



**Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting
held in the School of Chemistry on 15 January 2018 at 7.15pm**

Welcome by the President, Miss Susan Hampton.

Good evening and welcome to the 34th AGM of now The Arts Society Bristol. New members this year and members who have transferred from societies elsewhere are especially welcome.

We live in a time of change and the need for subsequent adjustment. Last year we saw the re-location from Wessex Area to West Mercia and the final year of Maureen's enthusiastic leadership as Chairman for which I express warmest thanks.

This year, NADFAS, after widespread consultation, has changed its name to The Arts Society and adopted a new logo. Hence, with unanimous approval, we are now The Arts Society Bristol, also have our own attractive new logo, and are justifiably proud of being part of the country's largest arts organisation with over 90,000 members.

Next year there is the probability of a new venue for lectures, but more about that from Henry.

Last year's programme offered lectures on a wide variety of topics-often providing much food for thought! The Study Day at the Theatre Royal in Bath proved to be a hugely successful innovation.

On behalf of the entire membership I thank Henry and the Committee most sincerely for another worthwhile year and wish them well for the rest of this year.

The Chairman, Henry Alpass took over the meeting from Susan.

Apologies - Amanda Bath, Tony and Belinda Madden, Jane Newley, Martin Woodhead

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on Monday 16th January 2017

(previously circulated)

Neither matters arising nor amendments had been received therefore the Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as read and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed by Allison Stevens and seconded by Jane Bland, there were no objections recorded.

Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on Monday 25th September 2017 (previously circulated)

Minutes of the E.G.M to change the Society's name were accepted as read and signed by the Chairman.



Proposed by Maureen Dickens and seconded by Wendy Foster

Chairman's Report

Henry gave the following report to the members

"Thank you Susan for your welcome and for your support as President.

We live in a world of change with which your society is actively engaging thanks to an enthusiastic committee. All are busy behind the scenes. They are the backbone of the society.

We aim for a lectures and events to reflect the all encompassing and often controversial nature of art. Banksy, the Elgin Marbles and tonight Parodies of Victorian Society. Thank you Programme and Study Day Secretaries.

Tours reach parts others often don't: last May Moravia, this May Stari Most bridge and Dervish monks. Thank you Kate Painter and Frances Brown for arranging these trips aided and abetted by various supporters.

Allison Stevens' and Karen Zold's Study Days on Maps and Bath Theatre Royal were both sell out successes and are very much enjoyed by the members.

A large debt is owed to Lin Cobb for her IT skills and commitment. Our regularly updated and easily navigable website gives the society a public face, attracts new members and enables fast and economic communication. Stella Victory publicises the society in local magazines. We are fortunate that both membership secretaries find time for these additional roles. We have also held a successful coffee morning for new members.

I would like to thank Debby Sandow, our Heritage Volunteer Coordinator, who has led a team to conserve the University Theatrical Costumes. Work has come to an unexpected stop, so we are looking for another project.

I would like to thank Lin Standen, our Honorary Secretary, who oversees the efficient running of the society and Lyle Evans, our Honorary Treasurer, who will shortly present the annual accounts.

And now a change ahead. This lecture hall has served us well for twenty years, but we are mindful of difficult access and cost increases. After much research and careful deliberation, the committee has decided that from September our lectures will be in the New Hall at Redmaids' High School.

This offers level access and the ability to improve mingling by offering tea and coffee in the foyer. Lectures will be on the second Tuesday of the month to gain full benefit of parking in the grounds. The move gives the opportunity for Sixth



form girls to attend any lectures of interest to their studies, which supports our community outreach.

I mentioned the value of our website, through which we have just been approached to support a project for children to make glass poppies for a specially composed opera commemorating the First World War. It will be performed in St Mary Redcliffe by children from three primary schools. This is a worthwhile project and we need a volunteer to take on the role of Young Arts Secretary.

Florian Schweitzer, our national chief executive, is hoping to visit us in the Autumn as part of a tour of the country to promote The Arts Society in the golden anniversary year.

Brochures are here for our October visit to Kent, which I hope will be as much fun as last Autumn's trip to the Lake District.

There are vacancies on the committee for the Young Arts Secretary and Visits Secretaries. Please speak to a committee member if you can give the time for one of these roles. No nominations have been received for the committee, but we can co-opt people during the year. Visit Secretary for the trip to Croatia: Frances Brown who will be assisted by her husband Richard

Finally Our Summer Party this year will be at Bristol Golf Club on Wednesday 11th July.

Lyle Evans will present the accounts and be talking about how your subscriptions are spent.

We would like to take any questions after the accounts.

Treasurers Report for the year ended 30th June 2017

The Treasurers report and annual accounts (attached) were circulated before the meeting. Lyle gave at the following summary to the Membership.

We currently have 269 members.

Our accounts have been prepared on an income and expenditure basis to reflect the activities, rather than the transactions, of the year. The accounts show a surplus for the year which has restored the reserves of the Society to their long term level.



The forecast for the current year now shows a break even so that post move we should be able to reduce some of our costs and begin to make grants to worthwhile causes once again.

It may be useful for the members to have an approximate analysis how their annual subscription and gift aid, is spent, as follows.

Expenditure

Lecture fees	£14
Room hire and setting up costs	£21
Art Society affiliation fee, magazine	£14
Others costs	£ 5
Less gift aid	- £ 7

Lyle pointed out that if we did not receive Gift Aid we would be running at a loss. Profits from visits and study days boost our income and are very welcome but they cannot be relied on. We still need to reduce our expenditure or increase our membership in order to avoid subscription increases.

As we will be moving to another venue in September 2018, this will reduce our future property related costs. As a result the Committee has decided that the annual subscription will remain unchanged for next year.

Finally, Lyle thanked Bill Remond, the independent examiner for his work. He is happy to continue if reappointed.

There were no questions from the floor.

Henry asked the Membership to formally approve the following resolutions

1. To receive and approve the Society Accounts for the year ended June 30th 2016. Proposed by Stella Victory and seconded by Wendy Foster
2. To reappoint the independent examiner, Bill Redmond Proposed by Jill Hunter and seconded by Mary Alpass.

There were no objections from the floor



Election of Committee Members (Trustees)

No elections took place. There is no need to re-elect current officers this year and no volunteers have come forward to fill vacancies on the committee.

Henry reported that there are still vacancies on the committee for the Young Arts Secretary and Visits Secretaries. Please speak to a committee member if you can give the time for one of these roles. No nominations have been received for the committee, but we can co-opt people during the year. The committee works hard but it is fun and worthwhile.

Any Other Business

No other resolutions had been proposed and as there was no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed and thanked all those present for attending.

Date and time of the 35th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday January 8th 2019 7.30 pm, New Hall at Redmaids' High School