



**COMMITTEE REPORT
FOR
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ARTS SOCIETY
CHESTER
ON
17TH NOVEMBER 2026**

The last season, 2025-26, was very busy for the Society and the Committee.

Thanks to Val's hard work the programme of 9 lectures proved a great success with most being rated by our members as excellent or above.

The Day of Special Interest was very popular and greatly enjoyed by those who attended. In addition, the Events Team organised successful and very enjoyable trips to the Liverpool Cathedrals and the World of Wedgwood. The Committee wishes to record its gratitude for the hard work of the Events Team, Madeleine Lane and Pam Hamill, who retired at the end of last season.

The Committee also wishes to record its thanks to Elaine Arnot, and notes with regret that personal reasons precipitated her premature retirement as our Chair. We have no one to replace her, which has placed additional burdens on the other members of the Committee.

The Community Arts Team, Lee McGee, Mary Carter and Irene Neve, worked hard and grants totalling £1,000 were made to 3 very worthwhile projects. Lee no longer serves on the Committee, and the Committee records its thanks to Lee for all her hard work. Although no longer a member of the Committee, we are pleased to say that Lee continues to help and assist the Society as a RUM (Really Useful Member).

The Membership Team also saw changes in personnel, and we welcome our new Team of Pauline Hannon and Alan Edwards whilst thanking their predecessor, Claudia Wild, for all her hard work during her time on the Committee. Since taking over Pauline and Alan have settled into their roles and report that membership has remained steady at approximately 230. They also observe that attendance at

morning lectures is significantly the more popular, a change from 10 years ago. This imbalance is a concern, although members may not realise that a change to the afternoon lecture is easily accommodated.

Yet another change of personnel! Our Secretary, Libby Riddell, will retire at this AGM. Her services as Secretary, her wisdom and good humour will be greatly missed. Fortunately, Caroline Lloyd has volunteered to take on that office, and she and Libby have been working together for the past 3 months. The Committee commends Caroline's election to this meeting.

Despite all the changes, it is gratifying to report how successful and enjoyable our last season was. However, we face a problem. On the one hand we are a vital society whose members enjoy and value what it offers. On the other hand, in common with many voluntary bodies, committee recruitment remains an almost intractable problem. Going into the new season we have no Chair and no Events Team and for several years we have been unable to put together a Heritage Volunteer Team to coordinate and organise important and rewarding voluntary work.

The Committee

September 2026