

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

England & Wales · Charity number 1148456

## Details

---

Other names	WREKIN DECORATIVE AND FINE ARTS SOCIETY, WDFAS AND WREKIN DFAS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2012-08-07
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

---

Address	44 Woodcote Road Wolverhampton WV6 8LG
Phone	07973 764787
Website	<a href="http://www.theartssocietywrekin.org.uk">www.theartssocietywrekin.org.uk</a>

## Activities

---

**Objects:** OBJECTS.THE SOCIETY SHALL HAVE AS ITS OBJECTS THE PROMOTION ADVANCEMENT, STUDY AND PRACTICE OF HISTORY, SOCIAL HISTORY, MATERIALS, DESIGN, MANUFACTURE AND COLLECTIONS RELATING TO DECORATIVE AND FINE ART LITERATURE, ARCHITECTURE, ARCHAEOLOGY, PAINTING, SCULPTURE, THE PERFORMING ARTS (INCLUDING DANCE, MUSIC, THEATRE, FILMS, AND PHOTOGRAPHY), TEXTILES, FURNITURE, FURNISHINGS, COSTUME, GLASS AND CERAMICS, ENAMEL, METALWORK, GARDEN DESIGN AND INSTALLATION ART AND THE LIVES AND INFLUENCES OF THE ARTISTS, ARCHITECTS, CRAFTSMEN AND PATRONS INVOLVED AND ANY OTHER SUBJECT OF CREATIVE ART OR DESIGN THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED AN ADVANCEMENT OF THESE OBJECTS.

**Activities:** A lecture programme on decorative and fine arts with relevant visits and study days for members and open to non-members. Church recording producing records which are given to the relevant church, the V&A Art Library, the Church Buildings Council and the National Record Centre.The promotion of arts to young people by organising arts competitions in local schools.Heritage volunteering.

## Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Shropshire
- Staffordshire
- Telford & Wrekin
- Wolverhampton

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£52,902	£54,561	-	-
2024-03-31	£46,971	£38,473	-	-
2023-03-31	£35,635	£41,885	-	-
2022-03-31	£31,032	£31,557	-	-
2021-03-31	£19,214	£20,542	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Amanda Zaadstra		2023-06-19
Dr Anne Mary Marczak		2020-09-21
HELEN MARY HUGHES		2023-06-19
JIM TRANTER		2016-06-20
Timothy Frost		2025-06-16
VALERIE BRENDA LUPTON		2012-07-10

**THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN**

England & Wales - Charity number 1148456

---

# Accounts

---



**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

President Rob Hubbleday

**Trustees and members of the committee who served at any time between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025**

Amanda Zaadstra*	Chairman and Arts Volunteering
Helen Hughes*	Secretary
Jim Tranter*	Treasurer
Tim Frost	Assistant Treasurer
Val Lupton*	Programme Secretary
Anne Marczak*	Membership Secretary
Nicky Lipscombe	Day Visits and Events
Barbara Noble	Day Visits and Longer Visits
Liz Allan	Days of Special Interest
Jenny Bickley	Communications
Tim Roberts	Photographer and Heritage Volunteering
Sue Hanley	Minutes Secretary and Archivist
Terry Lipscombe*	Member

*Asterisk\* after a name denotes Trustees*

*Cover photograph taken by Tim Roberts.*

*Speaker Bertie Pearce at the 50th anniversary celebration with our President Rob Hubbleday*



# CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

This first year of my chairmanship has been both exciting and challenging. It has been a privilege to lead such a lively and vibrant Society throughout its 50th anniversary year. A Golden Anniversary is certainly something to celebrate, and I hope we have done that in style and that many of you have been able to attend one of our celebratory events at either Weston Park or The Footprint Gallery at Jackfield. None of this would have been possible without a fantastic committee and the help of so many volunteers, some of whom have devoted a considerable amount of time to make everything such a success.

We were able to issue a complimentary '50 Treasures Around the Wrekin' book to every member household introducing us all to some new local places of interest. I still find it remarkable that such a small team of volunteers could produce something so professional, a real credit to the Society.

Our new day visits coordinator Barbara Noble has quickly settled in and provided us with opportunities to participate in some wonderful visits. These visits together with Nicky's excellent events, Liz's two outstanding Days of Special Interest and the very successful longer trip to Durham, have enabled us to enjoy the company and friendship of like-minded people whilst learning more about our artistic heritage.

Your generous donations have enabled us to do more work within our Young Arts programme, bringing even more opportunities for schools and young people to participate in the arts at a time when arts education is grossly underfunded. This culminated in our 'Beyond the Lecture' 50th Anniversary Exhibition where students could show their art alongside the work of members and professional artists. Thanks, in part, to a very generous anonymous donation from a member, we have also now awarded our 3rd biennial Arts Award and find ourselves in a good starting place to look towards a further award in 2026/7.

There have been two very different heritage volunteering projects running this year giving our volunteers an opportunity to use a range of skills.

We have been able to make donations to several wide-ranging causes as listed on the last page of this report including The Caughley Society, the English Haydn Festival in Bridgnorth, the Albrighton Trust (Moat) and the Codsall Arts Festival.

Being able to keep our annual subscription competitively priced has helped ensure membership numbers are once again at capacity. We are proud that our

Society maintains a vibrant and friendly atmosphere and that our broad spectrum of high quality, interesting lectures have been very well received by members both long-standing and new.

This coming year will bring some changes to the committee with the retirement of two long-standing members, Jim Tranter and Liz Allan, having served 10 years and 5 years respectively. Outside of his treasurer duties, Jim was a stalwart in helping the Society throughout Covid by bringing our lecture programme online. We thank them both for all their hard work on behalf of the Society. We welcome Tim Frost and Helen Hibbs who will be taking over their roles.

There has been so much going on in this our 50th year and I have been fortunate to have a wonderful team (committee, helpers and President) that has risen to the occasion, working so hard and giving a phenomenal amount of time to make everything such a success. I am grateful to you all.

**Amanda Zaadstra**

Chairman



*Exhibition organisers with Deputy Lieutenant Gareth Williams*

## **Lecture Programme**

Looking back over the past year's programme, I was struck by the range and diversity of subjects covered, reflecting how far the Arts Society itself has moved on from its once narrow definition of 'Decorative and Fine Art'. Hopefully everyone has found something of interest, even when they thought the subject was not for them. Indeed, members often remark that those lectures prove most enjoyable.

Which of us gave much thought to frames before Julia Korner's lecture, but now cannot fail to notice and appreciate them when visiting galleries? Similarly, Susan Kaye-Williams's account of the history of colour and dyeing in textiles covered a subject unfamiliar to most of us. Two excellent lecturers presented talks with a musical theme; Sophie Matthews with her accomplished demonstrations of musical instruments in art and Raymond Holden's wonderfully entertaining talk on the life of Sir Henry Wood.

Historical topics have covered treasures of Ancient Britain in the British Museum to Art Deco, Modernism and the Age of Jazz. Dr James Grant gave a fascinating lecture on the use of gold in medicine from Ancient Egypt to the present day and Tessa Boase gave a thought-provoking talk on the hidden costs of the extravagant millinery beloved of Victorian women. Rosalind Whyte's beautifully illustrated lecture gave us a real insight into the sculpture of Antony Gormley and Timothy Walker's talk on the Twelve Plants of Christmas – informative, but so lively and entertaining – couldn't fail to put us all in the Christmas spirit.

**Val Lupton**

## Arts Volunteering

This has been a very busy year for Arts Volunteering and particularly our Young Arts programme. With the arts being poorly funded in the state education sector, we have tried to give opportunities for participation in arts projects to even more schools in the Wrekin area. Our collaboration and support of Educating Kids Outdoors (EKO) at Weston Park has enabled us to gain a foothold into schools which would have previously proved difficult. As we move forward, this enables us to focus more attention towards schools who are under achieving or in areas of higher deprivation. Much of the brilliant work that the students produced was subsequently exhibited in our 50th Anniversary exhibition.



*Abraham Darby Yr 10 at  
Jackfield Glass Fusion Workshop*

Projects supported included:

- Halls Young Artist Competition – judging and individual prizes
- EKO – sponsoring outdoor based creative art projects for 6 schools
- Tile tube-lining and visit to Jackfield Tile Museum for pupils of Wrockwardine Wood Infant School.
- Glass fusing project at Kinki Glass in Jackfield for Yr 10 pupils at Haberdashers Abraham Darby Academy
- A clay masterclass from our Arts Award winner Michael Potter for A level students at Telford College
- A visit from glass artist and Arts Award runner up Jemma Finch to teach glass fusing and produce glass tiles for Yr 9 art students at Ercall Wood Academy
- Judging and prizes for the Btec students at their end of year art show at Telford College
- Sponsorship for three categories of school to participate in art.bytes, a national online art gallery and art competition with prizes for the best work in local and national groups

**Amanda Zaadstra**

## Day Visits and Events

Members and visitors have enjoyed a variety of events and outings during the year.

### *Visits*

In April a group visited Lichfield and its Cathedral to have a comprehensive and informative tour of both the interior and exterior of the magnificent building together with the history of its origins. The travelling exhibition “Threads through Creation” by Jacqui Parkinson was exhibited there; a wonderful and inspiring piece of work. The good weather also gave us the opportunity to explore the many interesting buildings around the Cathedral and its Close.

In May we visited the Silk Museum at Macclesfield by coach and learned of the importance of the silk industry to the town and about the difficult working conditions. We were able to see some of the historic looms in action at Paradise Mill.

In July Dr Jonathan Berg guided our group of 25 on a new walk around Birmingham City centre to see Public Art, the topic of his latest book. There was still much to discover even though many of us had explored several different walking routes in the city previously.

Early September saw two visits to Dudmaston Hall (NT) near Bridgnorth. We had guided tours of one of the most important private collections of Modern Art in Britain, which includes works by Ben Nicholson, Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore as well as a guided tour of the house.

In October, members and visitors attended a private showing of the biographical film LEE, starring Kate Winslet, at the Orbit Cinema in Wellington. The Society had previously enjoyed a lecture by Antony Penrose about his mother Elizabeth Lee Miller, always known as Lee.

In later October a group visited Millichope Park, a private country house built in the Greek Revivalist style, set in 25 acres of landscaped gardens. It was a beautiful autumn day and we had a guided tour of the grounds in their full autumn glory and then a tour of the house with Antonia Bury. The Bury family have been responsible for its renovation and restoration. A donation was made to their Countryside Learning charity – ‘Two or More Outdoor’.

From October to March Wolverhampton Art Gallery recreated their Evelyn de Morgan exhibition, ‘Painted Dreams’ from 1907. Our group was treated to a guided tour of the exhibition by one of the curators and then in the afternoon had a guided tour of St Peter’s Church. The October tour was so popular that it was repeated in November.

The Arts Society Shrewsbury invited Wrekin members to join them for a visit to the ‘Soldiers of Shropshire’ Museum at Shrewsbury castle in January. It holds an extensive display of military uniforms, battles and medals in its collection. Members had a hands-on session of firearms from the ‘Brown Bess’ of 1720 to the present day.

In March, a large group of members visited Worcester by coach to see the wonderful Cathedral. There, we were treated to a fabulous tour of the Cathedral and its history. So much to see, highlights being the tomb of King John and the grave of the “Worcester Pilgrim” dating to 1529. Following the tour, many enjoyed the lunchtime organ recital. During the afternoon we visited the “Worcester Porcelain Works” and listened to an excellent talk on the history and methods used in the factory. We even had the opportunity to handle some of the exhibits.



*Introductory talk at Royal Worcester Museum*

## Events

Fundraising got off to a good start in April with a fascinating talk on ‘Early Shropshire Maps’ by Dr Pat de Haan at St Andrew’s Church in Shifnal. Pat brought along many historic maps from her personal collection for our inspection. The magnificent sum of £1574 was raised to support outdoor ‘Creative learning’ with EKO (Educating Kids Outdoors) at Weston Park. Donations were also made to the church and to the youth club for parking.

The 50th celebration at Weston Park in June was a triumph. We were delighted to be joined by past Presidents, Joanne Porter and David Brown, for this special occasion. Entertainment was provided by Bertie Pearce, one of our favourite lecturers: “All Aboard - Tales on a Cruise Ship” was hilarious and we enjoyed some magic too. The weather was glorious and the venue perfect.

At the end of July, we enjoyed a ‘BYO’ summer picnic on an exceptionally warm day in the grounds of Eyton Hall. Several members took along classic cars. Bear Yeomans, a local Craftsman, brought along scale models of the Thomas Telford Aqueduct at Longden-on-Tern and Wappenshall Wharf nearby. Both feature in ‘Wrekin’s 50 Treasures’ and are not easily accessible, so the models were enlightening. The afternoon raised £1,000 of which £950 was donated to Friends of Friendless Churches to support their work in keeping specialist conservation skills alive as suggested by our generous hosts Kathy Moynes and Mark Pollard. The donation benefitted from matched funding.

In December 88 members enjoyed the ever popular ‘Festive Talk and Tea’ at the Red House. Margaret Watson, an Arts Society lecturer and virtuoso performer, entertained us with her two harps. The informal presentation was both entertaining and enlightening. Donations were made to Margaret’s favoured charity ‘Music in Hospitals and Care’ and to The Albrighton Trust to support their valuable creative work with young people with disability.

**Nicky Lipscombe, Barbara Noble and Marcia Street**

## **Days of Special Interest**

The special interest days at the Red House continue to be very well supported.

In October Steve King presented ‘Like a Rolling Stone’ on music of the Sixties. It was a fascinating day of memories as he worked his way through the pop groups over the years.

In February Sarah Burles presented ‘Cornwall Calling’ which covered artists in Newlyn, Lamorna and St Ives. The illustrations were beautiful and inspired many of us to make plans to visit the area again soon.

The lunch provided by the Red House team completed a very enjoyable day.

**Liz Allan**

## Longer Visit to Durham & Bishops Auckland

In August 2024, 28 members went on a most successful and enjoyable visit to explore Durham and Bishop Auckland, diving into history and art. Although we were free to make our own arrangements, most stayed in the riverside Royal County Hotel, where the opening dinner was held.

A Blue Badge walking tour of Durham, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, culminated at the majestic Cathedral, a Norman masterpiece largely constructed in the 11th and 12th centuries to house the body of St Cuthbert and The Venerable Bede. Later we were able to take a self-guided tour of the Castle - for

centuries home to the Prince Bishops and now home to the oldest College of the highly regarded university. We returned there for an historic evening dinner in the grandeur of the Prince Bishops' dining hall, which was excellent and proved an unforgettable experience.

The next day we travelled by coach to witness Bishop Auckland's revitalization. A passionate and entertaining talk given by Bob McManners introduced us to the project that was funded by philanthropist Jonathan Ruffer. We witnessed the town's transformation through art, particularly the moving Mining Art Gallery and the stunning Spanish Golden Age collection. Auckland Castle, with its Zubaran masterpieces, showcased a tale of art rescued and restored. While time flew, the impact of history and generosity lingered, leaving us eager to return.

The group was friendly and outgoing and everything was arranged at a sensible pace to ensure that we did not feel rushed and had plenty of time to relax with friends old and new. Our next longer visit will be Glasgow in late September 2025.

**David Milledge**



*The Long Visit group at the end of an interesting day in Bishop Auckland*

## Fundraising and donations

The events this year including the longer visit to Durham and the two Days of Special Interest have raised nearly £6,800 from which donations totalling £4,457 have been given (more detail on the back cover of the report). We are most grateful to the venues which have allowed us to visit and speakers who have given their time to enable us to maximise our donations to support charitable causes.

## Wrekin Arts Award

This was the Society's third Arts Award and we received fourteen applications of which six candidates were short-listed.

In January 2025 interviews, chaired by Frank Wilson, took place at the welcoming Albrighton Moat and the quality of those six short-listed candidates was pleasingly high.

Gayle Fitzpatrick, a retired school nurse, was a deserved winner of the £2,500 award, demonstrating beautiful collages. She sketches local scenes in Shropshire and layers her collage with paper cut from magazines. Gayle is now receiving commissions and has contact with many local schools through her nursing, and plans to organise school workshops to teach collage work. Her enthusiasm is infectious.



*Gayle Fitzpatrick Arts Award Winner  
2024 in her Studio.*

The six finalists showed us some wonderful skills - their talents included: a highly accomplished young organist, a costume maker specialising in exquisite leather-work, a printmaker producing outstanding images of local pubs, a fine artist drawing intricate images in pen and an acoustic guitar player composing and performing music inspired by abandoned churches.

Each of the unsuccessful finalists received a cheque for £100 to help with their travel expenses. Mention must be made of the incredibly generous £2,500 sum given anonymously to finance this extremely worthwhile Arts Award.

As per the conditions of the Award our retiring 2022 winner, Michael Potter, wrote a very positive statement about how the Award had helped him to establish his sculpture studio and promote his work. This is now available to view on our website.

## David Franklin

## **Communications**

Email remains the primary method of keeping members informed about lectures and events and engagement levels are strong; 75 to 85% of all emails sent are opened. For the small number of members who aren't online, we continue to send updates by post, though email remains the most efficient and cost-effective option.

The Society's events remain extremely popular, with spaces available on a first-come, first-served basis. The most sought-after events fill up quickly but by maintaining an active waiting list most members do secure places. Where there is high demand for popular day trips, repeat visits are sometimes possible.

An invitation to complete confidential feedback is given to members following each lecture. This is fed back to both the lecturer and The Arts Society to help maintain high standards.

(NB If you think you might not be receiving our emails, please check they haven't gone to your junk folder prior to contacting us).

**Jenny Bickley**

## **Heritage Volunteers Report**

The Society's Heritage volunteers have been involved with two projects at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum in Coalbrookdale.

### **The Sentinel Project**

The work involved cleaning and painting a Sentinel steam locomotive from the 1870's under the viaduct at Coalbrookdale. Volunteers from the Museum and The Arts Society Wrekin met on Fridays, they made good progress and work on the locomotive was successfully completed last Summer.

### **The Labouchère Project**

Since February 2024 a second group of volunteers have been working on the Darby family documents used by Lady Labouchère to write her books on the Darby families. A team of eight volunteers working in pairs have made very successful progress reviewing the documents and revising and extending the information held on the IGMT database. Photographs of some documents and artefacts have been added to the new archives. In addition to the teams working in the Long Warehouse, several other volunteers have undertaken work at home. They are working from photographs of more complex documents to transcribe the contents.

**Tim Roberts**

# The Arts Society Wrekin – Annual Report 2024-25

## Financial Review and Reserves Policy

This will be my final report as Treasurer of the Society. At the AGM I will hand over to the capable and enthusiastic care of Tim Frost. Please look after Tim, and help him by paying up cheerfully – and by putting your money in the correct bank account, please!

The Society is in a healthy financial position. Although the accounts show an overall deficit this was anticipated and was largely due to the expenses incurred in our 50th Anniversary year. The eventual deficit for the year was only £1659, thanks to the support of members to our excellent programme of events during the year, and the financial support given to our 50th Anniversary projects.

An increase in subscriptions meant that the lecture programme moved into surplus and we have also been able to donate almost £8000 to charitable causes – a list of these donations is on the back cover of this report. Full details of the year's finances are on pages 12 to 16.

It has been the policy of the Society to carry a financial reserve to cover the expenses of a full year's lecture programme. Your committee has been discussing this during the year and the new committee will be considering this in detail at its first meeting after the AGM. As ever, the committee is always open to suggestions of financial support for arts-related projects.

Finally, my thanks to Philip Sims, our Independent Examiner, and my best wishes to the Society for a continuation of its success over past years.

**Jim Tranter**

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

#### Lecture Programme

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>Incoming Resources</b>		
Members' subscriptions (note 1)	16519	15018
Visitors' donations	860	370
Raffles	525	717
Interest received	1016	545
<b>Total Incoming resources</b>	<b><u>18920</u></b>	<b><u>16650</u></b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Meetings (note 3)	11118	10609
Affiliation fees (note 1)	4691	5131
Administration costs	1484	965
<b>Total Resources expended</b>	<b><u>17293</u></b>	<b><u>16705</u></b>
<b>Surplus on lecture programme (2024 deficit)</b>	<b><u>1627</u></b>	<b><u>-55</u></b>
<b>Gift Aid received (note 1)</b>	<b>2904</b>	<b>3492</b>

*(Continued on page 13)*

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - continued

### Other activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>Incoming Resources</b>		
Events - total income (note 4)	26501	23233
Events - total expenditure	<u>19730</u>	<u>16698</u>
Surplus on events	6771	6535
Sales of publications (net)		
Other donations	50	
Arts Society grant	500	250
Art Exhibition	2782	
Arts Award - donation		2500
50 Treasures - donations, etc.	<u>1245</u>	<u>846</u>
	<u><b>11348</b></u>	<u><b>10131</b></u>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Charitable and other donations:		
- Directly related to events	2918	2045
- Young Arts	3459	1900
- Other	1500	900
50th Anniversary	494	
50 Treasures	3478	
Art Exhibition	2415	225
Arts Award	<u>3274</u>	
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<u><b>17538</b></u>	<u><b>5070</b></u>
<b>Deficit (2024 Surplus) on other activities</b>	<u><b>-6190</b></u>	<u><b>5061</b></u>
<b>Overall deficit (2024 surplus) for the year</b>	<u><b>-1659</b></u>	<u><b>8498</b></u>

(Continued on page 14)

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at bank	12859	17788
Cash on deposit	24832	24125
Cash in hand	50	50
	<u>37741</u>	<u>41963</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Income received in advance (Events)	4689	7252
	<u>4689</u>	<u>7252</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>33052</u>	<u>34711</u>
<b>Accumulated Funds (all funds are unrestricted)</b>		
Funds at beginning of year	34711	26213
Surplus for the year	-1659	8498
<b>Funds at end of year</b>	<u>33052</u>	<u>34711</u>

**JIM TRANTER**

Treasurer

*April 2025*

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 1. Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on the cash basis, except where stated below and in note 4.

Subscriptions received are in respect of the subscription year ending 31 August 2025.

Affiliation fees for the calendar year 2025 were paid in January 2025 and are based on membership numbers at 31 March 2024.

Gift Aid is claimed on qualifying subscriptions and donations as received.

### 2. Gross income and expenditure

The gross income for the year was £52902 (2024 £46971) and the gross expenditure was £54561 (2024 £38473).

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>3. Cost of Meetings</b>		
Lecturers' fees	3889	4259
Lecturers' expenses	695	470
Hire of lecture theatre	6534	5880
	<u>11118</u>	<u>10609</u>

### 4. Income from events

Income from events is generally received prior to the event taking place. An adjustment of £4689 (2023 £7052) has been made in respect of income received during the accounting period, but referring to events taking place after 31 March 2025.

# **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN**

I report to the charity's trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 12 to 16.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent Examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**PHILIP SIMS, ACIB**

*April 2025*

# ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

## **Constitution and status**

The Society is governed by a constitution adopted on 21st May 2012 as amended on 21st September 2020.

Under that constitution the Officers for the time being (but not the Honorary Officers) together with two other Members of the Committee appointed by the Committee shall be the Trustees of the Society.

The Society is registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1148456 and is affiliated to The Arts Society.

## **Governance and management**

Appointments to the Committee are made by resolution of the Members of the Society. The Committee appoints the Society's Officers, manages its affairs and administers its funds.

## **Objectives**

The Society shall have as its objects: the promotion, advancement, study and practice of the arts in many forms as described in its constitution.

The main activities carried out during the year in furtherance of these objects are referred to in the Chairman's Report.

## **Website**

Further details can be obtained from the Society's own website at [www.theartssocietywrekin.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietywrekin.org.uk)

Printed by



# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

During the year ended 31 March 2025 the Society gave financial support to the following organisations:

## CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE DIRECTLY RELATED TO EVENTS

St Andrew's Church Shifnal	400
St Andrew's Youth Club	50
Wrockwardine Wood Infants School	100
Friends of Friendless Churches	950
Eyton Village Hall	20
St Catherine's Church, Eyton	30
National Trust, Dudmaston	130
Two or More Outdoor	135
St Peter's Collegiate Church PCC	150
The Albrighton Trust	643
Music in Hospitals and Care	160
Silk Heritage Trust	150
	<hr/>
	2918

## YOUNG ARTS PAYMENTS

Educating Kids Outdoors	1300
Michael Potter Masterclass	500
Glass Workshops	854
Tube Lining Workshop	300
Halls - Art Prizes	200
Telford College - Art Prizes	305
	<hr/>
	3459

## OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Cound PCC	500
Caughley Society	500
English Haydn Trust	500
	<hr/>
	1500

**THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN**

England & Wales - Charity number 1148456

---

# Accounts

---



**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

President David Cotterell

## Trustees and members of the committee who served at any time between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024

David Milledge*	Chairman and Arts Volunteering
Amanda Zaadstra*	Vice Chairman, Communications and Arts Award
Helen Hughes*	Secretary
Jim Tranter*	Treasurer
Val Lupton*	Programme Secretary
Anne Marczak*	Membership Secretary
Nicky Lipscombe	Day Visits and Events
Liz Allan	Days of Special Interest
Terry Lipscombe*	Committee Member
Jenny Bickley	Committee Member
Louise Holland	Committee Member
Tim Roberts	Photographer and Heritage Volunteering
Sue Hanley	Minutes Secretary and Archivist

*Asterisk\* after a name denotes Trustees*

Cover photograph taken by Tim Roberts.  
The Chairman and Vice Chairman receive an early copy of '50 Treasures Around The Wrekin.'

# CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

This is my report for my final year as Chairman of The Arts Society Wrekin. Three enjoyable years have passed since I was elected. This has been a learning role for me. One is never too old to have new experiences. I have been supported by an encouraging and hard working committee. The hours they have devoted to the Society, if totalled, would be truly amazing.

We have completed a full and varied programme of lectures and events. Their quality is evident in the fact that our numbers have been maintained and we now have a small waiting list. The programme of events and visits has been well supported and often over subscribed.

Unreliable rail services, road works, the remnants of Covid and one occasion of failure of the heating have added stress on a few occasions. We hope for a trouble free time from now on. We appreciate the fine facilities we enjoy at The RAF Museum, Cosford.

This year sees the 50th Anniversary of the founding of our Society. Initially meeting at Weston Park as Wrekin Decorative and Fine Arts Society it later became The Arts Society Wrekin. We look forward to our Anniversary Celebration to be held (appropriately) at Weston Park. Also in celebration an Art Exhibition is planned for October. This will be at the Footprint Gallery at Jackfield. It will show work by our artistic members. There will be work made by young people in the masterclasses we have sponsored this year. This will be an attractive exhibition to showcase the talents of our members and the young people whose efforts we support.

Look out for our 50th Anniversary Logo (designed by a member) which will be in use throughout the year.

A sub-committee has been producing a book, '50 Treasures Around The Wrekin', featuring the artistic and heritage treasures of our area. As I write it is at the printers and will soon be issued. I am confident it will be a fitting celebration of our 50th Anniversary.



Also 2024 is our year for The Wrekin Arts Award (£2500). It is now open for applications. Details are on our website. The fund for the Award has been increased by a very generous anonymous gift from a member.

There have been some changes to our committee. I am pleased that Sue Hanley has become our Minutes Secretary. Jenny Bickley and Louise Holland both resigned in

the latter half of the year. We are grateful for their contribution and pleased that they will both be on hand to offer help when needed.

Thanks to the continued efforts of everyone involved we have a flourishing Society which can continue to promote The Arts to its members and the wider public. I wish my successor every success.

**David Milledge**

Chairman and Arts Volunteering

## Arts Volunteering

As in previous years we have sponsored the individual prizes in the Halls Young Artist Competition held at Weston Park. Theme-Coronation.

We provided prizes and some members judged the end of year competition at the Art Department at Telford College.

We have provided sponsorship for The English Haydn Festival and The Codsall Community Arts Festival.

For the second year we supported EKO (Educating Kids Outdoors) Creative Days for primary school children at Weston Park.

The Wrekin Stories picture produced by Year 7 pupils at Madeley Academy was completed and went on public display at The Meeting House in Southwater Telford. It was there all Summer and Autumn when the young artists could show it to friends and family. It then transferred to the Rose Paterson Gallery at Weston Park as the centrepiece during the Halls Young Artist Exhibition. It now has pride of place at Madeley Academy.



*Infant class Winner*



*Wrekin Stories*

**David Milledge**

Chairman and Arts Volunteering

## **Lecture Programme**

Again, the programme was disrupted, mainly by the seemingly endless industrial action affecting travel. Tessa Boase found herself stranded in Italy two days before her scheduled visit to Wrekin, but Margaret Watson saved the day by interrupting her holiday and trundling her harp up to Shropshire to give us a wonderful presentation. Tessa's lecture will now take place this year.

Jackie Klein's lecture on Grayson Perry was also cancelled two days before the printing of the calendar of events to be hastily replaced by a talk on the Dutch Golden Age.

Jonathan Conlin found his train cancelled and nobly set off at the crack of dawn on a long drive to give us his fascinating talk on Calouste Gulbenkian. Our problems did not end there; due to a heating failure, we were obliged to hold the lecture in a smaller room where, unfortunately, not all members could be accommodated and Jonathan was obliged to deliver his lecture crouched over the microphone.

As well as this visit to Lisbon we were taken on a wonderful tour of the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel by Stuart Harvey and the architecture of Venice by the ever-popular Jo Walton.

Linda Collins spoke about some of the paintings in the vast Royal Collection, while Alexandra Epps and Brian Healey introduced us to the less familiar work of John Atkinson Grimshaw and that of the artists of the Ashcan School respectively.

Barry Venning challenged the often-expressed view of modern art that 'a child of six could do it' through the work of the greatest cartoonists. Sandy Burnett gave us an overview of the music of the Baroque era with wonderful musical illustrations. Hopefully, something for everyone.

**Val Lupton**

## **Days of Special Interest**

Our study days at The Red House Albrighton continue to be oversubscribed and entertaining.

At our November meeting Roger Butler spoke on Canal Heritage and History, covering the unusual architecture, historic boats and dramatic engineering of the canal network. Roger is an experienced photographer so he showed some fascinating photos of urban and rural canals through the ages. A very enjoyable day.

For the Spring meeting we welcomed back Chris Aslan with his new book, 'Unravelling The Silk Road'. His three talks covered the three roads - silk, wool and cotton. He spent many years in Central Asia resulting in wonderful illustrations and stories of his first hand experiences.

**Liz Allan**

## **Day Visits and Events**

The Society has enjoyed a variety of events over the last year. We started with two more guided walks with the charismatic Dr Jonathan Berg in Birmingham; one exploring the Public Art at the University of Birmingham and the second to visit Digbeth with its street art and graffiti.

The visit to Willey Hall with Lord Forester and Gareth Williams (Curator and Head of Learning at Weston Park) was a highlight. This grand house (1812) in Palladian-Neoclassical style was designed by Lewis Wyatt and is hidden away in the picturesque parkland. The Great Hall is most impressive with its tall Corinthian columns in Siena scagliola, galleried basilica and sweeping semi-circular staircases.

Another small group enjoyed the historic Grade I listed Wenlock Abbey, home of Gabrielle de Wet. It really is another hidden treasure and amazing survivor with its immense cat slide roof – now in need of major restoration. Andrew Pearson's wood carving of the chapel screen is masterful.

Gareth Williams gave a very interesting and informative talk on Charles Darwin in the Music Room at Weston Park. This enabled us to support another series of sessions of outdoor learning for Telford schoolchildren with EKO (Educating Kids Outdoors) at Weston Park. The lecture was followed up with a fascinating visit to Darwin House in Shrewsbury, Darwin's childhood home.

Sixty members and guests joined us for the Summer Picnic - a private visit to Hodnet Hall Gardens, where we were able to explore the extensive and beautifully maintained gardens courtesy of Sir Algernon and Lady Heber-Percy.

The summer concert at St Andrew's Church in Shifnal was a celebration of the young artists we have supported. Claudia Grinnell, sub-organist at Winchester Cathedral returned to give us an accomplished recital on the organ (Wrekin made a donation to its restoration cost). Our Arts Award winners came along. Jacob Chandler and Michael Potter (both sculptors) brought some of their handiwork and gave short presentations to tell the audience how the Arts Award Bursary had assisted them. Kate Woodman, joint winner of the delayed 2020 Arts Award, was represented on a video clip demonstrating her skill and versatility as a budding actor.

Another group enjoyed a Scagliola demonstration at Acton Round with the talented Thomas Kennedy followed by lunch in the family's beautiful Queen Anne Hall.

Three years after Adam Busiakiewicz's Zoom lecture on Warwick Castle and its forgotten collection we finally made it by coach to see for ourselves. An excellent guide gave us an insight into life in the castle. The lifelike wax mannequins added realism. Many of us visited the Lord Leycester Hospital with the Pensioners, an amazing survivor from medieval Warwick as much of the city was destroyed by fire. Others explored the treasures of the beautiful St Mary's church nearby.

New members had the opportunity to meet the committee and enjoy a tour of Tong Church with a local historian followed by a delicious afternoon tea in the village hall.

The final event of the year was the ever popular 'Festive Talk and Tea'. Lt Col Graham Jones, former Senior Director of Music, Household Division, gave an entertaining and colourful account of some of the military ceremonies and traditions around Christmas time and encouraged us to remember all the servicemen separated from their families on Christmas Day.

The events this year including the longer London visit and the two Days of Special Interest have raised over £6,400 from which donations totalling £2,500 have been given to Willey Church, EKO, Ironbridge Gorge Museums, The Albrighton Trust (Moat) and £1,227 has been designated for the Arts Award funds.

We are very grateful to the venues which have allowed us to visit and speakers who have given their time to enable us to maximise our donations to support charitable causes.

## Longer Visit – London

A group of 38 members and visitors travelled independently to London in April 2023 to explore the City. The visit followed on from Ian Swankie's excellent Day of Special Interest on the Guildhall and its Art Collection and some virtual tours we enjoyed during lockdown with Blue Badge Guides, Simon Whitehouse and Katie Alcock.

Simon and Katie guided us in two smaller groups assisted with excellent listening devices. We explored Soho, Seven Dials and Covent Garden on day one. Our guides shared their knowledge and passion for the area with enthusiasm and humour. On our second day we sailed down the Thames to Greenwich where we saw the magnificent Cutty Sark, visited the Queen's House and Painted Hall and walked in the park. We stood astride the Greenwich Meridian in a quiet residential street.

We enjoyed convivial lunches together at a Turkish Bistro on the first day and in a traditional family run 'Pie and Mash' restaurant on day two.

Our final day took us to the Guildhall where we explored the historic venue with local guides before independently exploring the Art Gallery and Roman amphitheatre in the basement. The more energetic did a further walking tour in the City of London with Simon.

A good time was had and it was lovely to have the opportunity to get to know some of our newer members.

**Nicky Lipscombe, Liz Allan And Jenny Bickley**



*Wren Chapel at Greenwich*

## Communications

Email has now become the main method for members to receive communications about lectures and events. Engagement remains consistent with 70-80% of all emails sent out being fully opened. Anyone who doesn't think they are receiving their emails should first check their junk mail before contacting us. There remains a very small number of members who are not yet online and in order to ensure that they are kept informed they are contacted by post. Use of email saves both time and money.

Events advertised and booked online remain popular. Places are offered on a first come first served basis. For popular events places can get booked up quickly, we do keep an active waiting list and it is certainly worth enrolling on the list as many do get offered places. The waiting list can also be helpful to gauge interest to arrange repeat day visits where there is sufficient demand.

**Amanda Zaadstra**

## Heritage Volunteering

*During the past 12 months Arts Society volunteers have been involved in three projects at the Coalbrookdale site of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum*

### **The Rolt Project**

On the 28th of June the Heritage volunteers completed the Rolt Project after nearly 12 months of work on what proved to be a complex collection of documents. The volunteers worked as small groups donating over 1075 manhours to the project. The Rolt Archive is now fully catalogued and stored in 135 archival boxes. The completion of the project was marked by a day of celebration when the archive was transferred in to its permanent home.



*The Rolt Archive ready for storage*

## **The Labouchère Project**

The Labouchère Archive Collection relates to the 18th century Darby Family, iron founders of Coalbrookdale. The eleven volunteers started work on the 6th of February. The project is to audit the collection, enhance the existing Catalogue, digitise and transcribe selected materials. Eight volunteers are now working as two pairs at the museum. Three other volunteers are able to work at home so documents have been photographed and sent to these volunteers. Another volunteer is making archive cases for specific artefacts.

## **The Sentinel Project**

The Sentinel Project started on Friday 10th November. Five Wrekin members and one Shrewsbury member joined a Museum volunteer and two Museum staff to form a group of nine people. They have been meeting at Coalbrookdale. The majority of the work has been outside under the viaduct. The weather has affected the number of days worked over the winter but despite this a great deal of progress has been made.

There is plenty of conservation work to be done on the old engine so the project will continue for the rest of this year.



*Arts Society Members at the Sentinel Engine*

# The Arts Society Wrekin – Annual Report 2023-24

## Financial Review and Reserves Policy

Since 1 April 2022 our accounts have been prepared on the cash basis. For the year 2023-24 there was an increase in subscription income from £14564 to £15018 and the deficit on the lecture programme was reduced from £635 to £55.

Income from Gift Aid increased substantially from £2527 to £3492, due to the exceptional donations received (see below).

Surpluses from events continue to rise, and this year we have received substantial donations in respect of our biennial Arts Award and our forthcoming publication of our 50th Anniversary book *Fifty Treasures Around the Wrekin*, both of which will involve considerable expenditure in the year 2024-25.

Our policy has always been to hold a reserve to cover the expenses of a full year's programme of lectures. We also like to ensure that the costs of running the lecture programme, our administration costs and the affiliation fees to The Arts Society are met by our subscription income, augmented by income from visitors and raffles.

The full details of our financial activities are shown in the accounts on pages 10-14.

Our financial support for arts and heritage continues. The accounts show the extent of this support and full details are set out on the back cover of this report. We continue to have the potential to make an important difference to the individuals and organisations which we support.

Members are also reminded that the committee welcomes suggestions for financial support for arts-related projects.

Finally, my thanks to Philip Sims, our Independent Examiner, for his work on behalf of our members.

**Jim Tranter**

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

#### Lecture Programme

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Incoming Resources</b>		
Members' subscriptions (note 1a)	15018	14564
Visitors' donations	370	485
Raffles	717	514
Interest receivable	545	204
<b>Total Incoming resources</b>	<u>16650</u>	<u>15767</u>
<b>Resources Expended</b>	£	£
Meetings (note 3)	10609	10134
Affiliation fees (note 1b)	5131	5107
Administration costs	965	1161
<b>Total Resources expended</b>	<u>16705</u>	<u>16402</u>
<b>Deficit on lecture programme</b>	<u>-55</u>	<u>-635</u>
<b>Gift Aid received (note 1c)</b>	3492	2527

*(Continued on page 11)*

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - continued

### Other activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Incoming Resources</b>		
Events - total income (note 4)	23233	19868
Events - total expenditure	16698	15351
Surplus on events	6535	4517
Sales of publications (net)		132
Other donations		22
Arts Society grant	250	250
Arts Award - donation	2500	
50 Treasures - donations, etc.	846	
	<u>10131</u>	<u>4921</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Charitable and other donations:		
- Directly related to events	2045	3035
- Young Arts	1900	3103
- Other	900	1300
Art Exhibition - deposit	225	
Arts award		2694
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<u>5070</u>	<u>10132</u>
<b>Surplus (2023 deficit) on other activities</b>	<u>5061</u>	<u>-5211</u>
<b>Overall surplus (2023 deficit) for the year</b>	<u>8498</u>	<u>-3319</u>

*(Continued on page 12)*

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at bank	17788	11962
Cash on deposit	24125	20650
Cash in hand	50	50
	<u>41963</u>	<u>32662</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Income received in advance (Events)	7252	6449
	<u>7252</u>	<u>6449</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>34711</u>	<u>26213</u>
<b>Accumulated Funds (all funds are unrestricted)</b>		
Funds at beginning of year	26213	29532
Surplus for the year	8498	-3319
<b>Funds at end of year</b>	<u>34711</u>	<u>26213</u>

**JIM TRANTER**

Treasurer

*April 2024*

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 1. Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on the cash basis, except where stated below and in note 4.

Subscriptions received are in respect of the subscription year ending 31 August 2024.

Affiliation fees are payable in January 2024 and are based on membership numbers at 31 March 2023.

Gift Aid is claimed on qualifying subscriptions and donations as received.

### 2. Gross income and expenditure

The gross income for the year was £46971 (2023 £38566) and the gross expenditure was £38473 (2023 £41885).

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>3. Cost of Meetings</b>		
Lecturers' fees	4259	4398
Lecturers' expenses	470	360
Hire of lecture theatre	5880	5376
	<u>10609</u>	<u>10134</u>

### 4. Income from events

Income from events is generally received prior to the event taking place. An adjustment of £7052 (2023 £6449) has been made in respect of income received during the accounting period, but referring to events taking place after 31 March 2024.

# **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN**

I report to the charity's trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 10 to 14.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent Examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**PHILIP SIMS, ACIB**

*April 2024*

# ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

## **Constitution and status**

The Society is governed by a constitution adopted on 21st May 2012 as amended on 21st September 2020.

Under that constitution the Officers for the time being (but not the Honorary Officers) together with two other Members of the Committee appointed by the Committee shall be the Trustees of the Society.

The Society is registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1148456 and is affiliated to The Arts Society.

## **Governance and management**

Appointments to the Committee are made by resolution of the Members of the Society. The Committee appoints the Society's Officers, manages its affairs and administers its funds.

## **Objectives**

The Society shall have as its objects: the promotion, advancement, study and practice of the arts in many forms as described in its constitution.

The main activities carried out during the year in furtherance of these objects are referred to in the Chairman's Report.

## **Website**

Further details can be obtained from the Society's own website at [www.theartssocietywrekin.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietywrekin.org.uk)

Printed by







THE ARTS  
AWARD 2024

£2500

Open to all branches  
of the arts and crafts  
with a connection to  
the Wrekin area.

Closing date  
12th July 2024



*'Head of Hermes' a bronze sculpture  
by Michael James Potter, winner of The  
Arts Society Wrekin Award 2022.*



[www.theartssocietywrekin.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietywrekin.org.uk)



# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

Accounts year ended 31 March 2024

The Society has given financial support to the following organisations:

## CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE DIRECTLY RELATED TO EVENTS

St Paul's Church, Covent Garden	20
Willey Estates	656
St Andrew's Church, Shifnal	200
St Andrew's Youth Club, Shifnal	50
Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust	250
Tong PCC	312
The Albrighton Trust	532
The Albrighton Village Hall Trust	25
	<hr/>
	2045

## YOUNG ARTS PAYMENTS

Educating Kids Outdoors	1290
Telford College Arts Competition - prizes	300
Halls Art Competition - prizes	200
Wrekin Stories	110
	<hr/>
	1900

## CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE - OTHER

Haydn Festival	500
Codsall Arts Festival	400
	<hr/>
	900

**THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN**

England & Wales - Charity number 1148456

---

# Accounts

---



**THE ARTS  
SOCIETY  
WREKIN**



**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

## Committee members and other officials

Trustees and members of the committee who served at any time between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 are:

David Milledge*	Chairman and Arts Volunteering
Terry Lipscombe*	Secretary
Jim Tranter*	Treasurer
Val Lupton*	Programme secretary
Anne Marczak*	Membership Secretary
Helen Hughes	Assistant Secretary
Nicky Lipscombe	Day Visits and Events
Suzy Keeley	Longer Visits
Liz Allan	Days of Special Interest
Amanda Zaadstra	Communications and Arts Award
Jenny Bickley	Committee member
Louise Holland	Committee member
Tim Roberts	Photographer and Heritage Volunteering

## Other officials who are not members of the committee are:

David Cotterell	President
Paul Joseland	Heritage Volunteering (part of the year)

Committee members with an \*asterisk by their name are also trustees

Cover photograph taken by Tim Roberts.

# **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERS**

I am delighted to report that The Society has weathered the Pandemic and is once again flourishing. It resumed its normal meetings from April 2022. We have had increasing numbers of members attending at Cosford, up to 170 with several guests on each occasion.

Our other events have been well supported, indeed early application is required to book places on our Day Visits and Events. The Society is in good heart and is prospering. Our membership numbers remain high and we now have a short waiting list. We enjoy excellent facilities at RAF Cosford where we have a superb lecture theatre and our visiting speakers frequently remark on the quality of the projection of their images. We have good parking and access to the venue. Perhaps the only thing lacking is space for socialising after our lectures, especially when the café closes early in winter. This is beyond our control.

Your committee members have all worked with dedication. The reports which follow show the many and varied activities which we undertake. We are all grateful for the time and effort that they give.

## **DAVID MILLEDGE**

Chairman and Arts Volunteering

### **Arts Volunteering**

We have made a number of charitable donations which are listed in the Treasurer's Report. The Area sponsorship of the Koestler Arts Trust mentoring project in prisons has been a great success.

Once again, we sponsored the individual prizes for the Halls Junior Art Competition at Weston Park and also the end of year art competition at Telford College. We supported the English Haydn Festival at Bridgnorth.

A major project which we have supported was EKO - Educating Kids Outdoors. 281 children attended Creative Days at Weston Park and our sponsorship together with that of the Wynn Foundation which paid for the coach transport, enabled this to go ahead. We plan to repeat this in summer 2023.

Our Wrekin Stories project is nearing completion. The children in year 7 at Madeley Academy have an after school art club. They are producing a large mosaic artwork depicting various aspects of the Wrekin. The completed work will measure 2 x 1.5 meters. We have provided the cost of materials and a fee for the artist Katherine Soutar, who has guided their work. We hope to display it for public viewing in the local area.

## **DAVID MILLEDGE**

Chairman and Arts Volunteering

## **Lecture Programme**

The past year has not been without its difficulties. The pandemic, rail strikes and the death of Queen Elizabeth all brought about a degree of disruption to the lecture programme.

The September meeting was cancelled as it coincided with the date of the late Queen's funeral. Fortunately, we were able to enjoy Antony Penrose's excellent and moving lecture 'Witnessing Women at War' in December.

The June lecture was a casualty of the pandemic when the lecturer rang two days prior to the meeting to say she had Covid and the date coincided with a rail strike. We are grateful to John Benjamin who stepped in, rearranging prior engagements, and drove to Cosford to deliver a superb lecture on diamonds.

Thankfully no rail strikes on the day of Mark Hill's visit – then a call to say his connection had been cancelled. Luckily, he arrived only a little late and totally unfazed, like the professional he is, to entertain us with a new perspective on 'selfies'.

The rest of the programme has covered a wide range of subjects, from the 'scandalous works' of Edouard Manet to the genius of Antonio Stradivari, from the remarkable civilisation of the Maya to the stables of English country houses, from world-famous photographic images to the materials and techniques used by artists of the 15th century and not forgetting Christopher Aslan Alexander's fascinating first-hand account of the work of the craftsmen of Central Asia.

## **VAL LUPTON**

## Days of Special Interest

In November 2022 we had the long awaited and rearranged study day with Andrew Davies who gave us an architectural, historical and geographical tour of the parish churches of England.

In March 2023 we welcomed back Mary Alexander with “Why Paris? The Allure of the city of light 1900-1945”. She gave a beautifully illustrated demonstration of why Paris was a magnet to aspiring artists and designers. Her accompanying reading list will occupy us for the years to come!

**LIZ ALLAN**

## Day Visits and Events

It has been pleasing to resume a full programme of events this year - we have experienced rather mixed fortunes with the weather!

The second guided walk along the ‘secret’ canal to the Jewellery Quarter with Dr Jonathan Berg will be remembered in part for the torrential downpours. The group took refuge in St Phillips Cathedral and got to see the wonderful Burne-Jones stained glass as an added bonus.



We enjoyed a coffee morning at Claverley Church where Rev Garry Ward gave a very moving talk about the Shoah (Holocaust) and Frank Foley who rescued many Jews from a certain fate. The church had run out of oil and it was very cold!

Another small group were able to enjoy the wonderful Grade I listed Wenlock Abbey with Gabrielle de Wet and Vivien Bellamy and discover the craftsmanship of Andrew Pearson, a Ludlow based woodcarver.

We enjoyed a return to Chillington Hall in May to see the bluebell woods and historical tours of the house before a splendid Ploughman’s Lunch in the historic Saloon. We observed woodland management in action and were amazed at the increased road noise from the M54 where trees had been cleared ready for replanting.

The two visits to Elmhurst Ballet School in Birmingham were highlights. The skill and dedication of the students to their artistry as well as their education was inspiring. The members then enjoyed a visit to the Serbian Orthodox church in Bournville with its colourful frescoes.

We visited the newly opened Stourbridge Glass Museum in Wordsley with its historical collection, contemporary glass exhibition, and hot glass studio - we were able to watch the highly skilled glass blowers in action before visiting the huge Red House Glass Cone nearby, a rare survivor.

We enjoyed more favourable weather for the summer picnic at Coalbrookdale which followed a fascinating talk about the Enigma Machine and a chance for members to try one out.



*The Coalbrookdale Gate at Weston Park - restoration supported by TASW*

Our first coach visit since 2019 was well supported. Following Alexander Epps' lecture on Coventry Cathedral we were keen to see Coventry's artistic treasures including works by Epstein, Frink, Piper and Sutherland. We also visited the newly restored Medieval Guildhall.

Several groups enjoyed guided tours of another local Grade I treasure – Pitchford Hall. It was fascinating to hear about the property's mixed fortunes and restoration and to see the latest addition – a new library designed and created by Hew and Archie Kennedy of Acton Round.

Many of the new members enjoyed a special visit to Acton Round with the Committee to see Thomas Kennedy demonstrating his creative skills with Scagliola in his new workshop. The torrential downpours were also memorable. A convivial lunch was enjoyed in the Queen Anne period house.

The programme concluded with the ever-popular 'Festive Talk and Tea' in The Red House with Sandy Burnett. The theme was Uplifting music for Christmas – it was a resounding success.

This year the Event surplus total including Days of Special Interest and the longer visit to York is £4666 from which donations totalling £3034 have been given to Claverley Church, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, Sunnycroft, The Albrighton Trust (Moat), Stourbridge Glass Museum, Wenlock Abbey, Fairfax House (York) and the Serbian Orthodox Church.

We are grateful to a number of our hosts who offer us their time and/or facilities in lieu of fees to maximise our charitable activities.

**NICKY LIPSCOMBE**

## **Longer Visit**

### **York – October 11th to 13th 2023**

In October twenty four members took advantage of a three day visit to York. A full itinerary with a Blue Badge Guide had been planned by Suzy Keeley who unfortunately was unable to take part. Suzy and Sarah Cowling a Blue Badge Guide, had put together a full and interesting programme.

Over the three days the group visited and had conducted tours of the essential landmarks - the Minster, the Jorvik Centre and Fairfax House. In addition, there was a visit to All Saints North Street to see the remarkable Pricke of Conscience Window. Much appreciated was an excellent dinner at the historic Bedern Hall on the first evening.

**TIM ROBERTS**

## **The Arts Society Wrekin Award 2022/23**

Following promotion of the award by the Arts Award Committee and members of our Society we received thirteen applications by the closing date. Five applicants were subsequently invited to interview.

We were particularly pleased with the variety of arts that were represented in the applications (writing, photography, glass making, costume making, music, fine art and sculpting). The winner of the £2000 prize was a sculptor in the classical tradition, Michael Potter. He is a very talented and driven young man who is largely self-taught. He has recently opened a studio in a converted stable block at Pitchford Hall. Michael attended our November meeting to receive his award and tell the Society how he hoped to use his bursary to further his career.



*Michael Potter - Wrekin Arts Award Winner 2022*

## **AMANDA ZAADSTRA**

### **Heritage Volunteering**

#### **Archiving the papers and documents belonging to L T C Rolt The Long Warehouse, Ironbridge Gorge Museum**

In early summer last year, the Heritage Volunteers completed the Aga Plans project. Paul Joseland had coordinated this and many other previous projects. Unfortunately, due to ill health he has handed on the role of coordinator. For over ten years as Heritage Volunteer Coordinator he had drawn together Arts Society Wrekin Members to create a pool of enthusiastic and adaptable volunteers that have made a valuable contribution to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum by tackling a wide range of projects.

The Heritage Volunteers started a new project in August working with Chris Pickford, a professional archivist, in the Long Warehouse on the Coalbrookdale site of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum.

The project has been to archive the papers, research notes and photographs belonging to L T C Rolt. (1910-1974). L T C Rolt generally known as Tom Rolt was a prolific author on topics ranging across Industrial Archaeology having written biographies of Thomas Telford, I K Brunel, George and Robert Stephenson. His other most notable books being “Narrowboat,” “Railway Adventure” and “Red for Danger”.

To date, an enthusiastic group of Volunteers has contributed well over 700 hours, working mornings and afternoons, three days a week.

**TIM ROBERTS**

## **Communications**

Virtually all members are now online and receiving emails about lectures and events. Member engagement with emails is consistent with last year where 70-80% of all emails sent out are being opened. Members not yet online (only six this year) are contacted by phone or post to keep them up to date.

The Society website continues to be the ‘go to’ source of information for all the activities of our Society, lectures, volunteering or charitable activities. Once again new skills were gained this year with our use of a QR code link to the Arts Award posters to the application procedure on our website, another first!

The West Midlands Area Facebook Page continues to gather momentum and followers. We are the only Area to have such a social media presence and the Page is a fantastic way to highlight the excellent programme of lectures and events being organised across our Area.

Promoting our Society and our charitable activities has become harder since our friendly contact at the local press has moved on to pastures new. Some articles have been published but there is scope to do more.

**AMANDA ZAADSTRA**

## **Financial Review and Reserves Policy**

In previous years our accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis. This year it has been decided, in the interests of simplicity and clarity, that the cash basis is more appropriate. In the accounts which follow on pages 9-14 the previous year's figures have also been restated on the cash basis. This has necessitated a one-off adjustment of £620 to the net assets.

During the year there was a deficit on the lecture programme of £635, due to the increases in costs of lecturers, hire of the hall at Cosford and Arts Society affiliation fees. Events continue to provide a strong income stream, but planned expenditure of charitable funds, notably on our second Arts Award and a new project, Educating Kids Outdoors, meant that our assets have reduced by £3319. Our financial position remains strong, with net assets of £26,213 at 31 March 2023.

The full details of our financial activities are shown in the accounts later in this report. My thanks are due to Philip Sims, our Independent Examiner, for his work on behalf of our members.

Our financial support for arts and heritage continues. The accounts show the extent of this support and full details are set out on the back cover of this report. We still have the potential to make an important difference to a variety of individuals and organisations in those areas which we support. Members are also reminded that the committee welcomes suggestions for financial support for arts-related projects.

**JIM TRANTER**

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (as restated March 2023)

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

#### Lecture Programme

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Incoming Resources</b>		
Members' subscriptions (note 1a)	14564	10752
Waiting list		5
Visitors' donations	485	125
Raffles	514	
Interest receivable	204	325
<b>Total Incoming resources</b>	<u>15767</u>	<u>11207</u>
<b>Resources Expended</b>	£	£
Meetings (note 3)	10134	7368
Affiliation fees (note 1b)	5107	4397
Administration costs	1161	1759
<b>Total Resources expended</b>	<u>16402</u>	<u>13524</u>
<b>Deficit on lecture programme</b>	<u>-635</u>	<u>-2317</u>
<b>Gift Aid received (note 1c)</b>	2527	1899

*(Continued on page 10)*

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - continued

### Other activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Incoming Resources</b>		
Events - total income (note 4)	19868	18298
Events - total expenditure	<u>15351</u>	<u>12897</u>
Surplus on events	4517	5401
Sales of publications (net)	132	350
Other donations	22	5
Arts Society grant	250	250
Donation - Mrs A Hartill		<u>250</u>
	<u>4921</u>	<u>6256</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Charitable and other donations:		
- Directly related to events	3035	2655
- Young Arts	3103	900
- Other	1300	1635
Arts award	<u>2694</u>	
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<u>10132</u>	<u>5190</u>
<b>Deficit (2022 surplus) on other activities</b>	<u>-5211</u>	<u>1066</u>
<b>Overall deficit (2022 surplus) for the year</b>	<u>-3319</u>	<u>648</u>

*(Continued on page 11)*

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at bank	11962	12723
Cash on deposit	20650	20446
Cash in hand	50	50
	<u>32662</u>	<u>33219</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Income received in advance (Events)	6449	3687
	<u>6449</u>	<u>3687</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>26213</u>	<u>29532</u>
<b>Accumulated Funds (all funds are unrestricted)</b>		
Funds at beginning of year	29532	28264
One-off adjustment re change in accounting policy		620
Surplus for the year	-3319	648
<b>Funds at end of year</b>	<u>26213</u>	<u>29532</u>

### JIM TRANTER

Treasurer

*April 2023*

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 1. Change of Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on the cash basis, except where stated below and in note 4.

Previous years' accounts were prepared on the accruals basis but it is considered that this basis is no longer appropriate. This change affects the following categories:

- a. Subscriptions received are in respect of the subscription year ending 31 August 2023
- b. Affiliation fees are payable in January 2023 and are based on membership numbers at 31 March 2022
- c. Gift Aid is claimed on qualifying subscriptions and donations as received  
A one-off adjustment of £620 has been made to the funds brought forward to reflect the change in accounting policy.

### 2. Gross income and expenditure

The gross income for the year was £38328 (2021 £32259) and the gross expenditure was £41885 (2021 £31611).

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>3. Cost of Meetings</b>		
Lecturers' fees	4398	3882
Lecturers' expenses	360	192
Hire of lecture theatre	5376	3294
	<u>10134</u>	<u>7368</u>

*(Continued on page 13)*

# **THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN**

## **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 - continued**

### **4. Income from events**

Income from events is generally received prior to the event taking place.

An adjustment of £6449 has been made in respect of income received during the accounting period referring to events taking place after 31 March 2023.

# **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN**

I report to the charity's trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent Examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**PHILIP SIMS, A.C.I.B.**

*April 2023*

# ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

## **Constitution and status**

The Society is governed by a constitution adopted on 21st May 2012 as amended on 21st September 2020.

Under that constitution the Officers for the time being (but not the Honorary Officers) together with two other Members of the Committee appointed by the Committee shall be the Trustees of the Society.

The Society is registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1148456 and is affiliated to The Arts Society.

## **Governance and management**

Appointments to the Committee are made by resolution of the Members of the Society. The Committee appoints the Society's Officers, manages its affairs and administers its funds.

## **Objectives**

The Society shall have as its objects: the promotion, advancement, study and practice of the arts in many forms as described in its constitution.

The main activities carried out during the year in furtherance of these objects are referred to in the Chairman's Report.

## **Website**

Further details can be obtained from the Society's own website at [www.theartssocietywrekin.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietywrekin.org.uk)

Printed by







# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

Accounts year ended 31 March 2023

The Society has given financial support to the following organisations:

## CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE DIRECTLY RELATED TO EVENTS

Claverley PCC	923
Sunnycroft	500
Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust	537
Fairfax House (York)	250
York Archaeological Trust	26
Louis de Wet Foundation	74
British Glass Foundation	125
Albrighton Trust	500
Serbian Orthodox Church (Elmhurst)	100
	<hr/>
	3035

## YOUNG ARTS PAYMENTS

Educating Kids Outdoors	2000
Telford and Wrekin Council - Telford Music Service	300
Halls Art Competition - prizes	200
Telford College Arts Competition - prizes	300
Wrekin Stories Artwork	303
	<hr/>
	3103

## CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE - OTHER

Orbit Cinema	300
Haydn Festival 2022	500
Haydn Festival 2023	500
	<hr/>
	1300

**THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN**

England & Wales - Charity number 1148456

---

# Accounts

---



# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

## Committee members and other officials

**Trustees and members of the committee who served at any time between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 are:**

David Milledge*	Chairman and Arts Volunteering
Terry Lipscombe*	Secretary
Jim Tranter*	Treasurer and Virtual Communications
Val Lupton*	Programme secretary
Anne Marczak*	Membership secretary
Nicky Lipscombe	Day Visits and Events
Suzy Keeley	Longer Visits
Liz Allan	Days of Special Interest
Amanda Zaadstra	Communications and Arts Award
Phoebe Natrass	Trails of Discovery
Sue Dyer	Minutes secretary
David Franklin*	Chairman - 1st April – 21 June 2021
Corrie Williams	Artistic adviser – 1st April – 21 June

## **Other officials who are not members of the committee are:**

David Cotterell	President
Paul Joseland	Co-ordinator for Heritage Volunteering
Tim Roberts	Photographic adviser
Clive Williams	Virtual Communications

Committee members with an \*asterisk by their name are also trustees

# ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

## **Constitution and status**

The Society is governed by a constitution adopted on 21st May 2012 as amended on 19 June 2017.

Under that constitution the Officers for the time being (but not the Honorary Officers) together with two other Members of the Committee appointed by the Committee shall be the Trustees of the Society.

The Society is registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1148456 and is affiliated to The Arts Society.

## **Governance and management**

Appointments to the Committee are made by resolution of the Members of the Society. The Committee appoints the Society's Officers, manages its affairs and administers its funds.

## **Objectives**

The Society shall have as its objects: the promotion, advancement, study and practice of: history, social history, materials, design, manufacture and collections relating to decorative and fine art, literature, architecture, archaeology, painting, sculpture, the performing arts (including dance, music, theatre, films and photography), textiles, furniture, furnishings, costume, glass and ceramics, enamel, metalwork, garden design and installation art and the lives and influences of the artists, architects, craftsmen and patrons involved and any other subject of creative art or design that may be considered an advancement of these objects.

The main activities carried out during the year in furtherance of these objects are referred to in the Chairman's Report.

## **Website**

Further details can be obtained from the Society's own website at [www.theartssocietywrekin.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietywrekin.org.uk)

Printed by



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

I have the pleasure to present my first Annual Report. I am delighted that we have maintained a full membership throughout the pandemic. Thank you to all our members who have loyally stayed with us. We have done our best in difficult circumstances to provide continuity of our programme and where possible, events.

Reports from the committee members follow my introduction. They show the wide-ranging activities which have been undertaken by our Society.

The success of our Society is due to the hard work and tenacity of our committee members and helpers. In particular, this year, we are indebted to our 'Tech Team' - Jim Tranter and Clive Williams have contrived mastery of Zoom from scratch. They tutored us in the ways of Zoom. Their work enabled us to continue our speaker programme virtually and later to run hybrid meetings with presentations both at Cosford and on Zoom. From April we reverted to normal meetings at Cosford as before the pandemic. Should there be another Covid crisis we are well placed to revert to virtual or hybrid presentations.

We have had an exceptional year of visits and events. Nicky Lipscombe is indomitable in providing fascinating outings. Many of these have had to be repeated to meet the demand.

Val Lupton has continued to provide a varied programme of lectures. In addition to running the programme she quietly and efficiently copes with meeting and looking after our lecturers. This is a great support for the Chairman.

Liz Allan has been able to restart the Days of Special Interest as live events. These have proved to be most interesting and have been well supported.

Suzy Keeley, after much changing of plans due to Covid, brought off a successful longer visit to Cambridge. This was much enjoyed by all who attended. She is planning a visit to York in the Autumn.

In Arts Volunteering we have continued our association with Shropshire Music Service. We were able to sponsor a series of rehearsals for their young orchestra culminating in a concert for parents and friends. Our support was enhanced by a Community Grant of £250 from The Arts Society. We supported the Halls Young Artists' competition at Weston Park Granary Art Gallery by providing prizes.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT continued

We continued our association with The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and Weston Park Foundation. We supported the restoration of the Coade Stone sundial at Weston where it has now been installed. The restoration of a Coalbrookdale gate made circa 1860 is underway and we helped with that.

We have supported The Albrighton Trust (Moat) in their woodcraft activities for disadvantaged young people.

We are providing sponsorship for Primary School children from Telford to attend the 'Creative Arts Days' run at Weston Park by Educating Kids Outdoors (EKO).

We contributed to the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire's Appeal for a Covid Memorial Sculpture and were honoured by the presence of Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, Mrs Anna Turner JP, at our December Talk and Tea meeting to receive our contribution.

Culture has not been left out. We sponsored a lecture at Codsall Arts Festival, The English Haydn Festival in Bridgnorth and, by contrast, Telford Music Service's Pop Showcase at Oakengates Theatre in November 2022.

We have supported The Arts Society West Midlands Area Appeal for a pilot mentoring project run by The Koestler Trust. This is to promote Art in prisons and other custodial settings.

The Arts Award has been launched, and we plan to award a £2000 prize in the Autumn of 2022. Applications are now being accepted with a closing date of 15th July. Amanda Zaadstra is heading the sub-committee to oversee the Award.

It is now ten years since we became a charity during which time we have raised and given in excess of £60,000 of charitable funds. 2024 also sees the 50th Anniversary of the founding of our Society and we plan to produce a book of 50 Treasures of the Wrekin Area in time for the Anniversary. Tim Roberts is already at work photographing these for this publication. In addition, we have appointed Susan Hanley as our Archivist. She will be sorting our archive material to provide a record of our first 50 years.

Amanda Zaadstra has been outstanding with her grasp of MailChimp and has been able to keep us all linked up and well informed throughout the year.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT continued

Phoebe Natrass is retiring from the committee after several years of organising Trails of Discovery very successfully. We are very grateful for all her hard work during this time. A new co-ordinator is sought to build a team for the future.

Many thanks also to Sue Dyer who is leaving the committee and giving up her role as Minutes Secretary. Sue has been a patient and accurate recorder of our proceedings. We will miss her competent contribution to our work.

The reports below clearly show that our Society is in fine shape. Our membership has been well maintained through a challenging year. We are delighted to have resumed our usual meetings, providing a wide range of interesting activities for our members and encouraging local arts and heritage activity.

We can progress with optimism and confidence to celebrating 50 years of The Arts Society Wrekin in 2024.

**DAVID MILLEDGE**

Chairman

### **Lecture Programme**

The programme was able to go ahead largely as planned, though unfortunately Shirley Smith's lecture on Leonardo's Women had to be cancelled due to illness. Simon Whitehouse, stepped in with an entertaining look at "The Importance of The Importance of Being Earnest."

Fenella Billington's April lecture on the Livery Companies of London was not available via Zoom, but the ever-popular Val Woodgate intrigued us with a fascinating insight into the work of Hieronymus Bosch.

We welcomed back other familiar speakers. Julia Musgrave challenged us to decide whether Caravaggio was murderer or genius, while Nicola Moorby led us in an examination of the differences and battles between those two great exponents of Romanticism, Turner and Constable. Both speakers challenged us to form our own opinions.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT continued

Dr Tobias Capwell gave a fascinating insight into battle at the time of the Conquest, as revealed in the Bayeux Tapestry. Chantal Brotherton-Ratcliffe stepped in at very short notice to give her talk scheduled for July, on historical materials and techniques of 15-18th century painting to replace Louise Schofield who was unwell. She will give her lecture in July.

Lecturers new to Wrekin included Shauna Isaac, who showed us the extent of artworks lost through Nazi looting in WWII, and Sian Walters who took us behind the scenes at the National Gallery, while Timothy Walker's examination of the use of colour in gardens, delivered in such a lively and entertaining manner, ensured that we will all look at the gardens we visit with a more informed and appreciative eye.

### VAL LUPTON

#### Days of Special Interest

A return to normality in November 2021 with a live day at the Red House. Ian Swankie was a very entertaining lecturer who brought the "Treasures of the Square Mile of London" to life. We had 48 attendees who enjoyed the day with a lovely lunch. It all went smoothly apart from the IT glitches! Hopefully the day is going to be backed up by a visit to London.

On March 30th we had a supremely enjoyable day with Mark Hill who appears on The Antiques Road Show. He entertained us with two informative and insightful talks entitled 'Cracking Glass'. In the afternoon he gave an appraisal and valuation of some fascinating glass and ceramic items belonging to members. We hope to follow up this day with a visit to the Stourbridge Glass Museum.

### LIZ ALLAN



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT continued

### **Day Visits and Events**

It has been another challenging year for Visits and Events. Zoom enabled us to see and learn more about the 'Top 12 Livery Companies' in an hour with Simon Whitehouse than we could have visited in an afternoon. Katie Alcock, a Cambridge alumnus, guided us around Cambridge and shared some of her favourite places, explained about undergraduate life and the traditions of graduation. This was very timely just before the Society's postponed visit to the city.

The summer picnic, a first for Wrekin, was very well supported despite the inclement weather. The Ironbridge Gorge Museum kindly hosted us and made the Engine Shed available so that we could meet 'in person' for the first time in many months. New member, Bob Watson and the Albric Folk kindly provided some musical entertainment.

One of this year's highlights was undoubtedly our small group visits to Wenlock Abbey, home of the late artist Louis de Wet and his wife Gabrielle. Each group were treated to a very personal tour with Gabrielle and local historian, Vivien Bellamy. We marvelled at Andrew Pearson's amazingly detailed carved screen in the chapel which reflected de Wet's life and travels.

Justin Reay's Zoom presentation on Grinling Gibbons whetted our appetite for the excellent tercentenary exhibition at Compton Verney. What an extraordinarily talented woodcarver.

Dr Jonathan Berg led several different walks for Wrekin members to focus on Birmingham's public art and architecture as well as its many trades and industrial history.

Many of the newer Wrekin members joined the committee for a special tour of the house and grounds at Chillington Hall followed by lunch in the Grand Saloon in October.

One of Wrekin's favourite lecturers, Bertie Pearce, entertained us for the last event of 2021. We were delighted to be joined by the Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Anna Turner JP. Bertie reminded us how the Victorians entertained and amused themselves and treated us all to some of his clever tricks. The timing was very lucky, just before Omicron disrupted our lives again.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT continued

50 members enjoyed a fabulous 'study day' at Weston Park with Gareth Williams, Curator and head of Learning to the Weston Park Foundation on Coade stone, current conservation projects and the impact of the pandemic on the house and its educational activities. We were delighted to see the restored Coade stone plinth in situ – the sun shone briefly!

This year, the event surplus total including Days of Special Interest is £4,967 from which donations totalling £2,655 have been given to Ironbridge Gorge Museum, the Albrighton Trust (Moat), the Louis de Wet Foundation, Weston Park Foundation, Koestler Trust and charities associated with the Cambridge visit. We are very grateful that some of our speakers and venue providers have accepted donations in lieu of fees. The remaining surplus will help to fund 10 days of Creative activities for groups of up to 35 children from Telford schools run by EKO - Educating Kids Outdoors at Weston Park.

**NICKY LIPSCOMBE**



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT continued

### **Longer Visits**

The visit to Cambridge previously postponed in 2020 due to the pandemic finally went ahead in October 2021 with a group of eighteen members.

The first event, a fascinating walking tour of the City took place in the afternoon of the first day. Members learnt about the Richardson Candle lamps, unique to Cambridge and the Ashlar stone which is used on many Cambridge buildings. Then on to St Edward's Church where the first midnight mass was held on Christmas Eve 1525, this was the first evangelical sermon of the English Reformation to take place. We also heard about the Cambridge Spies, Cambridge Nobel Prize winners.

Visits to the Parker Library, King's College chapel and the wonderful Fitzwilliam Museum where our guides pointed out some of the most interesting exhibits. A visit to all Saints Church built in 1860 and decorated by Arts and Crafts artists William Morris, Edward Burne-Jones and Ford Madox Brown. This was followed by a final visit to Emmanuel College, its chapel, gardens and friars' bathing pool, one of the oldest outdoor pools in the Country.

**SUZY KEELEY**

### **The Arts Society Wrekin Award**

In 2020 the Society awarded its first bursary, the Frank Hartill Arts Award to joint winners Jacob Chandler (sculptor) and Kate Woodman (actress/singer). Both winners have now sent statements and videos explaining how the prize money was spent and helped with their respective careers. We are now promoting 'The Arts Society Wrekin Award 2022' based on the success of the Frank Hartill Arts Award. The award is open to all branches of the arts with a prize of £2000 for the winner. Last time we attracted applications from a wide range of artistic fields. It will be interesting to see the range of arts that make the shortlist this year and it is immensely satisfying to think we will be able to help a local artist in such difficult times.

**AMANDA ZAADSTRA**



THE ARTS  
SOCIETY  
WREKIN



## THE ARTS AWARD 2022

### £2000

*Open to all branches of the arts  
and crafts with a connection  
to the Wrekin area.*

***Closing date 15th July 2022***



*'Poise and Elegance',  
a bronze sculpture by  
Jacob Chandler, joint  
winner of The Arts  
Society Wrekin  
Award in 2020*



[www.theartssocietywrekin.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietywrekin.org.uk)

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT continued

### **Heritage Volunteering**

During the year, when circumstances permitted, a small team (including one member from the Shrewsbury Society) has been working on the final task of the AGA Project which is to continue into early summer. In the autumn, a team was assembled at short notice to check and clean books in the Library at Weston Park. A new head curator has been appointed at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum and we now have a new project this summer.

**PAUL JOSELAND**

### **Fifty Treasures**

The West Midlands Fifty Treasures book has proved to be a great success - it includes four entries from the Wrekin area. Encouraged by the number of suggestions from the membership and the success of the West Midlands book, it has been decided to celebrate '50 Years' of The Arts Society Wrekin with our own 50 Treasures Book in 2024. We welcome further suggestions from the membership. We have had quite a number already and they are wide ranging both in geography and subject matter.

**TIM ROBERTS**

### **Communications**

Email has continued to be the primary method of communication regarding both lectures and the events programme. This has linked with the Society accepting more payments through BACS making booking extra events easier for members. Printed copies are circulated to the few members without email addresses. Using email enables the committee to engage more regularly with members and is not limited by prohibitive postal charges.

Member engagement with emails remains high with 70 – 80% opening them and a very good representative sample 'clicking' through to our website to rate the lectures they have either watched on Zoom or attended at Cosford.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT continued

We have also been successful in getting local press coverage of our charitable work. Beneficiaries of donations have also been very good at advertising the support received from the Society on their websites and Facebook platforms, helping to raise our profile.

**AMANDA ZAADSTRA**

### **Financial Review and Reserves Policy**

The first mention of Covid-19 in our Annual Reports was two years ago in 2020. Let's hope that this year is the last time. Our finances are still in remarkably good shape, despite having given our returning members substantial reductions in subscriptions for two years. My thanks to them for their continuing support, and to our newer members for joining us at this difficult time.

Our policy has always been to hold a reserve to cover the expenses of a full year's programme of lectures. In normal times we like to ensure that the costs of running the lecture programme, our administration costs and the affiliation fees to The Arts Society are met by our subscription income, augmented by income from visitors and raffles.

The full details of our financial activities are shown in the accounts later in this report. My thanks are also due to David Cotterell, who has now been promoted from his post as Independent Examiner to be our President, and to Philip Sims, who has replaced David as Independent Examiner.

Our financial support for arts and heritage continues. The accounts show the extent of this support and full details are on the back cover. We still have the potential to make an important difference to a variety of individuals and organisations in those areas which we support. Members are also reminded that the committee welcomes suggestions for financial support for arts-related projects.

**JIM TRANTER**

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

#### Lecture Programme

	2022	2021
	£	£
<b>Incoming Resources</b>		
Members' Subscriptions	9,782	10,616
Waiting list	5	45
Visitors' Donations	125	45
Interest received	235	311
<b>Total Incoming resources</b>	<u>10,147</u>	<u>11,017</u>
<b>Resources Expended</b>	£	£
Meetings (note 3)	7,368	2,911
Affiliation fees (note 1(a))	4,363	4,643
Administration costs	1,759	1,356
Depreciation		25
<b>Total Resources expended</b>	<u>13,490</u>	<u>8,935</u>
<b>Deficit (2021 Surplus) on lecture programme</b>	<u>-3,343</u>	<u>2,082</u>
<b>Gift Aid received</b>	1,732	2,794

*(Continued on page 12)*

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - continued

### Other activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
<b>Incoming Resources</b>		
Events - total income	18,298	5,362
Events - total expenditure	12,897	2,290
Surplus on events	5,401	3,072
Sales of publications (net)	350	
Other donations	5	41
Arts Society grant	250	
Donation - Mrs A Hartill	250	
	<u>6,256</u>	<u>3,113</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Charitable and other donations:		
- Directly related to events	2,655	2,370
- Young Arts	900	362
- Other	1635	2793
Church recording		192
Frank Hartill Arts award		3,600
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<u>5,190</u>	<u>9,317</u>
<b>Surplus/deficit on other activities</b>	<u>1,066</u>	<u>-6,204</u>
<b>Overall deficit for the year</b>	<u>-545</u>	<u>-1,328</u>

*(Continued on page 13)*

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
<b>Tangible fixed assets</b>		
IT and other equipment (notes 1(b), 4)	0	0
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at bank	12,723	2,528
Cash on deposit	20,445	27,397
Cash in hand	50	50
Prepayments	3,186	3,152
Debtors	187	253
	<u>36,591</u>	<u>33,380</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Income received in advance	8,872	5,116
	<u>8,872</u>	<u>5,116</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>27,719</u>	<u>28,264</u>
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>		
Unrestricted funds at beginning of year	28,264	29,592
Deficit for the year	-545	-1,328
Unrestricted funds at end of year	<u>27,719</u>	<u>28,264</u>

**JIM TRANTER**

Treasurer

19 April 2022

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### 1. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of accounting.

The accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis.

(b) Depreciation.

Fixed assets (IT and other equipment) were written down to a nil value in March 2021

### 2. Gross income and expenditure

The gross income for the year was £31,032 (2021 £19,214) and the gross expenditure was £31,577 (2021 £20,542).

	2022	2021
	£	£
<b>3. Cost of Meetings</b>		
Lecturers' Fees	3,882	2,826
Lecturers' Expenses	192	85
Hire of Lecture Theatre	3,294	
	<u>7,368</u>	<u>2,911</u>

*(Continued on page 15)*

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 - continued

	2022	2021
	£	£
<b>4. Tangible Fixed Assets</b>		
<b>IT and other equipment</b>		
Cost brought forward	0	1,145
Additions	0	0
Depreciation charge brought forward	0	-1,120
Depreciation charge for the year	0	-25
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

# **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN**

I report to the charity's trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 11 to 16.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent Examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**PHILIP SIMS, A.C.I.B.**

*2nd May 2022*

# THE ARTS SOCIETY WREKIN

Accounts year ended 31 March 2022

The Society has given financial support to the following organisations:

## CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE DIRECTLY RELATED TO EVENTS

Ironbridge Gorge Museum	380
Louis de Wet Foundation	225
Fitzwilliam Museum	180
Churches Conservation Trust	100
Jimmy's (a charity for the homeless, Cambridge)	120
Koestler Arts - via TAS West Midlands Area	150
The Albrighton Trust	500
Weston Park Enterprises	1,000
	<hr/>
	2,655

## YOUNG ARTS PAYMENTS

SYMPHO (Shropshire Young Musicians)	750
Prizes for Halls Young Artists competition	150
	<hr/>
	900

## CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE - OTHER

Koestler Arts - via TAS West Midlands Area	250
The Country Houses of Shropshire - copies to local libraries	285
Shropshire Lieutenancy - re Covid Memorial Sculpture	500
Codsall Arts Festival	600
	<hr/>
	1,635