

THE ARTS SOCIETY WENSLEYDALE

England & Wales · Charity number 1203231

Details

Other names	TASW (WORKING NAME), Wensleydale Decorative and Fine arts Society
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2023-05-24
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Foresters Hall Middleton Tyas Richmond DL10 6QY
Phone	07801767911
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Website	theartssociety.org/wensleydale

Activities

Objects: THE SOCIETY SHALL HAVE AS ITS OBJECTS: (1) THE PROMOTION AND ADVANCEMENT OF THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE CULTIVATION, APPRECIATION AND STUDY OF THE DECORATIVE AND FINE ARTS, (2) THE CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE ARTISTIC HERITAGE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND OTHER COUNTRIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC, AND(3) THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE, IN PARTICULAR, BUT WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE DECORATIVE AND FINE ARTS.

Activities: The Society organises lectures on decorative and fine arts and related subjects which are open to the general public. It works to preserve the cultural heritage through activities such as church recording. It supports the education of young people by providing resources to schools.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- North Yorkshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£17,420	£12,270	-	-
2024-12-31	£13,264	£12,814	-	-
2023-12-31	£14,608	£15,152	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Susan Jaqueline Walker	Chair	2025-03-25
Lilian Haworth		2023-04-25
Susan Mary Rumsey		2023-04-25

THE ARTS SOCIETY WENSLEYDALE

England & Wales - Charity number 1203231

Accounts

The Arts Society Wensleydale

Registered Charity number 1203231

Report of the Chairman of Trustees for the year ending 31 December 2025

Introduction

The Arts Society Wensleydale was established in 2000. In May 2023, the registration of the Society as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation was approved by the Charities Commission.

The objects of the Charity are:

- 1) the promotion and advancement of the education of the public in the cultivation, appreciation and study of the decorative and fine arts,
- 2) the conservation and preservation of the artistic heritage of the United Kingdom and other countries for the benefit of the public, and
- 3) the advancement of the arts, culture and heritage, in particular, but without limitation, the decorative and fine arts.

Review of Activities

Lecture Programme

The Charity has undertaken a programme of nine lectures in 2025. These are open to the public and have covered a wide range of topics consistent with the objectives detailed above. The topics covered have ranged from the jewellery of Jane Austin to The Princes in the Tower. We've welcomed all our lecturers including Phillipa Langley and Lars Thorp. After each lecture, the Management Committee assesses its quality and reviews any issues that arise. Our current venue at Tennants in Leyburn has the benefit of a large lecture room with good seating and disabled access, a café, a restaurant and extensive accessible parking. Attendance at lectures averaged 127 attendees (83 members and 44 guests). This is a considerable increase on the 2024 average attendance of 80 (70 members and 10 guests).

Visits

The Charity has continued its programme of visits.

Two visits were undertaken in 2025. The first was to Raby Castle and involved a private guided tour showing the alterations and extension which had been completed over the centuries. The second visit was to Yorkshire Sculpture Park where some of the artist's history and their artistic development was explained to us by the lead curator. Both visits were rated highly by the participants.

Church Recording

During this lecture year, the Charity has completed the process of assembling, editing and publishing the information for an ambitious project to record all the elements of Kirklington Parish Church near Bedale. The beautifully bound book was presented to the congregation and is now available to view in the church.

Young Arts

The Charity has a policy of working with local organisations which focus on providing support to young people and has provided a grant of £250 to Crakehall Guides to enable the guides to work towards gaining their Arts Badges.

Finance

The Charity achieved a surplus of £5,149 in the year to 31 December 2025. Total cash reserves at year end amounted to £20,724. The accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis in line with current guidance by the Charities Commission.

The primary sources of funding for the Charity in 2025 were membership subscriptions (£8190), Gift Aid (£2292), donations from members of the public attending lectures (£3752) and the net proceeds of monthly raffles (£938). The Charity does not undertake any other fundraising activities.

Our reserves of £20,724 are broadly in line with Charity Commission Guidance on maintaining reserve levels designed to ensure that the Charity is financially robust and can survive unforeseen events such as having to change venue, an unexpected decline in membership, increased base costs or a national crisis such as the pandemic. We also hope to be able to offer grant funding to promote the Arts in our area.

Governance and Structure

The Charity is governed by the Trustees who are elected by members. The Trustees are supported by a Management Committee which undertakes the day to day running of Charity. The current members of the Committee are:

Suzy Walker	Trustee and Chairman
Alan Cape	Treasurer
Lilian Haworth	Trustee and Membership Secretary
Jennifer Howard-Vyse	Study Day and Visits Secretary
Alyson Jones	Programme Secretary
Susan Rumsey	Trustee and Minutes Secretary
Caroline Bryant	Young Arts Coordinator
Rosalind Higson	Committee Member

In accordance with our Society constitution, Susan Rumsey will retire as a Trustee at this AGM but has kindly offered to stand for reappointment.

Membership and Guests

On 31 December 2025, the Charity had 122 members, an increase of around 10% over the previous year but still significantly lower than the 152 achieved immediately prior to the pandemic. However, it is encouraging to see this growth in membership and increased number of guests attending our lectures.

Outlook

The Charity has now achieved a robust financial position following some very challenging years and is in a position to consider grants for suitable activities.

However, as reported last year, the Charity faces two key challenges. Firstly, maintaining and growing membership is essential for the Charity to prosper. If membership falls, our venue may become unaffordable necessitating relocation to a less attractive facility. This in turn could further adversely affect membership.

Secondly, several of the members of the Management Committee have now served the Charity for at least 5 years. A key priority remains to find members who are willing to take on roles so that the Charity can continue to thrive and prosper.

In addition to the Management Committee, the Charity has a core group of members who make a major contribution to the success of the organisation including running the monthly raffle and transporting lecturers to and from railway stations. The Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank both them and the members of the Management Committee, on behalf of the members, for their continued hard work and support.

Conclusion

This has been a very successful year for the Charity. Membership has increased and lectures have been well supported by members and guests. Please continue to support The Arts Society Wensleydale, encourage others to join and do consider volunteering to join the Management Committee. The future of the Charity is in your hands.

Suzy Walker

Chairman

February 2026

The Arts Society Wensleydale

Registered Charity 1203231

Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2025

The Charity achieved a surplus of £5149 in the year to 31 December 2025. This is mainly due to an increase in guest donations and Gift Aid on qualifying subscriptions and donations. The Society Reserves at the year-end were £20,724. The accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis in line with current guidelines by the Charities Commission and have been subject to review by an independent examiner.

Receipts and Payments	
Year Ending 31 December 2025	
Income	£
Membership	8,190.0
Guest Donations	3,752.0
Raffle	1,092.0
Study Trips	1,635.0
Gift Aid	2,291.5
Bank Interest	209.0
Grants	250.0
Total Receipts	<u>17,419.5</u>
Expenditure	
Lecturer Fees	3,094.0
Lecturer Expenses	510.8
Room Hire	4,500.0
Raffle	154.1
Lunches	42.0
Visits	1,608.0
Card Fees	28.1
The Arts Society	1,712.4
Travel, Subsistence and Comms Expenses	370.3
Grants	250.0
Total Expenditure	<u>12,269.9</u>
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	5,149.5

Balance Sheet
As at Year Ending 31 December 2025

	December 2025	
Members funds		
Brought forward from previous year	15,574.46	
Net Surplus	5,149.57	
Accumulated funds at year end	<u>20,724.03</u>	<u> </u>
Current Assets		
Business Premium Account	2,741.83	
Current Account	11,428.56	
Skipton Building Society	6,513.64	
Cash in hand	40.00	
Total Assets	<u>20,724.03</u>	<u><u> </u></u>

Alan Cape
Treasurer
11 February 2026

THE ARTS SOCIETY WENSLEYDALE

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Accounts

The Arts Society Wensleydale

Registered Charity number 1203231

Report of the Chairman of Trustees for the year ending 31 December 2025

Introduction

The Arts Society Wensleydale was established in 2000. In May 2023, the registration of the Society as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation was approved by the Charities Commission.

The objects of the Charity are:

- 1) the promotion and advancement of the education of the public in the cultivation, appreciation and study of the decorative and fine arts,
- 2) the conservation and preservation of the artistic heritage of the United Kingdom and other countries for the benefit of the public, and
- 3) the advancement of the arts, culture and heritage, in particular, but without limitation, the decorative and fine arts.

Review of Activities

Lecture Programme

The Charity has undertaken a programme of nine lectures in 2024. These are open to the public and have covered a wide range of topics consistent with the objectives detailed above. The topics covered have ranged from Clarice Cliff, to the artists associated with Beatles to an archaeologist's view of the Treasures of Tutankhamun's tomb. After each lecture, the Management Committee assesses its quality and reviews any issues that arise. Our current venue at Tennants in Leyburn has the benefit of a large lecture room with good seating and disabled access, a café, a restaurant and extensive accessible parking. Attendance at lectures remains in line with previous years with an average of 70 members and 10 guests attending meetings.

Visits and Study Days

The Charity has continued its programme of visits and study days

Two visits were undertaken in 2023. The first was to Temple Newsam and involved a private guided tour focussing on the spectacular period interiors dating from the seventeenth century. The second visit was to Saltaire with an insight into the fascinating history of the mill and its transition into arts venue with the David Hockney exhibition. Both visits were rated highly by the participants.

Church Recording

In early 2023, the Charity commenced an ambitious project to record all the elements of Kirklington Parish Church near Bedale. The major task of recording has been completed and

the process of assembling, editing and publishing the information is now with the invaluable support of the local members of the Church Recording Society.

Young Arts

The Charity has worked its policy of working with local organisations which focus on providing support to young people with learning and physical difficulties. This year the Society was successful in obtaining a grant for £250 to support the Bedale branch of Riding for the Disabled. In addition to the positive impact on the young people involved, this project increased our profile in the local community.

Finance

The Charity achieved a surplus of £450 in the year to 31 December 2024. Total cash reserves at year end amounted to £15,574. The accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis in line with current guidance by the Charities Commission.

The primary sources of funding for the Charity in 2024 were membership subscriptions (£7,511), Gift Aid (£1,639), donations from members of the public attending lectures (£930) and the net proceeds of monthly raffles (£519). The Charity does not undertake any other fundraising activities.

Underlying reserves are around £10,000, broadly equivalent to normalised annual expenditure. This level of reserves is designed to ensure that the Charity is financially robust and can survive unforeseen events such as having to change venue, an unexpected decline in membership or a national crisis such as the pandemic. 80% of the underlying cash reserves are deposited in interest bearing accounts.

Governance and Structure

The Charity is governed by the Trustees who are elected by members. The Trustees are supported by a Management Committee which undertakes the day to day running of Charity. The current members of the Committee are:

Susan Rumsey	Trustee and Chairman
Bob Davies	Trustee and Treasurer
Lilian Haworth	Trustee and Membership Secretary
Suzy Walker	Deputy Chairman
Jennifer Howard-Vyse	Study Day and Visits Secretary
Alyson Jones	Programme Secretary
Eileen Davies	Minutes Secretary
Caroline Bryant	Young Arts Coordinator
Rosalind Higson	Committee Member

After helping to guide the Society through some challenging times, both Bob Davies and I are standing down from our current roles. Suzy Walker, who joined the Management Committee

during 2024 will, subject to her election as a Trustee by the membership, take on the role of Chairman of the Trustees. I shall remain a Trustee to help in the transition. Alan Cape, an experienced accountant, will take over as Treasurer but does not wish to assume the additional responsibilities associated with being a Trustee.

Membership and Guests

On 31 December 2024, the Charity had 111 members, broadly unchanged from the previous year. This is significantly lower than the 152 achieved immediately prior to the pandemic. However, it remains around 15% higher than the levels achieved prior to the relocation to Tennants in Leyburn in 2019.

Outlook

The Charity has now achieved a level of financial stability after some very challenging years.

However, the Charity faces two key challenges. Firstly, maintaining and growing membership is essential for the Charity to prosper. If membership falls, our venue may become unaffordable necessitating relocation to a less attractive facility. This in turn could further adversely affect membership.

Secondly, several of the members of the Management Committee have now served the Charity for at least 5 years. A key priority for the coming year, is to find members who are willing to take on roles so that the Charity can continue to thrive and prosper.

In addition to the Management Committee, the Charity has a core group of members who make a major contribution to the success of the organisation including running the monthly raffle and transporting lecturers to and from railway stations. The Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank both them and the members of the Management Committee, on behalf of the members, for their continued hard work and support.

Conclusion

This has been an important year for the Charity. The Trustees believe that a significant step has been taken towards ensuring a successful future for the organisation. Please continue to support The Arts Society Wensleydale, encourage others to join and do consider volunteering to join the Management Committee. The future of the Charity is in your hands.

Susan Rumsey

Chairman

February 2025

The Arts Society Wensleydale

Registered Charity 1203231

Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024

The Charity achieved a surplus of £450 in the year to 31 December 2024. This result includes a legacy of £500 from the estate of Brian Reed, one of the founders of our Society. Excluding this one-off item, the Society incurred a small deficit of £50. This is consistent with the forecast made at the AGM in March 2024 and reflects the improved financial position of the Society. Total cash reserves at year end amounted to £15,574. The accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis in line with current guidance by the Charities Commission and have been subject review by an independent examiner.

Receipts and Payments	
Year Ending 31 December 2024	
Income	£
Membership	7,511.00
Guest donations	930.00
Raffle	679.00
Study Trips	1,441.50
Gift Aid	1,639.50
Young Artists	250.00
Legacy	500.00
Bank Interest	258.63
Other Donations	54.00
Total Receipts	<u>13,263.63</u>
Expenditure	
Lecturer Fees	(3,355.00)
Lecturer Expenses	(864.36)
Room Hire	(4,204.00)
Raffle	(160.03)
Lunches	(42.73)
Study Trips	(1,413.70)
Credit Card Fees	(17.95)
Arts Society Affiliation Fee	(1,972.82)
Travel, Subsistence & Comms Expenses	(533.00)
Young Artists	(250.00)
Total Expenditure	<u>(12,813.59)</u>
Net Surplus /(Deficit)	<u>450.04</u>

Balance Sheet

Year Ending 31 December 2024

	<u>December 2024</u>	<u>December 2023</u>
Members funds		
Brought forward from previous year	15,124.42	17,168.55
Net Surplus /(Deficit)	450.04	(544.13)
Prepayment		(1,500.00)
Accumulated funds at year end	<u>15,574.46</u>	<u>15,124.42</u>
 Current Assets		
Business Premium Account	2,706.22	2,666.12
Current Account	6,488.04	6,296.63
Skipton Building Spociety	6340.20	6121.67
Cash in hand	40.00	40.00
Total Assets	<u>15,574.46</u>	<u>15,124.42</u>

Bob Davies
Treasurer
26 January 2025

THE ARTS SOCIETY WENSLEYDALE

England & Wales - Charity number 1203231

Accounts

The Arts Society Wensleydale

Registered Charity number 1203231

Report of the Chairman of Trustees for the year ending 31 December 2023

Introduction

The Arts Society Wensleydale was established in 2000. Following a review by the Management Committee of the Society in 2023, a decision was taken by the membership to register the Society as a charity. This was achieved on 23 May 2023 when registration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation was approved by the Charities Commission. Accordingly, this is the first report by the Trustees of the Charity since its registration.

The objects of the Charity are:

- 1) the promotion and advancement of the education of the public in the cultivation, appreciation and study of the decorative and fine arts,
- 2) the conservation and preservation of the artistic heritage of the United Kingdom and other countries for the benefit of the public, and
- 3) the advancement of the arts, culture and heritage, in particular, but without limitation, the decorative and fine arts.

Review of Activities

Lecture Programme

The Charity has undertaken a programme of nine lectures in 2023. These are open to the public and have covered a wide range of topics consistent with the objectives detailed above. The topics covered have ranged from Faberge to the original photos of Shackleton's expedition to the Antarctic and from Breugel to the Art of the Mining Communities. After each lecture, the Management Committee assesses its quality and reviews any issues that arise. Our current venue at Tennants in Leyburn has the benefit of a large lecture room with good seating, a café, restaurant and extensive accessible parking. Attendance at lectures remains in line with previous years with an average of 70 members and 11 guests attending meetings.

Visits and Study Days

The Charity has resumed its programme of visits and study days following the interruption caused by Covid. Two visits were undertaken in 2023. The

first was to Harewood House and involved a private guided tour focussing on the exceptional Chippendale furniture. The second visit was to Bishop Auckland and included a tour of the Bishop's Palace with its series of paintings by Zubaran and newly created Faith Centre. Both visits were rated highly by the participants.

Church Recording

In early 2023, the Charity commenced an ambitious project to record all the elements of Kirklington Parish Church near Bedale. The majority of the recording has now been completed and the process of assembling, editing and publishing the information is now in progress. This project was led by Brian Kealy, a longstanding member of the Society and the Management Committee and a champion of church recording. Sadly, Brian passed away in December 2023 and it is now planned dedicate the finished work to his memory.

Young Arts

The Charity has worked in partnership with another local charity, We Can Dance (registered charity number 1136698), which provides dance workshops for young people with learning difficulties. The Charity was successful in obtaining a grant of £1500 from the Patricia Foy Foundation to fund workshops at the Mowbray School in Bedale. These weekly workshops took place over the nine months from November 2022 and offered a clear demonstration of the positive impact of music and dance in transforming the lives of young people with learning difficulties. In addition to the positive impact on the young people involved, this project increased the profile of the Charity in the local community.

Finance

The Charity incurred a deficit of £544 in the year to 31 December 2023. Total cash reserves at year end amounted to £15,124. The accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis in line with current guidance by the Charities Commission.

Prior to its registration as a charity, the members of the Society approved a change of year end from 31 August to 31 December. Accordingly, 2023 was a year of transition. In the twelve months to 31 August, the Society incurred a deficit of £1,661 with cash reserves at that year end amounting to £10,500. The improvement reflected in the result to 31 December is more than accounted for by the positive impact of Gift Aid related to membership subscriptions and donations (£1,479).

The primary sources of funding for the Charity in 2023 were membership subscriptions (£7,282), Gift Aid (£1,479), donations from members of the

public attending lectures (£985) and the net proceeds of monthly raffles (£607). The Charity does not undertake any other fundraising activities.

Underlying reserves are around £10,000, broadly equivalent to normalised annual expenditure. This level of reserves is designed to ensure that the Charity is financially robust and can survive unforeseen events such as having to change venue, an unexpected decline in membership or a national crisis such as the pandemic. 80% of the underlying cash reserves are deposited in interest bearing accounts.

Governance and Structure

At the Extraordinary General Meeting of members on 25 April 2023, the members of the Society approved the following:

- 1) to seek to register the Society as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation,
- 2) a New Constitution reflecting its charitable status, and
- 3) the appointment of the Chairman (Susan Rumsey), Treasurer (Bob Davies) and Membership Secretary (Lilian Haworth) as Trustees to serve until the next Annual General Meeting.

Registration of the Charity was approved by the Charities Commission on 23 May 2023 and the HMRC subsequently approved registration for Gift Aid.

Prior to its registration as a charity, the Society was governed by a Management Committee elected by members. Under the New Constitution, the Charity is governed by the Trustees who are elected by members. The Management Committee continues to undertake the day to day running of Charity and its current members are:

Susan Rumsey	Trustee and Chairman
Robert Davies	Trustee and Treasurer
Lilian Haworth	Trustee and Membership Secretary
Jennifer Howard-Vyse	Study Day and Visits Secretary
Alyson Jones	Programme Secretary
Eileen Davies	Minutes Secretary
Carolyn Bryant	Young Arts Coordinator
Rosalind Higson	Committee Member

All the current Trustees are standing for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

Membership and Guests

On 31 December 2023, the Charity had 113 members, broadly unchanged from the previous year. This is significantly lower than the 152 achieved immediately prior to the pandemic. However, it remains around 15% higher than the levels achieved prior to the relocation to Tennants in Leyburn in 2019.

Outlook

The Charity is now in a stronger financial position than it was a year ago. Although a small increase in annual subscription will be necessary to achieve breakeven, the overall financial position of the Charity is satisfactory.

However, the Charity faces two key challenges. Maintaining and growing membership is essential for the Charity to prosper. If membership falls, our venue may become unaffordable necessitating relocation to a less attractive facility. This in turn could further adversely affect membership.

All the Trustees and a number of the members of the Management Committee have now served the Charity for at least 5 years. In common with many other voluntary organisations, the Charity struggles to get members to volunteer for key leadership roles. Again, if members are not willing to volunteer for these roles, the future of the Charity is at risk.

In addition to the Management Committee, the Charity has a core group of members who make a major contribution to the success of the organisation including running the monthly raffle and transporting lecturers to and from railway stations. The Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank them and the members of the Management Committee, on behalf of the members, for their continued hard work and support.

Conclusion

This has been an important year for the Charity. The Trustees believe that we have taken a significant step towards ensuring a successful future for the organisation. Please continue to support The Arts Society Wensleydale, encourage others to join and do consider becoming a Trustee or volunteering to join the Management Committee. The future of the Charity is in your hands.

Susan Rumsey

Chairman

February 2024

The Arts Society Wensleydale

Registered Charity 1203231

Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023

The Charity incurred a deficit of £544 in the year to 31 December 2023. This is consistent with the forecast at the time of the EGM in April 2023 and reflects the positive impact of the Gift Aid (£1479) and the higher interest income resulting from the transfer of funds from Barclays to the Skipton Building Society (£80). Total cash reserves at year end amounted to £15,124. The accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis in line with current guidance by the Charities Commission and have been subject review by an independent examiner.

Year Ending 31 December 2023	
Income	£
Subscriptions	7,352.00
Guest donations	985.00
Raffle	767.00
Spring Lunch	655.00
Visits	1,585.00
Gift Aid	1,554.00
Young Artists	1,500.00 *
Book Sales	41.00
Other	4.00
Bank Interest	164.65
Total Receipts	14,607.65
Expenditure	
Lecturer Fees	(3,320.00)
Lecturer Expenses	(446.32)
Room Hire	(4,320.00)
Raffle	(160.04)
Lecturer Lunches	(95.42)
Spring Lunch	(658.00)
Visits	(1,637.00)
Card fees	(33.28)
Arts Society Affiliation Fee	(2,294.72)
Travel, Subsistence & Printing	(687.00)
Young Artists	(1,500.00)
Total Expenditure	(15,151.78)
Net Surplus /(Deficit)	(544.13)
* Prepayment	

	31 December 2023
Members funds	
Brought forward from previous year	17,168.55
Net Surplus /(Deficit)	(544.13)
Prepayment	(1,500.00)
Accumulated funds at year end	<u>15,124.42</u>
Current Assets	
Business Premium Account	2,666.12
Current Account	6,296.63
Skipton Building Spociety	6121.67
Cash in hand	40.00
Total Assets	<u>15,124.42</u>

Bob Davies
Treasurer
17 February 2024