

CHAIRMANS REPORT – 38th AGM March 2024

2023 has been a year of change at The Arts Society Knole. From a personal perspective, the main change is that I retired as Chairman in December after almost five years in that role. I am indebted to the whole committee for their support during that time and in particular to Helen Turner who has taken on the role as Acting Chairman until a new Chairman is appointed. Helen has asked me to write the report for 2023 which I am happy to do.

There have also been some major changes to the committee over the past year. This report will briefly cover these changes and give credit to the members to have facilitated such changes. At the 2023 AGM, three new members were voted onto the committee: John Bassendine as shadow Programme Secretary, Alison Davis as shadow Membership Secretary and June Kilby. John, Alison & June are now fully installed on the committee and already doing a great job helping to organise the day to day running of the Society. Alison has also taken on the essential role of Webmaster, keeping our website up to date.

Many thanks to the retiring Programme Secretary, Valerie Glencross for her inspiring choice of speakers over the past four years and thanks also to Jane Meek, who retired as Membership Secretary in December after keeping us all fully informed of the monthly events.

Credit and thanks for her loyal support must also go to Sue Wooderson who retired after many years as a valuable committee member, Study day organiser and Vice Chairman to me. Sue, your help, advice and friendly phone calls were always very much appreciated.

The current committee members, who are all volunteers, continue to do a wonderful job of keeping the finances, paperwork, publicity, communications and technical aspects of the Society functioning. Thank you to them all for their invaluable contributions. However, I know that Myra, our wonderfully efficient secretary and Katherine, our Treasurer and financial champion would also love to retire after many years in these roles. Please consider how you can help either on the committee or as non-committee volunteer.

For the first time, the programme for 2023 included a summer lunch in June at the Bat & Ball Centre. The weather was warm & sunny and the buffet was good. It was very well attended and it will be repeated this year with a few variations.

Financially, the Society is still in a precarious position, as you will see from the Accounts which Katherine has prepared. However we were most grateful to receive a bequest in a will from a past member.

The monthly raffles, which are organised by June Kilby, continue to bring in funds to enable us to provide much needed support to various local organisations. In both 2022 and 2023 The Arts Society at Head Office gave every society who applied a £250 community grant to support local projects. In August 2023, we added £250 that we had raised through raffles to provide a donation of £500 to Kent Music, Maidstone, a donation which was very much needed and appreciated.

Finally, I will continue to attend the wonderful lectures each month and have very much enjoyed being so involved with TASKnole. I want to thank every member of the society for the friends I have made and know that with your regular support the society will continue to flourish.

Roz Morris.