

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 Phillippa 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

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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	17,419.5
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	12,269.9
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>

Alan Cape
Treasurer
11 February 2026