

The Arts Society Glaven Valley: Chair's Report for AGM 17 June 2025

I was honoured and delighted to be elected as Chair of TASGV this time last year, and grateful to you all for your support.

I did wonder what I had taken on when I was plunged in the turmoil caused by the Arts Society's proposals to change the Articles of Association. This result in the Trustees and a number of senior officers resigning. Thankfully things have settled down and the new Board of Trustees seem to have an excellent understanding of local societies needs and are very supportive.

From my point of view, the year has been successful for TASGV. At the heart of every society is its membership - all of you. Thankfully, despite having to raise the subscription at the beginning of the year our membership numbers have remained stable and your contributions continue to fund our activities. It would be lovely to get back to our pre-pandemic membership, and we are grateful to you for introducing new members. We have tried various ways of attracting new members but you remain are our most successful way of recruiting so please keep it up!

The heart of our activities is the lecture programme, organised by Jane Hibbett, and Special Interest Days, organised by Scilla Landale. Both programmes have been very successful being well attended and providing a varied and very interesting range of subjects. We have been treated to the challenges, for example, of making special armour for Richard III and the joys and perils of wearing armour on horseback, Mary Anning's quest for fossils, and the story of Troy told in myth and archaeological reality. Our teas after events have provided the opportunity for members to socialise and our thanks go to Averil Cooper and Christine Haverty for organising them. Averil Cooper has also done sterling work in organising the Christmas lunch and, this year, a Summer Tea Party. Thanks are also due to those unsung people who make the lectures possible, the 'AV Squad' of David Riddle, David Hughes and Richard Kelham who manage the audio-visual equipment, and Richard Allen who has taken over setting out the hall for our meetings.

Visits have proved problematical for some time, partly because of the rising cost of transport. However, Linda Frost has organised both an enjoyable trip to the ballet in Norwich, and a most successful visit to the stunning Euston Hall in May, enjoyed by all who attended.

Steve Williams, our Treasurer, has looked after the finances of the Society over the past year and has introduced a welcome new innovation, electronic payments at meetings, which has reduced the need to collect and bank cash. Thanks also to John Chapman who runs our website impeccably and acts as Independent Examiner of the Society accounts.

Our volunteer activities are doing well. Our Young Arts Projects this year were with a group of students from Fakenham Academy who enjoyed a programme of visits introducing them to the various possibilities for a career in the arts field, and most recently with Paston 6th Form College in North Walsham. The project offered a wider insight into the world of theatre for those who might pursue a creative career. For the first time we sponsored three entries in the Arts Society A Level Arts competition, one of which was short-listed. These projects are all funded by your contributions to the raffle, currently run by Patricia Spencer. The Trails Team, led by Maggie Williams, has completed two new trails this year, a Children's Trail for Letheringsett Church and a more ambitious Glaven Valley trail for everyone. We now have five trails and the details

are on our website under 'Volunteering'. It is also pleasing to report that Patricia Church is reviving the Church Recording group.

I would like to offer my thanks to all the members of the Committee and the volunteer organisers without whose efforts the Society would cease to operate. We are very fortunate to have a high performing team which works well together. Special thanks go to our Secretary, Carolyn Thomas-Coxhead, and Membership Secretary, Rose Tweedie, whose work is largely invisible to you but without whom the society would struggle.

It is with regret that we say goodbye to Rose who is leaving us. She has fitted in remarkably well and managed membership issues efficiently and effectively.

We also say goodbye to Patricia Spencer, our President. Patricia has been a fixture of the Society for many years running Special Interest Days and more recently acting as President as well as organising the raffle to fund Young Arts projects. She is always helpful and has done much more than is normally expected of the President, always in the best interests of the society. She will be much missed as President but we hope to continue to see her regularly at society events.

Lastly, my thanks go to Maggie Williams for temporarily standing in for me. As some of you know my health has not been of the best recently, and I have made the difficult decision not to seek reelection as Chair at the AGM. I am delighted that Lucilla Burn and Maggie Williams have agreed to act as Co-Chairs. I know that the Society will be in safe hands and I wish it every success going forward.

Susan Riddle