



THE ARTS SOCIETY WENSUM

Notice of The Annual General Meeting of the Arts Society Wensum to be held
Wednesday 17th September 2025
at 10.30 a.m. at THE ASSEMBLY HOUSE, THEATRE STREET, NORWICH
to be followed by a brief talk from Adam Taylor, CEO of The Garage in Norwich (our chosen Young Arts Charity) and at 11.00 a.m. by a lecture to be given by Alexandra Epps
“TAMARA DE LEMPICKA – ART DECO DIVA”

AGENDA	PROPOSER	SECONDER
1. Apologies for Absence		
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 18 th September 2024	Keith Erskine	Margaret Jacob
3. Committee Report 2024-2025 <u>See Item 1 in Reports</u>	Penny Mahood	Jean Steward
4. Adoption of the Accounts for the period to 30 th June 2025 and Financial Report <u>See Item 2 in Reports</u>	Alan Smith	Fan Tubbs-Arthur
5. Election of Officers and Committee Members	Susan Knights	Stephanie Brooks
6. Proposal to appoint Sally Farman as Examiner	David Adler	Ursula Barton
7. Any other business		

The following nominations for Officers and Committee Members have been received:

Shelagh Smith	Co Chair
Enid Erskine	Co Chair
Margaret Goodman	Secretary
Alex Craker	Treasurer
Lesley Jones	Membership Secretary & Guest Bookings
Annabel Hoseason	Programme Secretary & Special Interest Days
Susanna Smart	Visits Secretary
Pamela Shallcross	Young Arts
Judy Tryggvason	Publicity Officer
Jacquie Burgess	Publicity Assistant

Documents attached:

Minutes of the AGM held on the 18th September 2024
Reports for the 2025 AGM
Examined Accounts to the 30th June 2025

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE ARTS SOCIETY WENSUM
HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY HOUSE NORWICH
ON THE 18th SEPTEMBER 2024 at 10.30AM**

1. APOLOGIES

There were apologies from Lin Malton, Co-Chair, and 3 members.

2. MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY HOUSE ON THE 20th SEPTEMBER 2023

It was proposed by Keith Erskine and seconded by Margaret Jacob that the circulated Minutes be accepted as a true record.

This was carried by a show of hands with no objections or abstentions.

3. COMMITTEE REPORT

We have had a very busy and successful year at The Arts Society Wensum and are delighted that membership has now reached capacity, and we have a waiting list. Our Committee is active and committed, meeting monthly in person.

Margaret is a thorough and meticulous Secretary, Alex as Treasurer has kept us informed of our finances during the difficulties of rising costs, our Membership Secretary Lesley has provided further efficiency to her role and is currently looking at ways we can improve our signing-in routine. Judy provides competent, panic free, technical advice at lectures, and is responsible for our excellent newsletter, our website, the Loop at our talks and Smartsurvey feedback on the lectures. Enid has given a warm welcome to our guests and liaised with the Assembly House to ensure the accommodation is as we would wish. Shelagh created a wonderfully varied and diverse series of lectures which kept us interested and attentive. Annabel, whose Christmas and Spring lectures were enjoyed by many of our members, has other delights planned. Sarah has worked very hard raising funds in difficult times for Sistema. She has agreed to continue in her role as Young Arts Co-ordinator for another year until a replacement can be found.

We have been unable to recruit a Visits Secretary and feel that all of us as members will feel the loss of the extra dimension visits can provide. We would like to thank Mike Steward for his 'pop up' trips and hope the residential visit to Glyndebourne goes well.

Some of our energy this year has been diverted to the Arts Society Head Office/Trustees and their proposal to alter the way our individual Societies contribute overall. Wensum voted against the new proposals, which would have taken away all voting rights from local societies. Their proposal was not carried. We have also voted for five new trustees, to be ratified at The Arts Society's (NADFAS) AGM in August. There will, of course, be further updates.

Lin and I would like to thank the committee members for their enthusiasm, skills and commitment. We have enjoyed their mutual support and wish them well in the future.

Finally, we give thanks to you, our members, for your feedback, your interest and your attendance.

Lorraine Ransome and Lin Malton Out-going Co-Chairs Arts Society Wensum

It was proposed by Jean Steward and seconded by Penny Mahood that the Committee Report 2023/2024 be accepted.

This was carried by a show of hands with no objections or abstentions.

4. ADOPTION OF THE ACCOUNTS AND TREASURER'S REPORT for the period to 30th JUNE 2024

I have pleasure in presenting my first report as Treasurer, on the accounts to 30 June 2024.

Despite a large hike in the cost of hiring the Assembly House room for our lectures, there was a surplus overall of £1,600 for the year.

I can tell you that this was as a result of a surplus of £874 for our Programme activity (for which we pay our subscriptions) and a surplus of £726 for Events, after making an additional payment to Sistema – our Young Arts charity for the year.

Features to note are that

1. our membership increased through the year to the 300 cap
2. income from guests at our lectures was £909 – up from £640 in previous period
3. the surplus for Events was inflated this year by a negotiated refund on the Snape trip
4. bank charges as a result of high levels of cheque handling were the equivalent to two membership subscriptions.

The Society continues to be well funded with ample funds in the bank to meet unforeseen circumstances and provides the potential to make additional donations to Young Arts charities in the future.

I would be very happy to answer any questions.

Alex Craker, Treasurer Arts Society Wensum

It was proposed by Fan Arthur and seconded by Alan Smith that the Accounts be adopted, and the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

This was carried by a show of hands with no objections or abstentions.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The nominations, as detailed in the Notice of the AGM, of the Officers and Committee members were proposed by Susan Knights and seconded by Stephanie Brooks

They were elected by a show of hands with no objections or abstentions.

6. PROPOSAL TO APPOINT DAVID ADLER AS EXAMINER

This appointment was proposed by Ursula Barton and seconded by James Arthur

This was carried by a show of hands with no objections or abstentions.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Congratulations and thanks were given to the Committee by Wilson Graham

On behalf of the new Committee, Shelagh Smith as incoming Co Chair thanked Lorraine Ransome and Lin Malton for their hard work as Co-Chairs

There was no other business.

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Signed by
Co-Chair

This

September 2025

REPORTS FOR THE 2025 AGM

Item 1: Committee Report 2024/25

We hope you enjoyed what has proved to be another successful year at The Arts Society Wensum. We managed to host 10 lectures during the year, including the special Christmas lecture and despite having to cancel our October lecture at short notice due to a technical failure with the AV system at our venue. The Assembly House remains popular with our members, offering refreshments in the Hall and with its new AV system. We have secured a contract for the forthcoming year.

Our lectures ranged from the classic works of Vermeer to Victorian and Modern art collections, to the Elizabethan music of William Byrd, to Spanish architecture, Haute Couture, to Palmyra in the Syrian desert and our very own William Morris. On the way, our special interest days took us to the origins of Santa Claus and journeying along the Silk Road. On our 3 Visits this year, members went to Glyndebourne and Sussex for 3 days; day trips to London to visit Sir Frederic Leighton's Studio House and the Mughal exhibition at the V&A; and to Burghley House in Stamford.

All of the above were hugely well attended, and our Membership continues to grow. We already have a waiting list for next year! We thank you for your support this year.

This is greatly encouraging for your committee members, who have worked tirelessly throughout this last year to ensure that being a Member of TAS Wensum is a good experience for all of you. It gives us great pleasure to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their commitment over this last year: to Margaret as Secretary for keeping us all on track; to Alex as Treasurer who ensures we have the necessary funds for our varied activities; to Lesley as Membership Secretary for managing you all; to Annabel who arranges our Special Interest Days and future programme of lectures; to Susanna, who stepped in during the year after Mike's last and very successful Glyndebourne trip, to organise future visits; to Judy for her sterling and growing portfolio of work on our publicity and technology needs as well as introducing our bar-coded membership cards.

Thank you too, to Sally Farman who stood in as Examiner for the accounts this year in place of David Adler who stood down from that position earlier in the year.

We particularly wish to give special thanks to Sarah and Lorraine who retire from the Committee at this AGM. Sarah who has looked after our Young Arts portfolio and in this last year introduced us to the theatrical work of young people at The Garage in Norwich which we will continue to support over the next year too, many thanks from us all. Last, but not least, a huge thank you to Lorraine for her longstanding and varied support to the Committee over many years, as our Visits Secretary, our former Co-Chair and our venue liaison.

Thank you one and all.

ENID ERSKINE AND SHELAGH SMITH, Co Chairs Arts Society Wensum August 2025

Item 2: Treasurer's Report 2024/25

I have pleasure in presenting my second report as Treasurer, on the accounts to 30 June 2025. The format now shows the financial outcome for Programme activity (for which we pay our subscriptions), Events and our sponsorship of Young Arts separately. There is also a finer level of transparency presented for the Programme Expenditure.

Features to note are that

1. with a rise in both subscriptions and number of members (to 310), and a reduction in lecturers' costs, we made a bigger surplus on the Programme in 2024-25 than in the previous year; (as you know, subscriptions have been held at last year's rate for 2025-26)
2. although the fee to the national organisation in 2024-25 looks as if it has increased substantially this is largely as a result of now adopting a cash-flow approach and charging the whole fee paid in the year to the accounts; the pre-payment from 2023-24 inflates this figure as part of the transition in method. The payment made in February 2025 was £4,541
3. we had fewer Visits in 2024-25 and the surplus for events was down a bit, but large enough for the Committee to decide to fund an additional donation of £250 to the Young Arts charity, The Garage
4. bank charges have come down; thank you to members using BACS payments more often
5. net assets up around £2,300 on last year.

The Society continues to be well funded with ample funds in the bank to meet unforeseen circumstances and provides the potential to make additional donations to Young Arts charities in the future.

I would be very happy to answer any questions.

ALEX CRAKER, Treasurer Arts Society Wensum August 2025

THE ARTS SOCIETY WENSUM: ACCOUNTS 2024-2025

Income & Expenditure Accounts:

	1.07.24	1.07.23
	- 30.06.25	- 30.06.24
Programme Income		
Subscriptions	£ 19,898	£ 16,480
Guests/visitors	£ 743	£ 909
Events Income	£ 9,588	£ 10,321
Young Arts Fund	£ 1,343	£ 1,205
TOTAL INCOME	£ 31,572	£ 28,915
Programme Expenditure		
Lecturers' costs	£ 4,832	£ 5,061
Room Hire	£ 5,224	£ 5,150
Stationery, Printing, Postage	£ 609	£ 440
Travel	£ 482	£ 445
Gifts and Card Readers	£ 445	£ 196
Bank Charges	£ 114	£ 163
Sub Total	£ 11,706	£ 11,455
Arts Society National (Fees & Insurance)	£ 6,953	£ 5,059
Events Expenditure	£ 8,973	£ 9,301
Young Arts Sponsorship	£ 1,593	£ 1,500
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 29,225	£ 27,315
Programme Surplus	£ 1,982	£ 875
Events Surplus	£ 615	£ 1,020
YA Fund net position	-£ 250	-£ 295
OVERALL SURPLUS	£ 2,347	£ 1,600

D A Craker

D A Craker
Hon Treasurer

Balance Sheet at:

	30.06.25	30.06.24
General Fund		
Balance brought forward	£ 13,104	£ 13,055
Prior Year Adjustment		-£ 1,549
Surplus for the period	£ 2,347	£ 1,600
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	£ 15,452	£ 13,104
Represented by:		
Current Assets:		
HSBC Bank plc	£ 18,661	£ 11,798
Payments made in advance	£ 18	£ 2,411
	£ 18,678	£ 14,209
Less Current Liabilities:		
Creditors	£ 2,802	£ -
Subscriptions in advance	£ 425	£ 1,105
	£ 3,227	£ 1,105
NET ASSETS	£ 15,452	£ 13,104

Notes on Creditors:

Lecturer's costs for cancelled lecture: £432

Room hire for cancelled lecture: £500

Advance payment for July 2025 Visit: £1,870

I have examined the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2025, and they show, in my opinion, a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of The Society at that date, in accordance with the books of account, the bank statements and the explanations given to me.

S. Farman

S Farman
Honorary Examiner

3rd August 2025