

# THE ARTS SOCIETY BOWDON



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> 2026

Notice is hereby given that the forty fourth Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on **MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2026 at 1.30 pm** prior to the Lecture at the Bowdon Rooms, The Firs, Bowdon.

### AGENDA

1. Welcome by the President – Janusz Karczewski-Slowikowski
2. Apologies for absence given by the Chairman
3. To approve the Minutes of the AGM held on June 16th 2025.
4. Chairman’s Address – Gwynneth Bellman
5. To receive the Treasurer’s Report and Verified Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. Any questions about the accounts should be submitted in writing to the Treasurer by Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>: [treasurer.bowdon@outlook.com](mailto:treasurer.bowdon@outlook.com)
6. To adopt Alker Elliott as Auditors for the following year.
7. Special Resolution – Charitable Incorporated Organisation
8. Election of Committee:

The following were elected and are willing to continue:

Chairman	Gwynneth Bellman
Membership Secretary	Susan King
Programme Secretary	Hannah Hulton
Treasurer	Alison Collins
Guest Event Secretary	Judith Robertson
Web Site & Social Media	Susan King
Heritage Volunteer/ Young Arts/Community Arts	Gwynneth Bellman
Ex Officio	Hilary Forrest

The role of Secretary is vacant.

### 9. APPOINTMENTS

Janusz Karczewski-Slowikowski is re-appointed President

### 10. RESIGNATIONS:

Sue Park and Mary Rollings as Past Chairs

### DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**21st JUNE 2027 AT THE BOWDON ROOMS AT 1.30 PM PRIOR TO THE LECTURE.**

# THE ARTS SOCIETY BOWDON



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> 2026

### MINUTES OF THE FORTY THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY HELD ON MONDAY 16th JUNE 2025

#### 1. WELCOME BY THE PRESIDENT

Prof. Rosalie David welcomed everyone to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting

#### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

5 apology for absence were received.

#### 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024 were unanimously Approved

#### 4. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

As previously circulated. The Chairman thanked the Committee, the Technical Team, Bowdon Room Staff and members who had assisted the Committee. Several of the Committee are standing down and any members would be very welcome to join. Subscription increase to £70. We look forward to another year of incredible lectures and wish our new committee every success. On behalf of the joint chairmen she thanked all for the help and encouragement received over the years and the privilege to be part of such a successful Society and to have the benefit of a wonderful friendly committee.

#### 5. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

To receive the Hon. Treasurer's Report and verified Accounts for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 circulated with AGM notice - were approved unanimously. The appointment of Birch Littlemore and Co as Auditor for the following year – approved unanimously

#### 6. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Gwynneth Bellman Chairman                      Nominated by Prof. Rosalie David - seconded by Mary Rollings  
Sue King Membership Secretary              Nominated by Roger Turner - seconded by Sue Park

#### 7. The following were elected and are willing to continue:

Programme Secretary Hannah Hulton:              Hon. Treasurer Alison Collins  
Guest Event Secretary Judith Robertson              Web Site Manager Sue King              The role of Secretary is vacant.  
Unanimously agreed.

#### 8. APPOINTMENTS

Janusz Karczewski-Slowikowski is appointed President  
Gwynneth Bellman is re-appointed Heritage Volunteer/Young Arts/Community Arts Representative  
Sue Park, Mary Rollings and Hilary Forrest continue ex officio

#### 9. RESIGNATIONS

Prof. Rosalie David as President                      Sue Park as Chairman  
Roger Turner as Membership Secretary              Mary Rollings as Chairman  
Dorothy Chadwick as Secretary

#### 10. Vote of Thanks to Retiring Officers - Janusz Karczewski-Slowikowski

#### 11. Vote of Thanks to Prof. Rosalie David - Janusz Karczewski-Slowikowski

#### 12. Handover of Chairmanship to Gwynneth Bellman. Handover of Presidentship to Janusz Karczewski-Slowikowski.

DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2026 AT THE BOWDON ROOMS AT  
1.30 PM PRIOR TO THE LECTURE

# THE ARTS SOCIETY BOWDON



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> 2026

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It has been a pleasure to see so many of you at our lectures this season, and to welcome many new members and guests.

We have again been entertained and enlightened by a diverse and professional series of lectures. I hope that you have all seen the copy of our programme for next season which promises more delights.

Our remit as the Art Society, Bowdon is defined in our constitution as “the promotion and advancement of the education of the public in the cultivation, appreciation and study of all aspects of the arts, crafts, culture, music and heritage, including the decorative and fine arts”. I hope you will agree that our programme reflects this aim.

Such high standards, however, do not come cheap. The cost of room hire, lecturers fees and expenses means that we spend, on average, £1200 to facilitate each lecture. We have already started to fund raise towards the cost of a new projector so that our audio visual facilities continue to provide the level of excellence expected by our members and speakers. We rely on a consistent membership base to be able to continue this service. The good news is that we have decided that there will be no increase in membership fee this year. However, we would ask you to remember to renew your membership promptly, please. Susan King, our Membership Secretary is always in attendance at the entrance to the Bowdon Rooms and will be happy to help you.

We are conscious that we are all living in a world of economic uncertainty. We are committed to ensuring the survival of our Society and promoting its security. With this in mind, we are proposing that the Arts Society Bowdon applies to the Charities Commission to be registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Janusz, our President, has written an explanatory information sheet to accompany this report. My thanks to Janusz and our Treasurer, Alison, for their hard work on this matter.

We continue to support art related projects in our local communities through our Young Arts and Community Arts funds. We gave a grant of £500 to Francis House Children's Hospice in Didsbury towards the creation of a Graffiti wall linking the two wings of the building. A local artist painted a colourful and imaginative mural depicting many iconic local landmarks and references. This wall has been a tremendous success with everyone at the hospice, especially the young people, and has gone on to inspire the creation of several more vibrant wall paintings in the building. In November, we donated £250 to a local music therapy group, String of Hearts, who work with adults with long term illness or disability. The monies have been used to help fund transport for users to attend the therapy sessions and to contribute towards the cost of room hire. We have again participated in the Art Society's Art Bytes project to promote art and creativity in young people in Year 5 education. We sponsored The Willows Primary School in Timperley for a second year. The children produce some outstanding artwork and following public voting the winning entry from the school will be go forward to the national final. Details and photographs of our Arts and Community projects are published regularly on our website. These grants are made possible by our members generously supporting our raffles. Thank you all for your support in this.

## THE ARTS SOCIETY BOWDON



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> 2026

Our social events continue to be very popular and are an ideal opportunity for members to meet together and for new members to feel a part of our Society. We held two Guest lunches at Ringway Golf Club. In November, Nick Bianchi gave an entertaining and lively account of his family's journey from the Italian Lakes to founding a well known furnishing business In Macclesfield. In March, Peter Murray from Pulse of Perfumery in Knutsford gave us an insight into the creation of exquisite fragrances, and also provided a generous raffle prize as well as 'goodie bags' for each guest. Many thanks to Judith and Hannah for their hard work and organisation.

Our tour of Tabley House last month was a great success and we plan to arrange more visits to local places of interest in the future.

In June we are organising the first of our 'Film Afternoons' at the Parish Centre in Bowdon. These will comprise the showing of an Art based film followed by tea and cake. The films feature some of the great 'Blockbuster' art exhibitions of recent years and give us all an opportunity to see the artworks in close proximity without crowds of people and selfie sticks. I hope that this will become a regular feature of our season and that you will all give it your support.

The Arts Society Bowdon is your society and the committee are always happy to receive your suggestions and your feedback. I am very grateful to our current committee, Alison, Susan, Judith, Hannah and Hilary for their hard work and support. We are still looking for someone to come forward to assume the role of secretary. It is not an onerous role, but is essential for the smooth running of the society. Please give this matter your consideration, and if you feel that you could help please contact me.

Thank you all for attending regularly and for supporting our society. I look forward to seeing you all in September for another season celebrating Art and Culture in all its manifestations.

Have a wonderful summer.

Gwynneth

# THE ARTS SOCIETY BOWDON



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> 2026

### TREASURER'S REPORT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS – YEAR ENDED 31.3.2026

The income for the Society for the year ended 31st March 2026 was £22,123 (2025 £23,359). Membership subscriptions fell this year raising a total of £15,392 (2025 £17,061). This figure also includes the monies raised by events such as Guest lunches (£4,827), before the deduction of expenses.

The fall in membership is a disappointing but inevitable reflection of the average age of the membership and the enormous range of competing activities and interests available.

The expenditure for the year was similar to last year at £21,425 (2025 £20,269).

The Society's major expenses are the room hire (£6,000), speakers' fees (£4,860) and the affiliation fees paid to The Arts Society (£4,034). The current cost of holding a lecture is now some £1,200 and which is already showing signs of increasing in the future.

This year shows a small surplus of £236 (2025 £2,969), after provision for tax of £139 (2025 £121). However, this does not reflect the fact that some of the income, notably the raffle monies, is ring fenced for specific uses such as young and community arts.

The total funds carried forward to the year 2026 – 2027 amount to £25,186. The Arts Society recommends that societies hold funds in reserve to cover approximately one year's expenditure. This recognises that speakers are booked up to two years in advance. In addition, affiliation fees remain payable to The Arts Society for as long as there is a single member. Therefore, we have calculated that we need to continue to maintain a reserve in the region of £20,000.

No capital expenditures were made during the year. Unfortunately, as members have been advised, the Society's projector needs to be replaced and a fund-raiser has been launched for that purpose. However, it is likely that a new projector will need to be acquired before the required monies are raised.

The Committee is conscious that, in the current climate, everyone is faced with increased costs and some may be having to make sacrifices. However, as members are aware, a resolution is being put forward at the AGM that the Arts Society Bowdon become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It is to be hoped that the ability to claim Gift Aid on subscriptions from qualifying members and small donations together with the exemption from corporation tax will ease the financial pressure on the Society.

It is against this background that the Committee does not intend to increase the subscription charge for this year and so it remains at £70.

Alison Collins  
[Treasurer]

# THE ARTS SOCIETY BOWDON



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> 2026

Abbreviated Accounts (full accounts available on request)

### The Arts Society, Bowdon Income Statement for the year ending 31 March 2026

	2026		2025	
	£	£	£	£
<b>TURNOVER</b>				
Member subscriptions		15,392		17,061
Outings and events income		4,827		4,370
Study day		-		183
Visitors		460		310
Other income		913		681
Donations		260		427
<b>GROSS SURPLUS</b>		<b>21,852</b>		<b>23,032</b>
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>				
Repairs, renewals and maintenance		79		69
Insurance		185		186
Printing, postage and stationery		347		375
Website costs		120		268
Accountancy fees		400		250
Subscriptions		4,252		4,770
Credit card charges		26		17
Depreciation		162		162
Lecture speaker fees and expenses		4,860		4,683
Hire of halls		6,000		4,866
Outings, events & meeting expenses		4,034		3,707
Study day costs		-		486
Young arts costs		960		430
Deficit on disposal of tangible fixed assets		323		-
		(21,748)		(20,269)
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS</b>		<b>104</b>		<b>2,763</b>
<b>Other interest receivable and similar income</b>				
Bank interest receivable		271		327
<b>SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION</b>		<b>375</b>		<b>3,090</b>
<b>Tax on Surplus</b>				
Corporation tax charge (note 1)		(139)		(121)
<b>SURPLUS AFTER TAXATION BEING SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>		<b>236</b>		<b>2,969</b>

### The Arts Society, Bowdon Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2026

	2026		2025	
	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible Assets		-		484
				<b>484</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors		3,284		3,542
Cash at bank and in hand		23,174		21,295
		<b>26,458</b>		<b>24,837</b>
<b>Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year</b>		<b>(1,272)</b>		<b>(371)</b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)</b>		<b>25,186</b>		<b>24,466</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>25,186</b>		<b>24,950</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>25,186</b>		<b>24,950</b>
Income and Expenditure Account		25,186		24,950
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>25,186</b>		<b>24,950</b>

Approved by:

*Alison Collins*

A Collins  
Treasurer  
Date: 04 / 05 / 2026

Notes to the accounts (abbreviated)

#### 1. Taxation

HMRC have agreed to corporation tax dormancy and will not collect liabilities due on "outside" income if the tax liability is below a de minimis threshold of £100. As this level was exceeded with visitor income and bank interest received in the year a corporation tax charge of £139 has been recognised in the accounts.

Full accounts are available on request.

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

This year, as every year, a number of the members have left us for a variety of reasons be it they have moved away, ill health means they no longer feel able to attend or, sadly, in some cases, they are now deceased.

This year we've lost 49 people, 11 due to ill health, 1 deceased and 1 relocating and 36 for undisclosed/unknown reasons but I'm pleased to say that in the same period we welcomed 10 new members, so overall membership remains reasonably stable though, of course, much reduced.

As of June 1<sup>st</sup> we have 223 members, including our President and Founder Chairman. We continue to receive enquiries from people expressing an interest in joining us, so if you know of someone who is interested you and they may like to know that there is currently no waiting list and they would be welcome to apply. Just send an email to [bowdondmain@outlook.com](mailto:bowdondmain@outlook.com)

Susan King  
[Membership Secretary]

# THE ARTS SOCIETY BOWDON



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> 2026

### SPECIAL RESOLUTION

#### **PROPOSAL TO CONVERT THE ARTS SOCIETY BOWDON INTO A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (CIO)**

##### **Introduction**

This proposal is put forward to the membership by the Committee for two main reasons: firstly, in order to improve the Society's current finances which are becoming more fragile and, secondly, to provide the Society and its committee members with the protection of limited liability.

At present, the Arts Society Bowdon (ASB) is an unincorporated association. It is not a registered charity. Therefore, Gift Aid may only be claimed by The Arts Society (the global body) on the affiliation fees paid to it by ASB.

If our society were to become a CIO then, under existing legislation, Gift Aid could be claimed on the full amount of subscriptions paid by eligible members who have signed the necessary Gift Aid declaration.

Gift Aid may also be claimed on any small donations. Furthermore, the society would be exempt from paying tax on income such as bank interest. All these combined would result in a significant increase in the Society's income.

In addition, the Society would benefit from limited liability status providing protection to both the Society and to its Committee members who would become the Trustees of the charity.

As part of the application to become a registered charity, the Society's current constitution would have to be revised. It is intended to seek approval of the new rules which would be based on the template provided by the Charity Commissioners.

There would be no impact on the way in which our society operates nor any adverse effects on the membership.

The membership, meeting in Annual General Meeting, are recommended to approve the following resolution

**That, on 31 March 2027, the unincorporated association be wound up and the assets and liabilities be transferred to a newly formed Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).**

Proposed by Gwynneth Bellman on behalf of the Committee

Seconded by Alison Collins on behalf of the Committee

**An explanatory note regarding Charitable Incorporated Organisations is included with these papers below.**

# THE ARTS SOCIETY BOWDON



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> 2026

### ***CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATIONS (CIOS) – AN INFORMATION SHEET***

It is proposed that the Arts Society Bowdon applies to the Charity Commission to be registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This will be financially beneficial to the society as it will no longer be liable for corporation tax and could benefit under the Gift Aid rules on members' subscriptions and the fees paid by guests. A CIO differs from an ordinary "registered charity". It is a body corporate able to enter into contracts (e.g. for room hire) in its own name and can conduct its financial affairs as if it were a legal personality. Moreover, it brings with it "limited -or in our case nil- liability", meaning that neither the trustees (i.e. the committee) nor the membership become liable in the event of the charity becoming insolvent. It also indemnifies the trustees and the membership in the event of the CIO being sued for any reason.

Legislation to introduce the CIO as a new legal form of incorporation for charities was enacted in the Charities Act 2006. However, implementation of the legislation only occurred in 2013 following the introduction of statutory regulations governing CIOs in 2012 under the provisions of the Charities Act 2011. Yes, it has been a long and complicated process for the CIO to become a reality!

Prior to the introduction of the CIO, the only way a charity could have limited liability and be a corporate entity was by registering itself at Companies House as a Company Limited by guarantee. For a small entity like the Arts Society Bowdon, this would be both onerous and costly, but it is advantageous for, in particular, those "National" charities which operate as if they were businesses. They have to submit accounts and make various filings to both the Charity Commission and Companies House. As a CIO, the Arts Society will only have to submit a simplified annual return of its income and expenditure to the Charity Commission.

The Charities Act 2011(Charitable Incorporated Organisations) (Constitutions) Regulations 2012, prescribe a model constitution for CIOs. This means that once the Arts Society Bowdon is registered as a CIO with the Charity Commission it will have, de facto, adopted the model constitution set out in the Regulations. Thus, the membership does not "approve" the constitution; it is imposed by the Regulations. A copy of the constitution may be viewed on the society's website. It is a lengthy document but in practice does not alter the manner in which the society conducts its affairs and retains the AGM as responsible for electing the officers and approving the accounts as well as giving it the power to mandate the trustees (i.e. the committee) on key issues of society policy. For their part, the trustees will continue to be responsible for the day-to-day management and organisation of the society. The difference for them is that their responsibilities have a statutory underpinning. In practice, this means that what they do must be in the interests of the CIO – which is how the committee of the Arts Society Bowdon has operated since the society's formation in 1982.