

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2018/2019

Once again our Committee has ensured that we have a well-balanced, stimulating programme of lectures ranging from Marie-Antoinette and Elisabeth Vigee Le Brun given by Dr Marie-Anne Mancio; Georgia: Land of the Golden Fleece with John Osborne; Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Royal Academy with Pamela Campbell-Johnstone; The Art of Enamelling with Dr Sally Hoban; Angelica Kauffman: An Artist in 18th Century England with Leslie Primo. Unfortunately, our scheduled lecturer, Peter Warwick, who was due to speak to us in March about The Tragic Beauty of Ice, had to cancel owing to serious illness. Sadly Peter has since died. He was replaced by Sally Hoban who told us about Florence Camm: An Edwardian Painter and Stained Glass Designer. We also had a change of plan at the very last minute in April when our scheduled lecturer Val Woodgate who was to speak to us about The World of Graham Sutherland and John Piper, was taken ill but was able to send her husband Frank Woodgate, also an accredited Arts Society lecturer, who spoke to us about Ai Wei Wei: Everything is Art, Everything is Politics. Our May lecture was given by Dominic Riley on Lost on the Titanic: The Story of The Great Omar Binding. Our AGM lecture in June to be given by Cairoline Rayman is entitled Stranger than Fiction: the Incredible Story of Jan Van Eyck's Great Altarpiece at Ghent. We also enjoyed two superb study days: The Art of Politics with Dr Caroline Shenton and Three Baltic Capitals: Vilnius, Riga and Tallin with Dr Anne Anderson. We also enjoyed a visit to Tate Britain to view the Edward Burne-Jones exhibition and to Upton Cressett Hall and Gardens in Shropshire. Our Winter Lunch was held at Copt Heath Golf Club where our guest speaker John Mayall, gave a very interesting presentation on the Heritage of the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Steam Railway. In June we had a weekend in Hull, the City of Culture in 2017, where we had guided tours of the Old Town and Museum Quarter as well as Doddington Hall, St. Peter's Church in Barton-under-Humber, Burton Agnes Hall and Castle Howard. In September we visited the Piedmont region of northern Italy, staying in Calamandrana. We visited Asti, Castle Marchesi Alfieri, the Egyptian Museum and the Cinema Museum in Turin, Chieri, Vezzolano Abbey, the Palazzo Reale in Genoa and Certosa di Pava. I would like to record my thanks to the late Gerrie Bruce for all her hard-work in devising and organising these two tours.

Penny Hoskins and the Committee continued to support the work of Young Arts and once again awarded prizes to BTec students at both Solihull Sixth Form College and Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College. Earlier this month we sponsored John Kirk, a Story Teller to hold workshops with the pupils at Yew Tree Primary School in Solihull.

Our Heritage Volunteers team consisting of Lesley Cooper, Annmarie Elliott, Heather Jones, Sheila Stones and Sheila Williams, has been involved with the preparation and mounting of costumes from the Birmingham Museums Trust Collection prior to their being taken on tour to the USA in 2018 and 2019 as part of the BMI's touring exhibition entitled "Victorian Radicals: From the Pre-Raphaelites to the Arts and Crafts Movement". This experienced and committed team continues to be in demand and is currently working on a number of costumes which will go on show in the History Galleries of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

Church Recording is a very exacting and time-consuming exercise carried out by small teams of dedicated volunteers. The work is valuable and well-respected. Copies of the records are sent to the church which has been recorded, the local County or Diocesan Records Office which holds the diocesan archive, ChurchCare, the Victoria and Albert Museum Art Library and Historic England Archives. The last church the team was involved with recording was the 14th century Castle Bromwich Parish Church.

The Arts Society Arden remains committed to the production of Trails of Discovery. The most recent trail was for St. Mary the Virgin Church at Lapworth. Arden has also been represented on the Birmingham Project (non-Christian places of worship). The trail for the Balaji Hindu Temple is well on its way to completion.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking our hard-working volunteer committee and Heritage Volunteers for all that they have done to contribute to yet another successful year for the Society.

Peter McDonald-Clark, our Treasurer, retired from the committee at our last AGM. As no-one was willing to replace him and in accordance with the Society's Constitution, Peter offered to continue as Acting Treasurer until a replacement was found.

Subsequently, Carol McNidder, a former Chairman of The Arts Society Solihull, has been appointed by the committee as Bursar, effective 1st April 2019 at rate of £20 per hour on a continuing basis. Peter has been Acting Treasurer in conjunction with Carol during the hand-over of the functions of Treasurer. Her appointment will enable the Society to continue to function financially on a day-to-day basis.

As you all know from my appeals throughout my time in office, we desperately need new committee members to enable the Society to function.

My own term of office comes to an end at this AGM, as do the terms of office of Mary Henricksen, Membership Secretary and Ann Mann, Programme Secretary. Mary, Ann and I have all offered to remain on the committee for another year to assist with training new committee members to fulfil these roles. If no-one comes forward to fill these posts then we will be looking at calling an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting in September with a view to winding-up the Society at the end of the current financial year, 31st March 2020. No-one wants this to happen but unless you, the membership, come forward to help run the Society we will have no alternative. This would be a great tragedy as The Arts Society Arden has a well-deserved reputation for providing the promotion and advancement of on-going education for appreciation and study of the arts through stimulating and lectures given by accredited lecturers as well as study days, visits to places of special interest, world-class exhibitions, holidays and social activities. We also give aid for the preservation of our national artistic heritage for the benefit of the public through the work of our Heritage Volunteers and Young Arts.

The AGM will also see the retirement from the Committee of Penny Hoskins, our Young Arts Representative and Donald Tout who was on the Events Sub-Committee. We will therefore need new committee members to replace them.

Training is available for committee members and it is also possible to share positions jointly with another person to enable a post to be filled.

Each year the sixteen societies within the West Midlands Area take it in turns to organise a Day of Special Interest. This year therefore Arden are organising "From Arden's Soily Hill to The Domesday Book and Pimm's on Tuesday 16 July.

The day will comprise of guided tours of St. Alphege Church in Solihull and St. Peter's Church in Wootton Wawen with lunch and Pimm's at "The Bull's Head" in Wootton Wawen. Places are filling-up fast and if you would like to join this visit please speak to one of the Committee for further information.

The City of Coventry has been chosen as the City of Culture in 2021. The Arts Society is working on opening a new society in Coventry. The Chairmen from the local societies closest to Coventry; namely Rugby, Royal Leamington Spa, Solihull, Stratford-upon-Avon and Arden, are all part of a working party looking at ways in which we can support this local initiative. More news will be available in due course.

I sincerely hope The Arts Society Arden will continue to flourish with new committee members to add to the rich variety of experience required to run the Society. If you are interested in finding out more please do contact me for an informal chat and or further information.

Maria Graham

May 2019

The Arts Society Arden
Registered Charity No. 1113086



Income & Expenditure Account

	Year ended 31st March 2019	Year ended 31st March 2018
Income		
Charitable Activities		
Study Days, Visits & Lunches	13,978	14,881
Membership		
Subscriptions	17,669	17,025
Gift Aid	3,281	3,262
Donations	522	500
Total	21,472	20,787
Investments		
Interest	34	11
Total Income	35,484	35,679
Expenditure		
Charitable Activities		
Study Days, Visits & Lunches	13,495	14,234
Lectures	11,590	10,986
Young Arts & Heritage Projects	1,473	2,043
NADFAS National & Area Capitation	5,097	5,072
Total	31,655	32,335
Membership	1,726	2,478
Administration	876	831
Total Expenditure	34,257	35,644
Surplus/Deficit for Year	1,227	35

Balance Sheet


	As at 31st March 2019	As at 31st March 2018
Assets		
Bank - Current Accounts	17,465	16,010
Bank - Deposit Accounts	17,002	16,968
Payments in Advance & Refunds Due	1,078	340
Loan to Patricia Fay Memorial Fund	2,500	2,500
Total	38,045	35,818
Liabilities		
Subscriptions & Receipts in Advance	10,650	9,650
Accrued Expenses	0	0
Total	10,650	9,650
Surplus	27,395	26,168
Represented by:-		
Accumulated Funds		
Funds Brought Forward	26,168	26,133
Surplus/Deficit for Year	1,227	35
Total	27,395	26,168

Approved by the Trustees of The Arts Society Arden on 25th April 2019
and signed on their behalf by:-



 Maria Graham - Chairman
 Peter McDonald-Clark - Acting Treasurer

Report to the Members of The Arts Society Arden

I have examined the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2019 together with the Balance Sheet as at that date. In my opinion they are correctly prepared in accordance with the Society's records produced to me. I have not carried out an audit.


 Ian P. Vergh
 Independent Examiner

Date: 27/5/2019



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Arden Decorative & Fine Arts Society

On accounts for the year
ended

31st March 2019

Charity no
(if any)

1113086

Set out on pages

1 & 2

remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets

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 year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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

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

Signed:

Ian P. Ralph

Date:

27 May 2019

Name:

Ian Ralph

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN
ENGLAND AND WALES.

Address:

467 STREETS BROOK ROAD
SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS
B91 1LA.

**Give here brief details of
any items that the
examiner wishes to
disclose.**

None