

## The Arts Society Tring Park

### Chairman's Report 2022 - 2023

This has been the most normal of the three years during which I have been Chairman. I am delighted that all our activities have resumed and that attendance at lectures has risen too.

Once again I am very grateful to the Committee for all their hard work, much of which is unseen but is essential to the success of our Society. Rowena Dean and Kate Winterbottom have continued to find interesting visits, as well as planning a varied programme of lectures for next year. Sandra Randle has kept a tight grip on our finances as Treasurer. Chris Sivers has seamlessly taken over as Membership Secretary. Linda Powell has set up a Facebook page for the Society, to increase awareness of us and our activities. Tony Ogden represents the audio visual team on the Committee. Marion Ford, who has been such a dedicated Membership Secretary, has decided to step down and will be much missed. She has been indefatigable in her efforts on behalf of the Society and our members. Also during this year we had the sad loss our Vice President, Phillip Lawrence, who was one of the founder members of our Society.

We are very grateful to all our other volunteers who contribute to the smooth running of the Society. Jamie Gray helped us buy a new laptop, has constructed impressive boxes to house the audio visual equipment, and has set up the equipment at every lecture. Guy Moores has also been helping with the audio visual set up, but we are still looking for more volunteers. We are very grateful to Richard Blumson for redesigning our website and keeping it up to date. We have introduced our Waitrose coffee get together after the lecture and thank Jude Gray and Carla Lathe for running this. We're also grateful to Peter and Mo Grainger and Janice Neil for their help at various times.

### The Arts Society

We are affiliated to The Arts Society and a substantial part of your membership fee pays for their services. They keep a Directory of Lecturers who have passed their vigorous vetting process, and hold an annual Directory Day to help Programme Secretaries choose lectures for the forthcoming year. We report back to them on the quality of our lectures. Your comments are very useful to us, so I encourage you to complete the assessment form at the registration

desk after the lecture. They provide training for Committee Members, as well as help and support by email and telephone. The Arts Society also produces 'Instant Expert' pieces, a high quality magazine and monthly email bulletins. Member societies are grouped into 20 Areas and we are part of the Beds and Herts Area.

### Arts Volunteering

We continue to support Tring Music Partnership, part of Tring Together. We donated £250 from our finances and a £250 grant from The Arts Society.

### Membership

I am pleased to say that we are significantly closer to pre-Covid levels of membership, although we are still short of our maximum number. Continual rising costs have forced us to increase the Membership fee to £53. However, this works out at only just over £5 per lecture, which is still amazing value given the quality and range of lectures on our programme and also gives access to all The Arts Society publications. Our green badge name scheme is a way of helping us all to identify and welcome new members and is helping us to become a more sociable society.

### The Future

We still have many challenges ahead. We want to continue to make our Society a friendly and welcoming place, providing interesting lectures and visits, and giving members the opportunity to socialise with like-minded people.

To do more we need more help. Several key positions on the Committee are vacant. We also need volunteers to help on an occasional basis. This could be for example, sitting at the registration desk, collecting the speaker from the station, helping to set up the audio visual equipment, befriending new members and introducing them to other members of the Society, or organising a one off social event. There are many ways in which the Society could become even better, but we need people willing to put in the time to make it happen. The future is in your hands!