General Meeting

Thursday 14 March 2024

Jane Collingridge

Secretary

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Annual General Meeting, March 2024

We all measure the years that pass in different ways. For me, there are less pleasant or more ordinary markers like the trip to the dentist or completing my tax return, but on the list of good and extraordinary things, our monthly lectures have become one of the most enjoyable. I hope it has been the same for you. During the 22/23 season we heard from a variety of speakers on fascinating subjects, all of which added insights and knowledge and some of which, like the talk on *The Nude*, took us into imagery that was unexpected. We have also enjoyed some excellent visits.

As I write this, we are already well into the 23/24 season but our 22/23 season stays in my mind as having fully re-established the society's in-person meetings after the uncertainties of Covid (as well as lectures being available on Zoom for those who can't make it to JAGS). It was also the year in which we were able to celebrate 50 years of The Arts Society Dulwich and acknowledge the efforts of its founders. We owe them a great debt of gratitude. I do not know whether the society will be here in another 50 years, but I do know that it deserves to be.

We have said goodbye to some members but we have also welcomed many new ones. We started the 23/24 season with another full and varied programme of lectures and visits. To date we have 128 members. As the treasurer's report shows, we also have a healthy financial situation.

One change we introduced last season was to ask the audience for feedback after each lecture. We have had an excellent response from those at the meetings and others following on Zoom. It has been most helpful to give feedback to the lecturers and also to The Arts Society nationally, whose job it is to ensure that the accredited lecturers in their directory continue to deliver high standards.

In the 22/23 season, all our lectures earned ratings of excellent or outstanding. A special thank you to Linda Eales who ended her term as programme secretary on a high note. The feedback from the speakers themselves is also uniformly positive, with many commenting that our members are friendly, engaging and engaged.

One activity that went into abeyance during the difficult Covid years was our charitable support for local arts activities. This season we have decided to use £2000 from our reserves to support local arts projects at Dulwich Picture Gallery and local state secondary schools. We are discussing the details and I will report back later in the year once they are finalised.

My thanks go to all my fellow committee members for their hard work and support. They each have their specific functions – Christine Brandon (membership, publicity, events and the website), Jane Collingridge (secretary and venue booking/management), Linda Eales and now Sophie Stutter (programme), Angela Finch (visits) and Barry and Isobel Coker (treasurer and assistant treasurer). However, the formal labels conceal a lot of other work. Our 50th anniversary celebration could not have happened without a trip to the cash and carry led by Sophie, food and drink preparation by everyone, table, chairs and sun shading by Barry and family. In addition, all committee members took part in an extensive leaflet drop around Dulwich in the autumn, which resulted in several new members this season.

Finally, we could not function without Edward McCarthy's expert technical help at lectures.

Thank you to all our members for your support and help.

Eugenie Turton CB
Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT

Annual General Meeting, March 2024

The financial performance of The Arts Society Dulwich in 22/23 reflects our success in delivering a full programme of lectures and events which have clearly been appreciated by members and visitors. The society made modest surpluses on its additional activities such as refreshments at meetings, external events and the very successful 50th anniversary celebration.

Over the year the society has taken the opportunity to make increased use of electronic banking to reduce costs and increase efficiency.

The society has maintained the same membership fees for the past seven years, including the current season. However, inflationary pressures on our costs such as hire of the hall, lecturers' fees and so on have been rising. This pressure is mounting and inevitably means that the committee must consider increasing the membership fees for 2024/5.

The committee is also recommending a change in the accounting year to better align with our activities: members are invited to agree to change the accounting year to end on 31 August rather than 30 September.

I am pleased to confirm that Ruth Colvin has kindly agreed to audit our accounts after a long tenure from Leslie Allan, to whom we are very grateful for his work on our behalf.

Barry Coker
Treasurer

THE ARTS SOCIETY DULWICH
Income & expenditure
for the year ending 30 September 2023

		2023 £	2022 £
INCOME			
Subscriptions		6,557	6,609
Visitor fees		705	-52
Donations		179	57
Refreshments	601	-	-
- Less costs	-481	120	-
Visits/events income	1,593		-
- Less costs	-1,447	146	-
50th anniversary celebration	600	-	-
- Less costs	-576	24	-
Bank interest		39	3
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>7,770</u>	<u>6,617</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Lecture fees and expenses		3,172	3,439
The Arts Society charges		1,689	1,310
Insurance		95	75
Hire of meeting hall		1,012	1,013
Printing, postage and admin		835	472
Technical support		400	-
Card reader banking fees		2	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS		<u>7,205</u>	<u>6,309</u>
 Surplus for the year		 564	 308
General Fund at start of year		<u>6,712</u>	<u>5,418</u>
General Fund at 30 September 2023		<u>7,585</u>	<u>7,020</u>

THE ARTS SOCIETY DULWICH
Balance sheet at 30 September 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Bank: current account	2,390	3,289
Bank: deposit account	8,068	6,029
Cash in hand	-	-
Prepaid expenses (JAGS)	309	1,012
Debtor	1,188	90
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>11,955</u>	<u>10,420</u>
 LESS		
Membership subscriptions pre-paid	4,085	2,803
Visits pre-paid	285	197
Creditors	-	400
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>4,370</u>	<u>3,400</u>
 Net assets at 30 September 2023	 <u>7,585</u>	 <u>7,020</u>
 Represented by:		
General Fund at 30 September 2023	 <u>7,585</u>	 <u>7,020</u>

Reserves policy 23/24

The society should aim to maintain, in normal circumstances, a level of reserves which are equal to at least six months net expenditure and the committee should consider using any surplus to support the development of young artists at Dulwich state secondary schools and the promotion of art to children by Dulwich Picture Gallery.

Eugenie Turton CB
Chairman

Barry Coker
Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Annual General Meeting, March 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for The Arts Society Dulwich for the year ending 30 September 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of my report

As trustees of The Arts Society Dulwich 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 trustees' accounts carried out under Section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145 (5) (b) of that 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by Section 13 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Ruth Colvin
Certified Accountant
1 Beckwith Road
London SE24 9LH

27 December 2023

THE ARTS SOCIETY DULWICH COMMITTEE MEMBERS SOUGHT

to assume these roles by July 2025, working alongside
current committee members until then

EVENTS SECRETARY

Events are anything that isn't a visit – walks, dinners, lunches, coffee mornings, special parties, the AGM and so on. You would need excellent computer skills and to work closely with the publicity officer and other committee members.

PUBLICITY OFFICER

The brief is to raise the profile of the society and ensure its presence, programmes and activities are publicised far and wide throughout Dulwich and the neighbouring areas. We seek someone with excellent computer skills who can plan, develop and deliver internal and external communications and publicity to members, potential members and the wider public – e.g. advertising on local websites, in local publications, posters in public places and so on. We use Mailchimp for bulk emailing and training is available.

VISITS SECRETARY

We need an organised person who enjoys researching places of interest. You would put forward visit proposals to the committee having contacted the venues to check costs, facilities, ease of travel and so on. Visits must fit around the season's programme. You would keep a list of bookings and ensure the treasurer has been notified so that he/she can check payments. You will ensure we have mobile numbers and emergency contacts for all on the visit. You will remind people nearer the time of the visit to ensure they know when and where to meet.

WEBSITE MANAGER

Is there anyone among our membership could manage the routine running of our website, ensuring it is in keeping with The Arts Society's corporate guidelines and the Data Protection Act? Our website is built in Joomla using HTML with a user-friendly interface. The main activity is in August when the new programme is uploaded. For the rest of the time visits, events, walks, the AGM etc are added as appropriate and taken down afterwards to ensure that the site is up to date.

If you could be interested in any of these roles, please contact any committee member for an informal chat - details are on the back of your membership card - or talk to one of us at the lectures.