



**THE ARTS
SOCIETY
BOWDON**

Rules
2018 edition

Member Society of The Arts Society

1. Title

The Society shall be called The Arts Society Bowdon.

2. Objects

The Society shall have for its primary objects the promotion and advancement of aesthetic education, the cultivation and study of the arts and the giving of aid to the preservation of our national and artistic heritage for the benefit of the public and the doing of all such things as are incidental to the attainment of the above objects including but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing any or all of the following ancillary objects:

- (a) The arrangement of lectures to members of the Society at monthly or other intervals.
- (b) Visits to private houses, collections, museums, exhibitions and other places of relevant interest.
- (c) The formation of small study groups meeting at regular intervals to cover a defined syllabus within the objects of the Society.
- (d) The presentation of exhibitions or artistic performances of an educational character designed to further the chief objects.
- (e) The establishment and conduct of lectures, courses and schools by which an opportunity may be given to the public of becoming familiar with and appreciating the arts.
- (f) To purchase, take on lease, hire or otherwise acquire any real or personal property or premises including halls, lecture rooms and theatres, and any rights or privileges which the Society may think necessary or convenient for the promotion of its objects.
- (g) To establish or support any charitable or benevolent association or institution and to subscribe or guarantee money for any purpose connected with or calculated to advance the primary objects of the Society.
- (h) To borrow or raise money and to appeal for funds for the purpose of the Society on such terms and on such security as may be thought fit.
- (i) To arrange voluntary preservation and recording work by its members in relation to the arts.

3. Membership

The Society shall consist of ordinary and honorary members:-

- (a) Ordinary members. The Committee to decide the number of ordinary members.
- (b) Honorary members. The Committee may elect honorary members of the Society who are distinguished in the arts, or who have done valuable work for the Society.
- (c) A waiting list shall be maintained for those persons applying for membership in excess of the permitted number of members. Persons on the waiting list will be admitted to membership in strict order of the date of application but in exceptional circumstances priority may be given at the discretion of the Committee.

4. Subscriptions

Any subscription for membership of the Society shall be such a sum or sums as may be determined from time to time by the Committee, the first payment due on application for election (such sum to be refunded if not elected) and subsequent subscriptions annually by the 31st of July in each year.

5. Resignation Of Members

Any member wishing to resign shall give notice in writing to the Honorary Membership Secretary prior to the end of the financial year of the Society or otherwise shall be liable for the subscription for the following year. Any member who shall have failed to pay their subscription for the then current year by the 31st of July of that year shall, if the Committee in its absolute discretion so decides, be deemed to have resigned from the Society.

6. Expulsion From The Society

If the conduct or action of any member shall in the opinion of the Committee be injurious to or inconsistent with the character, interest or objects of the Society, the Committee may request such member to resign. If

such a member does not tender his or her resignation in writing within one month from the date of such request being made in writing, such Committee shall be liable to expulsion by the Committee.

7. Officers

The officers of the Society may include a President and a Vice-President whom the Committee shall have the power from time to time to appoint. The offices of President and Vice-President shall be honorary officers and shall entitle the holders to all the privileges of ordinary members, save that they shall not be entitled to vote at any meetings or propose candidates for election. The Chairman may invite the president or Vice-President attending any General Meeting of the Society to preside at such meeting. No President or Vice-President shall hold office for more than three years but shall be eligible for reappointment.

The other officers of the Society shall be the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Secretary, the Honorary Programme Secretary, and the Honorary Membership Secretary and if the Committee so decide an Assistant Secretary or Secretaries all of whom shall be nominated by the Committee for election at the Annual General Meeting to serve for a term of up to three years. Neither the Chairman nor the Vice-Chairman may hold such respective offices for more than one term of 2 years.

After serving the two year Term of Office, a Chairman shall be allowed to remain on the Committee for one year following, as a non-officer member. He/she will not then be eligible for re-election to the Committee at the Annual General Meeting at the end of that year, nor the following three years.

8. Committee

The affairs of the Society shall be managed and its funds shall be administered by the Committee. The Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Society (other than a President and Vice-President), together with up to six members of the Society who shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. No member of the Society shall be eligible for election as a member of the Committee who has served as an elected member of the Committee (other than as an Officer) for the previous five consecutive years.

Any member of the Society may propose and second any member other than those who are debarred from serving on the Committee in accordance with the provisions of this Rule, whose consent to act shall first have been obtained, for election to the Committee. Any such nomination must be notified in writing to the Secretary at least 35 days prior to the holding of the Annual General Meeting and must be signed by the proposer, seconder and candidate.

Any vacancy amongst officers or Committee occasioned by the death, resignation, refusal or inability to serve may be filled by the Committee. Any officer or member so co-opted shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

Any member of the Committee shall be deemed to have resigned forthwith upon being requested in writing to do so signed by all other members of the Committee.

9. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time and place as shall be determined by the Committee, but shall normally be held prior to the June meeting in each year.

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:-

- (a) to receive the Chairman's report on the activities of the past year,
- (b) to receive and pass the audited accounts of the Society,
- (c) to elect officers and Committee of the Society,
- (d) to consider any special resolution duly proposed and seconded,
- (e) any other business with the permission of the Chairman.

At least 14 days before each Annual General Meeting the list of officers for the ensuing year nominated by the Committee, and a list of candidates to fill the vacancies on the Committee who have been duly proposed and seconded, shall be circulated among the members.

The election of officers and of members of the Committee to fill the said vacancies shall be by a show of hands, unless in the case of candidates for election as members there are more nominated than there are vacancies to be filled, in which case the election of such members shall be by ballot. At the Annual General Meeting the decision of the Chairman upon a question of order, voting, adjournment of the meeting and

interpretation of the Rules of the Society shall be final. Upon any other question, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

10. Special Resolution

Any members wishing to bring forward any resolution shall give notice in writing thereof to the Secretary at least 35 days prior to the holding of the Annual General Meeting. Any such resolution shall have been duly seconded and shall be set forth in the agenda with the names of the proposal and seconder.

Save with the consent of the Chairman, no resolution which does not comply with the foregoing requirements shall be discussed at the Annual General Meeting.

No such resolution shall be passed unless carried by at least two thirds of the members present.

11. Committee Meetings

The Committee shall meet at least four times a year and on other such occasions as circumstances shall require and five members shall form a quorum. Minutes shall be taken of every Committee meeting by the Honorary Secretary who shall maintain a minute book for this purpose.

12. Chairman

The Chairman, if present shall preside at all General and Committee Meetings, unless otherwise arranged by him/her. If he/she cannot attend, the members present shall appoint a Chairman to preside at the meeting.

13. Sub-Committees

The Committee shall have power to appoint from time to time sub-committees to organise study groups or special events or for any other purpose connected with the Society whenever their advice or assistance may appear desirable.

14. Financial Year and Auditor

The Society's financial year shall end on the 31st of March. An Auditor or Honorary Auditor shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting and a duly audited Balance Sheet with an account of the income and expenditure for the preceding financial year shall be submitted at each Annual General Meeting. The first Auditor shall be appointed by the Committee.

15. Group Funds

All money belonging to the Society and not invested shall be paid in by the Treasurer to a separate account in the name of the Society at a bank to be named by the Committee. Cheques shall be signed by not less than 2 Officers or other signatories authorised by the Committee, provided always that one of the 2 persons signing cheques shall be the Chairman or Treasurer.

Payment for outings, study days or other events will be due at the time of booking and will not normally be refundable.

16. Visitors

There shall not be admitted to any meeting of the Society any person who is not a member or honorary member except:-

- (a) Lecturers or other guests of the Committee
- (b) Members of the public on the occasion of a public meeting held under rule 2(e)
- (c) A guest of a member provided always that the permission of the Honorary Membership Secretary shall have been obtained by the member at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. (The permission of the Honorary Membership Secretary will not be given if the proposed guest has already attended two meetings of the

Society in that financial year and may not be given for any reason whatsoever at the absolute discretion of the Honorary Membership Secretary.)

- (d) Those on the waiting list who may attend up to three meetings of the Society in a financial year with the prior permission of the Honorary Membership Secretary at a charge to be decided by the Committee. The Committee shall be entitled to charge such sum as they may from time to time decide for any non-member attending a meeting of the Society

17. Members' Addresses and Data Protection Act

- (a) Members' details will be processed fairly and lawfully and in accordance with the Society's legitimate activities
- (b) Members' details will be disclosed to The Arts Society who may disclose those details to other Member Societies, Area or other organisations affiliated to The Arts Society.
- (c) Members shall notify any change of address to the Society and any change to their email accounts.

18. Winding Up

If at the Annual General Meeting a special resolution to wind up the affairs of the Society shall have been duly proposed and passed, so much of the assets of the Society shall be realised as may be required to discharge all liabilities, and any remaining assets shall be made over to such one or more charitable institutions or other associations having charitable objects similar to those of the Society as the Committee shall decide. No such special resolution shall be passed unless carried by at least two thirds of the members present