



**Minutes of the 59th Annual General meeting of Arts Richmond
held at ETNA Centre on the 14th of July 2025**

1. Dr Hilary Dodman, Chair of Trustees welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

A minute silence was held for Linda White who sadly passed away since the last AGM.

2. Apologies for absence – Sara Burn Edwards we send her our best wishes, Simon Bartlett and Francis Abott absent due to the RSS opening night at York House Gardens and Gillian Thorpe.
3. The minutes of the 58th AGM held on 17th July 2024 were approved.
4. HD gave a summary of the Arts Richmond 2024-5 Annual Report and Accounts. This report demonstrates the improved finances of Arts Richmond in the last year. This positive financial recovery is in the context of losses AR incurred during the covid-19 pandemic during which AR continued to cover the cost of an administrator but were not eligible for or in receipt of any covid recovery funds.

We thank the David King Trust, Arts Society Richmond and the Barnes Literary Society for their financial support over the last year.

229 individual members were reported for the last year which is slightly down on pre covid – numbers. We continue to focus on membership development.

All serving Trustees were introduced to those attending. HD invited those attending to welcome the two new AR Trustees – Pauline Orchard and Rick Plata.

HD outlined the enormous help that AR receives from volunteers. The following volunteers involved in compiling the newsletter mailouts were thanked for their help - Janet Langhorne, John Coombs, Heather Morgan and Hilary Dodman.

HD reported that we have reduced the number of hard copy mailouts as a result of an option for digital copies and this has reduced the number posted by 100 which in turn has reduced the amount of time it takes to compile each mailout.

AR continued to build its social media presence and impact over the last year reaching over 28k followers on Facebook and exploring new platforms as an alternative to X. Thanks to our social media volunteer Deborah Means for her work promoting the events of AR and our affiliate organisations.

Jean Wit, former Assistant Treasurer, was thanked for all her hard work in this role which she has handed over to Samantha Gore who brings her accountancy and IT expertise to this essential volunteer role.

HD reported that AR's partnership with Richmond Council is continuing positively, and that AR has been commissioned for a 3-year period to help deliver the Borough's Cultural Strategy.

AR Committees – HD provided some highlights from the work of the Arts Richmond committees in 2024-5 and thanked everyone involved. The Visual Arts Committee were very active with the Diana Armfield Drawing from Observation Competition and The Richmond Artist of the Year event, held at the National Archives Kew. Art House Open Studios continued to be very popular with artists (2nd year managed by AR), and the Affordable Art Tent went well at both Richmond May Fair and Kew Fair. Thanks were given to the previous Chair of the Visual Arts Committee, David Upton. A new venture is being planned with the Richmond and Twickenham Photographic Society with plans to exhibit at the Landmark Arts Centre.

An update was provided on the successes of the Literature Committee Chaired by Sue Pandit who reported that the Creative Voices festival has now been rebranded as the Arts Richmond Literature Festival. Thanks to York Membury for helping to secure authors for these events. The popular Young Writers competition culminated in an event at The Exchange in March 2025. 726 entries were received on the theme of change. The biannual poetry prize supported by Roger McGough welcomed 819 entries. The prizegiving event took place at the Old Sorting Office in Barnes in June 2025 and Roger McGough announced the winners and performed poems from his recently published Collected Poems.

The Drama Committee was chaired by Daniel Wain until December 2024 when Jeremy Gill stepped into the role. Activities included the revamped Swan Awards an annual event now known as the Drama Party, and the popular New Plays Festival (54 scripts received). The four selected plays were performed at a vibrant event at the Orange Tree Theatre in October 2024. The plan moving forward is to rotate the Radio Plays and New Stage Plays each year. A moment of reflection took place for Susan Conte, former Swan Awards judge, who passed away this year.

HD invited attendees to consider becoming Swan judges who attend affiliate productions.

Janet Langhorne provided an overview of the Showcoach Committee which includes two new members Judith Strong and Lynne Pocock. A wide variety of trips 2024-5 including theatre shows, Blue Badge guided London walks, a 4-day trip to Glasgow, a visit to Oliver at Chichester Festival, Ballet Shoes at the National Theatre, a tour of Watts Gallery, chapel and Limnerslease the newly restored home of Watts were organised.

JL reported that the Showcoach committee is very open to ideas for places to go. Future trips include a visit to Leeds Castle, the Musical Museum in Brentford, Tate Britain, and the Royal Hospital Chelsea. The next residential visit will be to Norfolk.

The Music Committee comprising Geoff Acton, Hugh Rogers, Jo Humphreys and William Summers, organised a choral workshop in February 2024 which attracted over 70 attendees for a The Sound of Music themed event. Plans are in place for a special event in 2026 focusing on women in performance and composition to be held on the 8 March to coincide

with International Women's Day. Our former President Roxanna Panufnik will be involved and AR plans to connect with local schools and affiliate music societies to promote the work of female composers.

Those attending received and adopted the report for the year 2024-2025 unanimously.

HD concluded that the Committees are the engine house of AR, and it is very important that the AGM recognises their work.

5. The report of Treasurer Simon Bartlett was read by Assistant Treasurer Samantha Gore.

AR has enjoyed a successful year in many ways and the covid period is now behind us. A series of well supported events has contributed to a positive end of year result with a surplus of £17k and increased reserves to £31k. £10k of which is attributable to the donation from the David King Trust. SB thanked all supporters of AR in 2024-5 including Richmond Council and thanked those involved in the literature events and Art House Open Studios which have contributed to the annual surplus.

SB reported that operational costs have been maintained at the level of previous year's which has also helped AR to achieve a positive result. The reserves are split into general reserves which represents 6 months core expenditure and the legacy fund. The reserves are considered reasonable and provide scope for seed funding for new initiatives.

Thanks to Hilary Dodman in her role as Chair and the Trustees for their support regarding their management of AR's finances.

HD thanked SB, JW & SG for all their hard work.

Those attending received the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025.

6. Adrian Mumford MA MMUS FCIS ARCH FLCM was elected as Honorary Independent examiner of the accounts for the next financial year.

7. HD thanked all AR volunteers including committee members and chairs for their hard work and commitment to Arts Richmond.

8. The Trustees were thanked personally by the Chair for their commitment throughout the year.

Trustees who have served 3 years each have confirmed their willingness to continue for a further 3 years. There was unanimous agreement of those attending the AGM to the continuation of a further term for all serving trustees.

Those attending confirmed their agreement to the election of Pauline Orchard and Rick Plata as Trustees.

9. Thanks were given to Vice presidents John Coombs, Hilary Dodman, Pam Frazer, Sandra Green. All Vice-Presidents were re-elected unanimously.

10. Patrons were thanked for their continued support. It was confirmed that Petina Hauptfuhrer (Trustee of Asgill House) and Mark Velacott sculptor have been appointed as new Patrons of AR.

11. President: To mark the completion of the term of office Clive Bradley, those attending thanked CB for all his support as President.

Richard Pyne – former LBRUT Mayor was confirmed as the new President of Arts Richmond.

It was confirmed that Hilary Dodman was completing her term in the role of chair at this meeting and presentations were made to thank HD for her enormous contribution to AR over a long period of time.

12. Election of new Chair of Trustees

HD confirmed that she is standing down as Chair of Trustees and resigning from her role as Trustee of AR.

Following this announcement the election of Co-Chairs Jean Wit and Sue Pandit were agreed unanimously by everyone attending the AGM. They will take over the role of chair jointly.

RT updated the AGM that the role of deputy chair is now vacant and will be decided at the next Trustees meeting.

JW gave a full accolade to HD outlining her achievements, energy and commitment to focus on quality.

SP also spoke reflecting on how key HD has been to AR, that she has been involved in all aspects of AR.

HD was presented with flowers and gifts given personally by members of AR.

Jeremy Gill read out a poem specifically composed for HD by Roger McGough.

HD made some final remarks that she had joined AR in 2001 though it had been set up years before in the 60s. 2026 marks AR's 60th anniversary and the plans are for the women composers' concert to be a focus point of the anniversary which follows AR's successful 50th celebration at Orleans House Gallery.

13. AOB: There were no AOB items submitted in writing

New AR member Andrew Duncan, the Mayors' driver, wanted to say how HD made every Mayor feel very welcome over the last 10 years.