

THE ARTS SOCIETY HONITON

Notice is hereby given that the Society's 36th Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday June 11th 2019 at The Beehive, Honiton, EX14 1LZ at **1.30 pm**.

The Agenda of the Meeting is as follows:

1. To approve the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on June 12th 2018
2. To consider and approve the accounts of the Society for the Year ended 31st March 2019
3. To approve the Committee's Report on the activities of the Society
4. To elect Officers and Committee of the Society
5. To confirm the appointment of the examiner of the accounts of the Society
6. There being no other written resolution received in accordance with the Constitution, by leave of the Chairman, to consider any other matter that may be raised by a member pertinent to this meeting.

By order of the Secretary this 1st day of May 2019

Signed: Marjorie-Anne Howe

In accordance with the Constitution, all Officers and Members of the current Committee retire at this meeting. Those who have signified their agreement to continue in office, and being eligible, offer themselves for re- election.

Any member may be proposed for election to the Committee. A Nomination Form must be signed by the Candidate to signify agreement to serve if elected, and must be signed by two members, one as proposer and another as seconder. The nomination is normally to be received by the Secretary at least 14 days before the Meeting.

The minutes of last year's Annual General Meeting are attached to the Agenda, together with the Society's accounts, the Annual Review, and a Nomination form. The application form for renewed membership, which includes the new season's Lecture Programme, is printed separately.

Minutes of the AGM held at The Beehive, Honiton on Tuesday 12th June 2018 at 1.30pm.

The Chairman, being assured that a quorum of members was present, convened the Meeting.

Apologies were received from: Mrs M J Cuff, Amanda Preston, David and Janet Ward.

- 1. Minutes for the previous AGM held at Beehive, Honiton on Tuesday 13th June 2017,** were agreed without amendment. The Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

Approved by the meeting.

- 2. The Society's accounts:**

The Society's signed accounts were presented for the year ending 31st March 2018.

Approved by the meeting.

The Treasurer reminded members that cheques should be made payable to the Honiton Decorative and Fine Arts Society, or Honiton DFAS. The Bank will not yet accept cheques made out to The Arts Society or The Arts Society Honiton. There were no questions, and the meeting was asked to accept the signed accounts as presented.

- 3. Committee Report:**

The Chairman asked the meeting to accept the report as an indication of satisfaction with the way the Committee had run the Society during the year.

Approved by the meeting.

- 4. Election of Officers and Committee of the Society:**

At this point the President, Heather Penwarden, took the chair of the meeting. She thanked the Chairman on leading the Society through another successful year.

- (a) Election of Officers:**

- (i) Chairman: Lady Anne Boles

Proposed – Peppi Shaw. *Seconded* – Dr Jeremy Bradshaw-Smith. Approved by those present.

Lady Anne, as Chairman, resumed the chair of the meeting.

- (ii) Vice-Chairman: no nominations have been received so the post remains vacant.

- (iii) Hon Secretary: Marjorie-Anne Howe

Proposed – Barbara Fletcher. *Seconded* – Edna Simpson. Approved by those present.

- (iv) Hon Treasurer: Richard Howe

Proposed - Sally Donnithorne. *Seconded* – Alan Humphries. Approved by those present.

(b) Election of Committee

(i) The Chairman reported that, while all members of the Committee had agreed to stand for re-election, two proposed changes of roles within the Committee had been made, and nomination forms received:

Programme Secretary: Janet Ward (to succeed Wendy Hill)

Proposed – Jane Yates. *Seconded* – Heather Penwarden. Approved by those present.

Publicity and IT: David Ward (to succeed Janet Ward)

Proposed – MA Howe. *Seconded* – Wendy Hill. Approved by those present.

(ii) Other members of the Committee having agreed to serve for a further year, approval was sought for their re-election *en bloc*:

Membership Secretary	Jane Yates
Visits Secretary	Elizabeth Gray
Vice-Treasurer	Amanda Preston
Young Arts Representative	Fiona Page-Turner
Assistant Programme Secretary	Wendy Hill

Proposed – Christie Page-Turner. *Seconded* – Jo Blake. Approved by those present.

5. To confirm the appointment of the examiner of the Accounts of the Society

The Chairman reported that Steve Brown has expressed his willingness to act again for the Society in the 2018/9 season.

Proposed – Richard Howe. *Seconded* – Lady Anne Boles. Approved by those present.

6. To propose an amendment to the Constitution

The Hon Secretary explained that the proposal to distribute papers for the AGM by electronic means was made partly to save printing costs, but mostly to reduce the pressure of preparing the AGM documentation, particularly the end-of-year accounts, in time for printing and distribution at the May meeting. No change to the financial year-end/accounting reference date is implied. Paper copies will be made available for those unable to access the internet.

The motion was proposed by Marjorie-Anne Howe, seconded by Lady Anne Boles, and approved by those present.

7. Any other business.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.50 pm.

M.A.Howe 14 June 2018

THE ARTS SOCIETY HONITON
Charity Number 1111757

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019

	2019 Total £	2018 Total £
INCOME		
Subscriptions	5946	6291
Visitors and Donations	395	678
Raffles (net) [i]	317	504
Visits (net)	977	-1546
Members' Lunches (net)[ii]	59	-91
Gift Aid Recovered [iii]	0	2364
Social Events (net)	172	220
Bank Interest Received	7	1
Total Income	<u>7,873</u>	<u>8,421</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Lecturers' Fees/Expenses	3903	3380
Other Meeting Costs	1442	1243
TAS/Insurance/SWA	2621	2391
Publicity/Website	181	302
General Administration	626	833
Young Arts	250	450
Church Recording/Heritage Volunteering	11	52
Depreciation	313	0
Miscellaneous	56	0
Total Expenditure	<u>9,403</u>	<u>8,651</u>
Net Income (Expenditure) for they year	<u>-1,530</u>	<u>-230</u>
Total Funds Brought Forward	11,071	11,301
Total Funds Carried Forward	<u>9,541</u>	<u>11,071</u>

[i] The Net Raffle figure is, by agreement, set aside for Young Arts Projects.

[ii] The Net Members' Lunches figure does not include April 2018 receipts of £113

[iii] Gift Aid accrued since 2017 to be claimed in 2019-2010

THE ARTS SOCIETY HONITON
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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2019

	20 19		20 18	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Digital Equipment		313		313
Less Depreciation		-313		
		<u>0</u>		
Current Assets				
Cash at Bank and In Hand	2,702		4,217	
Reserve Bank Account	6,369		6,362	
Debtors				
HMRC - Gift Aid	1,226		0	
Payments in Advance	50		50	
Income due re Members' Lunches	113		129	
	<u>10,460</u>		<u>10,758</u>	
Creditors				
Receipts in Advance for Members' Visits		-919		0
Net Current Assets		<u>9,541</u>		<u>10,758</u>
Net Assets		<u>9,541</u>		<u>11,071</u>
Funds				
Net Assets Brought Forward		11,071		11,301
Surplus/(Deficit) for Period		-1,530		-230
Total Funds		<u>9,541</u>		<u>11,071</u>

The entirety of the Society's funds is unrestricted except for £135 received from NADFAS SW Area for Software.

Signed on behalf of the Committee



R M P Howe
Hon. Treasurer

Date 23/4/19

Examined and found correct



Stephen K. Brown TEP
Examiner

Date 23/4/19

THE ARTS SOCIETY, HONITON

Annual Report of the Committee 2018-9

Chairman

The 2018-9 season of lectures had a refreshingly wide range. For me, the highlights of our speakers were Geri Parlbby's horrifying tale of Arsenic and Old Wallpaper, and Nicola Moorby's account of the Great British Paint-Off. Less rewarding was the lecture on The Images of the British Empire – rather short on images!

We are so lucky to have the Beehive in which to hold our meetings. So many societies are restricted to expensive hotels or rather out-dated village halls with poor A/V and heating - and nowhere to make tea! All of us should promote the comfort and the convenience of the Beehive and do all we can to support it.

Membership of The Arts Society (NADFAS) is a national worry. We are not recruiting enough new members to compensate for the loss of others. I hope that our very healthy numbers of visitors will in time translate into fully paid-up members. **I would ask each and every member to do their best to recruit just one new member.** If we all achieved that our worries would be over.

Over the last year we have made contact with our nearest neighbouring societies with the aim of getting to know them better and sharing useful information about events, and how we might be able to join them on outings, visits abroad and study days.

In the summer of 2018, all 25 societies of the SW Area counties of Devon, Cornwall and part of South Somerset celebrated 50 years of NADFAS with a stunning event at Dartington Hall, which included among other events a Members' Art Exhibition, in which 11 of our members were selected to take part, and we were proud to show off with a tabletop display of some of our achievements, history and enjoyable events during Honiton's 36-year life.

As always I have to thank the work and commitment given so cheerfully by every member of the committee; they are all busy people but because they love NADFAS they are willing to go the extra mile. My thanks to them all, and particularly to Marjorie-Anne Howe, without whom this Society would sink without trace!

Lady Anne Boles

Treasurer

As in the past, these accounts show this year's figures in comparison with last year's. While there is no immediate threat to our solvency or our activities, I must draw your attention to the fact that our expenditure now exceeds our income, and that the annual deficit is growing year by year. It's the old story of dwindling membership and the increasing cost of our activities. Last year I referred to unwelcome facts lurking in dark corners; the same is true this year. The Income and Expenditure Account shows a loss of £1530 this year as compared to a corresponding loss of £230 for the previous year. Fortunately we still have an ample reserve, so there is no immediate threat to our continuation, but your committee has already decided to increase subscriptions this year and will have to do so again in the near future.

There are fortunately one or two mitigating factors, and as in all financial reports there are but's and if's arising mainly from sums carried forward or back. For example, owing to pressure of work no

claim for refund of gift aid was made to HMRC in the year of account, but a claim can still and will be made during the year 2019-20, boosting this year's income by about £1000 in comparison with 2018-9.

That is by no means the sole source of the deficit, however. Of much greater long-term significance is the gradual decline in membership (from 169 in 2017-8 to 163 in 2018-9) bringing with it less revenue from subscriptions. There is also the seemingly inexorable rise in the cost of lecture meetings. The average cost of a lecture meeting last year (2018-9) was just over £600. The Beehive's charges have remained the same for more than two years, but lecturers' charges (fees and travel expenses) drift up and we are now paying for professional operation of the audio-visual side of meetings. The Arts Society this year increased its membership-based affiliation fee by about £230.

To conclude, I assure you that your committee continues to run a tight ship. Our overarching policy is that all activities, from lecture meetings to visits and social events should cover their own costs and that increases in subscriptions will be minimised.

Richard Howe (Hon Treasurer)

Programme Secretary

A strong travel theme has come through from this year's lectures. Crossing the Atlantic by steam, trundling round Europe on the Grand Tour with Clara the Rhino through to the art and architecture of Norway, India, Prague and Mexico. All the lectures have been well supported with over a hundred members attending each lecture and visitor numbers have been high. 33 visitors came to hear Nicola Moorby speak about the "Great British Paint Off"; the feedback from this lecture was "outstanding".

The electronic feedback system has also been a great success. A big thank you to all of our members who have engaged with this. We are receiving feedback from up to 40 members per session, a great improvement over the written slips. This has meant we can more accurately contribute our comments and scores on lecturers and feedback at the South West regional meeting in November and also to the central office in London. This is all done to ensure quality control and helps us and other societies in their choice of future lectures. We have also tried to implement some of your suggestions such as getting the lecturer to stand nearer the audience and adjusting the sound system.

Wendy Hill and Dr David Ward attended the Directory day in London in March 2019 and we are finalising the programme for next year. I have tried to accommodate requests from the members for particular topics. Please remember the programme is usually put together well over a year in advance so if you would like a lecture to fit in with a particular exhibition or tour it might be over before we have a chance to arrange a lecture on the topic. However it is helpful to receive suggestions so please keep them coming. Please also keep trying to bring more visitors and potential members along.

Sadly just to let you know that Peter Warwick, who gave us the fascinating talk on Emma Hamilton recently passed away. His obituary in the Telegraph mentions his determination to undertake the long journey from Lewes to honour a speaking commitment in Honiton even when he was in a poor state of health. He was a delightful and charming man, a real Nelson enthusiast and it was a privilege to meet him.

Janet Ward

Visits Secretary

The first event, after the last AGM was the visit to Maunsel House, just over the county border in Somerset, a beautiful manor house steeped in tremendous history, with more than a touch of eccentricity - a reflection of its current owner, Sir Benjamin Julian Alfred Slade, 7th Baronet. The house was built in the 13th century and is the ancestral home of the Slade family. In more recent years Sir Benjamin has restored it to its former glory. You may have seen Sir Benjamin on Morning Television last year – looking for a wife but she had to have a fire arms licence and a helicopter licence so that rules me out!!

July our visit was to Orchard Wyndham House. Its imposing façade and beautiful situation in the lee of the Brendon Hills make for a fascinating place to visit. It is not a pampered ‘stately home’ but is an old, sometimes frail house which demands constant maintenance and sensitive restoration work. Home of the Wyndhams and their ancestors for over 700 years. We finished our day with a visit to the local Bakelite Museum and needless to say a cream tea. There were so many different items to see and I heard several comments – ‘I used to have one of those’ etc.

September I was hoping to take a group to Surrey for a few days and in particular to visit the excellent Watts Gallery, originally founded by G F Watts, the Arts and Crafts Artist and his wife Mary Fraser-Tyler in 1904 to showcase over 6,000 of G F Watts’ paintings and sculptures – and not a Rembrandt in site.... Such a pity there were not enough participants to make this short holiday viable.

Hopefully next April we will visit Sicily to visit the many interesting sites – more information later.

In April 30 of us had a fantastic visit to Shilstone House & Gardens and the Devon Rural Archives. Abi Gray the Resident Archaeologist at Shilstone gave us a superb visit with so much information. Apart from a delicious buffet lunch we finished with a Devon cream tea.

In June we have a visit to two churches on Dartmoor looking at the very unusual Three Hares motif that can be found across Europe and the Far East.

Still to come in July is a visit to Winsford Hospital, designed by Charles Voysey, a wonderful Arts and Crafts architect and followed by a visit to the Walled Gardens.

Elizabeth Gray

Membership

I have continued to enjoy my role as Membership Secretary, with support with the banking from Debbie Luck. The majority of members are now able to be contacted by email which has enabled information about lunches, visits and the new voting system following the lectures to be quickly shared with members.

163 members signed up for the 2018/19 season, 15 of whom were new members, which is slightly down on last year.

We were delighted to again be able to hold our Newcomers’ Tea Party at the home of Lady Palmer where we enjoyed some refreshments but also had the added enjoyment of being shown and told about the art hung on the walls.

Lectures were well attended by an average of 106 members and 13 guests, but the large seating capacity of the Beehive gives us the capacity to be able to increase our numbers.

Jane Yates

Publicity & IT

Lecture feedback

The introduction of lecture feedback using our website has been successful following the introduction of an email, with a link to the appropriate page, to members after each lecture. Between 30 and 40 members who attended the lecture respond. The information is being used to feed back to The Arts Society in London and at the programme secretaries meeting locally.

Newspapers

I have been delighted with the coverage with have had in the local newspaper; however I am sorry that Tim Dixon has had to close 'The paper for Honiton'. We have seen a good attendance of visitors to our lectures this year which I think could be related to the publicity in the paper and on Twitter. Tim had been very supportive in publishing all the articles I submitted reporting recent lectures and giving the dates for the next. We had a particularly good spread for the report of the Turner vs Constable lecture. Unfortunately the Midweek Herald is not edited locally anymore. I have submitted our dates to the 'Marshwood Vale' magazine and they publish details of each upcoming lecture. This magazine covers the eastern part of our area and extends into Dorset.

Social Media

I have been using Twitter to publicise our 'bring a friend' lectures and have been pleasantly surprised to see the statistics regarding the number of people seeing the tweets and the number of people using them to find more information. The January lecture on pantomimes tweet resulted in 631 'impressions' and 16 'total engagements'. Encouraging people to come to see what we have to offer 'first hand for free' in March (Turner vs Constable: The great British Paint off) prompted many 'likes' and 'retweets'; there were 1,450 impressions and 57 total engagements. The tweet about Douglas Skeggs' lecture in April on Prague was seen by 892 and there were 25 total engagements. I think that this is good for our community profile and allows people to hear about who and what we are. Facebook is not a social media site which I am used to and I have to admit I have not been updating content. I think you have to work hard to keep content up to date and meaningful. I have had the links removed from our website.

Website

The overall website has been updated. Our address has changed to reflect the new name of our society although anyone using the old address will be automatically redirected in the first year. I have set up links on the website to enable users to reach the relevant information about regional events without having to copy everything to our site. I have also used it to publicise courses and events from our neighbouring societies when requested. Links to information regarding visits enable our members to find out more about the places and the trips. Application forms can also be downloaded which reduces the need for these to be sent to people although there is apparently often a reluctance to print the forms!

PowerPoint Presentations before lectures

I have updated the PowerPoint presentations by removing the DFAS acronym but had always used the AS Honiton logo anyway. Future events and lectures are advertised in the presentations which also summarise the emergency procedures information. I have been thinking about the use of the PowerPoint slides and feel the need to keep the content relevant to our society and any regional events to avoid people being flooded with information. There are about 60 slides in the presentation, some of them are repeated, and the audience may see a couple of the complete set of slides at each lecture.

Our presentation on the history of Honiton was well received at the Dartington 50th anniversary of The Arts Society celebration event.

Posters

Posters for events are displayed at the lectures on the board which is situated just inside the auditorium with any new leaflets. A poster is displayed on The Beehive noticeboard about the next lecture. Special events have been publicised by displaying posters at Honiton Library and in Dimonds in the High Street. Plans are in place to extend our outreach to the library in Ottery St Mary and elsewhere.

Email

Direct contact by email for special events, such as the Antiques Evening has been very effective in getting people to come to a meeting prepared to commit to buying tickets having already checked their diaries to see if they are able to come.

Technical support at lectures

Engaging Martin Potts for IT support at lectures has been very welcome and successful. He has enabled us to adopt the use of the high quality audio-visual equipment at The Beehive.

Advertising material for our next season

M-A and I have been looking at the information in our membership applications forms and the membership cards for next year. As a result of more speaker biographical information and details of the lectures being included in this last year the typeface has become so small as to render it difficult to read. It is hoped that we will be able to streamline the documents for next year with fuller details on the website.

David Ward

Young Arts

The Thelma Hulbert Gallery has used the donation of £250 from Honiton NADFAS to part fund two workshops for a small group of low confidence students undertaking their Arts Award which has in turn, spurred a bigger project involving 12 Year 7 children from Honiton Community College (HCC) who are all going through their Bronze Arts Award*. The project has also upskilled the art teacher there in 'Arts Award' practice.

The group will create an artwork with renowned artist Jessica Palmer** who works with paper and collage. The work will then be exhibited in the upcoming exhibition Paper Play at THG (25 May – 22 June)

The art teacher hopes that this group will have completed their Bronze Arts Award by July to be presented at an event at the HCC on 19 July. She also notes that several of the students have been really enthused by this project and hope to go on to their Silver Award.

*Bronze Arts Award

Part A: Explore the arts as a participant (workshops) THG

Part B: Review an Arts event (exhibition) THG

Part C: Your Arts inspiration (research project) HCC

Part D: Share a Skill HCC

**Jessica Palmer

Jessica exhibits in both the UK and US. She is the inhouse illustrator for English Heritage and also a visiting artist at the Victoria & Albert Museum, British Museum, Wallace Collection and National

Portrait Gallery among many others. Her work often revolves around conservation and nature. Her Tiffany Glass book contains 85 plant and flower drawings. Her best-selling “Tangle Wood” for Search Press, is full of the flora and fauna of the hedgerows near her home in Bath. Other inspirations come from her love of ancient embroidery, tapestries, costumes, lace, knitting, stained glass and trees. Jessica Palmer is the author of “The Art of Papercutting” (Search Press) www.jessicapalmerart.com

Fiona Page-Turner

Volunteering activities

Church Recording – Ottery St Mary: It was with regret that this project had to be abandoned. It proved impossible to designate one or two days of the week when volunteers could meet together, and we were in the end unable to find a project leader. So, despite the good work done by a number of members of the Honiton and Sidmouth societies (which will be banked for future use), we have decided to call a halt, for the time being at least. My thanks to all participants. We may try something different, for example a town Memory Trail, next year.

M.A.Howe

Election of Officers and Committee – nomination form

NAME OF CANDIDATE.....

POSITION SOUGHT IF APPLICABLE.....

SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE.....

DATE.....

PROPOSER NAME.....

PROPOSER SIGNATURE.....

SECONDER NAME.....

SECONDER SIGNATURE.....

**After completion, please send to the Hon Secretary
Marjorie-Anne Howe, 16 The Pines, Honiton EX14 2JG**

by 28 May 2019