

**THE ARTS SOCIETY STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
"STRADFAS"**

Charity Registration No. 1177315



THE ARTS SOCIETY STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

'STRADFAS'

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

A member of The Arts Society



THE ARTS SOCIETY STRATFORD-UPON-AVON "STRADFAS"

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity number 1177315

Trustees	Ursula Russell	Chairman
	Nicholas Lister	Vice Chairman
	Bryan Knight	Treasurer
	Lynne Reekes	Secretary
	Sue Cragoe-Jones	Trustee
	Christopher Purser	Trustee

Committee

Members who served at any time between 1 December 2017 and 31 March 2019 are:-

Ursula Russell	Chairman
Nicholas Lister	Vice Chairman (To 15 February 2018)
David Triggs	Vice Chairman (From 16 February 2018)
Bryan Knight	Treasurer
Lynne Reekes	Secretary
Lynne Hurst	Programme Secretary
Ruth Bartlett	Membership Secretary
Charlotte Triggs	Day Visits
David Triggs	Day Visits
Caroline Newey	Study Days
Anne Giles	Extended Visits
Kay Anderson	Heritage Volunteers
Jean Vaudeau	Church Recorders

THE ARTS SOCIETY STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
"STRADFAS"

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees report	4 - 8
Independent examiner's report	9
Statement of financial activities	10
Balance sheet	11
Notes to the accounts	12-15

THE ARTS SOCIETY STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

"STRADFAS"

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their Report and Accounts for the period ended 31st March 2019. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005.

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is registered under reference 1177315

The Charity was established and the Constitution was adopted by an Extraordinary Meeting of its Members on 16 November 2017. The Constitution was revised in April 2018 and adopted by a second Extraordinary General Meeting of Members on 15 November 2018.

The Trustees who served during the Period were:

- U Russell MBE
- N P Lister
- B C Knight
- L F Reekes
- S M Cragoe-Jones
- C R Purser

Appointments to the Trustees and the Committee are made by resolution of the members of the Society. The Committee recommends the Officers for confirmation at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee manages the affairs of the society and administers its funds.

The Charity is managed by a Board of 6 Trustees, consisting of a Chairman of Trustees and one other "Ordinary" member as well as the Officers of the Society (Society Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer).

The "fit and proper persons test" is applied to all Trustees and persons deemed to exercise general control and management of the Charity's assets. All Trustees are required to read HM Revenue and Customs basic guides for charity managers and sign the declaration for fit and proper persons.

The executive management of the Society is delegated to a Committee of up to twelve members comprising the Officers and Secretaries. Each Secretary designs, plans and leads a specific function such as Heritage Volunteers, Church Recorders, Young Arts Projects, Day Visits, Extended Visits and Study Days. These are in addition to the administrative functions undertaken by the Officers.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Objective and Activities

"The promotion and advancement of the aesthetic education of the general public, the cultivation, appreciation and study of the decorative and fine arts, and the giving of aid to the preservation of the United Kingdom's national artistic heritage." (Constitution Item 3)

The Society actively encourages disadvantaged young people to take part in Arts Projects for both therapy and education.

The main activities carried out during the year in furtherance of these objectives are described in the Chairman's Report which follows.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Further details of the Society's work can be found at www.stradfas.org.uk

THE ARTS SOCIETY STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

"STRADFAS"

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS

2018 was the year STRADFAS achieved charitable status and the advantage of claiming Gift Aid has made a great deal of difference to our finances. This was led by our Treasurer, Bryan Knight, who tackled it with his customary professionalism.

We have rationalised the STRADFAS year, an improvement the Committee has been keen to accomplish for some time. Once again Bryan Knight - and also Ruth Bartlett, our Membership Secretary - took this on, necessitating a four month period of temporary membership.

Following the closure of our venue – the ArtsHouse - it seems astonishing that we came straight back into the Play House for our Golden Jubilee Celebration Day. It was a successful day helped by our committee members who catered and decorated. Florian Schweizer ran his 10k run and visited our Heritage Volunteers, while Alexandra Epps gave one of her fascinating lectures - this time on As good as Gold: the History of the Use of Gold in Art'.

Another success has been our Recruitment Leaflet, devised in response to what our members were telling us: they wanted something to show friends what STRADFAS is all about. The leaflet has the offer of a complementary visit to a lecture, and with help in the distribution by Ann and Allen Langton and all who took leaflets, we were delighted to see that there has been a surge in new members - many did not know that we existed.

LECTURES

We have had a long run of outstanding lectures - our Programme Secretary, Lynne Hurst, is adept at choosing a varied and fascinating programme and attracting the best lecturers. To some extent this is possible because, as a large society, we can afford them and also because they like coming to STRADFAS and they will slot us in even on a packed schedule.

DAYS OF SPECIAL INTEREST, DAY VISITS, EXTENDED VISITS

Our two Days of Special Interest each year provide an opportunity to study a topic in more depth. Caroline Newey's speciality is choosing slightly quirky subjects to complement our lectures.

Charlotte and David Triggs have piloted us safely through another year of highly informative and pleasurable days out, giving us the delight in discovering a house, garden or painting which enthralled, without worrying about travelling or parking.

We have been so lucky to have Annie Giles to plan and lead our Art Tours over the last three years. Last year we visited Berlin and Dresden and then, for something completely different, the hilltop towns of Umbria. It gives our members the opportunity to explore the art and architecture of a City or a Region with knowledgeable guides, capable and caring leadership, and at a price which offers value for money.

CONSERVATION, VOLUNTEERS, CHURCH RECORDERS AND COMMUNITY ARTS

Two of the main purposes of The Arts Society are Education (our lectures and visits) and Conservation, the work undertaken by our Heritage Volunteers in repairing and restoring Stratford's treasures.

A highlight in 2018 was the publication of Kay Anderson's book, Dressing Shakespeare's Family, a beautifully illustrated account of making costumes for Hall's Croft in the style that would have been worn by Susannah and Elizabeth Hall. Kay was presented with a West Midlands Golden Jubilee Award for this in March. In our expanded newsletter, we have outlined the incredible work that our Volunteers undertake behind the scenes. Our new team of Church Recorders, led by Jean Vaudeau, has begun work on Mickleton Church. This is another way of supporting our heritage, not least because an increasing number of churches, along with their history, are under threat.

THE ARTS SOCIETY STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

"STRADFAS"

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

STRADFAS gives donations each year to encourage and inspire local children through Art and Music, the programme led by Anne Maguire; we have been especially concerned with children going through difficult times. The Arts Society has proposed that Societies should widen the scope of their charitable work to include older people, so we are renaming this part of our work 'Community Arts'.

BULLETIN and WEBSITE

The monthly bulletin, prepared by David Triggs, is lively, colourful and full of information, and I urge our members who use the internet to read it, and also our website!

FOR THE FUTURE

There is more we wish to do, not least in making it easier for members to pay subscriptions electronically, if they so wish.

THE COMMITTEE, VOLUNTEERS, RETIREES and MEMBERS

Nothing could have been achieved without the dedication and enthusiasm of the Committee. With a lifetime of committee work behind me, I can truly say that I have rarely worked with such an efficient and hard-working team and certainly not one that is such fun and so caring of one another. Our former committee members tend to stay and help with raffles, coffees, publications, and our technical team.

Inevitably we must accept that committee members move on for a variety of reasons and I want to pay special tribute to those who are leaving this year. Annie Giles has made possible some wonderful memories for those of us who have travelled with her. Bryan Knight has been the STRADFAS Treasurer for nearly ten years, appreciated and highly respected for his diligent and principled approach to this important role. He leaves STRADFAS in a good financial situation and with the gratitude of us all. Lynne Reekes has been Secretary to the Committee and to the Trustees, producing exemplary Minutes and Agendas on time, plus other organisational tasks. Jean Vaudeau leaves after many years service leading Day and Extended Visits as well as Church Recorders. Perhaps her most obvious legacy is the STRADFAS swan logo.

In the last year our Members have survived a period of no fixed abode, of temporary membership, and of more changes of lecturer and lecture dates than we have come to expect in a normal year. Far from complaining they have provided us with the cheerful and positive support we needed to support STRADFAS through a challenging year.

FAREWELL

Throughout my time as Programme Secretary and Chair, I have relished the friendship and unfailing support of a remarkable Committee and of you, the Members.

I now hand over to my successor, David Triggs – the first time, I believe, that a man has been Chair of this Society – and this seems fitting as our community of those who love the Arts continues to evolve. I trust I may stay part of this Society for many years to come.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees
Ursula Russell MBE
June 20 2019

THE ARTS SOCIETY STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

"STRADFAS"

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Independently Examined Accounts for 2018 show that STRADFAS has maintained a sound financial base during a 16 month period of transition and external uncertainty. They also show that the Society has fulfilled its established policy of maintaining reserves to cover the costs of a normal 12 month programme or otherwise approximately 9 months of net expenditure.

The 16 month accounting period has been greatly influenced by the abrupt winding up of the organisation from which we hired our hall and meeting rooms. This was followed by a period of ad hoc locations before the Society was able to contract with a successor for the previously used venues albeit at tariffs some 21% higher. This, together with the mid-term decision to change the Society's Accounting Year End, impinged on the middle and latter portions of the accounting period. The unscrambling of old contracts and re-establishing of forward deposits with new suppliers has distorted Hall Hire expenses in the published accounts.

Unusually, a number of lecturers had to be replaced for health reasons and at short notice. Replacement lecturers' expenses, which includes travel costs, have constituted one of a number of items where costs have risen.

Income

The Financial Surplus for the Year at £3858 is higher than originally forecast. This is due to the decision to offer "temporary membership" at promotional rates for the additional 4 months of the period and to a £2651 reduction in forward liabilities for Hall and Room Hire. The Management Accounts for the period yield a positive cash flow and operating surplus of £1731. This is actual money and is the basis for decisions affecting the operation of the Society.

Indications so far show that the promotional rate together with a publicity campaign have slowed a recent decline in membership and has attracted new recruits. STRADFAS now has a small current account buffer to carry the Society forward until the 2019 full subscriptions are received.

The added costs of operation have encouraged the Trustees and the Committee to contain ongoing increases in expenses by developing secondary income. New groups of volunteers have been set up to enhance fundraising through raffles and coffee sales at meetings. Both have experienced encouraging success.

An even greater success has been the establishment of a team to manage the technical and electronic services at meetings. This avoids substantial new expenditure but receives no official acknowledgement as cost avoidance does not feature in the accounts.

The financial benefits of being a Charity are immediately obvious in our refund of £2451 from Gift Aid donations in our Membership subscriptions. This relates to under 50% of our membership and so there is room for further development and improvement in the near future.

Expenditure

The 21% increase in Hall Hire tariffs has been described in the general introduction to the accounts.

Affiliation Fees to The Arts Society in London appear to have been static as the cash values look comparable. In fact the lower membership compared with 2017, plus the per capita rate increase means that the actual charge per member has risen by over 6%.

Direct Charitable Donations rose to £3000 as we supported more arts based projects for youngsters at local hospices and schools. In addition the publication of the Church Recorders report on Claverdon Church took £804 from the Recorders' Reserve.

We also continued to fund resources for our uniquely accomplished Heritage Volunteers working in various churches, stately homes and Shakespeare Trust locations.

THE ARTS SOCIETY STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

"STRADFAS"

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

On the Balance Sheet, two items merit comment:

The Trustees and the Committee were persuaded that the value of core reserves would be better protected by switching up to half our long term assets from low yielding bank deposit accounts to a proven COIF Fund. It was appreciated that unit values would fluctuate somewhat in line with the Stock Market, but it was decided that the substantially higher yield coupled with COIF's record of successful buffering of market fluctuations would serve the longer term requirements of STRADFAS better than a bank deposit account. Accordingly, in June 2018, £11,000 was transferred to a COIF Account.

The Church Recorders' Reserve was deployed for the publication of the project report on Claverdon Church. The residual £396 remains in the Reserve as the opening deposit for the successor project at Mickleton Church. The object of the Church Recorders' Reserve is to avoid distortions in the accounts by incurring major expenditure every 3 years or so whenever a Church Report is issued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

B C Knight, Treasurer

Trustee
Dated: 2 May 2019

THE ARTS SOCIETY STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
"STRADFAS"

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ARTS SOCIETY STRATFORD UPON AVON

I report on the accounts of the charity for the Period ended 31 March 2019, which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this Period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- (i) examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- (ii) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - (ii) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act;have not been met; or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

J N White
F C A

Dated: 3 May 2019

THE ARTS SOCIETY STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
"STRADFAS"

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Total 2019 £
<u>Incoming resources from generated funds</u>				
Subscriptions	2	29,762	-	29,762
Investment income	3	94	-	94
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		29,856	-	29,856
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4	5,714	-	5,714
Other incoming resources	5	2,451	-	2,451
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total incoming resources		38,021	-	38,021
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Resources expended</u>				
	6			
<u>Costs of generating funds</u>				
Website and online publicity costs		1,441	-	1,441
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net incoming resources available		36,580	-	36,580
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Charitable activities</u>				
Speakers expenses and fees		10,113	-	10,113
Hire of halls and equipment		7,751	-	7,751
Affiliation fees		7,556	-	7,556
Donations		3,000	804	3,804
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total charitable expenditure		28,420	804	29,224
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Governance costs		3,885	-	3,885
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total resources expended		33,746	804	34,550
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		4,275	(804)	3,471
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Other recognised gains and losses</u>				
Unrealised gain on charity investments		387	-	387
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net movement in funds		4,662	(804)	3,858
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Introduced from Stratford On Avon Fine Arts Society		23,705	1,200	24,905
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund balances at 31 March 2019		28,367	396	28,763
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

THE ARTS SOCIETY STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
"STRADFAS"

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2019

	Notes	2019 £	£
Current assets			
Debtors	10	2,513	
Investments		27,377	
Cash at bank and in hand		7,256	
		<u>37,146</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(8,383)</u>	
Total assets less current liabilities			<u><u>28,763</u></u>
Income funds			
Unrestricted funds:			
Designated funds			396
Other charitable funds			
Unrestricted income funds		27,980	
Revaluation reserve		387	
		<u>28,367</u>	<u>-----</u>
			<u><u>28,763</u></u>

The accounts were approved by the Trustees and signed on 2 May 2019

Bryan Knight

Treasurer

THE ARTS SOCIETY STRATFORD-UPON-AVON "STRADFAS"

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2019

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005 and the Charities Act 2011.

1.2 Investments

Current asset investments are stated at market value.

2 Subscriptions

2019

£

Members subscriptions

29,762

3 Investment income

2019

£

Interest receivable

94

THE ARTS SOCIETY STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
"STRADFAS"

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2019

4 Incoming resources from charitable activities

	2019
	£
Visitors Donations	1,267
Surplus on Special Interest Days	1,724
Surplus on Sundry Events	1,760
Surplus on Visits	963
	<hr/>
	5,714
	<hr/> <hr/>

5 Other incoming resources

	2019
	£
Tax Refunds - Gift Aid Repayment	2,451
	<hr/> <hr/>

THE ARTS SOCIETY STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
"STRADFAS"

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2019

6 Total resources expended

	Other costs £	Grant funding £	Total 2019 £
Costs of generating funds			
Website and online publicity costs	1,441	-	1,441
Charitable activities			
Speakers expenses and fees	10,113	-	10,113
Hire of halls and equipment	7,751	-	7,751
Affiliation fees	7,556	-	7,556
Donations			
Church Recorder expenses	804	-	804
Grant funding of activities	-	3,000	3,000
	<u>26,224</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>29,224</u>
Governance costs	<u>3,885</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,885</u>
	<u><u>31,550</u></u>	<u><u>3,000</u></u>	<u><u>34,550</u></u>

Governance costs includes payments of £750 relating to independent examination fees for the period.

7 Grants payable

	2019 £
Donations	<u><u>3,000</u></u>

8 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or were reimbursed expenses during the Period.

THE ARTS SOCIETY STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
"STRADFAS"

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2019

9 Employees

There were no employees during the Period.

10 Debtors	2019
	£
Prepayments	2,013
Other debtors	500
	2,513

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2019
	£
Trade creditors	8,383

12 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2019 are represented by:			
Current assets	36,750	396	37,146
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(8,383)	-	(8,383)
	28,367	396	28,763
Unrealised gains included above:			
On Charity Investment	387	-	387
	387	-	387
Reconciliation of movements in unrealised gains			
Net gains on investment in Period	387	-	387
Unrealised gains at 31 March 2019	387	-	387