

CHAIRMANS REPORT AGM 2025

Welcome everyone , members of the Arts Society Rutland and guests and committee members to the 2025 AGM of the Society. It is always interesting to reflect on another year of the society.

Firstly on our core offering of the lectures, we have had fantastic speakers and topics with virtually all getting marked outstanding or excellent by the audience. Subjects varied from the Art and Craft of John Piper, to the Ballet Russe and to Art. Deco and the department store. The genius of our programme secretary Mary Twidell has meant we have a dining table heaving with art delights for all!

The cricket club seems to be a good venue for the members and lecturers. We have a full programme for 2026, which you have already seen I hope, with subjects varying from Warhol to Teapots.

Secondly thanks to our visits secretary Della Stones working tirelessly we had two sold out visits to Harlaxton Hall and the National Gallery, both of which were so enjoyable and cherished by all the participants.

We obtained the Arts Society Community Grant of £250 and Uppingham Community College were absolutely delighted with their brand new pink aprons.

Finances are even and we now hope to make a small profit having moved venue and saving on IT as Martin Griffin so kindly has helped out. Huge thanks to Sandra Griffin our wonderful careful and helpful Treasurer for her accounts and to Martin.

We would be helped by any sponsorship opportunities and shall seek to maintain the link with Goldmark Gallery.

It has been a good year but we need early in 2026 to concentrate on 2 things. Increasing membership so that those who leave are replaced. There is a nice saying about the arts society that you come for the art and stay for the friends , so bring them. We desperately need new committee members and helpers. Please do get involved. The Arts Society Rutland is YOUR society. Help make it what YOU want.

Kate Blank Chairman