

The Arts Society Nottingham. Chair's report AGM: 2023

Another season has drawn to an end and we are thankful that we have been able to have 'live' lectures throughout, plus a range of courses, study days and of course our first post-covid visit to Compton Verney. Opening up the Broadway Mezzanine Bar for our members between lectures to socialise, network and relax has proved to be very successful in reinforcing our community spirit.

Attendance at all of our events is now back to normal with our guest numbers steadily increasing over the season and we have also welcomed a number of new members to the society.

I would like to thank our hard-working committee, all willingly giving of their time to provide a first-class programme of events for you all to enjoy. Of course, our success depends on our members, as without your unstinting support we wouldn't exist as a society.

I would particularly like to thank our technical staff at Broadway who have always been on hand to ensure the smooth running of our monthly lectures. It's easy to forget how much goes on behind the scenes when you are sitting in this wonderful auditorium.

A very special thank you goes to the work done over the last year by Steve Dance, Sheelagh and Phil Glanfield and Margaret Morris who have spearheaded our technical improvements to enable us to introduce Sum Up card readers for payments, to have online forms on our website and have designed a very professional programme leaflet with a QR code on for this season. Also, we have now gone digital at our registration desks with bar coded membership cards which will be scanned on admittance.

We have been very active this year in fulfilling our national charitable purpose with ongoing Heritage and Arts Education Projects. Many thanks to Vivienne Jarvis and Lynette Harris who have both been instrumental in moving these projects forward. A trip is planned to the Bromley House Library next May to see our volunteers at work restoring books of historic interest and to learn about the significance of this grade II listed building and its special book collections. We were successful in obtaining a grant of £250 from National Office towards their work.

A few committee changes are underway. We say goodbye to Maureen Devlin who has done excellent work on the desks. Margaret is stepping down from the Secretary role but staying on the committee to continue with running the website. Chris Castleden one of our longest serving committee members has stepped down as membership secretary but continues to run our popular course days. We warmly welcome Sheelagh as our new membership secretary and also Liz Thomas who has kindly agreed to be our new minutes secretary. Jackie Goode, another new committee member as been shadowing Lynette this last year with the intention of taking over her Arts Education role next season. Liz Holden is now officially our outings secretary and we look forward to many more successful visits.

Finally, a big thank you from me to all my committee colleagues and staff at Broadway who have been so supportive in enabling me to fulfil my role as chair.