

The Arts Society Egerton

Annual General Meeting – 11 June 2025

Report of the Committee on the Previous Year's Activities

It is pleasing to report a successful 2024. Our lecture programme has been very well received, whilst the Special Interest Day and London visits were both over-subscribed. We have been delighted to welcome former members of the Arts Society Tenterden to Egerton whilst there has also been a substantial increase in the numbers of guests at our meetings. Our aims are to provide a friendly, welcoming Society offering a range of interesting lectures and activities. We are encouraged by the results to date including, for the first time in many years, a small financial surplus.

However, it will not be possible to maintain and build upon the progress to date without new members joining, or providing support, to our Committee. In particular, we need additional back-up for Programming, Visits organisation and the Technical team.

In the year ahead the Committee will be losing Jenny and Allan Mowatt. Their contribution over decades has been exceptional and will leave a huge gap in terms of knowledge, experience and organisational expertise. In addition, Dianne Eccles is standing down from her Visits responsibilities to take on a challenging and exciting opportunity in London. I will also be standing down as Chair. This means that my successor, Gill Bromley, will be heading up a team missing some key individuals. We owe it to her to ensure that these gaps are speedily filled.

As ever, there are so many people to thank for their hard work and support over the last year. Gill Bromley has continued to be a force of nature bringing energy, drive and attention to detail of a high order in everything she does. Jenny Mowatt and Dianne Eccles, respectively, made the Study Day and Visits great successes, whilst Christine Willis and Paul Tubby could not be faulted in their membership and communications responsibilities. Wendy Licence is getting her teeth into her Treasurer's role. She is a welcome addition to the Committee. With Allan Mowatt providing wise counsel, and Sue Wood our indefatigable Secretary, this has been an exceptional team with which to work.

Just as importantly has been the extra support we get at meetings. Lynne, Gail, Shirley, Elizabeth and Maggie on the front desk, with Roy, Geoff and Mike on the technical side have all continued to provide tremendous support. We would be lost without them. Last, but not least, Rachel and Claire have been brilliant in setting up the Hall for meetings, providing tea and biscuits, and then tidying up afterwards.

This will be my last report as your Chair. It has been an honour and privilege to be part of such a good Society and to be supported by so many good people.

Rob Peaple

