

THE ARTS SOCIETY, ISLE OF WIGHT – CHAIR’S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2025

For the 43rd Annual General Meeting

This has been my 3rd and final year as Chair. It gives me great pleasure to see that, at each lecture, the atmosphere is so much more friendly than I remember on my first visits as a new member. This was the main change I wanted to make when I took over. It has been achieved partly with the free lucky dip, joyously run by Janet Parry, and the Northwood lunches which was suggested and organised by our Treasurer, Shirley Hill. The more relaxed atmosphere is mirrored by our small Committee and in particular by the initial welcome given by our long standing Membership Secretary, Sue Hext. We have worked hard to create an excellent working relationship with Northwood House.

Caroline Chant (assisted by Jane Watson) arranged a fantastic range of lectures - from ancient Roman, Medieval and Baroque art to Venetian architecture and those naughty caricatures. We trespassed into the world of ghost stories, the Winchester Bible, and public parks. One lecturer delighted us with lost treasures and out of fashion artists. In March we had another visit from Bertie Pearce with his ‘Now You See It Now You Don’t’.

The modernised annual lunch was again well attended at the College restaurant. Once more with the Astro Gastro theme. Lots of quizzes and prizes and great food.

Sue Giles and Sonja Iversen organised a splendid study day, a trip to the British Museum and the meet at Farringford, which were all popular.

John Waterman, calmly brings the technical features of the lectures to life and arranges all our advertising. The County Press and web site advertising has brought in new members and many day visitors. He unfortunately had a serious accident and was unable to attend the last two lectures. He is recovering well but slowly.

We have tripped along with a small Committee for 3 years, which has been difficult at times when there have been absences, but I am pleased to announce that Sheila Lucas, a fairly new member, asked to join us and is proving to be a delight with her enthusiasm and willingness to take on a number of the jobs.

Earlier this year, I was successful with two Grant applications, one to promote a play writing competition (for next season) and one to help revive Newchurch Drama Group by performing a play at Ventnor Fringe in July 2025. I directed and produced this and had a small part. ‘Sherlock Holmes’ Last Case’.

Drama is a particular interest of mine and I am so pleased to advise that TAS Area has now identified drama as part of the TAS art world. They have initially offered a small grant to local drama groups in Hampshire and the IOW to encourage their collaboration and advancement. I am honoured to announce that I have been asked to join the Area Team and lead on drama, to get it started. This begins in the Autumn.

As a local member next season I look forward to lunching and chatting with you, and enjoying the lecture, without the pressure of making sure everything goes according to plan.

With my thanks and very best wishes to the committee and new Chair, Sue Giles, who will be looking after you for the next 3 years from the AGM in September.

Glenys Lloyd-Williams