

The Arts Society-Cavendish
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 20.05.25

1. Present

Sylvia McKenzie, Charles Huff, Lindsay Crowe, Jean Dugmore, Mary Fairhurst, Jan Hardy, Joan Matthews, Jill Martin, Louise Potter

2. Apologies for absence

Sue Tunbridge, Patricia Kavanagh-Brown, Jennie Ball, Patrick Wright, Hisako Robinson, Judith Thompson, Simon & Ann Rogerson. The meeting was declared quorate.

3. Minutes of Last AGM 21.05.24

These were accepted and signed by the Chair, Sylvia McKenzie.

4. Matters arising

There were none.

5. Chairman's report

Sylvia welcomed all members, including those joining us on Zoom and reported on the Society's 2024-25 activities.

Highlights included: a varied programme of lectures available both live and via Zoom; a study day on Medieval Manuscripts; a four-day trip to Glasgow and a thriving programme in support of young people in the area. Membership of the society is continuing to increase.

At an EMG in August 2024 the proposed changes to Arts Society (NADFAS) Governance were rejected. Sylvia voted against the proposals, as agreed. As a result, the Board of Trustees, CEO and Finance Director resigned and have subsequently been replaced. The new CEO is Ian Arnold and the new President is Hilary Kay; under the new direction a comprehensive review of governance and activities is being carried out and accountants appointed to handle the society's finances.

Sylvia was thanked for her work on behalf of the society and the report was adopted.

6. Financial report

Charles presented the annual statement of accounts for the year ended Dec 2024. These showed a small deficit of £2,606 but this was seasonal and would be recovered. Membership fees remain at £45, seen as excellent value. Our reserves stand at £31,737. The £18,000 removed into the Charity Bank is producing a good return.

Tony Parsons asked if the reserves were not perhaps a little too large. Sylvia explained that they needed to be at a certain level to satisfy Charity Commission regulations. However, in the year ahead we would look at local art related activities to which we might give financial support.

The accounts were approved. Charles and the auditor Kim Stanniforth were thanked.

7. Election of the Committee

Carol Huff and Ursula Birkett were both resigning from the committee and were both warmly thanked for their considerable efforts on behalf of the society over several years.

The following were elected unopposed.

Chair	Sylvia McKenzie	
Deputy Chair		Philip Holland
Secretary		Jill Martin
Treasurer		Charles Huff
Newsletter Editor/Website/IT		Charles Huff
Programme Secretary		Vacant
Deputy Programme Secretary		Louise Potter
Membership Secretary		Lindsay Crowe
Visits		Vacant
Young Arts		Jan Hardy
Study Day Secretary		Vacant
Deputy Study Day Secretary		Jean Dugmore

8. AOB

There was none.

The next AGM will be on Tuesday 29th May 2026. Sylvia thanked all for their attendance and Mary Matthews proposed a vote of thanks to the committee.