Report on the Outcomes of the 54th Annual General Meeting of The Arts Society Horsham held Wednesday 08 July 2026 at The Brighton Road Baptist Church, Horsham

1. Chair's Welcome

207 members were present at the meeting, which opened at 10:45 a.m.

Standing in for the Chair, Christine Knight, who was indisposed, Ann Rattray welcomed members to the 54th Annual General Meeting of The Arts Society Horsham. The Committee members present then introduced themselves to the members.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Pat and Tony Perry, Lesley Ward and Katharine Webbe.

3. Report on the Outcomes of the 2025 AGM and Matters Arising

The Report on the Outcomes of the 53rd AGM held 09 July 2025 was accepted by members by a show of hands. There were no matters arising.

4. Chair's Report

Ann Rattray presented the Chair's report to the members present. Copies of the report had been issued to all members in May, either by post (to the 25 members who elected to receive communications in this manner) or online via email.

5. Presentation of Accounts 2025/2026

Copies of the Accounts and Treasurer's report were issued to all members arriving for the meeting. The Treasurer's report was presented to the attending members by Kate Cooper. The accounts were therefore duly accepted by a show of hands.

Three questions were received from the floor and addressed by the Treasurer as follows:

Question: Was the recovery charge that was set by Headquarters good value for money?

Response: The Arts Society Horsham had no control over how the recovery charge was set, as it was a per capita charge for the administrative work that was provided from the centre for individual societies. The Treasurer had been notified by Headquarters that the charge was going to increase quite a lot in 2025-26.

Question: Where does the Arts Society Horsham apply to for grants?

Response: We only apply to Headquarters for grants to support specific projects

Question: Would the Capitol be increasing the charge when we return later in 2026?

Response: We had been pleased to learn from the Capitol that they would be discounting the charge that we would have to pay below their new standard rate. This meant that the new Capitol hire charge would only be 25% above the previous rate (which was well below 'market rate' as our previous Treasurer had negotiated particularly favourable rates for the last year of our time at

the Capitol) which was good value given the technical IT support that was not included at Brighton Road Baptist Church.

6. Election of Chair

Christine Knight was nominated by the Committee, proposed by Ken Runcorn and seconded by Tricia Payne and was duly elected as Chair.

7. Election of Officers

The following were nominated by the Committee and duly elected:

Hon Treasurer	Kate Cooper
Hon Secretary	Simon Machin
Vice-Chair	vacant

8. Election of Committee

Apart from Ann Rattray who was standing down from her role as Brighton Road Baptist Church liaison, all current members were nominated by the Committee, and duly elected:

Rowena Kerr	Lectures Secretary
Jane Wilcock	IT Manager
Vivien Smith	Visits Secretary
Pat Trout	Membership Secretary
Mandy van Reysen	Arts Volunteering
Stephen Sandham	Publicity Secretary & Shelley Memorial Project

Officers and members were jointly proposed by Gill Smith and seconded by Christine Denne.

9. Appointment of Financial Examiner for the Society Accounts

Ann Rattray thanked John Clayton for acting in this capacity, and for agreeing to offer himself for reappointment for the coming year. Therefore, John Clayton was duly re-appointed as Financial Examiner by a show of hands.

10. Any Other Business

Prior to the date of the AGM, one written question had been received by email, but no verbal or written questions by letter or telephone. Ann Rattray introduced the question and provided the answer.

Question: May we please know the total that the Arts Society Horsham has given to the Shelley Memorial Project over the past few years?

Response: We have not previously applied our own funds to the Shelley Memorial Project but were successful in 2021 in applying for £250 for a community grant from Headquarters and once again in 2023 for another community grant of £250. After a presentation by David Hide and Carol Hayton at the April 2026 lecture and with the support of members, the Committee has agreed to pledge £3,000 subject to the successful completion of the project.

The Chair thanked members for attending. The Meeting closed at approximately 11.05 a.m.

Simon Machin, Hon Secretary, The Arts Society Horsham, July 2026