

RULES OF THE SOCIETY

1. TITLE: The Society shall be called **The Arts Society Wirral**

2. OBJECTS:

The primary objects of the Society shall be to foster awareness of, to stimulate interest in and to offer an opportunity to study the decorative and fine arts, and the doing of all such things as are incidental to the attainment of the above objects, including but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, any or all of the following ancillary objects.

- a) The arrangement of lectures to members of the Society at monthly or other intervals.
- b) Visits to private houses, collections, museums, exhibitions and other places of relevant interest.
- c) The formation of small study groups meeting at regular intervals to cover a defined syllabus within the objects of the Society.
- d) The establishment and conduct of lectures, courses and schools by which an opportunity may be given to the public of becoming familiar with and appreciative of the decorative and fine arts.
- e) To purchase, take on lease, hire or otherwise acquire any real or personal property or premises including halls, lecture rooms and theatres and any rights or privileges which the Society may think necessary or convenient for the promotion of its objects.
- f) To establish or support any charitable or benevolent association or institution and to subscribe or guarantee money for any purpose connected with, or calculated to advance the primary objects of the Society.
- g) To borrow or raise money and to appeal for funds for the purpose of the Society on such terms and such security as may be thought fit.

3. MEMBERSHIP:

The Society shall consist of ordinary and honorary members:

- a) ORDINARY MEMBERS: The Committee shall decide the number of ordinary members.
- b) The Committee may elect up to ten Honorary Members of the Society who are distinguished in the decorative and fine arts, or who have done valuable work for the Society.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS:

- a) Any subscription for membership of the Society shall be such a sum or sums as may be determined from time to time by a majority of the members present at the Annual General Meeting, the first payment due on election and subsequent subscriptions on April 1st in every year.
- b) The payment of the subscription does not entitle a member to automatic admittance to a lecture, as the number attending will be governed by the Fire and Safety Regulations applicable at the venue. The Society cannot breach such regulations and therefore admittance to a lecture will be on a "first come first served " basis. A member arriving at the venue after the permitted number has been reached will regrettably be refused entry.

5. RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS:

Any member desirous of resigning shall give notice in writing to the Membership Secretary before April 1st in any year and shall pay any arrears of subscriptions due at the date of the notice.

6. EXPULSION FROM THE GROUP:

- a) If the annual subscription of any member shall not have been paid within 28 days of the due date, that member will be deemed to have resigned.
- b) If the conduct or action of any member shall, in the opinion of the Committee, be injurious to or inconsistent with the character, objects or interests of the Society, the Committee may request in writing such a member to resign but only after granting the member a hearing before it. Any member so requested who does not resign within one month from the date of such a written request, shall be liable to expulsion from the Society.

7. OFFICERS:

- a) FOUNDER CHAIRMAN: The first Chairman elected upon the formation of the Society shall hold the office of Founder Chairman for life or until resignation or until the office shall be terminated by a resolution of the Society in a General Meeting.
- b) HONORARY OFFICERS: The Officers of the Society shall include a President and any number of Vice Presidents whom the Society may have power from time to time to appoint. The Offices of President and Vice President(s) shall be honorary offices, tenable for life or until resignation or until terminated by a resolution of the Society in General Meeting. Honorary Officers may attend Committee meetings but shall not be entitled to vote. The Chairman may invite the President or any Vice President attending any General Meeting of the Society to preside at such a meeting.
- c) ELECTED OFFICERS: The elected officers of the Society shall be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and any such officers as may be deemed necessary and shall be elected annually by the Society at the Annual General Meeting before electing the Committee. No person shall hold the office of Chairman or Vice Chairman for more than three consecutive years except by the request of the Committee, supported by the vote of the Society.

8. MANAGEMENT:

- a) The affairs of the Society shall be managed and its funds administered by the Committee.
- b) i) The Committee shall consist of not more than fifteen (15) members including the Honorary Officers.
 - ii) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt not more than four (4) members.
- c) Nominations and Rotation: Nominations for election to the Committee shall be made with the consent of the nominee, who shall be proposed by a Member and shall be forwarded to the Secretary not less than twenty eight (28) days before the Annual General Meeting at which the elections are to take place. The nominee shall have been a member of the Society for at least one year. No elected Committee member shall serve continuously for more than five years in any one position. Members may resign from the Committee at any time during the five year period.
- d) The Committee shall have the power to fill any casual vacancies which may occur on the Committee until the next Annual General Meeting.
- e) The Committee shall meet at least four times a year and on such occasions as circumstances shall require. The quorum required for all meetings of the Committee shall be one half of the members entitled to attend and vote.

9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time and place as shall be determined by the Committee but shall normally be held in March each year. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:-

- a) To receive the Chairman's report on the activities of the past year.
- b) To receive and pass the audited accounts of the Society.
- c) To elect the Officers and Committee of the Society.

d) To consider any resolution(s) duly proposed and seconded.

At least fourteen(14) days before each Annual General Meeting, the list of Officers for the ensuing year nominated by the Committee, and a list of candidates to fill the vacancies on the Committee, who have been duly proposed and seconded, shall be circulated among the members, together with notice of any resolution(s) put forward. The election of Officers and of members of the Committee shall be by a show of hands, unless in the case of candidates for election as members, there are more nominated than there are vacancies to be filled, in which case the election of such members shall be by ballot.

10. SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS:

Any member desirous of bringing forward any resolution shall give notice in writing thereof to the Secretary at least twenty eight (28) days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Any such resolution shall have been duly seconded and shall be set forth in the agenda with the names of the Proposer and Seconder.

11. CHAIRMAN:

The Chairman, if present, shall preside at all General and Committee Meetings unless otherwise arranged by him/her. If he/she cannot attend, the members shall appoint a Chairman to preside at the meeting.

At the General Meeting the decision of the Chairman on questions of order, voting, adjournment of the meeting and interpretation of the Rules of the Society shall be final. Upon any other question or in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

12. SUB COMMITTEES:

The Committee shall have the power to appoint, from time to time, sub committees to organise study groups or special events for any purpose connected with the Society whenever their advice or assistance may appear desirable.

13: WINDING UP:

If, at the Annual General Meeting, a special resolution to wind up the affairs of the Society shall have been duly proposed and passed, so much of the assets of the Society shall be realised as may be required to discharge all liabilities and any remaining assets shall be made over to such one or more charitable institutions or other associations which have charitable objects similar to those of the Society as the Committee shall decide. No such special resolution shall be passed unless carried by at least two thirds of the members present.

14. MEMBERS' ADDRESSES AND THE DATA PROTECTION ACT:

a) Members shall notify any change of address to the Society.

b) Where the names and addresses of members are held in a computer, members shall be deemed to consent to the disclosure of such information to the The Arts Society or to other societies affiliated to Arts Society or the Society. New members must be told that their addresses are held on computer.

15. CONDUCT AT LECTURES AND STUDY GROUP MEETINGS:

Members should take their seats five minutes before the lecture or meeting is due to start, and will not be admitted after the same has begun. Members who wish to leave early may do so immediately prior to the commencement of questions. Members are expected to conduct themselves in a seemly manner consistent with the character of the Society; unnecessary talking, leaving the room while the lecture or session is in progress or any other conduct discourteous to the lecturer or the leader of the Society may be considered injurious to the Society within Rule 6.

16. VISITORS:

There shall not be admitted to any meeting of the Society any person who is not a member or honorary member except.

a) Lecturers or other guests of the Committee.

b) Members of the public on the occasion of the public meetings held under Rule 2d.

c) Guests of members to the regular monthly lecture at the cost to be determined, from time to time, by a majority of members present at the Annual General Meeting.

Admission of guests shall be at the discretion of the Committee. A Visitors' book will be kept by the Treasurer with the visitor's name and address entered against the name of the member responsible.

17. FINANCIAL YEAR AND AUDIT:

The Society's financial year shall end on 31st January. An Auditor or Honorary Auditor shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting and a duly audited Balance Sheet with an account of the income and expenditure for the preceding year shall be submitted at each Annual General Meeting.

18. GROUP FUNDS:

All money belonging to the Society and not invested shall be paid in by the Treasurer to a separate account in the name of the Society at a bank to be named by the Committee. All cheques shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the Chairman or Vice Chairman.

19. AMENDMENT OF RULES:

Any member desirous of proposing a special resolution containing any amendment to the Rules of the Society at the Annual General Meeting, shall give notice in writing thereof together with particulars of the proposed amendment, to the Secretary at least twenty eight (28) days prior to the holding of such meeting. No such resolution shall be passed unless carried by at least two thirds of the members present.

[updated 12th June 2017 by AS to incorporate the changes to the Society name]