

## The Arts Society Severn Valley

### AGM 2024

#### Treasurer's Report

Once again the Society made an operating loss of £1450 but just like last year it was less than the previous one, this time by £640. The subscriptions had been raised by £2 and this resulted in an increase of £630 despite there being less members. However there were far fewer visitors raising just £288 a third lower than 2022-3. Due to the high interest rates there was an increase of £117 in National Savings and Bank interest. Visits to Salisbury and London made a profit of £131 and the 3 Study Days a surplus of £956. We received £222 from the Arts Society for the Gift Aid Administration Fee. As always it is important for members to tick the Gift Aid box on the membership form so we can claim the maximum amount.

As would be expected in these difficult times most of the running costs increased. Lecturers' fees increased by just £283 but the Hall hire of £923 was 2% higher. Catering cost increased by £75 at £3073 and administration of £938 was 24% higher. Postage is a major part of this which is ever increasing. Conversely in line with the decrease in membership the fee paid to The Arts Society Head Office of £5963, which pays for administration, the magazine and online output was £960 less than last year. A fares pool payment of £50 was made to The Arts Society West Mercia but this was for 2 years. With fewer new members the lunch for them cost nearly half at £56. The Newsletter also bucked the trend and only cost £402, £50 less than the previous year. £41 was spent on mats to cover the projector cables which saves the projectionist the onerous task of taping them to the floor to avoid accidents.

Three Community Arts donations were made during the year. £200 to the Koestler Trust, £50 to Bristol Early Music Festival and £1000 to Jigsaw Thornbury, the latter for which we received a £250 Community Grant from The Arts Society. The Koestler Trust funds art projects for prisoners and Jigsaw pays for various activities for the parents of children who have additional needs or disabilities. Our donation paid for materials for making cushions.

We had a new Independent Examiner of the accounts this year and many thanks are due to Neil Davies for undertaking this task.

Cherry Hollyhead